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In today's paper
LOCAL: A third child in the Biscayne Bay crash of a barge and a sailboat has died, yacht club says. **3A**

Miami Herald



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Out-of-staters, from left, Nithya Duddella, Luthfi Dzulfikar, Morgan Brown and Noah Wool, clean up a stretch of beach along the Rickenbacker Causeway on Friday before the Local Conference of Youth USA starts in Miami.

As young climate activists meet in Miami, Trump has changed their agenda

BY ASHLEY MIZNAZI
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Young climate activists from across the U.S. gathered in Miami for a major conference this weekend to learn how to draft and advocate for policies that could shape the world they'll soon inherit.

"This is our future, and a lot of times we don't even have a say," said Parishay Azer, a 17-year-old from California. "But with conferences like these, our opinions are heard, and it gives us the confidence to go to other places and speak out."

For the past three years, the Local Conference of Youth (LCOY) has collaborated with the federal government to produce a national youth climate statement outlining

recommendations on how the U.S. should deal with growing concerns including about rising temperatures and more-extreme weather events.

This year, things look different. Under the Trump administration, federal engagement has dried up.

Agencies that previously supported the youth-led effort, including the White House Climate Policy Office and the State Department's climate negotiation team, have been dissolved. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration has also pulled back support.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, meanwhile, wants to largely end regulation of the greenhouse gas emissions that are driving much of the global climate

problem.

Despite the setbacks, organizers said the youth movement was looking for ways to adapt as it met at the University of Miami's alumni center and law school on the weekend after a beach cleanup early Friday.

Coco de Marneffe, LCOY's lead coordinator, said that the federal pullout was discouraging but that LCOY was shifting focus from federal authorities to local and state representatives. South Florida counties have led the way in acknowledging the mounting climate-linked problems and have spent billions of dollars to reduce the risks of sea-level rise and other climate-driven concerns.

SEE CLIMATE, 6A

Miami city commissioner hopes for new election date, with voter approval this time around

BY TESS RISKI
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After two court rulings blocking the city of Miami's attempt to postpone the November 2025 election to 2026 without voter approval, one Miami commissioner isn't giving up.

Earlier this summer, Commissioner Damian Pardo sponsored an ordinance moving the city from odd- to even-year elections, postponing the November 2025 election to 2026 and giving the city's current elected officials — even those who were termed out — an extra year in office. The goal, according to Pardo, was to increase voter turnout by aligning the city's election calendar with the national election cycle while also reducing election costs.

The City Commission passed the ordinance in two separate 3-2 votes, rather than sending the question to voters in a ballot referendum.

But in response to a lawsuit filed by mayoral candidate Emilio González, a Miami-Dade Circuit Court judge and Florida's Third District Court of Appeal found the city's ordinance to be unconstitutional. Both courts ruled that the

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Court rules Miami was wrong to change election date. What about Coral Gables? **2A**

change required voter approval because it would change the city's charter.

So now, Pardo is trying to do exactly that. After the appeals court handed down its ruling Thursday, he announced plans to call for a special meeting so the City Commission can vote to send the even-year-elections proposal to the November 2025 ballot.

"We congratulate those who fought hard for their point of view and prevailed in the court today," Pardo said in a statement. "We remain committed to increasing voter representation and decreasing electoral costs in the City of Miami and plan to introduce legislation to place moving the elections to even years as soon as possible."

The next City Commission meeting is scheduled for Sept. 11.

According to City Clerk Todd Hannon, Sept. 5 is the deadline for the commission to send referendums to the November 2025 ballot. That means Pardo has just over a month to call for a special

SEE ELECTION DATE, 2A

Ghislaine Maxwell is moved from Florida to minimum-security prison in Texas

BY EMILY GOODIN
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WASHINGTON, D.C.

Ghislaine Maxwell has been quietly moved from a federal institute in Tallahassee to a minimum-security prison in Texas for white-collar female criminals.

"Ghislaine Maxwell is in the custody of the Bureau of Prisons (BOP) at the Federal Prison Camp (FPC) Bryan in Bryan, Texas," the agency told McClatchy.

No reason was given for the transfer, but it occurred after Maxwell



Ghislaine Maxwell

spent two days being questioned by Todd Blanche, the No. 2 official in the Justice Department, about the Jeffrey Epstein case.

The New York Sun first reported the news.

Maxwell, known as inmate No. 02879-509, is serving a 20-year sentence on five sex trafficking counts related to her work with Epstein, who

SEE MAXWELL, 5A

'I have nightmares': Venezuelans sent to Salvador prison relive terror after return home

BY GUSTAVO OCANDO ALEX
Special to the Miami Herald

MARACAIBO, VENEZUELA

Mervin Yamarte, a young Venezuelan detained for more than four months in the Salvadoran mega-prison known as CECOT after his deportation from the United States, said that even though he's back in his home in Maracaibo, he is still afraid.

And he still wakes up every day at 3:30 a.m. — the same time he was awakened by guards in the maximum-security facility.

"I haven't been able to sleep as I should. It's taken me a while to adapt. But I'm happy," he told the Miami Herald at his



Gustavo Ocando Alex

Venezuelan Andy Perozo, center, is greeted after arriving in Maracaibo on a flight from El Salvador, where he had been imprisoned under a U.S.-Salvadoran arrangement.

home in the neighborhood of Los Pescadores in western Venezuela.

Yamarte and three of his friends from that impoverished community —

Edwuar Hernández, 23, Andy Perozo, 30, and Ringo Rincón, 39 — were deported to El Salvador on the night of March 15, accused by the U.S. of

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● 'Scared to die': Venezuelan who was held in megaprison files complaint against U.S., **2A**

having links to the dangerous Venezuelan criminal gang Tren De Aragua.

It is an accusation that they and their families have vehemently denied. "I don't go out, because I'm afraid of being singled out" on the streets as a criminal, Yamarte said of his life back in his community.

In March, the Trump administration sent 252 Venezuelans to the maximum-security prison in El Salvador, using a 1798 law known as the Alien Enemies Act.

SEE VENEZUELAN, 7A



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