

SPORTS, PAGE 1
Miami Heat's Robinson
raises the bar on revival



LOCAL & STATE, PAGE 3
Celebration of Life event
for Shula this weekend

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FRIDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2021

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Pelosi pushes for Biden's \$3.5T deal

Speaker launches campaign with different factions

By Lisa Mascaro
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — With President Joe Biden's government overhaul at risk, Democrats confronted high-stakes trouble Thursday as

a promised vote on the first piece, a slimmer \$1 trillion public works bill, faltered amid stalled talks on his more ambitious package.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi was meeting privately with factions of lawmakers throughout the day and Biden cleared his schedule to work the phones, Democrats determined to push ahead, strike a deal over his bigger \$3.5 trillion effort and avoid what would be a

INSIDE

The Senate on Thursday passed a bill to keep the government funded through Dec. 3. **Nation & World, Page 1**

stunning setback if voting on the public works bill failed or had to be scrapped.

Democrats are deeply at odds, trust torn, as progressive lawmakers threaten to withhold votes on the roads-and-bridges infrastruc-

ture bill they view as insufficient unless it is paired with Biden's broader vision. In the narrowly controlled House, Pelosi, D-Calif., has few votes to spare.

All this on a day that was a partial win for Biden and his party

with Congress ushering through legislation to keep the government running past Thursday's fiscal year-end deadline and avert a federal shutdown that had been threatened by Republican blockades.

"Step by step," Pelosi said at the Capitol, suggesting a deal with Biden was within reach.

Turn to Pelosi, Page 2



Workers install pavers at the renovated Mizner Park Amphitheater on Tuesday as Boca Raton prepares to reopen the venue today with a live performance by country star Brett Eldredge. **SUSAN STOCKER/SOUTH FLORIDA SUN SENTINEL**

A good day in Boca Raton

Mizner Park Amphitheater reopening today with a country music star and high hopes

By Ben Crandell
South Florida Sun Sentinel

Time has stood still under the iconic clock tower at Mizner Park Amphitheater in Boca Raton, which finally will reopen on Friday with its first live perfor-

mance after 18 months on hold due to the pandemic.

The concert by country music star Brett Eldredge, kicking off an evolving schedule of shows and festivals in the months ahead, has

Turn to Mizner, Page 12



Customers drink wine at Kapow Noodle Bar in Boca Raton's Mizner Park on Wednesday. **MICHAEL LAUGHLIN/SOUTH FLORIDA SUN SENTINEL**

FORT LAUDERDALE

New \$65M sewer line unveiled by officials

Back-to-back sludge spills prompted city to replace neglected pipes

By Susannah Bryan
South Florida Sun Sentinel

FORT LAUDERDALE — The city of Fort Lauderdale is finally ready to say goodbye to an old sewer pipe that spewed a record amount of toxic sludge onto city streets nearly two years ago.

Mayor Dean Trantalis and other city officials gathered Thursday to celebrate the completion of a new 7 1/2-mile sewer line designed to replace the ancient cast-iron pipe known for its epic sewage spills.

The back-to-back spills — dumping more than 210 million gallons of raw sewage into waterways and streets — put the spotlight on Fort Lauderdale's long-neglected crumbling network of sewer and water pipes.

But on Thursday, city officials were ready to close that painful chapter with their celebration of the \$65 million new line. The new line was finished in July but not activated until the end of Thursday's ceremony.

The new 54-inch pipe runs from the George T. Lohmeyer Wastewater Treatment Plant near SE 17th Street all the way north to a lift station in Coral Ridge. Two contractors worked on the project at the same time, one from the

Turn to Sewer, Page 2



A Mickey Mouse balloon floats at Walt Disney World in Lake Buena Vista on July 23. **JOE BURBANK/ ORLANDO SENTINEL**

Disney World in full 50th anniversary mode

By Dewayne Bevil
Orlando Sentinel

Walt Disney World has shined itself up for a big event. Friday marks the 50th anniversary of the day Magic Kingdom opening to the public.

Although only a reported 10,400 eager people visited on Oct. 1, 1971,

the foundation was laid to become the world's most visited theme park.

Expect Main Street U.S.A. to be more crowded 50 years later. Visitors will see a park in full celebration mode, from the tip of the bejeweled Cinderella Castle down to the shiny new name tags for Disney World employ-

ees. The resort also is introducing attractions that will affect the theme parks for months and years to come. New shows will debut Friday at Magic Kingdom, Disney's Animal Kingdom and Epcot, which will also welcome a dark ride called Remy's Ratatouille Adventure.

"We have some surprises in

store for our guests.... I think that I think it'll be a day for the memory books," Melissa Valiquette, vice president for Magic Kingdom, said Thursday.

"I think there is a core of happiness at the Magic Kingdom. And we feel so honored to be able to

Turn to Disney, Page 2

LIVE IS BACK!

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	AN INTIMATE EVENING WITH DAVID FOSTER HITMAN TOUR December 8		MICHAEL BOLTON January 19		RAIN: A TRIBUTE TO THE BEATLES March 3

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Mizner

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lifted spirits in shops, restaurants and bars the length of Mizner Park's fashionable Plaza Real.

More than 3,200 music fans are expected to flood the area for the 7:30 p.m. show — just like old times.

"It's a very strong concert. We're super excited to have live entertainment back," says Kerri Powers, general manager of the Dubliner bar. "It's a huge impact on our business, and it draws people to the whole plaza."

In turning the page to better times ahead, Mizner Park Amphitheater has chosen wisely on reopening night.

With eight Top 10 country singles to his credit, Eldredge comes to Boca Raton on the Good Day Tour, which takes its name from his unifying, hopeful-in-spite-of-COVID ballad "Good Day." Opening is fun-loving Aussie singer Morgan Evans, perhaps best known for the single "Day Drunk" and being married to Kelsea Ballerini.

"This is just so great. Live music, country music is the perfect vibe to be back at the amphitheater," says Diane Millie, 25, part of a group enjoying a relatively cool night this week on the patio between Kapow! Noodle Bar and the Dubliner, a few doors down from the amphitheater.

Millie, of Boca Raton, says she's a big fan of "Sunday Drive," the title track from Eldredge's new album: "It's about the little things, appreciating them on the road in life."

Produced by LiveNation, the open-air show will have seating in a conventional configuration, with rows of chairs set next to each other on the grass. Tickets start at \$35 at Ticketmaster.com. Depending on availability, tickets also may be purchased at the box office, with credit cards only. The touch-free transaction will send digital tickets to your phone.

Mizner Park Amphitheater, operated by the city of Boca Raton, is the last major live entertainment venue in South Florida to reopen

from pandemic closure. (The Pompano Beach Amphitheater is in the middle of a major renovation.)

"With the pandemic and the fluctuating changes that happened, we've just been extra cautious with reopening. It is a city facility, and our city leaders take that seriously," says amphitheater manager Amy DiNorscio.

Rising vaccination rates and falling COVID case numbers convinced the city the time was right to reopen the venue, she says.

"We're moving in the right direction. We're all more comfortable getting out, but it's kind of a no-brainer to go to an outdoor facility," DiNorscio says. "There will be a lot of energy here, and it's great for Mizner Park."

Laughs and DJ Laz

After the Eldredge concert, next up on the schedule is Comedy on the Green, a series of stand-up shows that begin Oct. 22 with Kurt Metzger, a writer for comic actor Sacha Baron Cohen; the series continues with nationally touring stand-up Christian Finnegan, also known as Chad from "Chappelle's Show" (Nov. 26); then late-night talk show regular Ted Alejandro (Dec. 10).

Organized by veteran comedian and TV writer Dave Siegel and wife Stephanie, pre-pandemic transplants to Boca Raton, Comedy on the Green puts a congenial spin on social distancing with some seating on blankets and low-slung canvas beach chairs, as well as conventional seats. There will be bars, plus waitstaff service available in some sections.

The popular Boca Raton Pumpkin Patch Festival returns to the amphitheater lawn on Oct. 30-31, and more spooky-season entertainment comes Nov. 13 with the family-friendly "Stranger Things Laser Show." The laser-light experience set to scenes from the cult TV show will culminate in sets by DJ Laz and DJ Johnny Quest spinning '80s hits.

Chart-topping country

heartthrob Brett Young will bring hits such as "Lady," "Catch," "In Case You Didn't Know" and "Mercy" to Mizner Park Amphitheater on Nov. 20, with openers Maddie & Tae and Filmore.

Visitors may notice a few changes have been made to the amphitheater. Most prominent is a large mural by Palm Beach County artist Eduardo Mendieta on the venue's massive stage doors — a bold, colorful statement that is lighted to be visible from Plaza Real at night.

Missing is one section of the distinctive colonnades that bracket the lawn, removed from the venue's border with the actively renovating Boca Raton Museum of Art next door. The set of colonnades on the east side of the lawn is still there, and will provide elevated seating for Friday's concert.

Entry to the venue has been reoriented, with the box office now under the clock tower. The fountain, expensive to maintain, has been removed, though its iconic statue remains in place.

More substantive changes may be coming: Millions have been raised toward a \$100 million renovation project for the venue and adjacent land. The project, dubbed the Boca Raton Center for Arts and Innovation, would include a canopy for the amphitheater, an indoor event venue, a new rooftop terrace and a 99-seat performance hall.

The work on the amphitheater portion of the project is tentatively expected to be complete by 2025, during the city's 100-year anniversary.

Keeping it Plaza Real

Mizner Park Amphitheater has a long and diverse live-music history, hosting performances by everyone from Idina Menzel, John Mellencamp and rapper DMX to elusive (and illusive) indie-rock artist Morrissey. Yes, that happened.

As a nightlife destination, Mizner Park has always been a welcoming spot for a pre-concert dinner or after-



Calaveras Cantina brought a different look and feel to Boca Raton's Mizner Park when it opened in August. MICHAEL LAUGHLIN/SOUTH FLORIDA SUN SENTINEL

show drinks, but it has gotten even more interesting during the amphitheater's pandemic downtime — especially on the boulevard's more youthful west side.

Calaveras Cantina opened in early August, bringing a dark, velvety sexiness to Plaza Real's window displays of watercolor flamingos and sensible shoes. The tacos are top notch (\$4 during 4-7 p.m. happy hour), the guacamole is a model of creamy vibrancy (\$8 or \$15 as a table-side preparation) and the soundtrack hit a retro-electric sweet spot on a recent evening (Red Hot Chili Peppers, Bon Jovi, Judas Priest and Eric B. and Rakim's classic "Don't Sweat the Technique").

"This place is hot. ... Totally new vibe for Mizner," says Terry Rojas, of Boynton Beach, seated with a group of 20-something guys and gals in Calaveras' outdoor alcove bar next to the Kendra Scott store. "It just opened, but we're like, regulars."

Calaveras Cantina is at 409 Plaza Real, on a corner that faces a future tenant with similar energy, American Social, a bar with sports inclinations that draws young crowds to locations on Las Olas Boulevard in downtown Fort Lauderdale and Miami's Brickell District. American Social is renovating the 8,000-square-foot corner spot that once was

home to Truluck's.

Outdoor dining tables and bar stools can be found up and down Plaza Real, from the buzzy alley shared by the Dubliner and Kapow! Noodle Bar at the north end to the patio at Yardhouse on the south end, with Calaveras Cantina in the middle.

Before Friday's concert you'll find a popular 4-7 p.m. happy hour at the Dubliner, with \$7 light bites (including the signature Black & Tan onion rings) and discounts on beer, wine and select liquor. The Dubliner books a lot of local music and will feature singer-songwriter Joe Cruciti on Friday. Next weekend features a strong pairing of the Matt Brown Band (Friday, Oct. 8) and Spred the Dub (Saturday, Oct. 9).

Across the street from Mizner Park Amphitheater, sports lounge Strike 10 Bowling is under construction, targeting a year-end debut. A few doors down, a new outpost of Subculture Coffee — a source of youthful, community-minded events in West Palm Beach and (sadly, no longer) Delray Beach — is weeks away from opening next to the Dubliner.

Perhaps the most distinctive new destination in Mizner Park is Cielito Artisan Pops, a late-night gourmet popsicle shop at 430 Plaza Real, across the street from the Dubliner. Owners

For more info

Mizner Park Amphitheater is at 590 Plaza Real, Boca Raton. For information on upcoming shows and tickets, call 561-393-7890 or visit MiznerAmp.com. For information on restaurants, bars and shops in Mizner Park, visit MiznerPark.com.

Sindy Poso and husband Ivan opened Cielito in July of 2020, in the teeth of the pandemic. Their original Cielito debuted in Miami's arty Wynwood in 2017.

The Posos' sweets, ranging from \$5 to \$10, are art on a stick, whether it's house-made ice cream or juice-based pops. Inside the shop, refrigerated cases burst with colors and creativity, with pops made with mamey, avocado or matcha latte, and one beautiful stick of frozen pineapple juice adorned with thin slices of jalapeno.

The Posos have also offered a maple ice cream pop embedded with a stick of bacon and another treat combining a sweet ice cream base with extra virgin olive oil, muddled with Kalamata olives.

In a group of a half-dozen seated at tables on the sidewalk in front, Jessie Dillon, 21, of Delray Beach, chomps on a passion-fruit bar lacquered in dark chocolate and chocolate chips.

"I can't even describe it, it's so insane. Very complex... So good," Dillon says.

Sindy Posso says she and Ivan, parents of three, loved the family-friendly atmosphere of Mizner Park and the physical attractiveness of the tree-lined, fountain-dotted boulevard.

But proximity to the amphitheater was critical in the decision on where to put their second shop, and Friday's reopening is important.

"Oh my god, we've been waiting for this moment forever," Posso says, with an uneasy laugh. "We planned on opening because of the theater and all that activity. That was the whole point of opening in Mizner Park."

Staff writer Ben Crandell can be reached at bcrandell@sunsentinel.com.

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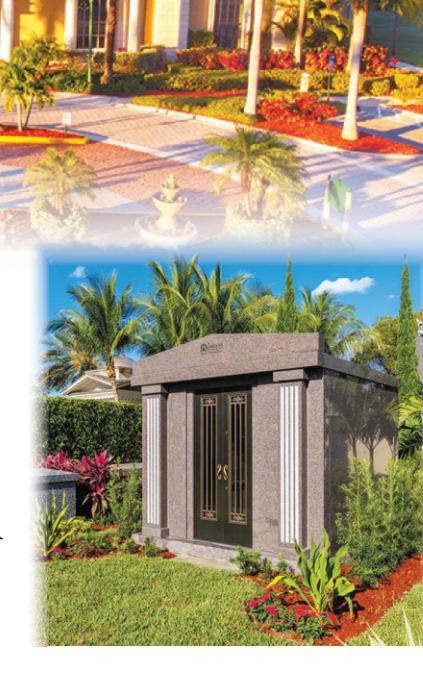
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