

Today in **Xtra Living**

DIGITAL READERS GET MORE

Subscribers have access to this additional bonus content online at miamiherald.com/edition/xtraliving.



Stanford University/TNS

A Stanford team makes electronic skin that can sense touch, talking directly to the brain.

In today's paper **LOCAL & STATE:**

This pet project eases stress at a Hialeah Gardens school, 3A

Set up your **free** access



Never miss a story. Set up the free digital access available with your subscription today.

miamiherald.com/activate

VOLUME 120, No. 267
STAY CONNECTED MIAMIHERALD.COM

[FACEBOOK.COM/MIAMIHERALD](https://facebook.com/miamiherald)
[TWITTER.COM/MIAMIHERALD](https://twitter.com/miamiherald)

WINNER OF 24
PULITZER PRIZES

THURSDAY JUNE 8 2023

\$3.00

Miami Herald



MARTIN MEISSNER AP

Argentina's Lionel Messi celebrates after winning the World Cup in Qatar on Dec. 18, 2022. Messi owns a vacation home in South Florida and has said on several occasions that playing in the U.S. and experiencing the Miami lifestyle with his family appeal to him.

Miami mayor's bid for president gears up

BY JOEY FLECHAS
jflechas@miamiherald.com

Miami Mayor Francis Suarez has tapped City Hall staffers to join a campaign team and is steering political contributions into a federal super PAC, strong signs that he's preparing to launch a bid for the 2024 Republican presidential nomination.

Suarez, who has teased a presidential campaign for months, was expected to join supporters Wednesday evening for a fundraiser at the riverfront Kimpton EPIC Hotel, where invitations listed minimum "suggested contributions" at \$10,000 per couple. An invite showed the event was sponsored by America For Everyone, a super PAC that raised more than \$6 million last year, with large contributions from donors who previously supported the mayor.

Meanwhile, public records show Suarez has given five of his City Hall staffers unpaid leaves through the end of August. Sources familiar with the matter told the Miami Herald that the employees, including a top adviser and spokesperson, took the leaves to work in support of a soon-to-be-announced presidential campaign.

Members of the mayor's political team did not respond to requests for comments. Attempts to reach the employees were unsuccessful. Suarez's chief of staff declined to discuss the reason the staffers

SEE SUAREZ, 2A

'I'M GOING TO MIAMI'

Soccer legend Lionel Messi says he intends to play for Inter Miami

BY MICHELLE KAUFMAN
mkaufman@miamiherald.com

Lionel Messi is coming to Inter Miami, rejecting a \$500 million deal from a team in Saudi Arabia and a sentimental pull to return to FC Barcelona, where he spent the first 21 years of his career. His highly anticipated decision puts to rest an end-

less trail of rumors that circulated around the world for years and dominated soccer social media in the past few weeks.

In an exclusive interview on the Mundo Deportivo website, a Barcelona sports outlet, Messi said he really wanted to go back to FC Barcelona, but the finances were not feasible. He was with Barcelona in 2021, but the team's financial issues forced a move to Paris Saint-Germain. He

MORE INSIDE

Miami's long-awaited dream of getting soccer deity comes true, Greg Cote writes, 13A

didn't want to see his future up in the air again.

"I have taken the decision today that

SEE MESSI, 4A

As Haiti handles dual disasters, aid workers ask when help will arrive

BY JACQUELINE CHARLES
jcharles@miamiherald.com

Even before the southern coastal town of Jérémie was struck Tuesday by its second deadly earthquake in less than two years — after being battered by torrential rains and flooding last weekend — the region's 200,000-plus inhabitants were already feeling the collapse of Haiti.

With Port-au-Prince under siege by warring gangs, merchandise couldn't get in or out of the city by traveling the 180 miles between Jérémie and the capital. And the violence meant that Jérémie, known as the city of poets, is becoming a bastion for refugees.

Add to this, no electricity for over a year, no rain for five months and a flooded bridge. The bridge, which connects the Grand'Anse region to the rest of

Haiti, was partially submerged by floodwaters during the week-end.

"Things are so unbelievably fragile," said Nadesha Mijoba, who runs the Haitian Health Foundation in the city. "The availability of supplies is so sporadic. We've had to find different options to keep things coming in."

With the recent rains and the

SEE HAITI, 2A



RALPH SIMON JCOMHaiti

A magnitude 5.5 earthquake struck the southern coastal town of Jérémie in Haiti's Grand'Anse region on Tuesday.



We're committed to providing the essential journalism you need. Find the content important to you inside. Subscribers can find an additional 50+ pages each day by going to miamiherald.com/edition/extraextra or by scanning the code to the left.

CUSTOMER SERVICE

800-843-4372

miamiherald.com/customer-service



KOHLER Walk-In Bath Sale

OFFER EXPIRES 7/03/23



LIMITED TIME OFFER

\$1,500 OFF*

on your KOHLER Walk-In Bath Purchase



-plus- SPECIAL FINANCING OPTIONS AVAILABLE!

Ask your design consultant about our current financing options!

A SAFE SPA-LIKE EXPERIENCE FROM THE COMFORT OF YOUR OWN HOME

4.8/5 facebook (as of 5/22/2023)



Ultra-Low 3" Step-In



Multifunction Handshower



Bask Heated Surfaces

HYDROTHERAPY AT HOME

The KOHLER® Walk-In Bath is designed with an ultra-low step-in, extra-wide door and easy-to-grip handrails to help keep you safe and secure as you ease in and out of your bath. Plus, the hydrotherapy and BubbleMassage™ jets create a spa-like experience, massaging your entire body as you soak relieving sore muscles and joints.

CALL TODAY OFFER ENDS SOON

305-614-0247

*New orders only. \$1,500 off offer not valid on previous sales or estimates and cannot be combined with other offers. Financing available with approved credit. Other restrictions may apply. See sales rep for details. Offer expires 7/03/23. FL: CBC1265182, CFC1431287

WEST SHORE HOME