



Miami Herald

An 'AI-ready' data center is under construction in a Miami neighborhood



Courtesy of Iron Mountain's Facebook page

New Hampshire-based information-management company Iron Mountain is bringing a 150,000-square-foot data center to the Westview neighborhood. The 'AI-ready' facility is expected to bring 30 jobs to the area. This is a rendering of the exterior of the building.

'HIDING IN PLAIN SIGHT'

BY RAISA HABERSHAM rhabersham@miamiherald.com

Amy A. Dawkins had driven by the new 150,000-square-foot data center tucked in the middle of Westview several times before she knew what it was.

Since New Hampshire-based information-management company Iron Mountain broke ground on the 3.1-acre site to build what they call an "AI-ready" data center, word has spread through the predominantly Black neighborhood about the new development.

"It's definitely hiding in plain sight," said Dawkins, who lives less than a mile from the center.

Concerns about the data center were raised at a town hall held by

Miami-Dade County Commissioner Marleine Bastien. At the early April meeting, resident Elizabeth Favier Bellamy inquired about the data center and why neighbors didn't know about it.

"It will definitely affect the residents in your district," Bastien told Bastien at the meeting before rattling off a list of reported dangers that data centers bring, including increased utility rates and pollution.

Bellamy's worry about the data center went unaddressed at the meeting, and she said she's still waiting to hear from Bastien's office regarding her concern. "I don't think they're aware of the long-term effect it will have on the community," she said. Bastien's office did not respond to questions from the Miami Herald about the data center,

including what the economic and environmental impact will be to the community and if there are more coming to the area. Iron Mountain officials said they were unavailable to comment on the data center at this time.

A February 2025 news release from the Miami-Dade Beacon Council announcing the groundbreaking noted the data center will run on 100% carbon-free energy and featured comments from Beacon Council representatives, Florida Power & Light Company, and Bastien, who touted the data center as an investment in the community.

But the news of the data center's construction in Westview comes amid reports about the proliferation

SEE DATA CENTER, 2A

Appeals court: Judge overstepped in ordering Alligator Alcatraz shutdown

BY CHURCHILL NDONWIE AND CLAIRE HEDDLES cndonwie@miamiherald.com cheddles@miamiherald.com

A federal appeals court on Tuesday overturned a Miami judge's order that briefly required the Florida Division of Emergency Management to begin shutting down Alligator Alcatraz last summer and barred new detainees from being held at the site.

The split decision by the three-judge panel of the Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals said District Judge Kathleen Williams' Aug. 21 order — paused by the same appeals court just days after it was issued — was improper because the environmental groups and Miccosukee Tribe bringing the lawsuit "failed to prove" that the federal government controlled the site.

Part of their decision hinged on the fact that Florida has not been reimbursed a dime for the more \$600 million in taxpayer funds the state has spent on constructing and maintaining the site, despite Gov. Ron DeSantis' promises last summer that it would be funded by the federal government.

The appellate judges pointed to the Trump administration's lack of financial investment as

evidence that the project shouldn't trigger federal environmental review laws.

"Until Homeland Security officials decide to fund the facility, no final agency action occurs," the judges wrote.

Williams in her order had cited that the project was requested by the federal government with the promise of federal funding to reimburse the state for expenses at the site, and it had failed to abide by federal environmental regulations.

Lawyers for the state and federal government had argued that the facility was a state-run and operated site and that the federal government's role was limited to oversight of the detainees being held there. The government lawyers characterized William's order as an overreach that subjected the state to federal law.

The state lawyers also said the Dade-Collier Training and Transition Airport, where the detention center is built, is subject to state rules and that the state can decide whatever it needs to do with it.

Chief appellate Judge William Pryor and Judge Andrew Basher — appointed by George W. Bush and Donald Trump,

SEE JUDGE, 2A

U.S. and Iran deadlocked over Hormuz after Trump extends truce

BY ARSALAN SHAHLA, WEILUN SOON AND OMAR TAMO Bloomberg News

The U.S. and Iran are locked in a battle for control of the Strait of Hormuz after failing to meet for a fresh round of peace talks, with both sides using blocks to the waterway to gain leverage during an extended ceasefire.

President Donald Trump said the truce agreed upon April 7 would stay in place indefinitely while Washington waits for Iran to submit a new peace proposal, though Tehran says it has no plans to take part in negotiations imminently. Vice President JD Vance had been prepared to fly to Islamabad on Tuesday to resume discussions, before it became clear Iran would not send its own delegation.



Ali Mohammadi/11PA/UPI

At least two cargo ships reported being fired on near the key Strait of Hormuz shipping lane, illustrated by this view of Iranian navy speed boats conducting military exercises off southern Iran back in 2011.

The U.S. maintained a naval blockade on ships going to and from Iran's ports to pile pressure on

the Islamic Republic, a move Iranian Foreign

SEE IRAN, 3A

DeSantis administration disputes findings of Herald series on elder protection

BY CAROL MARBIN MILLER AND LINDA ROBERTSON CMarbin@miamiherald.com lrobertson@miamiherald.com

Two weeks after the Miami Herald published an investigative series revealing how elderly Floridians are taken into state custody and moved into substandard elder care facilities with almost no court oversight, state leaders issued a statement criticizing journalists for "a fundamental misrepresentation" of how Florida's elder protection system works.

The series, called "The Gray Market," was published on April 2. The Herald collected state data that show how nearly 95% of elders removed



Miami Herald File

DCF Deputy Chief of Staff Morgan Jones stated 'The Gray Market' series was 'misleading,' and carried the 'risk [of] creating unnecessary fear.'

from their homes for their own welfare never appear before a judge or speak with an attorney. Some seniors' lives were upended when they were sent to

assisted living facilities with poor records of care — against their will and without the knowledge of

SEE ELDERS, 2A



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