

LOTS OF SUN, VERY WARM  
  
 HIGH 92 | LOW 79

## PARENTS AND SCHOOL DAYS

A BALANCING ACT: STAYING INVOLVED IN KIDS' EDUCATION, **8B**



## CANDIDATE'S WIFE BLOGS ON MAYOR'S RACE

HALLANDALE READERS WEREN'T TOLD, **1B**

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### 20 YEARS AFTER HURRICANE ANDREW

## FIU UNVEILS NATION'S MOST POWERFUL HURRICANE SIMULATOR THAT PUTS BUILDING MATERIALS TO THE WORST-CASE TEST



Above, a photojournalist films test roofs at Florida International University's Engineering School. Twelve huge fans, left, were used to demonstrate the power of Category 5 hurricane-force winds.



CHUCK FADELY/MIAMI HERALD STAFF

Roofing built to pre-Andrew codes, left, failed; roofing built to newer codes, right, didn't.

# THE WALL OF WIND

BY CURTIS MORGAN  
 cmorgan@miamiherald.com

Nearly 20 years after Hurricane Andrew, a Category 5 wind once again shredded roofs in Miami-Dade County.

Fortunately, there were only two test roofs involved and the wind was confined to a big steel hangar that is part of Florida International University's International Hurricane Research Center, which on Tuesday unveiled the nation's most powerful hurricane simulator — an \$8 million facility that stands as a legacy of Andrew.

Dubbed the "Wall of Wind" for its towering double-decked stack of a dozen electric fans, each six feet in diameter, the facility was created to

test and improve building designs and materials that failed miserably under Andrew's ferocious assault — everything from nails to shingles to roof-top air-conditioning units.

"The bottom line is the research we are doing here will not only save lives but also reduce property losses and therefore premiums," said Shahid Hamid, director of the research center's laboratory for insurance, economic and financial research.

To display the simulator's power, an FIU crew built two mock-up structures, each about the size of a garden shed and painted the school's signature blue and gold. One used pre-Andrew construction

• **TURN TO SIMULATOR, 2A**

#### More inside:

- **Tropical Storm Isaac:** Threat to Florida still uncertain, **2A**
- **Leonard Pitts:** Andrew a lesson I'll never forget, **11A**
- **Faces of kindness:** Survivor's awards program stirs a sense of community, **1E**

#### MiamiHerald.com/andrew

- **From archives:** Photos, special edition front pages, stories
- **Video:** Herald photographers recall Hurricane Andrew

#### Coming up:

- **Thursday:** Children of Andrew
- **Friday:** Impact on Homestead
- **Next Sunday:** More on Citizens, Florida's last-resort insurer

### CAMPAIGN 2012 | CONGRESSIONAL RACE

# Vendors say Rivera aided Democrat's failed run

■ Campaign vendors and documents show Rep. David Rivera might have helped run a Democratic campaign that aroused suspicions.

BY MANNY GARCIA AND MARC CAPUTO  
 MCaputo@miamiherald.com

Fueled with \$43,000 in secret money, Republican Rep. David Rivera helped run a shadow campaign that might have broken federal laws in last week's Democratic primary against his political nemesis Joe Garcia, according to campaign sources and finance records.

As part of the effort, a political unknown named Justin Lamar Sternad campaigned against Garcia by running a sophisticated mail campaign that Rivera



RIVERA STERNAD

helped orchestrate and fund, campaign vendors said.

Among the revelations: The mailers were often paid for in envelopes stuffed with crisp \$100 bills.

Rivera and Sternad have denied working together in

• **TURN TO RIVERA, 8A**

### EARLY VOTING

# Scott presses chief of Keys elections

■ The Monroe County supervisor of elections, who's a Republican, insists on offering early voting for 12 days, which irks Gov. Rick Scott.

BY STEVE BOUSQUET AND MARY ELLEN KLAS  
 Herald/Times Tallahassee Bureau

TALLAHASSEE — Gov. Rick Scott delivered an ultimatum Tuesday to the elections supervisor in the Florida Keys, who is refusing to limit early voting to eight days for the November election.

Scott said he will "take all necessary and appropriate action to ensure that the laws are faithfully execut-

ed," a statement some elections officials said sounded like he's considering removing the supervisor, Harry Sawyer Jr., from office.

"He's trying to intimidate me, no doubt about it," Sawyer said.

Sawyer, the longtime

• **TURN TO SAWYER, 8A**

• **Fabiola Santiago:** Leave it to Keys to heat up the fray, **1B**

### CAMPAIGN 2012 | MISSOURI U.S. REP. TODD AKIN

# Defying GOP, Akin says he won't leave Senate race

■ Rep. Todd Akin of Missouri continued to defy the nation's top Republicans and said he would stay in the Senate race, despite his controversial remark about rape.

BY JONATHAN WEISMAN  
 The New York Times

WASHINGTON — Rep. Todd Akin on Tuesday ignored a deadline to abandon Missouri's Senate race and vowed to remain the Republican nominee in defiance of his party's leaders, including the presidential standard-bearer, Mitt Romney.

"I believe the defense of the unborn and a deep respect for life, which underlie all of America, those are important parts of who we are. And they're not things to run away

from," Akin said on the radio program hosted by Mike Huckabee, the former Arkansas governor.

Akin touched off a firestorm of criticism after he said in a television interview on Sunday that in instances of what he called "legitimate rape," women's bodies somehow blocked an unwanted pregnancy.

• **TURN TO AKIN, 8A**

• **GOP adopts anti-abortion policy tougher than Romney's, 4A**



CHRISTIAN GOODEN/MCT

**CENTER OF ATTENTION:** Todd Akin is the Missouri GOP candidate for the Senate.

### UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION

# Quest for jobless benefits often fruitless in Florida

■ Only one in three applicants for unemployment compensation in Florida receive any money, ranking the state dead last among the 50 states.

BY TOLUSE OLORUNNIPA  
 Herald/Times Tallahassee Bureau

TALLAHASSEE — When 65-year-old Raymond Togyer isn't polishing his resume or cold calling potential employers, he's spending hours trying, unsuccessfully, to navigate Florida's labyrinthine unemployment compensation system.

Togyer — who was laid off for the first time in his adult life, from a high-paying civil engineering job in

June — has spent the past seven weeks sending and re-sending letters, staying on hold for hours and checking state websites, all to no avail.

He is one of hundreds of thousands of out-of-work Floridians flummoxed by what has become the most tightfisted unemployment compensation system in the nation.

"They told me that I was

• **TURN TO FLORIDA, 2A**

### THE AMERICAS, 5A

## CUBA SENTENCES 12 STATE OFFICIALS

THEY'RE ACCUSED OF A CORRUPTION SCANDAL IN THE NICKEL INDUSTRY, A HARD-CURRENCY EARNER

### SPORTS, 1D

## TANNEHILL'S PROSPECTS

ARMANDO SALGUERO: DOLPHINS CHOSE RIGHT QB; WILL TEAM HELP HIM WHEN HE GETS ON THE FIELD?

### WIRED, 6E

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