

February 25, 2021



AMERICAS, 9A
**'I can't buy food':
As Cuba's economy
worsens, desperate
rafters risk their lives**



WEEKEND
**Filmmaker makes
South Florida his
backdrop again
but on canvas**

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Miami Herald



BROTHERS TO THE RESCUE

25 YEARS LATER, TEARS STILL FLOW

Above, Muñoz Fuentes and Kwozo Fumero were among a group of Cuban exiles who attended an event at the Cuban Memorial at Tamiami Park in west Miami-Dade on Wednesday. They were honoring Mario de la Peña, Carlos Costa, Américo Alejandre Jr. and Pablo Morales, who were shot down by the Castro regime on Feb. 24, 1996, while flying with Brothers to the Rescue. The group was searching for Cuban rafters. At right are de la Peña's parents, Miriam and Mario.



PHOTO BY STEVE FORSTAL, COURTESY OF MIAMIHERALD.COM

MIAMI

She survived Castro's prisons for 19 years. But will she escape eviction?

■ Lazara Ana Rodriguez, who served more time as a political prisoner of Castro's regime than any other woman, might lose her home at the age of 82. But politicians are rallying for her.

BY RYNE ROBINSON
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When she was a 2½-year-old in Cuba, Lazara Ana Rodriguez snuck out of her home and went to the movie theater to see 1953's giant-monster classic "King Kong."
"Only a 2-year-old would get scared by a movie like this, because it was a cartoon," said the sprightly, self-effacing 82-year-old. "But I didn't know how to read yet and the movie was in

English, which I didn't speak. The only thing that I could gather was that King Kong was grabbing women, and I felt threatened."
At night, as Rodriguez got into bed and fell asleep, she would stare up at her cracked ceiling and imagine King Kong was looking for her. She spent months living in fear, until one day she decided this was no way to lead her life.

"I went outside and called King Kong so he could kill me and I would be finished."
SEE HOUSE, 12A

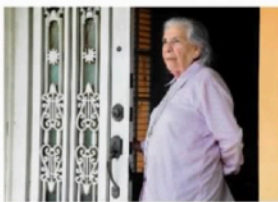


PHOTO BY STEVE FORSTAL, COURTESY OF MIAMIHERALD.COM
Ana Rodriguez is at risk of being evicted. On Friday, a judge will hear her lawyer's evidence as to why the eviction — and the foreclosure that cost Rodriguez her home in 2009 — are illegal.

HAITI

They were filming a movie — and were kidnapped

■ Haiti's latest kidnapping, which involves two Dominican filmmakers and their Haitian translator, has put the surging problem on the world stage. It's also a blow to the country's budding movie-making industry.

BY JACQUELINE CHARLES
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The gambit was almost as impressive as any in the film "Ocean's Eleven": The white Toyota Hiux pickup with dark tinted windows, an official

government license plate and four heavily armed bandits inside accelerated quickly, weaving in and out of traffic as it rammed vehicles and tried to run them off the road.

When the driver succeeded in breaking up the 17-car, Fort-au-Prince-bound convoy,

he stopped in front of a flatbed carrying two Dominican filmmakers and their Haitian translator with a generator in tow.

The armed men jumped out, pointed their large guns and demanded translator Junior Albert Anguiano to get into the pickup. Dominican brothers Maicol Enriquez and Antonio Campesano were kept in the cab of the flatbed, as their captives pressed on the gas and

disappeared up a mountain under the cover of darkness.

"It was really fast," said Gilbert Mirambeau Jr., who is the co-founder of Munka Films and was two cars behind and watched the brazen kidnapping as it unfolded before him and eight Haiti National Police officers. "Where they cut us off was literally at the mouth of their territory, at the

SEE ABDUCTION, 8A

THE VIRUS CRISIS

Another shot in the arm as one-dose vaccine heads toward usage

■ The nation's battle against COVID-19 is expected to get another weapon after the FDA said Johnson & Johnson's vaccine provides strong protection.

BY CARR ZIMMER, MOAH WELAND AND SHARON LAFRANKIE
The New York Times

The coronavirus vaccine made by Johnson & Johnson provides strong protection against severe disease and death from COVID-19, and might reduce the spread of the virus by vaccinated people, according to new analyses posted online by the company and the Food and Drug Administration on Wednesday.

The reports provided an in-depth confirmation of the initial results announced by Johnson & Johnson late last month, indicating that the United States is likely to soon have access to a third coronavirus vaccine developed in under a year. The FDA could authorize the vaccine as early as Saturday, depending on a vote by its vaccine ad-

SEE VACCINE, 2A

THE VIRUS CRISIS | MIAMI-DADE

Black seniors feel left behind in vaccinations

■ Black leaders in South Miami-Dade raise concerns about Black senior residents missing out as Jackson Health opens up vaccinations to younger people with certain health conditions.

BY BRUNGA PADRO O'CARO
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During the pandemic, Ramania Dukes has done it all for her West Perrine community: hand out food boxes, help combat gun violence, distribute masks.

But helping the Black senior citizens in this South Miami-Dade neighborhood get vaccinated has proven to be her toughest challenge yet.

Most residents have no transportation, while most vaccine sites only allow residents with cars. Residents say the county government has little presence in the neighborhood and eligible residents too often rely on word-of-mouth information that they get from neighbors and grandchildren. And while the county vaccine site at Zoo Miami is nearby, the registration process is open to everyone, and af-

SEE DADE, 2A



GNAZZO GROUP

WEEKEND



SAMI HAYES

Harmony Korine's 'Joven Twitchy,' an exhibition of recent paintings based on Miami scenery, is on view at the Jeffrey Deitch gallery in the Design District until Sunday.

A Filmmaker's

ART ON CANVAS

Filmmaker Harmony Korine makes South Florida his backdrop once again, this time on canvas on view at a Design District gallery, 12C



GNAZZO GROUP

VISUAL ARTS

Meet filmmaker Harmony Korine's character 'Twitchy' at Deitch gallery in Design District

BY YADIRA LOPEZ
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Most people know Harmony Korine as the filmmaker behind neon-tinged movies of trouble-making teens and beach bums traipsing through Florida. But Korine, who's lived in Miami for six years, has also been drawing and painting since he was a boy. A series of paintings completed in 2020 document suburban corners of Miami that Korine first captures on his cellphone while on long drives and walks throughout South Florida. The exhibition is

now on view at a pop-up location for the Jeffrey Deitch gallery in the Design District through Sunday.

Korine's oils on canvas feature the same neons that characterize his color palette on film. The paintings depict "Twitchy" — a character he used to scratch onto paper as a kid. The doodle that Korine describes as "this nervous little guy tripping out under the palm trees drinking colodas and causing trouble" shows up like a garden gnome popping up in random places — posing by a fountain, petting dogs, hanging off the edge of a

dock. Or a buzzed local taking psychedelic selfies and chilling under the South Florida sun.

"I always think Florida is almost like science fiction," Korine said. "When you set something in Florida immediately anything can happen."

Miami further inspires him because it sticks out from the rest of the state, he added.

"Its history is always reinventing itself and it's got this kind of strange, tropical otherworldly vibration. Miami is so different than the Keys and so different than Palm Beach — it has these pockets and personalities and different looks."

In a slight nod to the city's multicultural flair, the exhibition on view is titled "Joven Twitchy" rather than "Young Twitchy" like his past exhibition of similarly inspired works in New York. Korine's latest painting spree came about as the pandemic made filmmaking tricky. He needed an outlet so he took to his studio in Miami to paint, inspired by the beauty of what he called the mundane around him, like the way a parking lot contrasts with the skyline or the yellow lines on the highway melt into the sun.

As South Florida swirls with change due to the pandemic and a flurry of out-of-towners moving here, it's those quirks he hopes will stay the same.

"I hope it doesn't become overly corporatized," he said. "I hope it still stays wild. It feels like its own



Harmony Korine's 'Cheeto Fountainhead Twitchy' is among more than a dozen recent paintings on view.



'Frosty Twitchy' is one of Korine's recent paintings.

country within the United States which is something I like."

The gallery at 182 NE 39th Street opens Tuesday-Sunday from 11 a.m. to 7

p.m. To schedule an appointment, contact office@deitch.com.