



Miami Herald



Daniel Campos, founder and CEO at Ageless Forever Institute, works with patient Maria Cardama at his Coral Gables office.

After 13 years of fighting, is the Grove Playhouse rehab now a go?

BY ANDRES VIGLUCCI
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Miami city commissioners unanimously have given what could be the final green light to a \$40 million plan to rebuild and reopen the historic, long-shuttered Coconut Grove Playhouse after 13 years of legal and political battles.

The commission on Thursday voted 5-0 to grant an appeal by Miami-Dade County, which is running the playhouse project and was challenging a May decision by the city's planning and zoning board that would have blocked the plan from moving forward.

Miami-Dade County Commissioner Raquel Regalado, whose district includes Coconut Grove and who has served as the playhouse project's public face, was jubilant after the vote. She compared the result to seeing the plume of white smoke rise from the Vatican when a new pope is elected.

"We are done and ready to go," Regalado said in an interview after the quasi-judicial hearing at Miami City Hall.

She said final designs for a modern, new 300-seat standalone theater and restoration of the playhouse's 1927 Mediterranean front building have been finished and await only building permits from the city to proceed to construction. The front building, protected as a historic landmark, is already undergoing structural stabilization after the completion of interior demolition and the controversial razing of the large auditorium behind it earlier this year.

Separately, the city's Miami Parking Authority can also move ahead with a linked \$45 million plan for a new garage and office and commercial space on the playhouse's adjacent surface parking lot, though its specifics are still being finalized, Regalado said.

SEE INJECTABLES, 2A

SEE PLAYHOUSE, 2A

UM TRYING TO CURB BOTCHED INJECTABLES

Beauty project seeks more training, safeguards

BY MICHELLE MARCHANTE
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Miami's the place to be for Botox, BBLs, laser hair removal and other aesthetic procedures.

But does the nurse sticking you with a needle actually know what he or she is doing?

The University of Miami School of Nursing and Health Studies wants to bring more training and stricter safeguards to what the university says is a minimally regulated, multibillion-dollar aesthetic and cosmetic procedure industry, which has seen a rapid growth in nurse-led medical spas and aesthetic clinics. It's partnering with UM alumnus Daniel L. Campos, a nationally recognized beauty expert who's known as "El Doctor de las Estrellas," to make

it happen.

Their goal: to stop your glow-up from becoming the next Miami botched procedure horror story.

"Unfortunately in a city like Miami, we are in the chase of beauty all the time," said Campos, a Coral Gables nonsurgical aesthetic and regenerative medicine specialist who has served as a beauty and wellness expert for People en Español and Univision's "Despierta América" and as host of "¡Hola! Belleza" at ¡Hola! TV. "We want to raise the bar. We want to teach what is best and what is safe."

The efforts start with a new certification course rolling out at UM in the fall to teach nurse practitioners and advanced nurse practitioners how to safely administer Botox and other injectables, lasers and other treatments. Nurses must have an active and unre-

stricted APRN license in Florida, maintain board certification, hold a Master of Science in nursing or a Doctor of Nursing Practice degree from a regionally accredited institution, and also hold a current BLS and ACLS certification to enroll in the hybrid program.

"Aesthetics medicine is no longer a niche," but it has "no formalized training for those practitioners," said Hudson Santos, a registered nurse and dean of the University of Miami School of Nursing and Health Studies. "That's why it's our responsibility to raise the bar. ... We don't want to just train the next person who is injecting someone. We want to train the person who's responsible, who's safe, that has the right knowledge and skills to practice effectively."

LINDSEY GRAHAM, 1955-2026

GOP senator was defense hawk, became staunch Trump ally

Reuters

U.S. Senator Lindsey Graham, a Republican who went from being a vocal critic of Donald Trump to one of his most loyal allies after Trump became president, has died, his office announced on Sunday. He was 71.

The South Carolina lawmaker died after a "brief and sudden illness," his office posted on X. U.S. media said emergency personnel had responded to a call for cardiac arrest at his Capitol Hill home in Washington on Saturday night.

The contest to succeed Graham will not affect the broader fight for Senate control in November between Republicans and Democrats, as South



VERONICA CARDENAS Reuters file

U.S. Senator Lindsey Graham speaks during a 2019 roundtable with U.S. Border Patrol and Senate members.

Carolina is a reliably Republican state.

However, his death robs Trump of a dependable Senate vote as the president seeks to push his agenda in the closely divided Senate. It also comes as another senior Republican in the upper

chamber — Senator Mitch McConnell of Kentucky — remains hospitalized for undisclosed health problems.

Under South Carolina law the state's Republican governor, Henry

SEE GRAHAM, 8A

Florida lawmaker will represent himself in sexual harassment trial

BY AARON LEIBOWITZ
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Florida Rep. Fabian Basabe is set to stand trial this week in a civil case accusing him of sexual harassment, battery and defamation.

It won't be your typical trial.

A sitting elected official going to trial is unusual enough. Throw in the fact that Basabe, a Miami Beach Republican, will be representing himself without an attorney, and the scene in Leon County Circuit Court in Tallahassee promises to be unique.

The 2023 lawsuit accuses Basabe of making repeated lewd sexual com-



Fabian Basabe

ments and advances toward a legislative aide and an intern, slapping the aide's butt without his consent while they attended an elementary school career day in December 2022, and groping and trying to kiss a Florida State University graduate student in a car before hiring him as an intern that same month.

The former legislative aide also claims that Basabe slapped him across the face and told him to stand in a corner at a private event in 2023.

Basabe, who is up for reelection later this year, has vehemently denied the allegations and pointed to the outcome of two investigations commissioned by the Florida House of Representatives that were unable to corroborate the slap and harassment claims. Basabe has also highlighted the dismissal of state ethics complaints filed by the former employees.

Basabe told the Miami Herald in a statement: "After years of scrutiny, multiple independent investigations, ethics proceedings, and extensive review, not a single investigation substantiated

SEE BASABE, 5A



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