

TODAY'S WEATHER
 BEACH BREEZE,
 SUN AND CLOUDS

 HIGH 78 | LOW 64

Daylight savings time began at 2 a.m. Sunday
 You should have turned your clocks **ahead one hour.**

TIGER IS IN PRIME POSITION
 HOLDS FOUR-SHOT LEAD ENTERING THE FINAL ROUND AT DORAL, 1D

SAVINGS COUPONS INSIDE: \$318

The Miami Herald

\$2.00
 110TH YEAR, NO. 177 ©2013

MiamiHerald.com

SUNDAY, MARCH 10, 2013
 FINAL EDITION

ENVIRONMENT

DEEP TROUBLE

A LOT OF HIGHLY DEVELOPED COASTAL PROPERTY COULD BE UNDER WATER SOONER THAN YOU THINK

BY CURTIS MORGAN
 cmorgan@MiamiHerald.com

The maps were intended to show how rising sea levels threaten some of Miami-Dade County's most vital facilities. If they prove anywhere close to accurate, the fate of three major sewage plants would represent only the tip of a hulking, hugely expensive iceberg of concerns for South Florida.

Drawn up by climate scientists as part of an environmental lawsuit, the maps indicate the plants in coastal South Miami-Dade, North Miami and Virginia Key would remain dry in coming decades. But they'd be reduced to shrinking islands as high tides flood land, streets and neighbor-

hoods nearby. It could happen faster than experts predicted only a few years ago — with a damaging two-foot rise potentially coming in less than 50 years, not the next century.

The sobering scenarios were filed last month in federal court by Biscayne Bay Waterkeeper, a clean-water advocacy group challenging Miami-Dade's \$1.5 billion plan to repair the county's aging, spill-plagued sewage system. The Water and Sewer Department has drawn up the proposal, called a "consent decree," under the pressure of a

- **TURN TO WATER, 19A**
- **MiamiHerald.com:** Check out interactive sea-rise maps.

RISING SEAS
 Here is what Miami-Dade would look like at mean high tide with a five-foot rise in sea level — predicted to occur between 2084 and 2112.

■ **Flooded areas**

Sources: Harold Wanless, University of Miami, Peter Harlem, Florida International University
 MARCO RUIZ / MIAMI HERALD STAFF

Interactive sea-rise map
 Use your smartphone or tablet to scan this QR code and explore an interactive map that shows projections of Miami-Dade areas at serious risk of flood and storm damage by mid-century.
 MiamiHerald.com

FEDERAL COURTS

The party girl and the drug lords

■ **How a bit player in Miami's bad-old-days drug wars got a life sentence while leaders received lesser punishment. And how she finally got a break.**

BY JAY WEAVER
 jweaver@MiamiHerald.com

A couple of days after a federal witness was executed by a Colombian hit team, Yuby Ramirez was making a meal in her Kendall townhouse for the crew's boss, who went by the name Tocayo.

As they watched the news of the 1993 killing of Bernardo Gonzalez Jr. — gunned down outside his rural West Miami-Dade home — she noticed Tocayo smiling as the TV flashed images of accused Miami drug lords Sal Magluta and Willy Falcon in orange jumpsuits.

Ramirez did not know the men pictured in the prison uniforms — the infamous Miami Senior High School dropouts charged with smuggling 75 tons of cocaine into the country — or their connection to the murder victim.

• **TURN TO FREE, 17A**

VENEZUELAN MIGRATION

Chávez put stamp on S. Florida

■ **Venezuelans have had ties to South Florida for decades, but the community's presence blossomed during Hugo Chávez's 14-year presidency.**

BY MIMI WHITEFIELD AND PATRICIA MAZZEI
 pmazzei@MiamiHerald.com

Felipe Lobón's parents had long planned to move to South Florida from Caracas. But their plans accelerated in early 2003, when a prolonged work stoppage protesting President Hugo Chávez paralyzed Venezuela.

By February, Lobón, then 13, and his family had picked up and left, concerned about high crime and political and economic instability. They moved to a furnished Fort Lauderdale apartment — owned by his grandparents as a vacation home.

"It was pretty much, 'Let's get

• **TURN TO CHAVEZ, 2A**

Inside: Venezuela's presidential election set for April 14, 5A

THE U.S.-MEXICO BORDER

A 2,000-mile-long, \$11.7 billion-a-year sieve

■ **Along the U.S.-Mexico border in Texas, New Mexico and Arizona, there's plenty of cynicism about 'border security.'**

BY ALEX LEARY
 Tampa Bay Times

EL PASO, Texas — Edmund Lozano knows the fence that winds along the Mexico-U.S. border. He built it. "We would show up in the morning and find spots where people on the other side tried to pry open the fence or cut holes in

it," said Lozano, who was paid \$25 an hour in 2007 to operate a forklift and move the massive steel beams and tight wire mesh. "That tells you how determined they are to get across."

Lozano, a 26-year-old college student and hotel bartender, considers the fence a formidable policy statement but mostly that — a symbol. "We do have to have some security, to say enough is enough. But it's not worth spending more

• **TURN TO FENCE, 18A**



CAT/MOUSE: An agent scans the fence line. In the border area, some have a jaded view of the debate on immigration. Meanwhile, senators crafted a bill, 3A.

EDMUND D. FOUNTAIN/TAMPA BAY TIMES

2013 Infiniti G37 Sedan Premium Pkg.

\$249 lease per month*

SUNDAY SERVICE available with no appointment necessary

MARCH MANIA SALES EVENT INFINITI.

SOUTH MOTORS South Motors Infiniti US-1 & South 169 St. 888-314-7291 SouthInfiniti.com

*#91113 2 or more available at these prices. 39 month lease. 10k miles per year. MSRP: \$41,140. \$4,964 total due at signing. Plus tax & title. No security deposit. Monthly payment plus tax. With approved credit. Expires 3/10/13. MVR# 94100248

SOUTHMOTORS BMW | Honda | Infiniti | Mazda | MINI | Volkswagen SOUTHMOTORS.COM | Drive South

INDEX | BOOKS, 5-6M | CLASSIFIED, SECTION E | DEATHS, 4B | EDITORIAL, 4L | LOTTERY, 2B | MOVIES, 10M | PEOPLE, 8A | REAL ESTATE, 9-12H | TV, 10M | HOROSCOPES, 11M

Customer Service: MiamiHerald.com/service or 1-800-843-4372

ENVIRONMENT

Sea-rise appears to accelerate

• WATER, FROM 1A

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency lawsuit and threat of millions of dollars in potential fines.

Critics contend it has a gaping hole: It ignores looming sea-rise that both county and EPA planning policies acknowledge poses trouble, potentially deep trouble, for a region in line to feel the earliest effects of climate change. Miami-Dade endorsed a pioneering four-county compact that calls for adapting roads and buildings for climate change. Last year, the EPA released two reports promoting "climate ready" utilities.

Yet after 10 months of negotiations between agencies, the sewer plan doesn't contain a word about dealing with flooding tides or the sort of storm surge that devastated the Northeast during Hurricane Sandy. No calls for sea walls, elevated separating tanks, stronger casks for pressurized liquid chlorine or other "armor-ing" measures.

University of Miami geology professor Harold Wanless, one of five experts from UM, Florida International University and Florida Atlantic University retained by Waterkeeper, hopes the data will open the eyes of regulators before a deal is sealed. That could happen in the next few months, with any agreement subject to approval by county commissioners and a federal judge.

"At some point, and I hope it's this year, Miami-Dade government and everybody has to start truly recognizing that we're in for it, that this is coming," Wanless said.

\$206 MILLION PROJECT

When it does, it's clear there will be a lot more to worry about than sewage plants.

Brian Soden, a UM professor of atmospheric science, said many communities and residents will be facing difficult, costly decisions.

Miami Beach last year approved a \$206 million overhaul of an aging drainage system increasingly compromised by rising seas. Just another foot of sea-rise, possible within 20 years, could worsen high-tide street flooding there. It also would inundate much of coastal South Miami-Dade, leaving a sewage plant adjacent to the dump called Mount Trashmore, as well as Turkey Point nuclear power plant, virtual islands.

"If you look at downtown Miami, where all the new places have gone up, all the new condominiums, the billions going in there, those places are at some of the lowest levels," Soden said. "It's a broader impact all of South Florida is going to be facing sooner or later. Right now, a lot of people are choosing not to look at it."

With sea-rise trends appearing to accelerate, Waterkeeper and its hired science guns argue the county will be pouring nearly \$1 billion into rehabbing plants likely to be incapacitated long before the 50-year life span expected of big-ticket public works projects. They believe the best choice is to move plants to more protected inland sites. At the



CHUCK FADELY/MIAMI HERALD STAFF

SHADOWED BY SEA-RISE: High tide submerges a sidewalk along Alton Road last October. Some scientists blame sea-level rise.

A look ahead

South Florida would see serious impacts under a projection of accelerating sea-level rise released in December by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. The agency has "high confidence" of a rise between eight inches and 6.6 feet by 2100. The upper range, taking into account faster polar ice melt, predicts impacts 20 to 30 years earlier than guidance issued in 2009 by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for federal civil works projects.

1 foot rise	2031 to 2042
2 foot rise	2048 to 2066
3 foot rise	2063 to 2085
4 foot rise	2074 to 2100
5 foot rise	2084 to 2112
6 foot rise	2094 to 2112

NOAA interactive map: <http://www.csc.noaa.gov/slr/viewer/#>

The scientists

Biscayne Bay Waterkeeper's hired science guns, each paid \$5,000, boast impressive credentials on climate change and hazard mitigation:

Harold Wanless, a University of Miami geology professor, has monitored sea-level rise in South Florida for 40 years and advised Miami-Dade, regional planners and water managers and the Army Corps of Engineers.

Brian Soden, a UM professor of atmospheric sciences, has performed analysis for a string of federal agencies, including NASA.

Leonard Berry, who directs Florida Atlantic University's Center for Environmental Studies, was a member of the four-county compact's science group and commissioned by the state to study climate impacts on roads.

Ricardo Alvarez, an FAU research associate, is a veteran consultant on construction risk and hazard assessment.

Peter Harlem, a Florida International University researcher, specializes in using cutting-edge mapping technology to produce inundation projections.

least, they argue they should be built higher and much stronger, a choice they say the county hasn't realistically assessed that would likely add dramatically to costs.

Of particular concern: a nearly \$600 million reconstruction of the trouble-prone plant on Virginia Key, where four spills over just three months in 2011 dumped some 19 million gallons of waste water into Biscayne Bay.

Even under conservative projections, the site is vulnerable, a sandy island fronting the Atlantic Ocean where beaches and mangroves could disappear within 35 years. "Why do we want to think about upgrading that plant?" Wanless said.

Doug Yoder, deputy director of the water and sewer department, defended the county plan as a cost-effective approach to resolving the most pressing concerns — orders by the EPA, U.S. Department of Justice and Florida Department of Environmental Protection to repair a system that has spilled 47 million gallons of sewage in the past few years.

With so much uncertainty over timing — differences in projected impacts span decades — Yoder said it didn't make financial sense to abandon the most critical and expensive components. Moving the Virginia Key

plant alone, Yoder said, could run \$3 billion — five times the cost of an upgrade. Another plant also could be built in 20 or 30 years if needed, he said.

"If you put aside storm surge and just look at the groundwater levels that will result, that plant is going to still be dry after a lot of the rest of Virginia Key, South Beach and Key Biscayne with ground water level," Yoder said. By then, the county would have gotten its money's worth out of upgrades and sewage flow might be reduced anyway if people are forced to retreat from flooded areas.

Yoder disputed charges of ignoring climate risks, saying the issues were beyond the scope of a legal agreement to fix existing problems.

He insisted the county would evaluate threats and beef up vulnerable components as it begins the formal design process. Existing building codes, the toughest in the nation, also may call for added protections, such as surge barriers or pumps, he said.

The county, for instance, elevated and strengthened a building housing backup electrical systems for a recent \$600 million project at the south plant — a site that lost power for two weeks after Hurricane Andrew in

1992.

The EPA and DEP declined to discuss ongoing litigation.

PUSHING REGULATORS

Davina Marraccini, an EPA spokeswoman, said it was important for utilities to consider "all available information — including statistical data about population growth and weather patterns — and apply sound engineering practices." DEP spokeswoman Dee Ann Miller said her agency "certainly appreciates the concerns" raised by Waterkeeper.

Attorneys for Waterkeeper, which is seeking to join the EPA action as an intervenor and has filed a separate citizen's suit as well, are pushing regulators to exercise stronger oversight of a county they argue has a history of penny-wise, pound-foolish decisions. Despite two decrees in the 1980s and 1990s, the sewage system has slipped into such disrepair that the department director, John Renfrow, last year likened it to "being held together by chewing gum."

Paul Schwiep, a Miami attorney who represents Waterkeeper, acknowledged EPA's latitude was limited under a Clean Water Act primarily intended to prevent pollution. But he argues the agency also can invoke broader "public interest" authority.

Albert Slap, a Key Biscayne attorney also representing the group, said the county and EPA were ignoring their own initiatives encouraging climate "resilient" construction.

"They talk the talk," he said, "but when they have to walk the walk and spend money on climate change, they deny it."

With the county already under orders from state regulators to phase out the practice of pumping partially treated waste off shore by 2027, they also argue that would sharply reduce the economic advantage of coastal plants. But Yoder said Miami-Dade intends to ask Florida lawmakers for leeway and has plans to convert Virginia Key to deep-well disposal underground if necessary.

Leonard Berry, director of FAU's Center for Environmental Studies, said the plan lacked enough information to make an informed choice between renovation or building inland.

"We need that cost benefit analysis to know for sure," he said. "That's the issue."

The scientists aren't alone in their concerns. In a letter last week, Nathaniel Reed, vice chairman of the Everglades Foundation and an influential former state and federal environmental official, urged the EPA not to rubber stamp a "defective plan." Key Biscayne Mayor Frank Kaplan, in a letter last month to County Mayor Carlos Gimenez, asked for a "more thoughtful long-term engineering, environmental and economic evaluation" of plans to rehab Virginia Key.

"We're not demanding they move it. We didn't even ask that," Kaplan said. "We just want answers."

Miami Herald Staff Writer Charles Rabin contributed to this story.

KENYA | PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION



JEROME DELAY/AP

JOYOUS: In Kikuyu, Kenya, supporters of Uhuru Kenyatta celebrate his victory in the election.

Odinga refuses to accept defeat

BY RODNEY MUHUMUZA AND TOM ODULA
Associated Press



ODINGA

NAIROBI, Kenya — Uhuru Kenyatta, the son of Kenya's founding father and a suspect in a case involving crimes against humanity, was named the winner of the country's presidential election on Saturday with 50.07 percent of the vote. But his opponent refused to concede, alleging multiple failures in the election's integrity that he said has put Kenyan democracy on trial.

Supporters of Kenyatta — a man accused by an international court of helping to orchestrate the vicious violence that marred the nation's last vote — flooded the streets, celebrating in a parade of red, his campaign's color.

Refusing to accept defeat, Prime Minister Raila Odinga said the election process experienced multiple failures as he announced plans to petition the Supreme Court. Odinga asked for calm and for Kenyans to love one another, a call that may help prevent a repeat of the

2007-08 violence in which more than 1,000 people were killed and that brought Kenya to the edge of civil war.

Kenyatta's slim margin of victory increases the focus on a multitude of electoral failures that occurred during the six-day voting and counting process. His margin of victory was just about 8,000 votes out of 12.3 million cast.

The United States, Britain and the European Union gave Kenya's new political era a chilly reception. All released statements congratulating the Kenyan people, but none mentioned Kenyatta by name. The West had made it clear before the vote that it would not welcome a President Kenyatta.

Kenyatta faces trial in July at the International Criminal Court over allegations he orchestrated the murder, forcible deportation, persecution and rape of Odinga's supporters after the 2007 vote. Kenyatta, as president, may have to spend large chunks of his first years in Kenya's highest office in a courtroom in The Hague.

WORLD BRIEFS

• BRITAIN

Stonehenge may have origins as burial site

LONDON — British researchers have proposed a new theory for the origins of Stonehenge: It may have started as a giant burial ground for elite families around 3,000 B.C.

New studies of cremated human remains excavated from the site suggest that about 500 years before the Stonehenge we know today was built, a larger stone circle was erected at the same site as a community graveyard, researchers said Saturday.

The team, which included academics from more than a dozen British universities, also put forth some theories about the purpose of the second Stonehenge — the monument still standing in the countryside in southern England today. They said the study suggested that Stonehenge should be seen less as a temple of worship than a kind of building project that served to unite people from across Britain.

• JORDAN

PARLIAMENT CHOOSES PM FOR FIRST TIME

AMMAN — Jordan's parliament voted Saturday for the monarchy's caretaker prime minister to form a new Cabinet, the first time in the country's history that the legislature rather than the king has decided who will be head of government.

Abdullah Ensour, a former liberal lawmaker known for fiery criticisms of the government when he was in parliament, was selected as part of a reform program aimed at defusing political unrest to stave off an Arab Spring-style uprising.

• GREECE

THOUSANDS PROTEST PLANNED GOLD MINE

THESSALONIKI — More than 10,000 people have taken to the streets of Greece's second-largest city to protest a planned gold mine they see as an environmental risk.

Police blocked the crowd's march to the Canadian Consulate in Thessaloniki, but Saturday's protest took place and ended peacefully. Eldorado Gold Corp., based in Vancouver, Canada, has been granted the rights to the gold mine in Halkidiki peninsula, east of Thessaloniki.

The issue has bitterly divided Halkidiki residents, with some claiming the mine will harm tourism and release toxic substances, and others denying that and saying new jobs are crucial.

• THAILAND

U.S., ASIA TOUGHEN TURTLE SAFEGUARDS

BANGKOK — The United States has won the approval of the international wildlife summit for stronger protections for endangered freshwater tortoises and turtles, including Maryland's iconic diamondback terrapin.

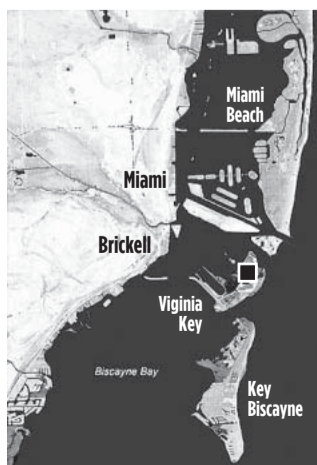
Working with China and Vietnam, a U.S. delegation persuaded international wildlife officials to protect 47 species of tortoises and turtles in Asia and the U.S. by banning the commercial trade of some and placing quotas on the sale of others.

MIAMI HERALD WIRE SERVICES

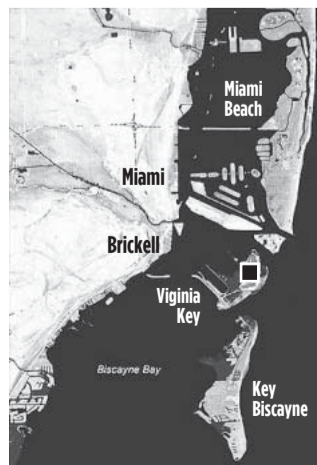
A disappearing coast?

Under upper range of sea-rise predictions, the Virginia Key sewage plant would be reduced to a shrinking island as higher and higher tides wash over surrounding areas.

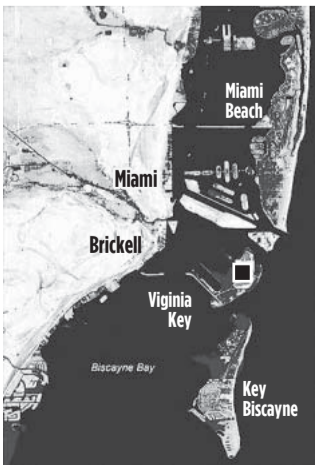
■ Central District treatment plant ■ Areas under water



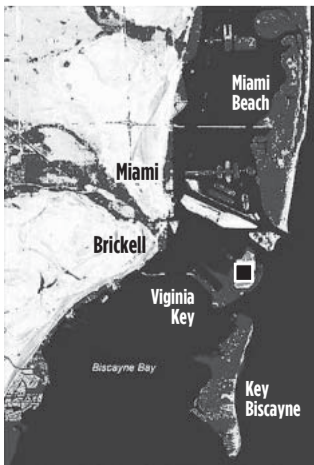
Present



Years: 2031 to 2042
Sea level rise: One foot



Years: 2063 to 2085
Sea level rise: Three feet



Years: 2084 to 2112
Sea level rise: Five feet

Sources: Harold Wanless, University of Miami; Peter Harlem, Florida International University

MARCO RUIZ / MIAM HERALD STAFF