

WEEKEND
Live Broadway productions poised for South Florida return, 1C

BUSINESS
Miami-area hotels offering on-site COVID tests to guests, staff, 7A

VOLUME 118, No. 150 FACEBOOK.COM/MIAMIHERALD WINNER OF 22 PULITZER PRIZES THURSDAY FEBRUARY 11 2021 \$2.50
 STAY CONNECTED MIAMIHERALD.COM TWITTER.COM/MIAMIHERALD

Miami Herald

IMPEACHMENT TRIAL OF DONALD J. TRUMP

THE VIRUS CRISIS
White House looks at domestic travel restrictions

■ The White House is considering new domestic travel restrictions, including on Florida, fearful that coronavirus mutations are threatening to reverse progress on the pandemic.

BY MICHAEL WILNER, BEN CONARCK AND NICHOLAS NEHAMAS
 mwilner@miamiherald.com
 bconarck@miamiherald.com
 nnehamas@miamiherald.com

The Biden administration is considering whether to impose domestic travel restrictions, including on Florida, fearful that coronavirus mutations are threatening to reverse hard-fought progress on the pandemic.

Outbreaks of the new variants — including a highly contagious one first identified in the United Kingdom, as well as others from South Africa and Brazil that scientists worry can evade existing vaccines — have lent urgency to a review of potential travel restrictions within the United States, one federal official said.

Discussions in the administration over potential travel restrictions do not target a specific state but focus on how to prevent the spread of variants that appear to be surging in a number of states, including Florida and California.

"There are active conversations about what could help mitigate spread here, but we have to follow the data and what's going to work. We did this with South Africa, we did this with Brazil, because we got clear guidance," one White House official said.

"But we're having conversations about anything that would help mitigate spread," the official said, referring to discussions about new travel restrictions that could target the spread of the U.K. mutation in Florida.

The U.K. variant, known as B.1.1.7, has recently surged in Florida, where over a third of all cases in the United States have been identified.

Two federal government officials underscored that no

SEE TRAVEL, 2A

'Deliberate, planned and premeditated': Democratic House managers lay out evidence against Trump



Delegate Stacey Plaskett, D-U.S. Virgin Islands, speaks during the second impeachment trial of former President Donald Trump in the Senate at the U.S. Capitol in Washington on Wednesday. She guided senators through much of the video of the Jan. 6 riot that was shown.



In this image from video, security video showing Vice President Mike Pence being evacuated from the Senate chamber, is shown to senators during the impeachment trial.

■ The House managers formally opened their case that Trump incited an insurrection, arguing that his provocation began months before the day of the riot as he propagated a 'Big Lie' to persuade supporters that his reelection was being stolen.

BY NICHOLAS FANDOS
The New York Times
 WASHINGTON

The House impeachment managers opened their prosecution of Donald Trump on Wednesday with a point-by-point account of the former president's monthlong campaign to overturn his election loss and goad his supporters to join him, bringing its most violent spasms to life with never-before-seen security footage from inside the Capitol of the Jan. 6 assault he is charged with inciting.

Filling the Senate chamber with the profane screams of the attackers, images of the police

officers they overran and brutalized, and near-miss moments in which Vice President Mike Pence and lawmakers came steps away from being confronted by a mob that was hunting them down, the prosecutors laid out their case that Trump's election lies had directly led to the violent assault.

The prosecutors played frantic police radio calls warning that "we've lost the line," body camera footage showing an officer pummeled with poles and fists on the West Front of the Capitol, and silent security footage from inside the building showing Pence, his family and members

SEE TRUMP, 11A

PERVERSION OF JUSTICE | JEFFREY EPSTEIN
New complaint claims Epstein forced some of his victims to marry each other

■ A revised complaint by the attorney general of the U.S. Virgin Islands claims Jeffrey Epstein engineered arranged marriages and that his estate lawyers committed financial misconduct.

BY KEVIN G. HALL AND BEN WIEDER
 khall@miamiherald.com
 bwieder@miamiherald.com

The attorney general of the Virgin Islands late Wednesday sought to amend her civil enforcement action against the estate of Jeffrey Epstein to include new allegations of

forced marriages for immigration fraud, using the U.S. territory to hide assets owned on the mainland and participation of his legal team in the criminal enterprise.

Attorney General Denise George also announced in a news release that she'd added as defendants to her



Denise George

January 2020 civil racketeering case the co-executors of the Epstein estate — attorney Darren K. Indyke and accountant Richard Kahn. The attorney general provided new details about the complex financial web that enabled Epstein's alleged abuse. George last year had

SEE EPSTEIN, 10A

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY
Miami-Dade jury trials to resume March 1 though spread of COVID-19 more contagious variant a concern

■ Nearly one year after the coronavirus pandemic shut down courts across Florida, Miami-Dade will resume jury trials on March 1, despite concerns over a more contagious variant of the virus.

BY DAVID OVALLE AND BEN CONARCK
 dovalle@miamiherald.com
 bconarck@miamiherald.com

In-person jury trials in Miami-Dade County will resume March 1, officials announced, nearly one year after the courts shut down because of the coronavirus pandemic.

The announcement by Chief Judge Bertilla Soto comes as the number of coronavirus cases has dipped and more people are being vaccinated — but also as the so-called "U.K. variant" of the virus, thought to be significantly more contagious, is taking an alarming hold in Florida. The new date for

SEE TRIALS, 2A

Business

Stocks end mixed after a day of wavering; bond yields fall

Another wobbly day on Wall Street ended with the major stock indexes mostly lower, though the Dow Jones Industrial Average inched up to another all-time high.

The S&P 500 slipped less than 0.1% after swinging between a gain of 0.5% and a loss of 0.7%. Nearly 60% of the companies in the benchmark index rose, though a slide in technology stocks and companies that provide consumer services and products kept those gains in check.

Treasury yields fell after a government report showed that inflation remained tame last month.

The muted market action follows a string of record highs for the major stock indexes. Investors have been encouraged by surprisingly good company earnings reports, indications that a recent surge in new coronavirus cases is easing, progress in the distribution of vaccines and signs that lawmakers in Washington are moving toward delivering another financial boost for the economy.

"We're sort of catching our breath after the surge we had last week," Sam Stovall, chief investment strategist at CFRA.

The S&P 500 dropped 1.35 points to 3,909.88. The Dow rose 61.97 points to 31,437.80. The Nasdaq lost 35.16 points to 13,972.53.

The Labor Department said Wednesday that U.S. consumer prices rose 0.3% in January, led by a surge in energy. Even though the gain was the biggest monthly increase since July, inflation over the past year has remained low, up a modest 1.4%.

The report was encouraging for investors, because it suggests the U.S. economy can receive more stimulus without overheating.

— ASSOCIATED PRESS



James Kennett III takes information from front office agent Asha Wedemier before administering tests at SLS Brickell on Monday. SLS Brickell and several other Miami hotels are starting to offer on-site COVID-19 testing for guests and staff.

Miami hotels are offering on-site COVID-19 testing to guests and staff

BY TAYLOR DOLVEN
tdolven@miamiherald.com

With South Florida's critical tourism economy still struggling, an increasing number of Miami hotels are trying to eliminate one pandemic travel hassle: getting a COVID test.

Hospitality brand sbe is offering on-site tests at its four Miami properties, following what the W South Beach did in January. The PCR test option is available with a 24-hour turn-around at all hotels, the companies said, and sbe is also offering

rapid antigen and antibody tests.

The shift to on-site hotel testing comes as at least 22 states and municipalities across the country have testing or quarantine requirements for travelers. Also, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is requiring travelers entering the U.S. from overseas to provide proof of a negative COVID-19 test. The CDC warns all U.S. residents against travel, even domestic, as it increases the chance of contracting COVID-19.

For Miami hotel guests

and staff, sbe aims to eliminate the logistical hassle of finding local testing locations and requirements, said Chadi Farhat, sbe's chief operating officer. Guests and residents of the sbe Miami properties are told about the complimentary testing at the front desk when they arrive.

"It makes the travel experience easier, so they don't have to worry about where they are going to get the test, how they are going to get the test before they return home," Farhat said.

Since the SLS South Beach began offering the

tests in its lobby two weeks ago, healthcare workers with BlueMed Consultants have administered around 15-20 tests for hotel workers and around 10-15 for guests so far. Testing at the SLS South Beach, Hyde Midtown, SLS Brickell, SLS LUX Brickell is free for everyone with insurance, Farhat said. The service is only available for hotel guests, residents and staff.

"Safety of our staff is very, very important. It is not mandatory, it is optional," Farhat said.

The W South Beach hotel, part of Marriott International,

partnered with Sollis Health to begin offering guests and staff on-site tests on Jan. 1, for a fee. The starting price for guests who are not members of Sollis, the healthcare network, is \$175, and tests for staff are \$125, the company said in an announcement. Guests at neighboring hotels can also use the testing site at W South Beach, the company said, and so far around 25 W staff members and 100 people from the South Beach hospitality community have been tested at the site.

Other Miami hotels are in the process of securing on-site testing. Glenn Sampert, general manager at the InterContinental in downtown Miami, said the hotel will begin offering bi-weekly on-site testing to staff on Feb. 17, and is considering incorporating the service for guests.

"I haven't seen if there is a demand for that," he said about guest testing. "We think it's a good benefit to offer to our colleagues and part of our plan on continuing to be safe here at the hotel and create a comfortable experience for our guests."

Farhat isn't including the on-site testing in marketing materials as a selling point for the sbe hotels, but he said that he thinks the announcement has triggered additional bookings. The Miami sbe properties are currently operating at about 70% occupancy, he said, well above the Miami-Dade county average in 2020 of 46.4%, according to hospitality data firm STR.

As the COVID-19 vaccine rolls out around the world, more and more countries are considering requiring a vaccine certificate for entry. British cruise line Saga Cruises and U.S.-based American Queen Steamboat Company and Victory Cruise Lines have announced they will require proof of vaccination for all guests and crew.

Taylor Dolven: 305-376-2052, @taydolven