MiamiHerald.com

FINAL EDITION

MONDAY, APRIL 16, 2007

35 CENTS | 104TH YEAR, NO. 214 | ©2007 THE MIAMI HERALD

SPORTS, 1D

DOLPHINS QUARTERBACK WILL BE TRADED OR RELEASED BEFORE UPCOMING SEASON BEGINS, SOURCES SAY



BUSINESS MONDAY

ENVIRONMENTAL STRATEGIES ARE JUST STARTING TO TAKE ROOT AT SOME SOUTH FLORIDA COMPANIES



INSIDE

LOCAL NEWS, 1B

DANIEL PEARL COMMEMORATED

SLAIN JOURNALIST'S NAME IS ADDED TO LIST ON HOLOCAUST **MEMORIAL WALL IN** MIAMI BEACH

SPORTS, 1D

BRAVES POUND MARLINS, 8-4

THE ELEMENTS AND THE ATLANTA **BRAVES COMBINE TO** STYMIE THE FLORIDA **MARLINS**

TROPICAL LIFE

ARTIST HARD TO CATEGORIZE

ALLETTE SIMMONS-JIMENEZ'S **ARTWORK REFLECTS** HER ECLECTIC **UPBRINGING**



SUNNY, BREEZY AND COOL HIGH 75 | LOW 56

- Bryan Norcross' forecast, back of Section B
- Online: MiamiHerald.com

INDEX

ACTION LINE	7B	LOCAL	.1B
AMERICAS	10A	LOTTERY	8B
CLASSIFIED	1F	MOVIES	.5E
COMICS	.8E	NATION	3A
CORRECTIONS	3A	PEOPLE	4A
CROSSWORD	11E	PITTS	.1B
DEATHS	4B	TELEVISION	.12E
DILBERT	3BM	WEATHER	.7B
EDITORIALS	20A	WORLD	.14A

Wet, windy storm pummels East

WILD WEATHER | Go to MiamiHerald.com for a video report and the latest weather conditions

A violent storm brought flooding and high winds to the East, tying up transportation and trapping some people in their homes.

BY KAREN MATTHEWS Associated Press

East with wind and pouring in more than a decade.

rain Sunday, grounding airlines and threatening to cre-NEW YORK — A power- ate some of the worst coastal out of their homes in the middle of the night in West Virginia and trapped others. Other inland states faced a threat of heavy snow.

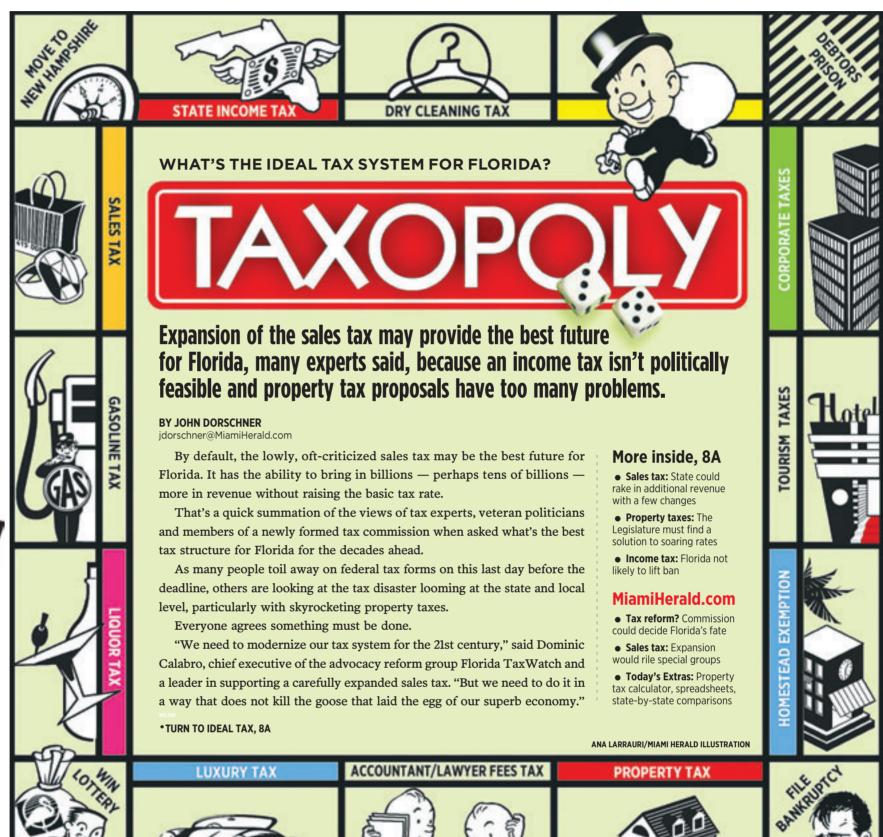
Heavy rain and thunderful nor'easter pounded the flooding some areas had seen storms extended from Florida

mph in Charleston, S.C., the gave runners in today's Bosweather service said.

In Central Florida, a tornado damaged mobile homes break Hill. The race-day forein Dundee but no injuries were reported, police said.

The storm forced the canup the coast to New England cellation of five major league *TURN TO STORM, 2A

The storm flooded people on Sunday. Wind gusted to 71 baseball games Sunday and ton Marathon something to worry about besides Heartcast called for three to five inches of rain, start-time tem-



COLOMBIA

Payoffs to terrorists scrutinized

Chiquita Brands International is just one of several U.S.-based companies facing allegations of wrongdoing in Colombia.

BY JANE BUSSEY AND STEVEN DUDLEY sdudley@MiamiHerald.com

BOGOTA - Chiquita Brands International's recent admission that it paid off a Colombian group on the U.S. terrorist list has spotlighted a practice once hush-hush in Colombia, Washington's closest ally in Latin America.

Several other U.S.-based corporations, including Atlanta-based Coca-Cola and the Alabama-based coal company Drummond Co., face civil lawsuits alleging their Colombian operations worked with the same group to kill several trade unionists.

But the guilty plea by Chiquita, a company with a long and infamous history in Latin

•TURN TO PAYOFFS, 2A

RUSSIA



ARRESTS AT PUTIN PROTEST

Riot police in St. Petersburg, Russia, subdue Eduard Limonov during a protest Sunday against Russian President Vladimir Putin. Limonov is one of the leaders of a group called The Other Russia opposed to the authoritarian regime of the Russian president. Police clubbed and arrested several demonstrators during the march. Story, 14A

STREETWISE BY LARRY LEBOWITZ

MAKEOVER MAY EASE TOLL LANES

he way you pay to use Florida's Turnpike and the Sawgrass Expressway is going to look and feel a lot different in the near future when Open Road Tolling is

introduced to South Florida. Old-fashioned toll booths and plazas are being demolished and the lanes dramatically reconfigured to allow for higher-tech, electronic toll collection and free-flowing

roadways. Construction recently started on the first two conversions — on the Sawgrass near Sunrise Boulevard in West Broward and at the Okeechobee Plaza on the turnpike in Northwest Miami-Dade. Both are scheduled to open in their new configurations by the middle of next year.

The state plans to entirely convert the Sawgrass and most of the turnpike in South Florida to ORT over the next five years.

•TURN TO TOLLS, 2A



Chiquita casts light on terrorist payoffs

• PAYOFFS, FROM 1A

on the payoffs that Colombian and foreign companies make to the illegal armed groups fighting the country's 40-yearold civil war, especially in remote areas where those groups hold sway.

"Funding a terrorist organization can never be treated as a cost of doing business," said U.S. Attorney Jeffrey A. Taylor, who headed the prosecution against Chiquita, on the day the Cincinnati-based company pleaded guilty to engaging in transactions with specially designated global terrorists.

Chiquita's admission came as Colombia faces a burgeoning scandal linking allies of President Alvaro Uribe to illegal right-wing paramilitaries. Uribe was once governor of the province where Chiquita made the payments, and strongly supported the legal militias involved in some of the payments.

Ripples from the Chiquita case and the scandal already have reached Washington. Concern on Capitol Hill about violence against trade unionists in Colombia could derail approval of a U.S. free trade agreement with Bogotá. Congress is considering a Bush administration request for another \$600 million in aid for Colombia's fight against drugs and the armed groups.

Colombia's business environment has never been easy. Leftist guerrillas and paramilitary groups known as the United Self-Defense Forces of Colombia, or AUC, regularly extort businesses, ranchers and local governments to help finance their wars. The leftist Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, or FARC, has even issued public "decrees" that outline how much must be paid based on income.

"The truth is that this happens on a very broad scale," said Simon Strong, managing director and head of the Miami office of FTI Consulting, a political risk specialist. "In the end they [the companies] are between a rock and a hard

Both the AUC and FARC are on the U.S. government's list of terrorist organizations. U.S. officials said Chiquita was or die. By the afternoon there one of the first companies to was no union, and several plead guilty to transactions with a group on the list, and that the \$25 million fine reported in 2003 that about imposed on the company even though Chiquita itself told the Department of Justice about the payments — underscored how seriously U.S. prosecutors take the viola-

In Colombia, Chiquita paid both left-wing and right-wing groups, according to the case files in federal court in the District of Columbia. The court documents do not specify how much money went to the leftist rebels, but say \$1.7 million went to the AUC beginning in 1997, when its fighters were completing a brutal sweep through northwestern Antioquia province.

owned subsidiary, Banadex, operated in the sweltering, banana-growing regions of Antioquia. Chiquita sold Banadex in 2004.

The paramilitaries, created in the 1980s to fight off guerrillas in rural areas where government security forces had little presence, executed suspected rebels and collaborators in the Antioquia sweep. The guerrillas also were blamed for massacres and kill-

In a 1997 report on the bloodshed in Antioquia, Amnesty International said there had been "hundreds of victims" and added, "the vast majority have been civilians pressured to support rival armed groups.'

The man running the AUC, a loose confederation of paramilitary groups, at that time was Carlos Castaño, the charismatic son of a farmer who was kidnapped and murdered by the FARC in the early

but clear message that failure to make payments could result America, has focused attention in physical harm to Banadex personnel and property."

> Castaño told Banadex to channel payments through Convivir, then a legal militia promoted by Uribe and other Antioquia authorities to protect civilians from guerrillas. Some of the militias worked closely with the AUC.

> "Chiquita recorded these payments in its corporate books and records as 'security payments," said one prosecution document. After Convivir was declared illegal in 2001, Banadex funneled the payments through employees who made cash payments to the AUC. Banadex even paid the extra taxes incurred by one employee.

> "The Chiquita case simply demonstrated what we've been saying all along: that companies doing business in Colombia are necessarily in bed with the paramilitaries," said Terry Collingsworth. executive director of the Washington-based Labor Rights Fund.

> As United Fruit and later United Brands, Chiquita has had controversial operations in Latin America for a century.

A 1928 strike at its Colombia operations was quelled by army troops who opened fire and killed as many as 1,000 protesters. It helped foment a 1954 coup against Guatemalan President Jacobo Arbenz. Earlier this decade, Human Rights Watch linked Chiquita with companies that used child labor in Ecuador.

Now it is only one of several U.S. companies facing troubles for its Colombia oper-

The Labor Rights Fund filed the lawsuits against Drummond and Coca-Cola under the U.S. Alien Tort Claims Act and the Torture Victim Protection Act, which allows victims to sue in U.S. courts for human rights violations committed anywhere in the world.

In 1996, paramilitary fighters entered a Coca-Cola bottling plant, Bebidas y Alimentos, in Antioquia owned by Key Biscayne resident Richard Kirby and assassinated a union leader, Isidro Gil. The next day, they returned and told the workers to disband the union workers had fled.

The U.S. State Department 4,000 union members had been slain in Colombia in the past 20 years. The International Labor Rights Fund, citing human-rights groups in Colombia, said 444 were slain from 2002 to 2005.

Gil was one of four union members in Coca-Cola bottling plants in Colombia whose killings are part of one lawsuit against three bottlers: Bebidas y Alimentos, Panamco and Panamerican Beverages, as well as Atlanta-based Coca-Cola. A judge in Miami dismissed the suit against the corporate giant, but the plaintiffs have appealed the dismissal.

An attorney for Coca-Cola Chiquita's then-wholly in Atlanta would not comment. Robert M. Brochin, the Miami attorney for Panamco and Panamerican Beverages, said they were not involved in the union activists' killings.

"There is no proof that the bottlers were in any way involved in a conspiracy with the paramilitaries," said Bro-

The attorney for Bebidas y Alimentos did not answer a telephone message left by The Miami Herald. Lawyers for Coca Cola and Drummond have denied the allegations. The Drummond case is scheduled to go to trial in Alabama in July.

Colombian authorities are pursuing their own investigations into Chiquita's protection payments, and have threatened to seek the extradition of Chiquita executives from the United States. The Colombian attorney general's office also is investigating the Drummond and Coca-Cola

"I do not regard this as a Court documents filed in relationship between a blackthe Chiquita case stated that mailer and his victim," Attor-Castaño met with the then- ney General Mario Iguarán general manager of Banadex in told journalists. "What I can 1997 and "sent an unspoken see is a criminal relationship."

WILD WEATHER

BookMarks

FROM THE FRONT PAGE

Wet storm pounds the East

*STORM, FROM 1A

peratures in the 30s and wind gusts of up to 25 mph. "I don't like that," pro-

fessional Kenyan runner Stanley Leleito said playfully, burying his head in his hands when told of the forecast. "The problem is that wind," he said. "But only rainy is OK.'

One person was killed in South Carolina as dozens of mobile homes were destroyed or damaged by wind, and two died in car accidents — one in New York and one in Connecticut. The storm system already had been blamed for five deaths on Friday in Kansas and Texas. The Coast Guard had warned mariners to head for port because wind up to 55 mph was expected to generate seas up to 20 feet high, Petty Officer Etta Smith said Sunday in Boston.

Airlines canceled more than 400 flights at the New York area's three major airports, said Steve Coleman, a spokesman for the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey. Kennedy Airport, on the wind-exposed south side of Long Island, had sustained wind of 30 to 35 mph with gusts to 48 mph, said weather service meteorologist Gary Conte.

Storm warnings and watches were posted along the East Coast, with flood warnings extending from North Carolina to the New York area. Winter storm warnings were in effect for parts of New England and eastern New York state.

RAIN IN NEW YORK

More than 5.5 inches of rain fell in the New York region by Sunday evening, the National Weather Service said. Up to six inches had been predicted to fall by today, and Conte said Sunday night's high tide was likely to bring coastal flooding on Long Island and in parts of New York City.

Gov. Eliot Spitzer sent 3,200 National Guard members to potential flood areas. On Saturday he said



VIOLENT WAVES: Surf driven by the spring storm's high winds crash under the boardwalk at Pacific Avenue in Atlantic City, N.J., on Sunday.

has seen since a December 1992 nor'easter, which washed away beach and sand dunes, knocked out power and left thousands of people temporarily homeless, their houses standing in feet of water.

Fallen tree limbs had cut off power to 1,500 households on Long Island and Fire Island Ferries suspended service to the island, off the south shore of Long Island. Some residents of low-lying areas along the New Jersey shore packed up to leave.

"This is going to be bad," Shaun Rheinheimer said as he moved furniture to higher spots at his house on

flooded around New Jersey. 'We have crews out there helping disabled motorists, but my one word of advice is to stay home," said state Transportation Commissioner Kris Kolluri.

The storm also caused flash flooding in the mountains of southern West Virginia, where emergency services personnel rescued nearly two dozen people from homes and cars in Logan and Boone counties the storm could cause the early Sunday. Two people most flooding New York were unaccounted for.

Fire Chief Scott Beckett. "This thing came down at 2 or 3 in the morning, when people were sleeping in collapse, he said. their beds. They just didn't know what was happening."

Some remained trapped in their homes because roads were blocked by high water or mud, said Dean Meadows, County emergency services director.

'IT'S ALL AROUND US'

"Our houses sit in the middle of the hill, and it's all around us. I'm surrounded, it's like a lake completely around us," said New Jersey's Cedar Bonnet Samantha Walker, 29, who was visiting her grand-Several highways were mother in Matheny. "We can't get out even if we wanted to get out."

Joe Manchin planned to issue an emergency disaster statement either Sunday evening or this morning, spokeswoman Lara Ramsburg said.

Up to 2.5 inches of rain had fallen in southern West Virginia since early Saturday and streams were still rising Sunday, said weather service meteorologist Dan Bartholf in Charleston.

rain fell in eastern Ken- contributed to this report.

"It's about as bad as it tucky, where a 50-foot seccan get," said Logan, W.Va., tion of highway collapsed near Pikeville, said State Police Sgt. Jamey Kidd. No vehicles were caught by the

Dozens of homes were destroyed or blown off their foundations in several areas of South Carolina's Sumter County, but authorities didn't immediately Wyoming know if the cause was a tornado or straight-line wind, said county emergency management director Robert Baker Jr. One person was killed and four were seriously injured, he said.

The storm also rained out Sunday's Washington Nationals game with the New York Mets at New York's Shea Stadium, the Pittsburgh Pirates home game against San Francisco, the Houston Astros at Philadelphia, the Kansas City Royals at Baltimore, and the Los Angeles Angels at Boston. Last weekend, snow dumped by another major storm system wiped out scheduled Mariners-Indians games at Cleveland.

Associated Press writers Wayne Parry in Manahawkin, N.J., Daniela Flores in Trenton, N.J., Tom Breen in Madison, W.Va., and At least three inches of Jimmy Golen in Boston also

cashless on the Dolphin,

Don Shula, Airport and

Gratigny expressways

(State Roads 836, 874, 112

and 924 respectively, if

you're scoring at home),

Cameras will snap

license plate images of

vehicles that pass under

grace period to pay those

tolling areas without a tran-

sponder. Drivers will have a

those who don't buy a

offering "video tolling" for

STREETWISE

New system sidelines cash toll payers

•TOLLS, FROM 1A

The underlying principle of ORT is simple: Reward electronic toll customers with a freer-flowing roadway and safely shunt cashpaying customers off to the

Booths will be replaced by scaffolding with electronic readers and surveillance cameras hanging over each travel lane. There'll be no need to slow down to 25 mph at the toll area anymore. Transponders will read at regular highway speeds.

Cash isn't going to go the way of the dinosaur — at least not yet. Tourists and local motorists who refuse to buy a SunPass will be forced to "exit" the roadway, pay at new booths on the side and then merge back onto the expressway.

South Florida is the obvious place for this transformation to start. Today's turnpike draws its lifeblood from suburban commuters, especially along the 90-mile stretch from Homestead to Lantana.

More than 72 percent of the three million SunPass transponders in circulation statewide belong to drivers in Miami-Dade, Broward and Palm Beach counties.

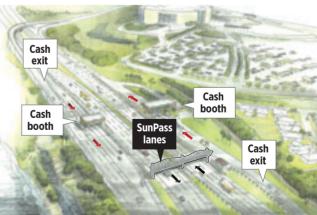
"Our biggest needs, by far, are in South Florida," said Nancy Clements, the turnpike's chief engineer.

Clements said the Sawgrass was considered ideal for the first all-ORT conversion because of its high percentages of commuter traffic and SunPass usage.

On a typical weekday, 145,000 vehicles pay a toll at the Sunrise and Deerfield

NEW TOLL SYSTEM

Drivers would not have to stop at a tollbooth or even slow down under open-road tolling. The area depicted below shows what state highway officials are planning to do after a contractor demolishes the existing toll plaza on the Sawgrass Expressway near Sunrise Boulevard.



MARK MATTERN / MIAMI HERALD STAFF

Homestead and Lantana.

plaza where ORT might be

a problem is the system's

busiest, near Bird Road in

West Miami-Dade, where

Separating the cash cus-

users should improve safety

Sawgrass. It should reduce

those infrequent but grue-

occur at plazas when con-

SunPass lanes while looking

for a nonexistent toll-taker.

taking a much more daring

approach to Open Road

fused drivers stop in the

The new approach

SunPass in the regular

space is extremely tight.

tomers from the SunPass

on the turnpike and the

some rear-enders that

The only South Florida

Beach plazas on the Sawgrass — 71 percent of them with SunPass.

SOURCE: Florida's Turnpike Enterprise

And this is just the start. ORT will become commonplace throughout the turnpike system — which includes the 312-mile mainline, plus the Sawgrass and six suburban expressways near Tampa, Orlando and Lakeland — over the next decade. Construction starts early

next year on a new Turnpike ORT project just north of Miami Gardens Drive. It will replace the battered, 50-year-old plaza built when the Golden Glades was the end of the line, sur-

maniacal for everyone who survives the spaghetti bowl that is the Golden Glades.

After the Golden Glades. the turnpike will convert the plazas at Cypress Creek,

tolls after-the-fact by phone, online or at ATMstyle kiosks that will be located near the expressways and at gas stations, grocery stores and other

> SunPass retail outlets. By that time, SunPass is expected to resemble a wafer-thin calling card and should only cost a couple of bucks. There has even been talk of distributing them with license plates and registration sticker renewals.

Tolling gantries will also be installed in MDX's Snapper Creek Expressway (State Road 878), which is toll-free today. MDX plans to erect a new ORT area just east of Galloway Road that will charge drivers 45 cents in each direction.

MDX hopes to convert the Gratigny to its cashless system by July 2009. The Don Shula and Snapper Creek expressways are tentatively set for July 2010, followed two years later by the Dolphin and Airport expressways.

Got a commuting question or an idea for a future column? Contact Larry Lebowitz at street wise@MiamiHerald.com or call him at 305-376-3410.

Prev

lanes, cash off to the side rounded by cattle pastures. is a fairly conservative one Moving that toll farther because it still provides north will make the weavdrivers with two options. ing and merging a little less The Miami-Dade **Expressway Authority is**

> Tolling. Over the next six years, MDX plans to go entirely

> > Next