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## Two Trump legal cases take new turns

Justices to rule on immunity; appeal of fraud penalty fails

By Michael R. Sisak and Jennifer Peltz Associated Press

NEW YORK — Two courts weighed in Wednesday on separate legal cases that have enmeshed Donald Trump as he seeks the Republican presidential

nomination and a return to the White House.

In Washington, the Supreme Court agreed to decide whether Trump can be prosecuted on charges he interfered with the 2020 election and set a course for a quick resolution.

Hours earlier, a New York appellate judge refused to halt collection of Trump's \$454 million civil fraud penalty while he appeals, rejecting the former pres-

ident's request that he be allowed to post a bond covering just a fraction of what he owes.

The decision by the Supreme Court was announced late Wednesday afternoon in an unsigned statement that said the justices will consider "whether and if so to what extent does a former President enjoy presidential immunity from criminal prosecution for conduct

alleged to involve official acts during his tenure in office."

The order maintains a hold on preparations for a trial focused on Trump's efforts to overturn his election loss. The court will hear arguments in late April, with a decision likely no later than the end of June.

But even with a timetable that is much faster than Turn to Trump, Page 2



Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) walks to a Republican luncheon on Capitol Hill on Wednesday after announcing that he will step down as Senate Republican leader in November. JOSE LUIS MAGANA/AP

## McConnell to cede top Senate role

Kentucky Republican has led chamber's GOP nearly 2 decades

By Michael Tackett Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Sen. Mitch McConnell, the longest-serving Senate leader in history who maintained his power in the face of dramatic convulsions in the Republican Party for almost two decades, will step down from that position in

November.

McConnell, who turned 82 last week, announced his decision Wednesday in the well of the Senate, the chamber where he looked in awe from its back benches in 1985 when he arrived and where he grew increasingly comfortable in the front row seat afforded the party leaders.

"One of life's most underappreciated talents is to know when it's time to move on to life's next

Turn to McConnell, Page 2



People have set up tents in a small homeless encampment shown Wednesday in the Park-and-Ride lot off Broward Boulevard in Fort Lauderdale. MIKE STOCKER/SOUTH FLORIDA SUN SENTINEL

## Homeless camps debated as legislators seek solution

Proposal calls for designated areas, mental health aid

By Susannah Bryan and Lisa J. Huriash South Florida Sun Sentinel

Like other states around the nation, Florida is home to tens of thousands of people who live on the street — a fact of life that has vexed city and county leaders for

decades.

Now, state legislators are swooping in with what some are calling a cutting-edge solution to the homeless crisis they say will make streets both safer and cleaner in the Sunshine State.

The new law would force counties and cities in Florida to ban the homeless from sleeping in public places but allow local governments to set up designated camps with running water,

toilets, security and access to mental health services.

Critics say the proposed state law stands in stark contrast to current best practices that call for moving homeless people into housing and would result in more arrests of people living on the street.

Advocates argue it's a revolutionary approach that will solve a problem that so far has defied solution. Gov. Ron DeSantis spoke in favor

of the proposed legislation in early February during a news conference in Miami Beach.

"We cannot allow any city in Florida to become like San Francisco, where homelessness, drugs, and crime have decimated the quality of life, hurt the economy, and eroded freedom," DeSantis said. "In Florida we will continue to enact policies

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## Death shifts town's focus to lifeguards

Issue in Lauderdale-by-the-Sea resurfaces in wake of sand hole tragedy

By Angie DiMichele South Florida Sun Sentinel

The small town of Lauderdale-by-the-Sea has been catapulted into the public eye since the death of 7-year-old Sloan Mattingly a week ago when she and her brother became trapped in the sand as they dug a hole, reviving a decades-old discussion about the need for lifeguards on the two-and-a-half miles of beach.

The Mattingly family

was visiting from Indiana. Sloan and her brother Maddox, 9, had dug an estimated five-to-six-foot deep hole that collapsed in on them, completely burying Sloan underneath her brother, who survived. Sloan was pronounced dead at the hospital that afternoon.

The town commission began a discussion about the possibility of using taxpayer dollars to employ lifeguards and of reviewing

Turn to Lifeguards, Page 7

Opening Weekend MARCH 1-3

MARCH 1: Henry Mancini 100th Birthday Celebration

JAWS

MARCH 2: film with Live Orchestra

MARCH 3: Daisy Dowling

MARCH 3: Renée Fleming Returns

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Presented by The Schmidt Family Centre for the Arts under the tent in Mizner Park Amphitheater, Boca Raton. Sponsored in part by the Board of County Commissioners, the Tourist Development Council, and The Cultural Council for Palm Beach County.



SunSentinel

# THE WEEKENDER



Isaac Mizrahi will bring his cabaret act to Festival of the Arts Boca on March 9. **JASON FRANK ROTHENBERG**

**FESTIVAL OF THE ARTS BOCA 2024**

## Isaac Mizrahi will channel his inner Dean Martin

How to get tickets for 10-day event that starts Friday

By **Ben Crandell** | South Florida Sun Sentinel

**F**estival of the Arts Boca returns March 1-10, again offering a splendid menu of performances and conversation led by the Barcelona Flamenco Ballet, opera icon Renée Fleming, author and thinker Nicholas Thompson of *The Atlantic*, poet Richard Blanco, and a screening of “Jaws” accompanied by a live orchestra.

But within FAB’s diverse range of entertaining artistry, cultural eloquence and just plain fun,

**Inside**

Opera star Renee Fleming will return to the Festival of the Arts Boca for the third time on March 3. **Page 2**

no evening may capture all of those elements in one better than a March 9 performance by Isaac Mizrahi.

The louche and loquacious Brooklyn native is best known as a fashion designer and TV personality, but he is coming to Boca Raton in the guise of dapper cabaret singer, backed by a six-piece band.

While he has a deep respect for the music — his sets draw from the Great American Songbook, as well as jazzy interpretations of modern pop tunes —

a typical Mizrahi show is an appealing appliqué of chatty humor and musings on contemporary culture (as heard on his entertaining podcast, “Hello Isaac”).

The *New York Times* calls Mizrahi, a graduate of the city’s prestigious LaGuardia High School of Music & Art and Performing Arts, “a founding father of a genre that fuses performance art, music and stand-up comedy.”

In a phone conversation during a recent run of performances called “Mizrahi on Ice” at the famed Café Carlyle on New York’s Upper East Side, Mizrahi spoke about the music he’s bringing to Boca Raton, stage fright and LGBTQ artists performing in

**Turn to Mizrahi, Page 2**

**WEEKEND THINGS TO DO**

Bob Dylan, The Eagles, Maple Bacon Coffee Porter Festival, Channing Crowder comedy



**Ben Crandell**  
Go Guide

If you are someone who likes to build an outing around live music, the next few days in South Florida offer a menu of big-name performances that (adjusts hyperbole hat) in its eclecticism and excellence may be unrivaled in any market anywhere in the U.S. this weekend.

The highlights include Bob Dylan (reopening his tour at the

**Turn to Go Guide, Page 4**



Montreux Jazz Festival Miami added a Saturday performance by Jon Batiste after his Friday show sold out. **MONTREUX JAZZ FESTIVAL MIAMI**

**PLAN AHEAD**

## Shrimply irresistible

Dania Beach Wine and Seafood Festival reels in new name, venue, plus suds and paella

By **Phillip Valys**  
South Florida Sun Sentinel

This is “*Small Bites*,” a South Florida Sun Sentinel feature with tiny tidbits on the food and beverage scene — because we know that sometimes you just don’t have room for a long article. You want a little news brief instead, an amuse bouche of information, if you will. Enjoy!

**What:** If sharing a border with Port Everglades, myriad marine industries and the ocean hasn’t

**Turn to Seafood, Page 2**



Johnny Alarcon, executive chef at the Luxe Restaurant at the Casino at Dania Beach, will once again prepare his seafood paella at the 10th annual Dania Beach Wine and Seafood Festival. **DANIA BEACH WINE AND SEAFOOD FESTIVAL**

**Tina**  
THE TINA TURNER MUSICAL

**March 12-17**  
Dreyfoos Hall

Photo: Piri Dukovic

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All programs, artists, dates, prices and seating are subject to change.

# Celebrated diva's double bill enriches illustrious lineup at Festival of the Arts Boca

By **Greg Carannante**  
Special to the Sun Sentinel

In its 18th year, Festival of the Arts Boca serves up the sort of distinctive program that has distinguished each of its previous iterations.

This year, however, the March 1-10 festival arrives with the added prestige of hosting two appearances by the recently anointed Kennedy Center honoree, Renée Fleming.

"I was just absolutely thrilled," the diva says of her experience at December's Kennedy Center Honors. Fleming was among five honorees — with Dionne Warwick,

Queen Latifah, Barry Gibb and Billy Crystal — celebrated by the John F. Kennedy Center for the Arts for their enduring contributions to American culture.

"I mean, I was moved. I can't tell you. It was exhilarating. Basically I was trying to keep from breaking down and just sobbing outright because, you know, it was just such an overwhelming experience."

At the festival at Mizner Park Amphitheater in downtown Boca Raton, the reigning queen of sopranos appears in concert on March 3, and on the following evening, she hosts a

program that embraces an issue near and dear to her heart. The presentation, "Renée Fleming: Music and the Mind," features a panel of local scientists and doctors exploring the profound connections between music and mental well-being.

"Because I've performed on Broadway as well as my constant touring and opera, I've made friends in various different worlds," Fleming says, describing the cavalcade of artists who appeared on stage in her honor at the televised Kennedy Center gala. "You give them lists of people that you are friends with. I gave them a list of young



Opera star Renée Fleming will perform March 3 at Festival of the Arts Boca 2024. ANDREW ECCLES/DECCA

sopranos that I really adore and try to support as much as I can, thinking that maybe they would get one person who was available because our schedules are so challenging. And when so many of them came, I was just really overwhelmed. They keep you in the dark, you know. We

don't really know what the tribute's going to be, so we're shocked as well.

"I have a lot of fabulous women friends. And I was just really blown away to see them there."

Returning to Festival of the Arts Boca for the third time, including the inaugural 2007 event, Fleming

says it's the audiences that keep her coming back.

"The audiences in Florida, and especially southern Florida, are reminiscent of the audiences in New York and the major Eastern capitals. So I feel like I'm at home. And it's beautiful. It's such an elegant place," she says.

## Mizrahi

from Page 1

Florida.

**Q: The Carlyle is the pinnacle of cabaret entertainment. It was Bobby Short's room. Did you see his shows at the Carlyle?**

**A:** Sure, I saw him many times. I grew up at the Carlyle seeing Bobby Short, Elaine Stritch, Eartha Kitt, so many people. I'm so lucky to have that history.

**Q: Your residency at the Carlyle is called "Mizrahi on Ice." I assume there is no skating involved, so are you going for more of a Dean Martin vibe?**

**A:** No, no skating. It's an annual residency, and I try to come up with different names. It's evocative of scotch on the rocks, you know? And it's in winter. The music that I do and the jokes that I do are very ... they're adult. So when you say Dean Martin, I think of that adult kind of entertainment. So, yes to that. Whether it's in a club or in a theater, there is a kind of escapism that I encourage.

**Q: It looks effortless, but I hear you get stage fright. You're from Brooklyn — what scares you?**

**A:** Oh my god, are you kidding me? There should be a new word to describe the level of stage fright that I feel. It's something that keeps coming up as I get older and perform more.

Performing in New York I'm nervous enough, because it's a very, very smart audience, right? But last year I had a small engagement at the Annenberg (Center for the Performing Arts) in L.A. Which is a very important room. It was sold out and it was fabulous. My whole life, I was so scared of performing in L.A. I never accepted an engagement. Finally, my manager told me that I have to take this gig.

It was full of people and friends and other performers. They're coming to see me! It's such a crazy thing to see them sitting in the audience comparing what I do to the great things they do, you know? It was among the craziest forms

of stage fright, to the point that I was only able to do it because it was so ridiculous. When I finished that little engagement, I was on cloud nine.

**Q: It sounds like the audience appreciates your talent more than you do.**

**A:** Listen, objectively, it's worthy. My shows are very worthy of being seen, and that's the only way that I can get myself onstage, is to tell myself that and to believe it.

**Q: Your Café Carlyle setlists certainly have been eclectic, with songs by Fred Neil ("Everybody's Talkin'"), Burt Bacharach ("Alfie"), Billie Eilish ("Everything I Wanted") and Madonna ("Borderline"). Is that a template for your concert in Boca Raton?**

**A:** The luxury I have on the road is bringing all my best stuff, and some of those songs will be on the set list. One thing I do all the time is this updated version of "You're the Top," the Cole Porter tune. I rewrite the lyrics, so it's this very funny thing, and people really love it. I've done a whole new version of it at the Carlyle, and you will get a version of that in Boca Raton.

You will also get a version of "Liza With a Z," and I'll probably do "Borderline." It's one of the great tunes that I do and, with the band, it's such a great arrangement. I think you'll love it. And you will probably get a Billie Eilish tune, because I'm obsessed with her. We do a lot of covers of Billie Eilish.

**Q: What is it about her music?**

**A:** On top of being so brilliant as a performer and so good to look at and everything else, she is a very, very good songwriter. Her songs are so meaningful to me, personally. There's a lot of music out there that I don't know if I can relate to so much, and she's so young, and I love relating to someone so young. I love being able to reach across the generations.

**Q: Should the audience come with questions to ask?**

**A:** No, this is really not that

kind of show. It's really me in front of the audience just talking. It's an hour and 15 (minutes), maybe an hour and a half, and I do 10 or 11 tunes. Whatever isn't a tune, I'm just kind of talking to the audience about things that I've experienced in my life.

**Q: Florida of late has not been the most hospitable place for the LGBTQ community. Is that something you think about as you are jetting down?**

**A:** Of course I think about it, of course I do. I also think that whatever audience I do attract is going to be in the room expecting something, expecting me to talk about some things that resonate with them. But, honestly, I don't think of Florida as being a separate country from the United States. It's everywhere, every place you go. ... In New York, darling, I can't tell you. In Pennsylvania, I go to Pennsylvania a lot because of QVC, there's so much. ... The country is very torn apart right now.

One of my goals in this world is to stand for something and try to say what I believe is the truth. And that's what I'll say about it. But I don't think of Florida as any better or worse than any other part of the country. I really mean that.

**Q: You are a Renaissance man. Tell me something you can't do.**

**A:** I'm really, really bad at math. Terrible. I'm also bad at planning anything to do with money. Really not good at all. I spend way too much, and then I'm too frugal about the stupidest things.

**Q: What do you spend too much on?**

**A:** I don't even know. I remember when I was first getting suits made on Savile Row. I was 28 or 30 years old, and they told me how much they were, and I heard it in pounds and said, "Hey, yeah, we're getting a great deal here." Then my bill came through from American Express and I was like "Oh, my God!" And I bought, like, so many suits. I didn't even think, right?

**Q: But how'd you look?**

**A:** I looked really good, I've got to tell you. That's one thing. And I still have the damn suits.

## FESTIVAL HIGHLIGHTS

**"Henry Mancini at 100," 7:30 p.m. Friday, March 1:** The Frost School of Music's Henry Mancini Institute Orchestra will celebrate its namesake composer and conductor with a performance that includes Henry's daughter, Grammy-nominated vocalist Monica Mancini. Special guest performers include Shelly Berg, Etienne Charles, Gregg Field, Scott Flavin and Rosie Weiss. Tickets: \$30-\$115.

**"Jaws" with live orchestra, 7:30 p.m. Saturday, March 2:** Festival Orchestra Boca will perform composer John Williams' Academy Award-winning score during a screening of beach-town horror story "Jaws." Tickets: \$20-\$115.

**Daisy Dowling, "Workparenting," 4 p.m. Sunday, March 3:** The author discusses her book, "Workparent," about the challenges parents face in balancing work and family. Tickets: \$30. With a ticket purchase, parents may register kids age 5 to 10 for a free art workshop offered from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m.

**Renée Fleming, 7 p.m. Sunday, March 3:** The opera star returns to FAB with a program that ranges from Handel and Puccini to Jerome Kern, Stevie Wonder, Leonard Cohen and Lerner and Loewe. Tickets: \$40-\$250.

**Renée Fleming, "Music and Mind," 7 p.m. Monday, March 4:** Fleming's long-running program explores the influence of music and the arts on health and the brain. Her new anthology, "Music and Mind: Harnessing the Arts for Health and Wellness" (Penguin Random House) is scheduled to be published on April 9. Tickets: \$50-\$75.

**Future Stars competition, 7 p.m. Tuesday, March 5:** This live competition, in its 20th year and presented with



Poet Richard Blanco will read at March 7 at Festival of the Arts Boca 2024. MATT STAGLIANO

the Rotary Club of Boca Raton, features top vocalists and dancers from South Florida middle schools and high schools. Tickets: Free.

**Nicholas Thompson, "The Wired Future," 7 p.m. Wednesday, March 6:** The author and CEO of The Atlantic, formerly editor-in-chief of Wired and an editor at The New Yorker, will talk about the need for an engaged society and vigilant journalism to keep Big Tech in check. Tickets: \$40.

**Richard Blanco, 7 p.m. Thursday, March 7:** The poet at President Barack Obama's inauguration in 2013 and a 2023 recipient of the National Humanities Medal from the National Endowment for the Humanities, Blanco will read from his most recent collection, "Homeland of My Body." Ticket: \$25.

**Barcelona Flamenco Ballet, "Luxuria," 7:30 p.m. Friday, March 8:** The dancers, accompanied by a five-piece band, will perform a pioneering style of flamenco ballet that mixes classical music, jazz and conventional flamenco music to tell the compelling love story in "Luxuria." Tickets: \$30-\$115.

**"An Evening with Isaac Mizrahi," 7:30 p.m. Satur-**

**day, March 9:** Accompanied by his band, Mizrahi will offer his sassy lounge act and favorite songs by Cole Porter, Madonna, Billie Eilish and others. Tickets: \$30-\$115.

**100 Years of "Rhapsody in Blue," 7 p.m. Sunday, March 10:** Led by conductor Kyle Prescott, Festival Boca Jazz Orchestra and pianist Dominic Cheli will explore George Gershwin's iconic "Rhapsody in Blue" in the original version performed at its famous premiere in 1924. Tickets: \$35-\$115.

## IF YOU GO

**What:** Festival of the Arts Boca  
**When:** March 1-10  
**Where:** Mizner Park Amphitheater, 590 Plaza Real, Boca Raton  
**Cost:** Tickets range in price from \$20-\$250. Four FAB events also will be available via livestream on the Vimeo App for \$15 each: Daisy Dowling, Renée Fleming's "Music and Mind" program, Nicholas Thompson and Richard Blanco. For information, visit FestivalBoca.org/events/stream.  
**Information:** FestivalBoca.org

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## Seafood

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made it obvious, know this, landlubbers: Dania Beach is a seafood mecca.

And the center of it all is the 10th annual Dania Beach Wine and Seafood Festival on Saturday, March 9, a smorgasbord of vino, suds, spirits, live music, sand sculpting, chef demonstrations and, of course, seafaring cuisine. Forty beverage vendors and 20 food trucks and restaurants will be angling for your sand dollars at the dog-friendly festival.

Yes, the name is new (so long, Dania Beach Arts and Seafood Celebration), and so is the venue: Dania Beach City Hall. The bash swapped out its former haunt of nine years, Frost Park, for a new port of call after the city opted last year to stage all future



With a new name and venue, the Dania Beach Wine and Seafood Festival will take place March 9 at Dania Beach City Hall's plaza. FRANKY JEAN/DANIA BEACH WINE AND SEAFOOD FESTIVAL

special events exclusively on the municipal campus, city spokeswoman Nannette Rodriguez says.

"We're synonymous with seafood. We're

Broward's oldest city and a gateway to the sea," Rodriguez says. "What better way to complement your seafood meal than with wine and beer?"

**When:** Hours are 4 to 9 p.m. Saturday, March 9.

**Where:** Head to Dania Beach City Hall Plaza, 100 W. Dania Beach Blvd.

**Food & wine lineup:** Among the food vendors are Bahama Mama, Garlick Seafood and More, 681 Seafood & Southern Bites, 3 Sons Brewing Co., Mr. Lobster, The Lobsta Rolls, Kay & A Soul N Seafood, Crumb!, Chick-fil-A and Larry's Ice Cream.

Beverage vendors include Fenestra Winery, San Sebastian Winery, Merlo Family Estate Vineyards, Copa Di Vino Premium Wine, 3 Sons Brewing Co., Cove Brewery, Gulf Stream Distilling Co. and Papa's Pilar.

**Extra tidbits:** At the Little Chefs Station, young cooks will take turns creating a seafood dish during 30-minute sessions. They'll join the returning Chef Spiced, featuring chili-spiced seafood paella from chef Johnny Alarcon (Luxe

Restaurant at the Casino at Dania Beach) and a ceviche-beer pairing from chef Jonathan Garr (3 Sons Brewing Co.).

Meanwhile, local acts DJ Mills, Locos Por Juana and Journey cover band Never Stop Believin' will be slappin' the bass (guitar, not fish) onstage.

**Cost:** Free admission, but tickets are \$55 in advance and \$70 at the gate for unlimited wine and beer tastings and a commemorative glass.

**Parking:** It's abundant at City Hall's garage, plus park-and-ride shuttles will transport festivalgoers from Oakwood Plaza and from the Casino at Dania Beach.

**Information:** Call 954-696-0882 or go to DaniaBeachWineandSeafoodFest.com.