



PEDRO PORTAL pportal@miamiherald.com | July 11, 2025

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VOLUME 122, No. 641
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Miami Herald

DeSantis makes plans to hold immigrant detainees in vacant North Florida prison

BY ANA CEBALLOS
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TALLAHASSEE
As a federal judge weighs whether to temporarily shut down Alligator Alcatraz, the DeSantis administration is making plans to turn a vacant North Florida prison into an immigration detention center for more than

1,000 people. “We are calling this the deportation depot,” Gov. Ron DeSantis said at a news conference Thursday. “This will be operational soon. It is not going to take forever, but we are also not rushing to do this right this day.” The governor framed the move as an effort to meet the need for “additional capacity” beyond

what’s available at Alligator Alcatraz. But as of Thursday, the Everglades facility held roughly 600 people — far below the approximately 1,400 detainees held at the site at the beginning of the month, sources said. The move suggests the administration might be backing away from plans to expand Alligator Alcatraz to hold up to 3,000

➔ MORE INSIDE

Judge to rule within a week on whether to temporarily shutter Alligator Alcatraz, **2A**

people, at least for now. Last week, a federal judge issued a temporary restraining order blocking construction at the site as she weighs whether to shut down the detention camp’s operations over

environmental concerns. U.S. District Judge Kathleen Williams said she plans to rule no later than next Thursday. The Florida Division of Emergency Management, which oversees the site’s operations, did not respond to a request seeking comments. Neither did the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, which has custody over immigrant

detainees. If Alligator Alcatraz were to be shut down, it would be a blow to the DeSantis administration, which built the makeshift camp in eight days on an airfield to support President Donald Trump’s mass-deportation campaign. The site — which during the last month has housed hundreds of immigrant detainees in tents and cage-like cells — was seen as a potential model for the rest of the country. As the court decision looms, DeSantis is turning his focus to Baker Correctional Institution, **2A**

SEE PRISON, 2A



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Westland Hialeah Senior High School cheerleaders pose on Thursday, the first day of the new school year for Miami-Dade County Public Schools. ‘It’s really encouraging seeing the energy level of kids going back to school,’ the schools superintendent said.

Backpacks, bands and big milestones on Miami-Dade’s first day of school

BY CLARA-SOPHIA DALY
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Lunch bags were stuffed, pencil boxes filled and backpacks packed as students across Miami-Dade County returned to classrooms Thursday. Some schools greeted them with balloon sculptures, others hung “First Day of School” banners. Outside Westland Hialeah

Senior High School, dozens of students with matching backpacks walked through the front gates, serenaded by the school’s band, which included a tuba, two clarinets, a trumpet, a trombone, and drums. The cheerleaders cheered for their fellow Wildcats. After a long, stressful summer for Miami-Dade’s school

SEE SCHOOL, 8A



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Third-grade students work on their projects at Dr. Rolando Espinosa K-8 Center on Thursday in Doral.

Key Biscayne gymnastics coach Olea reaches plea deal on child sex charges

BY ANA CLAUDIA CHACIN
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More than a decade after he allegedly sexually abused at least three minors, a former Key Biscayne gymnastics coach spotlighted in a Miami Herald investigation last year has reached a deal with state prosecutors to plead guilty to four felony sex charges, including two related to the sexual abuse of a minor. The agreement was revealed Thursday in a Miami-Dade courtroom days before Oscar Olea, 40, was set to go to trial on the sex-abuse allegations. He has been incarcerated since his Feb. 28 arrest last year after Miami-Dade Circuit Judge Alberto Milian called him a “likely pedophile” and ordered that he remain in jail until his trial. Olea is scheduled to enter his guilty plea and be sentenced next week at a hearing where victims will testify about the impact of his abuse. Under the terms of his deal, Olea would be sentenced to 12 years in prison and 10 years of probation as a sex offender following his release. Olea would also need to enter a sex-offender treatment program, according to a copy of the agreement reviewed by the Herald. The deal is subject to ratification by Judge Milian. Olea’s arrest last year came weeks after the Herald published its Key Biscayne’s Dark Secret investigation, which told for the first time the story of five of the coach’s accusers: Four former students who were minors at the time of their alleged abuse and Olea’s colleague at the community center where he worked and who told the Herald he began abusing her when she was a minor.

SEE COACH, 6A

Playboy is coming to town, with plans for a Miami Beach club and headquarters

BY VINOD SREEHARSHA
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Playboy, the company best known for its magazine centerfolds and bunny logo, had a major presence in South Florida in the 1960s and 1970s with a club and a hotel. Now, the brand is coming back to town.

Playboy Enterprises has signed a lease to move into the penthouse of a new luxury office building in Miami Beach called Rivani. The company will move its corporate headquarters from Los Angeles into the building at 1691 Michigan Ave., near Lincoln Road. Playboy called it a strategic move in a Wednesday

statement and said it underscores the “brand’s next chapter with expanded hospitality offerings, advanced content studios and renewed cultural presence.” The move by Playboy “is game-changing,” Miami Beach City Commissioner Joseph Magazine said Thursday in an interview with the Miami

Herald. “It shows that Miami Beach is truly reimagining our economy and focusing on economic development.” The commissioner spent about six months with Playboy’s CEO and Board of Directors, selling them on the city. He said the company received offers from elsewhere in South Florida and in other U.S.

cities. Along with the office relocation, the company is developing a Playboy Club in Miami Beach, including a “world-class restaurant” along with “an exclusive members-only space inspired by the storied Playboy Mansion.” Developer Robert Rivani said he expects Playboy’s new office to be

ready by mid-2026. Playboy described Miami Beach as “one of the nation’s most dynamic, culturally relevant, and business-friendly cities.” Playboy’s decision to relocate its corporate headquarters to Miami Beach “goes beyond the state’s positive business and tax climate,” John Boyd Jr., principal with location advisory firm The Boyd Company, told the Herald on Thursday. It also goes “to the more qualitative site selection

SEE PLAYBOY, 6A



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