



PHILIPPE BOSSE TNS

Entertaining if mildly stale 'Scream VI' moves deadly action to the Big Apple.

In today's paper **DEATHS:** Robert Blake, actor who was acquitted in wife's killing, was 89, 9A



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Miami Herald



Historian Marvin Dunn leans on the tombstone of Mary Jane Wright at Shiloh Cemetery in Cedar Key on Sunday. Wright and her husband, John, hid Black women and children inside their attic during the Rosewood Massacre in 1923.

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Cop-shooting suspect's father is on Miami-Dade School Board

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Police took the son of a Miami-Dade County School Board member into custody early Thursday after the ambush shooting of a police officer as he was making an arrest during a traffic stop, according to law-enforcement sources.

Steve Gallon IV, the 32-year-old son of longtime School Board member and former Miami Northwestern High School Principal Steve Gallon III, was captured after an all-night manhunt just outside of Miami's Design District neighborhood, police said.

He was taken into custody without incident after emerging from a home not far from the shooting and before he could drive off. Gallon IV, who was still being interviewed by detectives late Thursday afternoon, is expected to be charged with the attempted murder of a law-enforcement officer.

At a briefing outside police headquarters in Doral on Thursday afternoon, Miami-Dade Police Director Alfredo "Freddy" Ramirez said four others were also taken into custody: the driver of the car that had been stopped before the shooting and three people who police said were harboring Gallon IV.

"Before we even executed the [search] warrant he came out of the house and was taken into custody," Ramirez said. "You just can't control someone's will to kill or harm a police officer."

Also in custody and expected to be charged with solicitation to commit first-degree murder is Atiba Moore, 30. Police said he was the driver of the car. Police hadn't named any of the three others in custody by late Thursday afternoon.

The Miami-Dade officer who was shot in the neck area was treated Wednesday night at Jackson Memorial Hospital's Ryder Trauma Center and released Thursday morning. Police hadn't named the officer, but sources have identified



Alfredo Ramirez

SEE SHOOTING, 2A

'We need to hear it.' This tour explores Florida's horrific history of racial violence

BY C. ISIAH SMALLS II
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The John Wright house remains the final relic of Rosewood.

Hidden behind the trees that dot the 35-acre property sits the sprawling three-story Victorian home, its white facade and green accents dulled over the past century. The trail of clam shells leading to the front porch emits a stench that causes noses to crinkle and hands to cover faces. Over the past century, the home has witnessed a community annihilation that left at least six Black Floridians dead, one of the strongest hurricanes to make landfall in the United States and whatever else time has thrown its way.

Still, it stands.

As does the history: Wright

hid Black women and children in the attic of this North Florida home when the bloodshed of the 1923 Rosewood Massacre began after a white woman falsely accused a Black man of beating her. Climb the winding, wooden staircase to the attic today and the emotions that were present more than a century ago are still palpable. Horror. Confusion. Anguish. Sorrow. Grief.

"When I got to the top of the stairs, I started crying," Marvin Dunn, professor emeritus at Florida International University, said of his first visit to the home in January, explaining the rush of emotions. He couldn't bear going inside again when he led a group of students there on a recent sunny Sunday afternoon in

SEE TOUR, 5A



Megan and Morgan Everrett plant azaleas in Rosewood on Sunday to honor the Rosewood of the past. The sisters were among the more than 40 participants on Marvin Dunn's tour.

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She went from a 'dark period' in high school to preaching about suicide prevention as college student

BY MICHELLE MARCHANTE
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Mecca McCain remembers being as young as 11 when she first began cutting herself with a steak knife hidden in her bedroom.

The University of Miami junior remembers experiencing drastic mood swings, feeling sad, anxious and losing interest in activities, including her passion for fashion. She was one of a "handful of Black students at a predominately white, elite private

SEE HEALTH, 2A



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Mecca McCain, 21, works for the Miami-Dade chapter of the National Alliance on Mental Illness. Its 'Ending the Silence' program helps students in middle school through college and their families.

Ex-Dade resident wanted to save strays in Venezuela. Now, he's the one in need of rescue

BY ANTONIO MARIA DELGADO
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On the night his life was ruined, animal-rights activist and former South Florida resident Jonatan Palacios, 39, got a call that no one wants to receive: The SUV carrying his family through a mountainous road in western Venezuela had plunged off a cliff.

The vehicle, which served as an animal ambulance for the non-governmental organization that he founded, had fallen more than 200 yards, flipping several times as it

plummeted against the ravine wall and hurled out most of its six occupants before landing upside down.

Witnesses of the Jan. 14, 2021, crash told the Miami Herald that the driver came out of a curve to find two tanker trucks traveling fast downhill toward him on both lanes of the narrow, two-lane road. Fearing his vehicle was about to be squashed, driver Jesus Caicedo, 34, attempted to maneuver out of the way but turned into the abyss.

Three people died, including Palacios' 4-year-old daughter, Giselle. Her mother and Palacios' girlfriend, Anyelly Parada, 23, survived but sustained severe injuries as did Yireny Villalba, 22, and Abigail Guerrero, 29. The activist, who

reached the site hours later that night, was the first to reach Giselle's body after climbing down in the dark. Police and rescue officials refused to

SEE PALACIOS, 4A



Jonatan Palacios



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FROM PAGE 1A SHOOTING

him as Darrion Washington.

Asked during the briefing to confirm that the shooting suspect is the son of Steven Gallon III, Ramirez said “it’s irrelevant to what happened.”

WPLG-ABC 10 first reported Gallon IV had been taken into custody.

The shooting of the 18-year police veteran — who has spent most of the past decade working in narcotics — sparked a massive response from several South Florida police agencies. They flooded the neighborhood with uniformed and task-force members and lit up the streets with helicopter search lights.

According to sources, the injured officer was working a detail that involved narcotics when he made the traffic stop and the shooter came up from behind and shot him in the neck area. The officer, never able to fire his weapon, was hit by a single



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Police officers blocked an area of Northwest 46th through 41st Streets and Northwest Second Avenue in Miami after a Miami-Dade officer was shot on Wednesday. He was released Thursday morning from a hospital.

bullet that did not penetrate his skull, police said. Police believe Moore might have called ahead and told the suspected shooter he was being followed.

Other officers also working undercover were in the area and immediately took Moore into custody, police said. It wasn’t immediately clear what type of case the officers were working, if any of them fired a weapon

after the shooter ran off, or if Gallon IV even had anything to do with the police investigation.

Miami-Dade Public Schools records show Gallon IV was a starting cornerback at Miami Northwestern, where his dad was once the principal. He also played briefly for a few college teams.

His father, Gallon III, joined the Miami-Dade

County School Board in 2016 after defeating incumbent Wilbert Holloway for the District 1 seat in the county’s northern end. He was re-elected in 2020.

He launched his career as an educator as a teacher and rose to become a superintendent of schools. In Miami-Dade, he served as assistant principal and principal at Holmes Elementary. He was later

named principal at Northwestern High, serving there for seven years. He has also served as a district department director. On the School Board, he has championed efforts to improve teacher pay, boost business opportunities for minorities, women and Black-owned businesses and to try to reduce the achievement gap for students. Gallon III had not re-

sponded to an interview request by Thursday afternoon. A Miami-Dade Schools spokesperson declined to comment, calling the incident “a private, non-district related matter.”

Of his officer’s shooting, Ramirez called it a “cowardly” act, saying it was the fourth time in the past seven months he has had to go to a hospital after an officer of his was shot. He promised it “will not be tolerated.”

Three other Miami-Dade police officers have been shot since last August. One died and another continues to rehabilitate. Cesar “Echy” Echaverry, a detective in the county’s high-profile robbery unit, was killed after a shootout with a suspected armed robber on a Liberty City street last August. His suspected shooter was also killed during the exchange of gunfire.

Miami Herald Staff Writer Omar Rodriguez Ortiz contributed to this story.

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FROM PAGE 1A HEALTH

school” in Washington and was not doing well in school. And, sometimes, she had suicidal thoughts.

“I wasn’t able to take care of myself, I had a really hard time, even getting out of bed to go to school in the morning, maintaining friendships. It was just a very, like, dark period for me,” said McCain, now 21. “And again, I didn’t know what it was, I didn’t know what to do. So, I kind of just kept everything to myself.”

Her mom, she said, saved her life by getting her started in therapy with a psychiatrist. Working with her mother, the physician admitted her to a psychiatric hospital and she began taking medications. She’s now a presenter for the Miami-Dade chapter of the National Alliance on Mental Illness program “Ending the Silence,” a prevention and early intervention program for middle-school, high-school and college students.

“I went from thinking that I wouldn’t graduate high school to almost graduating UM. ... I went from dealing with haunting thoughts of suicide ideation to become a suicide-prevention instructor,” said McCain during a recent panel discussion at NAMI Miami-Dade’s first South Florida Suicide Awareness conference at the University of Miami.

The conference comes during a time when many teens and adults are contending with mental-health challenges brought on by the disruptions and isolation of the COVID-19 pandemic. The issue is particularly acute among teen girls, who are experiencing record high levels of violence, sadness and suicide risk, according to a new Centers for Disease Control and Prevention report.

TEEN GIRLS EXPERIENCING INCREASED SADNESS, CDC SAYS

Nearly 3 in 5 (57%) U.S. teen girls “felt persistently sad or hopeless in 2021 — double that of boys, representing a nearly 60% increase and the highest level reported over the



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Dr. Stephen McLeod-Bryan and Dr. Patricia Junquera discuss how mental health and suicide impact Black and Hispanic communities in South Florida at a mental-health conference at the University of Miami on Saturday.

past decade,” the CDC says. The report, which came out in February, also found more than half of LGBTQ+ students had recently experienced poor mental health and that more than 1 in 5 attempted suicide in the past year.

In Miami-Dade County Public Schools, the importance of mental health was pushed to the forefront during the COVID-19 pandemic as the school district worked to identify at-risk students. Suicide is the second-leading cause of death in children ages 10-14 and young adults ages 24-34 based on 2020 data, according to the CDC.

“They came back to us hurting, and we’re still

dealing with that fallout currently,” said Frank Zenere, a school psychologist and district coordinator for Miami-Dade Schools Crisis Program Division of the Office of Mental Health and Student Services.

Zenere said the school district is focusing on identifying at-risk students and is focused on preventing suicide through a variety of initiatives, including mental-wellness clubs. Partnering with NAMI and starting in September, all employees will receive two hours of suicide-prevention training as part of the district’s efforts to have certified suicide-prevention schools. The district also

has a mobile response team and has contracted with mental-health providers as part of its risk assessment and intervention strategy.

Suicide was the 12th-leading cause of death in the United States in 2020; an estimated 1.2 million adults attempted suicide that year, the CDC says.

HOW TO ADDRESS MENTAL HEALTH AND REDUCE SUICIDE

In South Florida, some of the challenges involve breaking the stigma around mental illness, particularly among Black and Hispanic communities, and ensuring those who need treatment can get access to high-quality affordable care, said Dr. Stephen McLeod-Bryan, a University of Miami clinical associate professor and president-elect of the Black Psychiatrists of America and Dr. Patricia Junquera, interim chair and associate professor of the department of psychiatry and behavioral health at Florida International University.

“Our communities more often than not are overrun with alcohol, drugs, guns and lack of opportunities. ... The opportunities to gain access to treatment, mental-health providers that can specifically help those who are suffering from depression, anxiety, psychosis is less avail-

able,” said McLeod-Bryan.

He said many Black people who need help often are seen in emergency rooms because they don’t know where to go for help or were taken there by law enforcement. And while the suicide rate in Black people is not as high as among white people, “The gap between Blacks and whites is shrinking, and it’s shrinking fast,” he said.

There also needs to be more Spanish-speaking providers who ask specific questions to understand how patients are feeling, and more information disseminated in Spanish about the importance of mental health, said Junquera.

Outreach is also critical, experts say. NAMI Miami-Dade offers free programs, including peer support groups and QPR, which is a kind of suicide-prevention training. The organization is hosting a walk for mental-health awareness at loanDepot park, the home of the Miami Marlins, on May 20.

Most importantly, people at risk need to get help quickly, said John Newcomer, president and chief executive of Thriving Mind South Florida and Joseph Parks, medical director of the National Council on Mental Well-being.

The country, for exam-

ple, has seen success with last year’s roll-out of 988, the three-digit phone number that connects people experiencing suicidal thoughts or emotional distress with crisis counselors via phone, text or chat. The free round-the-clock service, which was formerly known as the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline, saw a 45% increase in overall volume last year compared to August 2021.

The average speed to answer has now decreased from 2.5 minutes to 42 seconds, with 80% of problems resolved on the phone, experts said during the conference.

But 988 is like a “funnel” and is only part of the solution, said Parks. At the local level, communities need to develop a system to connect police, fire, hospitals and other facilities that interact with people experiencing a mental-health crisis, he said. Newcomer said there will soon be four mobile response teams in Miami-Dade County, up from one.

“Waiting lists for service is a waiting list for the next crisis,” said Parks.

For NAMI Miami-Dade’s list of programs and resources, visit NAMIMiami.org

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Kevin Hines, right, speaks with an attendee at a mental-health conference at UM on Saturday.

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