



# NBC'S BRIAN WILLIAMS TO TAKE TIME OFF

NATION, 5A

# MAN SHOOTS GIRLFRIEND, SELF IN WEST DADE PLAZA

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# Miami Herald

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H1

## CORRECTIONS DEPARTMENT

# Prisons' top cop under fire

Recent reports of abuse in Florida prisons have raised questions about the performance of the Inspector General's Office, headed by Jeffery Beasley.

BY JULIE K. BROWN AND MARY ELLEN KLAS  
jbrown@miamiherald.com

TALLAHASSEE — Sometime in August 2013, Department of Corrections senior investigators Aubrey Land and John Ulm sat down with their boss, Inspector General Jeffery Beasley, to talk about possible corruption in the department.

That day and in coming days, they detailed how they had found evidence that corrections officers had lied and had falsified reports, and how some of their fellow prison inspectors may have sabotaged an investigation by the Florida Department of Law Enforcement into the 2010 death of an inmate at Franklin Correctional Institution.



BEASLEY

Beasley did not seem overly concerned, one person who was at that initial meeting recalled, and instead complained that investigators were spending too much time with FDLE agents, who often turned every case into a "longevity" project. The comment didn't sit well with FDLE special agent Ed King, a 25-year law enforcement officer who was in the room.

"Son," King is said to have replied, "you ain't in Atmore, Alabama, no more. We don't just walk by and kick a rock every now and then. We turn them over to see what's under them around here."

Turning over rocks is the job of the DOC's inspector general, whose mission is to "protect and promote public integrity" and root out corruption in the department. "I think he is doing a great job," Beasley's boss at the Department of Corrections, Julie Jones, told the Herald/

• TURN TO BEASLEY, 13A

ULTRA MUSIC FESTIVAL

# ULTRA MYSTERY

How a South Beach promoter created one of the world's largest music festivals, lost control and died while fighting to regain power.

BY DAVID SMILEY  
dsmiley@miamiherald.com

On the day he died, Alex Omes logged onto his Facebook account after midnight and posted a few inspirational messages. He shared a verse from the Gospel of Mark. He wrote, "You get what you settle for." And then at 2:47 a.m., the man who helped establish one of the globe's largest music festivals in downtown Miami posted his final message to the world: "The secret of freedom is courage."



**CO-FOUNDER:** Alex Omes was a key architect of the frenetic and world-renowned electronic dance music scene that overtakes downtown Miami each March.

In a few hours, the burly co-founder and former president of the Ultra Music Festival was scheduled to meet with his attorneys. He was fighting for money and for control of the event and brand, and one last day of preparation and proceedings was ahead before the case went to trial.

But he never showed. After texts and calls to Omes' phone went unanswered for hours, his older brother rushed to Omes' Biscayne Boulevard loft and found him dead in bed. Omes' unexplained death at age 43 left behind grieving friends, a 12-year-old son and fans who flock to Miami every March for a weekend.

• TURN TO PROMOTER, 12A



## FLORIDA POLITICS

# Meet Melissa Sellers, the power behind Gov. Scott

It's Melissa Sellers' job to make her boss look good, but the first few weeks of Gov. Rick Scott's second term have been full of unforced errors — and cartoons like this one.



ANDY MARLETTE/  
PENSACOLA  
NEWS JOURNAL

Gov. Rick Scott's chief of staff is a 32-year-old practitioner of brass-knuckled politics who gets wide leeway — and a good deal of respect.

BY ADAM C. SMITH  
AND STEVE BOUSQUET  
Herald/Times Tallahassee Bureau

TALLAHASSEE — The most powerful, unelected person in state government is a stranger to most Floridians, and that's exactly the way Melissa Sellers wants it.

Gov. Rick Scott's chief of staff is a 32-year-old practitioner of brass-knuckled politics who gets wide leeway. A Florida newcomer

with limited knowledge of the state's political culture and history, she managed the governor's \$100 million-plus re-election campaign and steered him out of a double-digit deficit in the polls.

A devout Christian and one-time divinity student, she was so combative in the Louisiana governor's office that the capital press corps spoofed her in its annual gri-

diron dinner as always suited up in football shoulder pads.

As Scott stumbles through a disastrously rocky start to his second term, she is his fiercest advocate and perhaps his greatest liability.

Because Scott's style has been to defer to senior staff members, Sellers has unbridled political power.

The notorious "Fangate" incident where Scott did not appear on stage for six min-

• TURN TO SELLERS, 2A

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112th year, No. 147 ©2015



SOUTH FLORIDA ARTS SCENE

# Troupe creates 'Shakespeare' from scratch

William Shakespeare didn't write the plays that will be performed at 7:30 and 9:30 p.m. Saturday in the Black Box at the South Miami-Dade Cultural Arts Center. But theatergoers can have a hand in what they'll see when Chicago's Improvised Shakespeare Company creates two new Bard-like plays from scratch, based on a title suggested by an audience member.

The company is also offering a free improvisation class, appropriate for those 13 and older, from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Saturday at the center, 10950 SW 211th St., Cutler Bay. Tickets to the evening performances are \$15 (students 13 to 22 and an accompanying guest pay \$5 each, exclusively through [www.culturehockmiami.com](http://www.culturehockmiami.com)). For information on the performances or the free class, call 786-573-5300 or visit [www.smdcac.org](http://www.smdcac.org).

**MUSICAL BOUNTY**

This week in South Florida is rich with opportunities to hear a variety of orchestras, a symphonic band, singers and soloists. Here's the lowdown on several.

• Miami Beach is turning 100 this year, and to celebrate, Orchestra Miami will perform a free pops concert at 4 p.m. Sunday in Collins Park, 2100 Collins Ave., adjacent to the Bass Museum. On the program are *An Outdoor Adventure* by **Aaron Copland**, *The Orange Blossom Special*, *The Original Ragtime Band*, *The Armed Forces March*, *Andalucia Suite* by **Ernesto Lecuona**,



LARRY SHANE

**ORCHESTRA MIAMI:** Free pops concert celebrates Miami Beach's 100th birthday.



**COMING SATURDAY:** Chicago's Improvised Shakespeare Company visits the South Miami-Dade Cultural Arts Center Saturday.

a medley from *La Cage aux Folles* by **Jerry Herman** and *Swing, Ludwig, Swing*. Founder and artistic director **Elaine Rinaldi** will conduct the orchestra. Bring chairs, a blanket and/or a picnic. For information, visit [www.orchestramiami.org](http://www.orchestramiami.org).

• The Greater Miami Symphonic Band will perform a concert dubbed *March Madness 2...in February* at 3 p.m. Sunday in the Banyan Bowl at Pinecrest Gardens, 11000 SW 57th Ave., Pinecrest. The band will play a variety of marches, including *Pines of the Appian Way*, *76 Trombones* and, with Palmetto High senior **Robert Vega-Dowda**



VEGA-DOWDA

as trumpet soloist, *When the Saints Go Marching In*. Tickets are \$15 (\$5 for students and children older than 5). Call 305-273-7687 or visit [www.gmsb.org](http://www.gmsb.org).

• **Glenn Dicterow**, concertmaster for 34 years with the New York Philharmonic Orchestra, will lead a master class at Miami Dade College's Wolfson Campus Auditorium, 300 NE Second Ave., at 7 p.m. Tuesday as part of the New World School of the Arts Make Art Work series, with a question



MCKEEVER

and answer session following his free presentation. At 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Dicterow performs with the New World School of the Arts Symphony Orchestra at the Arsht Center's Knight Concert Hall, 1300 Biscayne Blvd., Miami. Tickets are \$20 (\$10 for students and seniors). Call 305-237-7855 or visit [www.nwsa.mdc.edu](http://www.nwsa.mdc.edu).

• The acclaimed singers of Grammy-nominated Seraphic Fire and The Sebastian period orchestra will perform **Franz Joseph Haydn's Lord Nelson Mass** at three locations next weekend. The first concert is at 8 p.m. Friday at Miami Shores Presbyterian Church, 602 NE 96th St., Miami Shores; the second at 8 p.m. Saturday at All Saints Episcopal Church, 333 Tarpou Dr., Fort Lauderdale; and the third at 4 p.m. Feb. 15 at the South Miami-Dade Cultural Arts Center in Cutler Bay. Tickets are \$55 (\$20-\$55 for the Cutler Bay performance), and children younger than 8 aren't permitted. For information, call 305-285-9060 or visit [www.seraphicfire.org](http://www.seraphicfire.org).

• The Miami Symphony Orchestra has put together a Valentine's weekend concert featuring Mexican conductor **Alondra de la Parra** and Brazilian pianist **Linda Bustani**. The program features *Concerto for Piano and Orchestra in D-flat major, Opus 10* by **Sergei Prokofiev**, *Warsaw Concerto* by **Richard Addinsell**, *Prelude to the Afternoon of a Faun* by **Claude Debussy**,

*On the Waterfront* by **Leonard Bernstein** and *Danzón No. 2* by **Arturo Márquez**. The first performance is at 6 p.m. Saturday at the South Miami-Dade Cultural Arts Center, 11950 SW 211th St., Cutler Bay, with tickets \$21-\$66; the second at 8 p.m. Feb. 15 at the New World Center, 500 17th St., Miami Beach, with tickets \$38-\$119. Call 305-275-5666 or visit [www.themiso.org](http://www.themiso.org).

**DRAMATISTS GUILD**

A South Florida Town Hall meeting of the Dramatists Guild of America, which represents the country's playwrights, will be held Sunday from 2 to 5 p.m. in the Peacock Education Center at the



VEGA-DOWDA

Arsht Center for the Performing Arts, 1300 Biscayne Blvd., Miami. The first session from 2 to 3 p.m. features **Gary Garrison**, the guild's executive director of creative affairs; **Zack Turner**, director of marketing and online media; **Amy VonVett**, executive assistant for business and legal affairs; playwright **Michael McKeever**, the guild's Florida east regional representative; and **Dewey Davis Thompson**, the Florida west regional representative.

From 3 to 4 p.m., a panel featuring Miami Herald theater critic **Christine Dolen**, Zoetic Stage artistic director **Stuart Meltzer**, City Theatre literary director **Susi Westfall** and South Florida Theatre League executive director **Andie Arthur** will talk about multiple aspects of the production of new work in the region. From 4 to 5 p.m., members can speak with Turner and VonVett about business and legal issues. The Town Hall is free and open to the public. For information, contact McKeever at [mmckeever@dramatistsguild.com](mailto:mmckeever@dramatistsguild.com) or 954-261-9157.

**ZOETIC CLASSES**

Miami's Zoetic Stage, in conjunction with the Carbonell Awards organization, is offering free master class sessions to high school students in Broward and Palm Beach counties (Miami-Dade students met at Miami's Arsht Center at 1 p.m. Saturday). The upcoming sessions, led by artistic director **Stuart Meltzer** and actor **Nicholas Richberg** (both current Carbonell nominees), are set for 1 p.m. Saturday at the Broward Center for the Performing Arts, 201 SW Fifth Ave., Fort Lauderdale, and 5 p.m. Feb. 16 at the Kravis Center, 701 Okeechobee Blvd., West Palm Beach.

Students can perform a monologue or song, with accompaniment provided, and receive coaching on their work. They'll also receive information on applying for Carbonell Awards scholarships. For information and to reserve a spot, email

Richberg at [nick@zoeticstage.org](mailto:nick@zoeticstage.org). Include the name of the song or monologue, which must be from a published play.

**VISUAL ARTS**

• The University of Miami presents *Burst! A Celebration of Arte Povera* featuring colorful works by artists **Martin Casuso**, **Valeira Rocchiccioli** and **Troy Simmons** at the UM Art Gallery in the Wynwood Building, 2750 NW Third Ave., Suite 4, Miami. The opening reception is Saturday from 4 to 10 p.m. Curated by **Milly Cardoso**, *Burst!* is a tribute to the radical Italian art movement of the late 1960s and early '70s. The group show is on view through March 2. For information call 305-284-3161 or visit [www.as.miami.edu/art](http://www.as.miami.edu/art).

• *Me Recuerdo (I Remember)* is a series of five mixed-media pieces by Miami native **Alexander Mijares** made in honor of his Cuban heritage. His family's tales of their homeland inspire the artist, and he hopes to paint a mural there one day. To see the work, make an appointment by emailing [info@mijares.com](mailto:info@mijares.com). For more information about the Mijares gallery, 700 NE 25th St., Suite 704, in Wynwood, visit [www.mijares.com](http://www.mijares.com).



ALEJANDRO MIJARES

'KIKIRKI': Alejandro Mijares' mixed-media pieces are display at his Wynwood gallery.

• The Lowe Art Museum at the University of Miami showcases the exhibition *Weavers' Stories from Island Southeast Asia*, in which weavers and batik artists speak for themselves in videos produced at eight sites in Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines and East Timor. The short oral histories include footage of daily life with extended families and the interplay of generations, detailed looks at weaving and dyeing techniques, and unique celebrations, such as a wedding in a sultan's palace. Textiles created by the featured artists accompany each video. See it at the Lowe, 1301 Stanford Dr., Coral Gables, through March 29. For information, call 305-284-3535 or visit [www.lowe-museum.org](http://www.lowe-museum.org).

• Markowicz Fine Art Gallery in the Design District is hosting internationally renowned painter and sculptor **Alain Godon** on Thursday from 6 to 9 p.m. to celebrate *Around the World in Eighty Works*, an exhibition featuring new sculptures from Godon's *Architectural* series, begun in

2006. RSVP to the opening reception by contacting the gallery at 305-646-1366. Godon's exhibit will be on view from Friday through Feb. 28. The gallery is at 110 NE 40th St., Miami. For details, visit [www.markowiczfineart.com](http://www.markowiczfineart.com).

• Art/Tuesdays Miami explores the question of whether traditional galleries continue to survive in today's changing environment at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday at Books & Books, 265 Aragon Ave., Coral Gables. The *Galleries Under Fire* event begins with a happy hour in the courtyard followed by a panel discussion with prominent voices from Miami's art community: **Dora Valdes-Fauli**, **Kathryn Mikesell**, **Frederic Snitzer** and **Anthony Spinello**. The program is free and open to the public. To RSVP, email [arttuesdaysmiami@gmail.com](mailto:arttuesdaysmiami@gmail.com).

• The public is invited to attend MDC Museum of Art + Design's Director's Previews on Thursday to preview exhibitions, meet the artists and enjoy special events. From 6 to 9 p.m., guests will have access to *90 Miles*, a Multimedia Installation by **Carlos Alejandro**; *Fountains & Galaxies*, recent works by **Bernard Cooper**; and *Object of My Affection: San Pedro Nos Ve*, an interactive installation by **Alma Leiva**. An admission donation of \$5 is suggested. The museum is at the Freedom Tower at MDC, 600 Biscayne Blvd., Second Floor, Miami. Call 305-237-7700 or visit [www.mdc-moad.org](http://www.mdc-moad.org).

• Fine Art Auctions Miami ([www.faami.com](http://www.faami.com)) is holding its third annual Urban & Street Art Auction at Spaceby3 in Wynwood from Thursday through Monday, with works by **Keith Harring**, **Shepard Fairey**, **Banksy**, **Faile**, **Phase2** and **KAWS**, among others. Last year's auction brought in more than \$1.3 million, including the sale of Banksy's *Kissing Coppers*. On Thursday and Friday, recording artist **Chris Brown** will collaborate with **Kai** to create pieces for Monday's auction. Fifty percent of their sales will benefit the Arts & Business Council of Miami. See the works at 2105 N. Miami Ave., Miami, or visit [www.spaceby3.com](http://www.spaceby3.com).

• Locust Talks welcomes **Jens Hoffmann**, deputy director for exhibitions and public programs at New York's Jewish Museum for a talk at 6:45 p.m. Thursday. The discussion is free and open to the public. Locust Projects is located at 3852 N. Miami Ave., Miami. For information, call 305-576-8570 or visit [www.locustprojects.org](http://www.locustprojects.org).

*Christine Dolen and Galena Mosovich contributed to this report. Send news to [cdolen@MiamiHerald.com](mailto:cdolen@MiamiHerald.com) (theater), [jlevin@MiamiHerald.com](mailto:jlevin@MiamiHerald.com) (dance, pop and Latin music), [jwooldridge@MiamiHerald.com](mailto:jwooldridge@MiamiHerald.com) (visual arts) or [khamersly@MiamiHerald.com](mailto:khamersly@MiamiHerald.com) (jazz, classical music).*

**Tropical Baroque Music Festival XVI**

Tickets can be purchased on line  
[www.TropicalBaroquemusicfestival.com](http://www.TropicalBaroquemusicfestival.com)

For information call  
**305-669-1376**

**JEAN RONDEAU** - FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2015  
Venue: Renaissance at the Gables  
2340 SW 32 Avenue, Miami FL 33145  
Enjoy your Friday night with a Baroque in Roll concert. Ticket prices include performance by Jean Rondeau and tapas buffet. This French prodigy will electrify the opening concert of the Tropical Baroque Music Festival XVI with his performance of harpsichord and jazz. Cash bar will also be available. An event not to be missed as we welcome the newer generation of baroque artist to South Florida.

**FUOCO E CENERE** - SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2015  
Venue: St. Philip's Episcopal Church  
1121 Andalusia Avenue, Coral Gables, FL 33134  
A new reading of Vivaldi's Four Seasons-Festival favorites Fuoco E Cenera seal through the calendar year in Venice- picture postcards from that seductive city by the sea. Fuoco E Cenera presents the famous and much loved Four Seasons by Antonio Vivaldi alongside rarely heard descriptive passages found in Vivaldi's manuscript as well as Venetian tales.

**VENICE BAROQUE ORCHESTRA,** JOINED BY AVI AVITAL  
MONDAY, MARCH 2, 2015  
Venue: Miami Beach Community Church  
1620 Drexel Avenue, Miami Beach, FL 33139  
Founded in 1997, the Venice Baroque Orchestra is recognized as one of the premier ensembles devoted to period instrument performance. They will be joined by the mandoline virtuoso Avi Avital.

**STILE ANTICO**  
Tuesday, March 3, 2015  
Venue: Miami Beach Community Church  
1620 Drexel Avenue, Miami Beach, FL 33139  
Stile Antico, two time Grammy nominees, is an ensemble of twelve young British singers without a conductor. They are now established as of the most original and exciting new voices in the field, with concerts throughout Europe and North America. They rehearse and perform as a chamber music group, each contributing artistically to the musical result.

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