

TODAY'S WEATHER
HOT AND HUMID,
SUN AND STORMS

HIGH 92 | LOW 80

A HUGE WIN FOR FIU
GOLDEN PANTHERS BEAT LOUISVILLE ON NATIONAL TV TO GO 2-0 ON SEASON, 1D

9.11 10 YEARS LATER
Survivors healing in S. Fla., 1E
Local anniversary events, 2B
COMING TOMORROW:
A 9/11 COMMEMORATIVE SECTION

BMW HONDA INFINITI MAZDA MINI SUZUKI VW
southmotors.com
Be Smart. Drive South.

South Motors (866) 66-SOUTH South 161-180 Street & US-1

The Miami Herald

50 CENTS 108TH YEAR, NO. 361 ©2011 MiamiHerald.com SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2011 H3** FINAL EDITION

SPACE EXPLORATION

MISSION TO "MARS"

While the future of U.S. manned space flight is in doubt, a Colombian researcher is taking part in a simulated journey to the Red Planet.

BY JIM WYSS
jwyss@miamiherald.com

BOGOTA — After kicking Martian dust off his boots, and turning his back on the Gusev crater, Diego Urbina climbed back into the landing module to begin the long, lonely ride back to earth — sort of.

Urbina is one of six men on a 520-day mission to the Red Planet that never leaves Moscow. The program is designed to simulate a trip to Mars to evaluate the effects of prolonged isolation, limited communication and cramped living quarters on the human body and psyche.

Born in Bogotá to a Colombian father and Italian mother, the 28-year-old Urbina has not breathed fresh air, seen the sky or talked to his loved ones since he was locked in the simulator June 3, 2010. He's slated to "land" back on earth Nov. 5.

The crew slipped beyond radio contact a month into the trip. Since then, their only link to the outside world has been text messages relayed through mission control. It takes 20 minutes for a message to travel from their capsule to earth.

In a letter from simulated deep space, Urbina told The Miami Herald that despite sharing cramped living quarters and facing a battery of tests and experiments, monotony and feelings of isolation

felt there for a long time," said Alyce Robertson, director of the Miami Downtown Development Authority. "It's a really exciting change for an area that's been under the weather for so long."

Leading the way is the Malaysian conglomerate that spent \$236 million in May for the 13.9-acre Herald site and is now vying for control of the Omni Center with the recent purchase of one of two bank notes on the distressed property. Genting also has bought small parcels along Biscayne Boulevard across from the Omni and west on Northeast First Avenue and Northeast 15th Street.

And most players in the area's real estate market believe the Asian giant isn't done shopping. Many property owners said they've been approached

"The energy you feel on the Boulevard hasn't been

Diego Urbina walks on "Mars" — actually a room in Moscow.

The Mars500 crew members relax in a 236-square-foot living module, where they are spending 520 days.

Urbina puts sensors on the head of a crew mate for an experiment.

• TURN TO JOURNEY, 10A

ESA (EUROPEAN SPACE AGENCY)

REAL ESTATE

Omni area gets jolt in land spree

■ A land-buying spurt near the Arshat Center for the Performing Arts could translate into a new center for downtown Miami.

BY ELAINE WALKER
ewalker@miamiherald.com

In the three months since the Genting Group announced plans for a resort on the bayside site of The Miami Herald, the once sleepy Omni area has turned into an epicenter for downtown Miami's redevelopment.

The transformation of the area — with the Arshat performing arts center as a centerpiece of a vibrant entertainment district — appears to be happening in a larger and faster way than anyone could have imagined.

In addition to Genting's planned Resorts World Miami are plans for a mixed-use development at 1400 Biscayne Center by Espacio USA and a new Publix Super Market opening next year at 17th Street and Biscayne Boulevard.

• TURN TO OMNI AREA, 2A

THE ECONOMY

Can Obama plan do the job? Yes and no

■ The president's proposal will add jobs but experts say it offers only modest benefits, with the struggling housing sector and other turmoil.

BY KEVIN G. HALL
McClatchy News Service

WASHINGTON — Could it work?

That's the question being asked about President Barack Obama's big new jobs plan.

Independent experts answered Friday with a qualified yes.

The American Jobs Act would create jobs and help keep a struggling economy moving forward, several economists said. But they cautioned that it wouldn't shift the nation's business gears into overdrive, and it offers only modest benefits, given the headwinds the economy faces from a moribund housing sector and growing financial turmoil in Europe.

As only a short-term stimulus plan, the American Jobs Act wouldn't address structural and external problems holding back the U.S. economy. And since the proposals' very design is transitory, it makes them difficult to compare against the broad economic plans being proposed by GOP presidential candidates Mitt Romney and Jon Huntsman, who hope to replace Obama.

Macroeconomic Advisers, a leading economic forecast group, projected that Obama's plan "would give a significant boost to [the gross domestic product] and employment over the near term."

There's the rub. Obama's plan aims to deliver only a

• TURN TO JOBS, 17A

POLITICS

Judge: Power to the people in redistricting suit

■ A Miami judge tossed out a challenge to a state constitutional amendment limiting how districts are drawn for congressional elections.

BY JAY WEAVER
jweaver@miamiherald.com

Two Florida members of Congress vowed Friday to take their redistricting case to the U.S. Supreme Court after a Miami judge squashed their challenge to a state constitutional amendment limiting how districts are drawn for congressional elections.

Federal Judge Ursula Ungaro, following a hearing in Miami federal court, ruled that the amendment passed by a majority of Florida voters last November did not violate the U.S. Constitution, as minority House members Rep. Mario Diaz-Balart, R-Miami, and Corrine Brown, D-Jacksonville, argued in their lawsuit.

Amendment 6 forbids the state Legislature from drawing congressional

boundaries that favor a political party or incumbent — so-called gerrymandering.

Lawmakers are set to begin the once-in-a-decade process of redistricting in January.

After their legal defeat, Diaz-Balart and Brown continued to make their case outside the courthouse, arguing that only the Florida Legislature — not voters through a referendum — can control how

• TURN TO REDISTRICTING, 2A

DIAZ-BALART

BROWN

INFINITI LIMITED ENGAGEMENT SUMMER EVENT **Drive South KICK OFF SALES EVENT** **New 2011 Infiniti G25 Sedan Journey** 2 or more available at this price **\$299 Per Month Lease***

*#91111 MSRP \$34,675. Closed-end lease for 39 months. \$2,445.67 total due at signing. No security deposit. Plus tax & tag. 10k miles per year. \$.25 per mile penalty over mileage allotment. \$11,661 total payments plus tax. With approved credit. Factory programs and incentives are subject to change without notice. Expires 9/11/11.

South Motors Infiniti US-1 & South 169 St. (888) 314-7291 SouthInfiniti.com

southmotors.com Two Miles of Savings on the Strip South Motors

INDEX CLASSIFIED, 1F | COMICS, 5E | CROSSWORD, 6E | DEATHS, 4B | EDITORIALS, 20A | LOTTERY, 2B | MOVIES, 7E | PEOPLE, 8A | TELEVISION, 7E
Customer Service: 1-800-843-4372 or www.MiamiHerald.com/service