

# Big finishes

Hyde: Missouri down. Now Miami needs its best versus Purdue



## Remove the dam?

Advocates are still trying to reunite 3 rivers. **Local, Page 13**

## Ex-FBI chief dies

Robert Mueller investigated Trump-Russia ties. **Nation, Page 3**

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## Florida tops nation in ICE arrests

Miami Field Office credited with about 120 per day, report shows

By **Ryan Gillespie**  
ORLANDO SENTINEL

ICE agents in Florida have made more immigration arrests so far this year than counterparts in any other part of the country, outpacing even places with announced “surges,” new data shows.

The Miami Field Office for the U.S. Immi-

gration and Customs Office — which covers Florida, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands — is credited with about 120 arrests per day in 2026 or 9,880 total as of March 10, the New York Times reported Friday.

The Florida arrest data reflects the efforts of Gov. Ron DeSantis, who has worked to position the state as President Donald Trump’s closest ally in his mass deportation agenda. DeSantis called a special legislative session on immigration even before Trump returned to office, required all of Florida’s law

enforcement agencies to become partners in immigration enforcement and last year opened Alligator Alcatraz, an immigration detention center in the Everglades.

The Times noted that places with aggressive ICE enforcement, including Minnesota where a so-called surge left two U.S. citizens dead, still trailed Florida, despite the higher-profile activity. For instance, the St. Paul field office had made 5,530 arrests as of March 10, it reported, about 4,300 fewer than the Miami office.

DeSantis announced in early January that the state’s efforts last year, dubbed Operation Tidal Wave, had led to more than 10,000 immigration arrests in the previous eight months and called them a sign of the “strength” of Florida’s partnership with ICE.

State totals are not available for 2026 yet, and the ICE data the Times cited, which was in a document the news organization said it reviewed, could not be independently veri-

See **ICE** on Page A3



Five years after a roof collapse, James S. Rickards Middle in Oakland Park remains far from completion and has been using a temporary portable facility. **CARLINE JEAN/SOUTH FLORIDA SUN SENTINEL PHOTOS**

## Rickards replacement unlikely to open in '26

Five years after roof collapse at Broward school, officials face more delays

By **Scott Travis**  
SOUTH FLORIDA SUN SENTINEL

An eagerly awaited replacement for James S. Rickards Middle in Oakland Park, which was mostly destroyed by a 2021 roof collapse, is no longer expected to open this year, Broward County school officials have confirmed.

The project, which is already two years behind schedule, has faced more delays in 2026 after the general contractor raised concerns about possible structural cracks. The work has since resumed after an outside review found the structure was safe, officials said.

But it will not be completed in time for the new school year starting in August 2026, Superintendent Howard Hepburn wrote in a March 13 update to School Board members. The exact timetable “remains under reassessment due to recent demobilization, workforce instability, (issues with utilities) and unresolved change orders,” he wrote.

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The hallway inside James S. Rickards Middle School in Oakland Park is under construction on Thursday.

## Becoming a target hit home for Moskowitz

Broward lawmaker describes ‘surreal’ drama of 2024 case

By **Ryan Tarinelli**  
CQ-ROLL CALL

WASHINGTON — Not far from Rep. Jared Moskowitz’s home, police officers found body armor, smoke grenades and firearms inside the house of a convicted felon, along with a handwritten list of “targets” that included the name of the Florida Democrat.

The Justice Department said it was evidence of a would-be active shooter who was “ready for war” and harbored hatred toward the Jewish community, a “ticking time bomb” who had shot at a Jewish woman’s home about two months before the 911 call prompted the officers to search the felon’s home.

“Someone made a call and saved my life,” Moskowitz said in an interview at his Capitol Hill office this month. “We got lucky.”

See **MOSKOWITZ** on Page A7

## Rajner relentless in mission to save funding for HIV/AIDS drugs

By **Anthony Man**  
SOUTH FLORIDA SUN SENTINEL

Michael Rajner was ubiquitous. Working the hallways, offices and committee rooms of the state Capitol, he became the public face of a multi-front effort to reverse sweeping cuts in the program that pays for lifesaving HIV/AIDS medications for tens of thousands of Floridians.

The AIDS Drug Assistance Program pays for the expensive medications for about 28,000 people. In January, the Florida Department of Health notified recipients that it was slashing eligibility, a move that could have affected as many as 16,000 people.

Behind the scenes, Rajner was an in-your-face advocate, seizing every opportunity — in corridors, elevators, even restrooms — to

See **RAJNER** on Page A6

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