

THE MIAMI HERALD | miamiherald.com

FRIDAY, JULY 28, 2006 | 35

SOUTH FLORIDA EXTRA

AROUND SOUTH FLORIDA

• MIAMI-DADE

Housing advocates plan rally outside County Hall

From Miami Herald Wire Services

Community groups angered after reading The Miami Herald's House of Lies series, which detailed a troubling series of breakdowns at the Miami-Dade Housing Agency, will hold a rally today on the steps of County Hall.

Three groups are involved: Low-Income Families Fighting Together, Miami Workers Center and Power U Center for Social Change.

"For years, these people have been making money on the backs of poor black and Latino people," said Tony Roman, organizing director of the Miami Workers Center. "Real justice would be for those who are really responsible for this dismal situation to resign and for the money and resources to be returned to the community..."

The rally is scheduled for 11 a.m. at the Stephen P. Clark Building, 111 NW First St.

• UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI

VICE PRESIDENT BECOMES A TRUSTEE

The University of Miami named Adam M. Updell vice president, general counsel and secretary to the board of trustees on Thursday.

Updell, 46, has been the job for 12 years. Updell is the first woman and first Hispanic to hold the post, according to UM.

Updell, 46, has been President Donna Shalala's chief of staff. She began working for UM's legal office in 1994 and served as executive director of the search committee that brought Shalala to UM in 2000.

Updell graduated with honors from the UM law school and earned her bachelor's degree from Harvard. Updell's husband, Joe Garcia, is former executive director of the Cuban American National Foundation and is now a Democratic Party activist.

• MIAMI DADE COLLEGE

PRESIDENT NAMED FOR KENDALL CAMPUS

Miami Dade College announced Thursday that Gregory Gray has been appointed president of its Kendall campus.

Gray, chancellor of the Fayette campus of Pennsylvania State University for the past eight years, begins his new post Sept. 5.

He replaces Wayne Shuman, who resigned a day before classes began in January. Since then, the school has been led on an interim basis by Jeffrey Lubinski, a former MDC provost who had retired.

• DANA BEACH

JAIL-AL-SIGN'S FATE STILL UNCLEAR

A decision on the fate of the Dana-Jail-Al-Sign has been delayed three weeks. A hearing was set for Thursday before Dana Beach's unseated-structure board, but was continued.

The looming sign at U.S. 1 and Dana Beach Boulevard was damaged in last year's hurricanes. Bulbs and panels were taken down to eliminate any immediate danger, leaving only the metal frame.

The board will determine whether the structure atop the Prison 1 is in unsafe and needs to be permanently removed.

• KENDALL

GUILTY PLEA IN CHILD PORN CASE

A Kendall man pleaded guilty Thursday to a charge of distribution of child pornography.

William Hoffmann Jr. was arrested in May after Miami Beach Police and the Miami Electronic Crimes Task Force searched his home and found child por-

noigraphy on his computers. Officials say Hoffmann was the mother of a pre-teen girl since December. During some of these chats, he sent the girl digital images of child pornography, according to the U.S. Attorney.

He used the situation as a way to gain access to a child, said the U.S. Attorney's office.

Hoffmann was arrested as part of Operation Cross-Sweep, an effort by the Miami Electronic Crimes Task Force and the U.S. Secret Service to fight Internet child abuse.

Hoffmann's sentencing is scheduled for Oct. 1. He faces five to 20 years in federal prison.

• PALM BEACH

BILLIONAIRE ACCUSED IN PROSTITUTION CASE

A Palm Beach billionaire has been charged with solicitation of prostitution after authorities alleged the paid women to have sex with him in his home on several occasions.

Jeffrey Epstein, 51, was booked into the Palm Beach County Jail Sunday and later released on \$100,000 bond.

His attorney, Jack Goldberg, said Thursday that Epstein "would never knowingly break the law." He did not elaborate.

The billionaire money manager is alleged to have solicited sex three or more times between Aug. 1 and Oct. 12 of last year, according to an indictment.

Epstein's case is changing his with one felony count of solicitation of prostitution.

The case was presented to a grand jury.

According to the indictment, authorities had been investigating Epstein for several months, even sitting through his waterfront home and Palm Beach International Airport to keep tabs on his private jet.

As a money manager for the ultra-wealthy, Epstein was named on New York's most eligible bachelors in 2003 by The New York Post.

• PUNTA GORDA

FIRST A WAITED GUN, THEN A PINE

A water gun fight ended in a 12-year-old boy snatching a 12-year-old girl in the leg, police said.

The boy argued with the girl and snatched her with a water gun, a police report said. The girl asked the boy several times to stop snatching her and ended up throwing a small stick at him.

The boy got upset and snatched the girl in the leg, with a knife, the report said.

The boy said officers that he snatched the girl and snatched her brother because he was upset that several children were making fun of his mother.

The boy was charged with aggravated battery and taken to a juvenile justice facility.

EDUCATION

MDC's public safety degree prepares police for new era

MIAMI DADE COLLEGE is starting a public safety program — the only one in Florida that offers a bachelor's degree and certification in one program at one institution.

BY NICHOLAS SPANGLER
nicholas.spangler@miamiherald.com

The room was studied with keen interest.

They came from most of the South Florida law-enforcement agencies and they sat front and center at the Lehan Theater on Miami Dade College's North Campus for a ceremony inaugurating its Bachelor of Applied Science in Public Safety Management program — a college degree for police and other first responders.

They watched a slick video about the program, complete with sound effects of sirens and explosions, about the theory and practice of law enforcement, emergency management and crime scene investigation.

The school will train and help certify police officers, probation officers and crime scene investigators.

The program, unlike others in Florida, offers students the opportunity to earn their law enforcement certification along with their degree, a process that otherwise can require an extra year or more.

The guests heard from prospective students Omar Munera, who has known he wanted to be a police officer since he was a teenager, and Alicia Simpson, who thinks she might do probation and corrections. But recognized that "it's a big world out there and I don't know what I want to do."

There was also Tawana Boykin, who went through high school and more than 21 years in the military without learning how to read or write.

At Miami Dade College, she became literate and earned an associate degree in sociology. In August, when classes for the new bachelor's program begin, she'll go back for two more years of school in hopes of landing a job with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

"It takes a special kind of person to want to do this," she said. "Most people dislike everyone in this business, but they're the first ones people call on when they're in need."

From Harbor chief of the Bal Harbour department, said he wished such a program existed when he got out of the police academy.

"Back then, it was all about firing a gun, self-defense. Now there are so many tools that we use — these are the days of cybercrime. And all the court rulings mean that you need to be aware of — you're under a microscope when you're a cop," he said.

ASPIRATION: Alicia Simpson, who spoke at the inauguration of Miami Dade College's new public safety degree program, is a prospective student.

process that otherwise can require an extra year or more.

The guests heard from prospective students Omar Munera, who has known he wanted to be a police officer since he was a teenager, and Alicia Simpson, who thinks she might do probation and corrections. But recognized that "it's a big world out there and I don't know what I want to do."

There was also Tawana Boykin, who went through high school and more than 21 years in the military without learning how to read or write.

At Miami Dade College, she became literate and earned an associate degree in sociology. In August, when classes for the new bachelor's program begin, she'll go back for two more years of school in hopes of landing a job with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

"It takes a special kind of person to want to do this," she said. "Most people dislike everyone in this business, but they're the first ones people call on when they're in need."

From Harbor chief of the Bal Harbour department, said he wished such a program existed when he got out of the police academy.

"Back then, it was all about firing a gun, self-defense. Now there are so many tools that we use — these are the days of cybercrime. And all the court rulings mean that you need to be aware of — you're under a microscope when you're a cop," he said.

ASPIRATION: Alicia Simpson, who spoke at the inauguration of Miami Dade College's new public safety degree program, is a prospective student.

process that otherwise can require an extra year or more.

The guests heard from prospective students Omar Munera, who has known he wanted to be a police officer since he was a teenager, and Alicia Simpson, who thinks she might do probation and corrections. But recognized that "it's a big world out there and I don't know what I want to do."

There was also Tawana Boykin, who went through high school and more than 21 years in the military without learning how to read or write.

At Miami Dade College, she became literate and earned an associate degree in sociology. In August, when classes for the new bachelor's program begin, she'll go back for two more years of school in hopes of landing a job with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

"It takes a special kind of person to want to do this," she said. "Most people dislike everyone in this business, but they're the first ones people call on when they're in need."

From Harbor chief of the Bal Harbour department, said he wished such a program existed when he got out of the police academy.

"Back then, it was all about firing a gun, self-defense. Now there are so many tools that we use — these are the days of cybercrime. And all the court rulings mean that you need to be aware of — you're under a microscope when you're a cop," he said.

ASPIRATION: Alicia Simpson, who spoke at the inauguration of Miami Dade College's new public safety degree program, is a prospective student.

process that otherwise can require an extra year or more.

The guests heard from prospective students Omar Munera, who has known he wanted to be a police officer since he was a teenager, and Alicia Simpson, who thinks she might do probation and corrections. But recognized that "it's a big world out there and I don't know what I want to do."

There was also Tawana Boykin, who went through high school and more than 21 years in the military without learning how to read or write.

At Miami Dade College, she became literate and earned an associate degree in sociology. In August, when classes for the new bachelor's program begin, she'll go back for two more years of school in hopes of landing a job with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

"It takes a special kind of person to want to do this," she said. "Most people dislike everyone in this business, but they're the first ones people call on when they're in need."

From Harbor chief of the Bal Harbour department, said he wished such a program existed when he got out of the police academy.

"Back then, it was all about firing a gun, self-defense. Now there are so many tools that we use — these are the days of cybercrime. And all the court rulings mean that you need to be aware of — you're under a microscope when you're a cop," he said.

ASPIRATION: Alicia Simpson, who spoke at the inauguration of Miami Dade College's new public safety degree program, is a prospective student.

process that otherwise can require an extra year or more.

The guests heard from prospective students Omar Munera, who has known he wanted to be a police officer since he was a teenager, and Alicia Simpson, who thinks she might do probation and corrections. But recognized that "it's a big world out there and I don't know what I want to do."

There was also Tawana Boykin, who went through high school and more than 21 years in the military without learning how to read or write.

At Miami Dade College, she became literate and earned an associate degree in sociology. In August, when classes for the new bachelor's program begin, she'll go back for two more years of school in hopes of landing a job with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

"It takes a special kind of person to want to do this," she said. "Most people dislike everyone in this business, but they're the first ones people call on when they're in need."

From Harbor chief of the Bal Harbour department, said he wished such a program existed when he got out of the police academy.

"Back then, it was all about firing a gun, self-defense. Now there are so many tools that we use — these are the days of cybercrime. And all the court rulings mean that you need to be aware of — you're under a microscope when you're a cop," he said.

ASPIRATION: Alicia Simpson, who spoke at the inauguration of Miami Dade College's new public safety degree program, is a prospective student.

process that otherwise can require an extra year or more.

The guests heard from prospective students Omar Munera, who has known he wanted to be a police officer since he was a teenager, and Alicia Simpson, who thinks she might do probation and corrections. But recognized that "it's a big world out there and I don't know what I want to do."

There was also Tawana Boykin, who went through high school and more than 21 years in the military without learning how to read or write.

At Miami Dade College, she became literate and earned an associate degree in sociology. In August, when classes for the new bachelor's program begin, she'll go back for two more years of school in hopes of landing a job with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

"It takes a special kind of person to want to do this," she said. "Most people dislike everyone in this business, but they're the first ones people call on when they're in need."

From Harbor chief of the Bal Harbour department, said he wished such a program existed when he got out of the police academy.

"Back then, it was all about firing a gun, self-defense. Now there are so many tools that we use — these are the days of cybercrime. And all the court rulings mean that you need to be aware of — you're under a microscope when you're a cop," he said.

ASPIRATION: Alicia Simpson, who spoke at the inauguration of Miami Dade College's new public safety degree program, is a prospective student.

process that otherwise can require an extra year or more.

The guests heard from prospective students Omar Munera, who has known he wanted to be a police officer since he was a teenager, and Alicia Simpson, who thinks she might do probation and corrections. But recognized that "it's a big world out there and I don't know what I want to do."

There was also Tawana Boykin, who went through high school and more than 21 years in the military without learning how to read or write.

At Miami Dade College, she became literate and earned an associate degree in sociology. In August, when classes for the new bachelor's program begin, she'll go back for two more years of school in hopes of landing a job with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

"It takes a special kind of person to want to do this," she said. "Most people dislike everyone in this business, but they're the first ones people call on when they're in need."

From Harbor chief of the Bal Harbour department, said he wished such a program existed when he got out of the police academy.

"Back then, it was all about firing a gun, self-defense. Now there are so many tools that we use — these are the days of cybercrime. And all the court rulings mean that you need to be aware of — you're under a microscope when you're a cop," he said.

ASPIRATION: Alicia Simpson, who spoke at the inauguration of Miami Dade College's new public safety degree program, is a prospective student.

process that otherwise can require an extra year or more.

The guests heard from prospective students Omar Munera, who has known he wanted to be a police officer since he was a teenager, and Alicia Simpson, who thinks she might do probation and corrections. But recognized that "it's a big world out there and I don't know what I want to do."

There was also Tawana Boykin, who went through high school and more than 21 years in the military without learning how to read or write.

At Miami Dade College, she became literate and earned an associate degree in sociology. In August, when classes for the new bachelor's program begin, she'll go back for two more years of school in hopes of landing a job with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

"It takes a special kind of person to want to do this," she said. "Most people dislike everyone in this business, but they're the first ones people call on when they're in need."

From Harbor chief of the Bal Harbour department, said he wished such a program existed when he got out of the police academy.

"Back then, it was all about firing a gun, self-defense. Now there are so many tools that we use — these are the days of cybercrime. And all the court rulings mean that you need to be aware of — you're under a microscope when you're a cop," he said.

ASPIRATION: Alicia Simpson, who spoke at the inauguration of Miami Dade College's new public safety degree program, is a prospective student.

process that otherwise can require an extra year or more.

The guests heard from prospective students Omar Munera, who has known he wanted to be a police officer since he was a teenager, and Alicia Simpson, who thinks she might do probation and corrections. But recognized that "it's a big world out there and I don't know what I want to do."

There was also Tawana Boykin, who went through high school and more than 21 years in the military without learning how to read or write.

At Miami Dade College, she became literate and earned an associate degree in sociology. In August, when classes for the new bachelor's program begin, she'll go back for two more years of school in hopes of landing a job with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

"It takes a special kind of person to want to do this," she said. "Most people dislike everyone in this business, but they're the first ones people call on when they're in need."

From Harbor chief of the Bal Harbour department, said he wished such a program existed when he got out of the police academy.

"Back then, it was all about firing a gun, self-defense. Now there are so many tools that we use — these are the days of cybercrime. And all the court rulings mean that you need to be aware of — you're under a microscope when you're a cop," he said.

ASPIRATION: Alicia Simpson, who spoke at the inauguration of Miami Dade College's new public safety degree program, is a prospective student.

process that otherwise can require an extra year or more.

The guests heard from prospective students Omar Munera, who has known he wanted to be a police officer since he was a teenager, and Alicia Simpson, who thinks she might do probation and corrections. But recognized that "it's a big world out there and I don't know what I want to do."

There was also Tawana Boykin, who went through high school and more than 21 years in the military without learning how to read or write.

At Miami Dade College, she became literate and earned an associate degree in sociology. In August, when classes for the new bachelor's program begin, she'll go back for two more years of school in hopes of landing a job with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

"It takes a special kind of person to want to do this," she said. "Most people dislike everyone in this business, but they're the first ones people call on when they're in need."

From Harbor chief of the Bal Harbour department, said he wished such a program existed when he got out of the police academy.

"Back then, it was all about firing a gun, self-defense. Now there are so many tools that we use — these are the days of cybercrime. And all the court rulings mean that you need to be aware of — you're under a microscope when you're a cop," he said.

ASPIRATION: Alicia Simpson, who spoke at the inauguration of Miami Dade College's new public safety degree program, is a prospective student.

process that otherwise can require an extra year or more.

The guests heard from prospective students Omar Munera, who has known he wanted to be a police officer since he was a teenager, and Alicia Simpson, who thinks she might do probation and corrections. But recognized that "it's a big world out there and I don't know what I want to do."

There was also Tawana Boykin, who went through high school and more than 21 years in the military without learning how to read or write.

At Miami Dade College, she became literate and earned an associate degree in sociology. In August, when classes for the new bachelor's program begin, she'll go back for two more years of school in hopes of landing a job with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

"It takes a special kind of person to want to do this," she said. "Most people dislike everyone in this business, but they're the first ones people call on when they're in need."

From Harbor chief of the Bal Harbour department, said he wished such a program existed when he got out of the police academy.

"Back then, it was all about firing a gun, self-defense. Now there are so many tools that we use — these are the days of cybercrime. And all the court rulings mean that you need to be aware of — you're under a microscope when you're a cop," he said.

ASPIRATION: Alicia Simpson, who spoke at the inauguration of Miami Dade College's new public safety degree program, is a prospective student.

process that otherwise can require an extra year or more.

The guests heard from prospective students Omar Munera, who has known he wanted to be a police officer since he was a teenager, and Alicia Simpson, who thinks she might do probation and corrections. But recognized that "it's a big world out there and I don't know what I want to do."

There was also Tawana Boykin, who went through high school and more than 21 years in the military without learning how to read or write.

At Miami Dade College, she became literate and earned an associate degree in sociology. In August, when classes for the new bachelor's program begin, she'll go back for two more years of school in hopes of landing a job with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

"It takes a special kind of person to want to do this," she said. "Most people dislike everyone in this business, but they're the first ones people call on when they're in need."

From Harbor chief of the Bal Harbour department, said he wished such a program existed when he got out of the police academy.

"Back then, it was all about firing a gun, self-defense. Now there are so many tools that we use — these are the days of cybercrime. And all the court rulings mean that you need to be aware of — you're under a microscope when you're a cop," he said.

ASPIRATION: Alicia Simpson, who spoke at the inauguration of Miami Dade College's new public safety degree program, is a prospective student.

process that otherwise can require an extra year or more.

The guests heard from prospective students Omar Munera, who has known he wanted to be a police officer since he was a teenager, and Alicia Simpson, who thinks she might do probation and corrections. But recognized that "it's a big world out there and I don't know what I want to do."

There was also Tawana Boykin, who went through high school and more than 21 years in the military without learning how to read or write.

At Miami Dade College, she became literate and earned an associate degree in sociology. In August, when classes for the new bachelor's program begin, she'll go back for two more years of school in hopes of landing a job with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

"It takes a special kind of person to want to do this," she said. "Most people dislike everyone in this business, but they're the first ones people call on when they're in need."

From Harbor chief of the Bal Harbour department, said he wished such a program existed when he got out of the police academy.

"Back then, it was all about firing a gun, self-defense. Now there are so many tools that we use — these are the days of cybercrime. And all the court rulings mean that you need to be aware of — you're under a microscope when you're a cop," he said.

ASPIRATION: Alicia Simpson, who spoke at the inauguration of Miami Dade College's new public safety degree program, is a prospective student.

process that otherwise can require an extra year or more.

The guests heard from prospective students Omar Munera, who has known he wanted to be a police officer since he was a teenager, and Alicia Simpson, who thinks she might do probation and corrections. But recognized that "it's a big world out there and I don't know what I want to do."

There was also Tawana Boykin, who went through high school and more than 21 years in the military without learning how to read or write.

At Miami Dade College, she became literate and earned an associate degree in sociology. In August, when classes for the new bachelor's program begin, she'll go back for two more years of school in hopes of landing a job with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

"It takes a special kind of person to want to do this," she said. "Most people dislike everyone in this business, but they're the first ones people call on when they're in need."

From Harbor chief of the Bal Harbour department, said he wished such a program existed when he got out of the police academy.

"Back then, it was all about firing a gun, self-defense. Now there are so many tools that we use — these are the days of cybercrime. And all the court rulings mean that you need to be aware of — you're under a microscope when you're a cop," he said.

ASPIRATION: Alicia Simpson, who spoke at the inauguration of Miami Dade College's new public safety degree program, is a prospective student.

process that otherwise can require an extra year or more.

The guests heard from prospective students Omar Munera, who has known he wanted to be a police officer since he was a teenager, and Alicia Simpson, who thinks she might do probation and corrections. But recognized that "it's a big world out there and I don't know what I want to do."

There was also Tawana Boykin, who went through high school and more than 21 years in the military without learning how to read or write.

At Miami Dade College, she became literate and earned an associate degree in sociology. In August, when classes for the new bachelor's program begin, she'll go back for two more years of school in hopes of landing a job with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

"It takes a special kind of person to want to do this," she said. "Most people dislike everyone in this business, but they're the first ones people call on when they're in need."

From Harbor chief of the Bal Harbour department, said he wished such a program existed when he got out of the police academy.

"Back then, it was all about firing a gun, self-defense. Now there are so many tools that we use — these are the days of cybercrime. And all the court rulings mean that you need to be aware of — you're under a microscope when you're a cop," he said.

ASPIRATION: Alicia Simpson, who spoke at the inauguration of Miami Dade College's new public safety degree program, is a prospective student.

process that otherwise can require an extra year or more.

The guests heard from prospective students Omar Munera, who has known he wanted to be a police officer since he was a teenager, and Alicia Simpson, who thinks she might do probation and corrections. But recognized that "it's a big world out there and I don't know what I want to do."