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Econometer:
Is it too early to tell what Trump's policies mean for the economy?



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In today's paper
MIAMI-DADE: Trick Love the Kids Street is coming as rap songs are added to map, 3A

Miami Herald



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Miami-Dade Corrections and Rehabilitation Sergeant Leviticus Gilliard speaks to Alain Pastranaayuca, 15, and Zia Akhter, 17, during a 5000 Role Models event at the Kaseya Center on Tuesday in Miami.

At 5000 Role Models' Police & Youth Conference in Miami, conversations are key

BY RAISA HABERSHAM
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Congresswoman Frederica Wilson recalls the time she knew she had to help address the issue of policing and Black men: She was recently elected to the Miami-Dade County School Board when she received a call that a Coral Gables High School principal cut short a Black history program and told students they could go back to their classrooms.

Wilson remembered that the disappointed students protested, police were called and by time she got to the school, she saw Black children being hauled off in handcuffs to jail.

"I said, 'No, no, no, no, you can't do that,'" she recalled. It was that tension between officers and Black students, added to a deadly incident involving police, that made her realize something needed to be done.

When word got around that she was organizing a conference to



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From left, Jordan Carrasquillo, 16; Gravy Jean Pierre, 17; and Leonard Guanche, 15. Tuesday's event was key in strengthening communication between police and Black youths, Rep. Frederica Wilson says.

address the issue, Wilson got a call from then-Coral Gables Police Chief James Butler. They joined forces to create a two-day conference at the Biltmore Hotel. The gathering has become an essential

part of the 5000 Role Models of Excellence, a leadership program that Wilson created for young Black men.

SEE ROLE MODELS, 5A

Trump says he sent Venezuelan gang members to El Salvador. 3 families deny their loved ones have gang ties

BY SYRA ORTIZ BLANES, VERÓNICA EGUI BRITO AND CLAIRE HEALY
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The day after he was arrested while working at a restaurant in Texas, Mervin Jose Yamarte Fernandez climbed out of a plane in shackles in El Salvador, bound for the largest mega-prison in Latin America.

His sister Jare recognized him in a video shared on social media. As masked guards shaved detainees' heads and led them into cells at the maximum-security complex, Yamarte Fernandez turned his gaze slowly

toward the camera.

"He was asking for help. And that help didn't come from the lips. It came from the soul," said Jare, who asked to be identified by her nickname because she fears for her family's safety and who added her brother has no previous criminal record. "You know when someone has their soul broken."

Yamarte Fernandez, 29, is among 238 Venezuelans the Trump administration accused of being gang members without providing public evidence and sent during the weekend to El Salvador's Terrorist Confinement Cen-

SEE DEPORTEES, 8A



Three Venezuelan families have told the Miami Herald that their relatives — from left, Gustavo Adolfo Aguilera Agüero, 27; Henry Javier Vargas Lugo, 32; and Mervin Jose Yamarte Fernandez, 29 — were wrongly identified as gang members. Two of these families were able to identify their loved ones through videos posted by the Salvadoran government on social media.

'We are all by ourselves.' Haitians warn that fall of Port-au-Prince is imminent

BY JACQUELINE CHARLES
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For weeks now, Haiti's volatile capital has been caught between cries and gunfire, armed gangs and mass exodus, and anxiety and silence.

Neighborhood after neighborhood is being emptied out as gangs, brandishing high-powered automatic weapons, march on Port-au-Prince, crawling through ravines and filing through concrete corridors to seize new territory while young arsonists set fires to homes and businesses.

No one has been spared in the frantic chaos that has left a trail of broken furniture, burned-out

buildings and a stream of misery. Not government ministries, not the pillaged enterprises or the charred homes. On Friday, the French Embassy, close to the fighting on Rue Capois and Avenue Christophe, temporarily shuttered its doors.

The intense violence by the powerful Viv Ansanm gang coalition has forced nearly 60,000 people to flee their homes in just one month, the United Nations International Organization for Migration said Tuesday. The relentless attacks, the UN said, have affected neighborhoods in Delmas, Carrefour-Feuilles, Martissant, Fort National,

SEE HAITI, 2A



JOHNNY FILS-AIMÉ For the Miami Herald

The intense violence by the powerful Viv Ansanm gang coalition has forced nearly 60,000 people to flee their homes in just one month, the United Nations says.

Miami Beach mayor's plan to evict O Cinema brings global backlash. Will it be passed today?

BY AARON LEIBOWITZ AND LAUREN COSTANTINO
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A proposal last week by Miami Beach Mayor Steven Meiner to terminate O Cinema's lease after the art-house theater screened the Oscar-winning documentary "No Other Land" has been met with fierce backlash, both locally and abroad.

On Monday afternoon, Meiner and city commissioners received an open letter from more than 600 members of the "international filmmaking community." They called the mayor's effort "an attack on freedom of expression." Among the



Steven Meiner

signers were filmmaker and activist Michael Moore, Miami-born "Moonlight" director Barry Jenkins, and Laura Poitras, who directed the 2015 Oscar-winning documentary "Citizenfour."

Meanwhile, O Cinema is preparing for possible legal action. The theater is being represented by the American Civil Liberties Union of Florida, which has questioned the legality of Meiner's resolution to oust the theater

SEE O CINEMA, 2A



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Miami-Dade County deputies speak to members of the 5000 Role Models at the group's Youth & Police Conference on Tuesday at the Kaseya Center in Miami.

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ROLE MODELS

The event is key in strengthening communication between law-enforcement officers and Black youths, Wilson told the Miami Herald.

"They graduate with an understanding of what the job of the police entails and by the police coming to these forums, they understand the feelings, the hardships, and the tension and the fear that is in the hearts of some of these young boys," she said. "So that eases the tension. You have to have that conversation."

About 1,000 students from the 5000 Role Models sat in the Kaseya Center on Tuesday to have that conversation at the annual event, which is called the Police & Youth Conference. It is hosted by the 5000 Role Models in collaboration with the Miami Heat and national nonprofit Dedication to Community, which aims

to educate about justice.

At the conference, students hear from professionals in law enforcement and engage with them in breakout sessions on a variety of topics. In turn, law-enforcement officers learn about what's on the minds of young Black men and come up with policing solutions that make both parties comfortable.

5000 Role Models participant and Coral Reef Senior High student Semaj Gilliard had an idea. He said he would like to see more community-based policing in which officers who live in his community police their own neighborhoods.

"Police officers will live in my neighborhood, but they'll drive over to Coral Gables or 14 blocks down, when I personally believe when people are active in their community where they know people ... it



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Founder and CEO of Dedication to Community M. Quentin Williams speaks at the conference.

seems to mitigate risks and bring down all the negatives that happen."

Gilliard also participated in a panel with former Miami Heat players Glen Rice and Alonzo Mourning and North Miami Police Chief Cherise Giordani Gause to discuss the state of policing and how residents and officers can come to a better understanding of the challenges that both face when interacting with each other.

Gilliard said it's impor-

tant for people to interact with officers when they're not in uniform.

"The more you see them without the badge the more and more you start to see them as people," he said. "Now instead of an officer and a person talking, it's two people coming to a solution."

Mourning said many people view law enforcement poorly in the wake of George Floyd's killing by a Minneapolis police officer and the decades following



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Former Miami Heat players Glen Rice, left, and Alonzo Mourning speak at the event. Rice said he wishes more attention was paid to positive interactions between law enforcement and citizens. Mourning said many people view police poorly in the wake of George Floyd's killing.

Rodney King's beating by Los Angeles police, both incidents were filmed and seen across the world. He urged the young men to understand there is a protocol that they have to follow.

"Unfortunately, because we've had so many bad visuals of officers, we already have this perception of officers that's kind of fearful," Mourning said. "I still, when they're behind me, I get a little tense. Am I going to get stopped?"

"I have that same fear, too," Gause said. "When I'm stopped and I'm not in uniform and I'm out and I get stopped, I have that same level of fear. So, I think it's valid."

Rice, who has a brother in law enforcement, said he wishes more attention was paid to positive inter-

actions between law enforcement and citizens. "I think the media plays a big part of the solution," he said.

But Gilliard said that sometimes all that is needed is a little familiarity, recalling when he was pulled over for an illegal U-turn.

"The first time I got pulled over, I was still afraid of the officer," he said. "She came up to me and said 'It's OK,'" he said. "A couple weeks later in Publix, I'm walking there and then she taps me on the shoulder and says 'Do you remember me?'"

"That little interaction humanized who the police are in my neighborhood much more," Gilliard said.

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