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President Donald Trump directs Pentagon to buy coal in a bid to revive the failing industry.



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In today's paper
LOCAL: Parents of three girls who died in barge-sailboat crash sue barge company, 9A

Miami Herald



SPRINGING INTO ACTION

Spirits were high as Miami Marlins pitchers and catchers reported to Roger Dean Chevrolet Stadium in Jupiter on Wednesday, kicking off this season's spring training. Above, Miami Marlins pitcher William Kempner (71) joins fellow players. At right, Miami Marlins President of Baseball Operations Peter Bendix greets pitcher Andrew Nardi.

Read more in Sports, 15A



PHOTOS BY AL DIAZ adiaz@miamiherald.com

Do recent megamillion Miami real estate buys signal a coming billionaire wave?

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Several of the world's wealthiest people have been shopping for and buying South Florida real estate in recent weeks, fueling speculation that a

billionaire wave may be hitting the region. A few tech billionaires, reportedly enticed by Florida's business-friendly policies and spooked by a possible new tax in California, have been house hunting, and even making some big purchases. They're checking out multimillion-dollar



Mark Zuckerberg

properties in Miami Beach, Coral Gables, Coconut Grove and other desirable locales.

On Monday, the Wall Street Journal reported that Meta

founder Mark Zuckerberg and his wife, Priscilla Chan, had purchased a home in Indian Creek, a secluded island community off of Miami Beach. And Zuckerberg isn't the only Silicon Valley mogul interested in making South Florida home.

SEE BILLIONAIRES, 3A

In Tallahassee, a push to change what Floridians can say, write and read

BY LAWRENCE MOWER
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TALLAHASSEE

State lawmakers this session are considering changing state laws that could affect what Floridians can say, write and read.

Legislators are weighing giving the governor broad powers to brand groups as "terrorist organizations" and expel college students who support them. They're proposing forbidding the state from referring to the "West Bank" and imposing more restrictions on school books.

Several of the ideas have bipartisan support. But they've received pushback from free speech advocates and trade union representa-

tives. They've also divided Republicans, who in recent years have decried what they said was censorship in the forms of political correctness and "cancel culture."

Republican senators bowed to some of those criticisms on Tuesday. SB 290, backed by Agriculture Commissioner Wilton Simpson, included a provision that would have allowed more food producers to sue people for "disparagement" of their products — and recoup the attorneys' costs.

The idea was sharply criticized online as an affront to Robert F. Kennedy Jr.'s "Make America Healthy Again" movement and as a giveaway to agricultural producers, including pesticide manu-

SEE FREE SPEECH, 2A



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A general view of the Florida Capitol on Jan 12, 2026, in Tallahassee.

Who gives the most political money to Miami-Dade's mayor and county commissioners?



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In Miami-Dade County, the mayor and commissioners rely on lobbyists, donors and county vendors to raise money for their political committees. This photo from December 2022 shows the board and Mayor Daniella Levine Cava shortly after that year's election cycle.

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To raise more than \$6 million for their political committees last year, the elected officials running Miami-Dade's government relied on developers and county vendors for most of their largest contributions.

A Miami Herald analysis of more than 1,500 cam-

paign-finance entries found that the top donors last year include the Miami real estate mogul planning a marina complex on the county-owned Seaquarium site, companies hired to manage Miami-Dade streetlights and traffic signals, and an affordable housing developer building a massive mixed-use project that includes county housing complexes.

Even though no county

politician was on the ballot in 2025, the 13 commissioners and Miami-Dade's mayor kept up a steady fundraising pace, with \$6.7 million coming into the political committees linked to them in mandated disclosure forms. Of the 10 top donors on the Herald's list, seven gave to at least six of those committees.

SEE TOP DONORS, 2A



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