Mandatory meal plans could increase student debt

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Places like Fresh Food Company and the Breezeway Cafe have become somewhat of a staple at the FIU south campus. Like many universities, FIU’s dining facilities are covered in students meal plans, should they opt to purchase one. Also like other universities, for some students, a meal plan is not an option one can choose to opt out of.

Some college students say mandatory meal plans required of most residence hall dwellers at Iowa’s public universities - add to student loan debt, which has surpassed $1 trillion nationwide.

“I definitely feel like I could have a smaller meal plan,” said Tina Remec, a University of Iowa freshman from Naperville, Ill.

“I definitely feel like I could have a smaller meal plan.”

Tina Remec
Freshman
University of Iowa

At FIU’s own housing facilities, meal plans are included in the cost of freshman housing, and is not optional. Students are required to purchase a meal plan along with their housing if they are living in the freshman dorms, according to FIU Housing’s website.

“For fresh man hou sing be cause f resh man res id en ce hall s a re w i th o ut kitchens. As indicated by the rental rates posted to the housing website, meal plans can increase the cost of dollars to overall housing costs for each freshman residence hall. The rationale for requiring students living in residence halls to buy meal plans is twofold, said Von Stange, assistant vice president for student life and director of UI Housing and Dining.

“We want students to have nutritious meals,” he said. “It’s also a fire-safety issue if people start cooking on their own.”

Connecticut fares poorly in college transfer study

LINDA CONNER LAMBECK
Connecticut Post
TNS Staff

Although the vast majority of students who attend community colleges say their intent is to earn a bachelor’s degree, in Connecticut only 10 percent reach that goal.

Nationally, the average is 14 percent.

Connecticut ranked 30th out of 43 states in a new study measuring states’ effectiveness at helping community college students attain four-year degrees. The study was released Tuesday by the Community College Research Center at Teachers College, Columbia University.

“This research tells Connecticut that far too many community college students are failing to meet their higher education goals,” Davis Jenkins, a senior research associate at the center, said.

As the cost of higher education soars and the role of the less-expensive community colleges takes front stage in presidential debates, the success rate of community college graduates takes on a new urgency.

Connecticut has a huge opportunity to keep improving, said K.C. Deane, a program manager at the Aspen Institute, a co-sponsor of the report.

“This not something that is going to go anywhere,” Deane said. “We have students and families hugely concerned about the cost of college and they will continue to start at the community college.”

Officials at the Board of Regents for Higher Education, which oversees the state’s community colleges, could not be reached for comment Monday.

Neither could John Mullane, a student success counselor at Gateway Community College in New Haven who completed a study last year showing just how many Connecticut community college credits were rejected by the University of Connecticut.

The average loss is 12 credits, or a semester’s worth of classes, Mullane said last year. Retaking the rejected courses delays graduation and costs millions.

“Just not about money,” Mullane said.

Culling data from the National Student Clearinghouse, the new Teachers College report ranks 43 states - seven did not have enough available data to be included - and looked the records of more than 720,000 degree-seeking students who entered higher education for the first time through a community college in 2007. The study compared outcomes six years later.

In general, the report found in most - but not all states - lower-income students were less likely than higher income peers in going on to collect a four year degree.

But income was’t the only factor. The income gap in the rate of degrees awarded was small to non-existent in Florida, Iowa, North Dakota, and New Hampshire.

The report also found that students who transferred to public four year colleges, or highly selective private four year colleges, performed better than those at non-selective private colleges.

The best performing states were Washington and Iowa. Nearly half, 49 percent, of their students who transferred into a four year school got the bachelor’s degree they sought. Following close behind were Illinois, California, New Jersey and Florida.

Deane said data also suggests that success takes more than a transfer agreement between community colleges and four-year institutions.

“They are part of the equation,” Deane said. “Colleges also need to help students understand what courses and competencies they need to learn to achieve the degree they are seeking.”

Institutions, she added, need to think of student outcomes beyond their walls.

“It has to be about more than just completion of their associates degree and a successful transfer,” Deane, said.

Connecticut, in recent years, has tried to strengthen the agreements between its community colleges and four-year institutions with varied success.

Mullane has said he would like to see a state law mandating transfer agreements between the state’s 12 community colleges and all public four year institutions in the state.

In 2012, a law was passed in Connecticut requiring the development of a list of at least 30 general education course credits that could automatically be transferred among public higher education institutions. UConn was excluded and that list has still not been developed, Mullane said.

The next step in the Teachers College report, researchers say, is to figure out the ‘whys.’ Deane said a more focused look at states deemed to be doing a good job and to release a practical guide colleges can use to improve transfer outcomes.
Republican National Committee moves February debate from NBC to CNN

The Republican National Committee has made good on its promise to cut NBC out of its primary debate schedule. RNC Chairman Reince Priebus issued a statement late Monday announcing the cancellation of a partnership with NBC, which was set to carry a primary debate from Houston on Feb. 26. The event will now be staged one night earlier by CNN. The committee was intent on punishing NBC over what is perceived as harsh treatment from the panel of CNBC moderators at the Oct. 28 Republican primary debate shown on the cable network.

Idaho pastor ‘a different man’ after Iran prison, N. Carolina congressman says

After three years in an Iranian prison, Saeed Abedini, a Boise, Idaho, pastor, appears to be in good shape physically, according to an account given to a visiting U.S. congressman who had long advocated for his release. But Abedini’s mental and emotional state after a long period of brutality is much more complicated, and will take some time to figure out, on the congressmen, Rep. Robert Pittenger, R-N.C., said Pittenger, an evangelical Christian who began working for Abedini’s release in September 2013, flew to Germany on Sunday after he learned Abedini was one of the final pieces of the Iran nuclear deal that fell into place.

10.2 million viewers watched fourth Democratic primary debate on NBC

The fourth Democratic primary debate broadcast Sunday on NBC was watched by 10.2 million viewers, according to Nielsen data. The figure ranks second among the four Democratic debates held so far and is up substantially from the 8.03 million who watched ABC’s telecast of the Dec. 19 meeting of the three contenders for the 2016 Democratic nomination, Hillary Clinton, Sen. Bernie Sanders and former Maryland Gov. Martin O’Malley.

Mandatory meal plans add to college debt

get 14 percent of all food revenue plus $15.2 million in renovations to dining facilities, the Time reported. The money will help pay for a $177 million student union. Texas A&M signed a 10-year food service contract with Chartwells that includes a $22.7 million signing bonus and $25 million in building projects. Iowa’s public universities provide their own food service. The student government contracts with vendors to buy food, but a Gazette review of the UI’s contracts showed no kickbacks similar to those mentioned in the Times story.

The UI’s Stange said he’s aware some students question the value of mandatory meal plans, especially when looking at the current state of the college.

“But when you look at all our—care-to-eat option, at $6 a meal, it’s a pretty good value,” he said.

But many students aren’t using their meal plans.

Jason Smith, 20, of Chicago, chose the umbrella plan his first year at Iowa, but downgraded to the cheaper Black meal plan for his junior year.

“Now with me in my third year, I realized I don’t need to eat there all the time,” he said of the Burge Market Place.

Smith eats about one meal a day at Burge during the week, he said. With 65 weekdays in the fall semester, that comes out to $24 per meal. On weekends, he rarely uses his campus meal plan.

Remec, a nursing student, said she would choose a meal plan for most of her meals in the Burge Market Place at the beginning of the fall semester. She and friends Victoria Tanyag of Des Moines and Raelyn Galindo of Sycamore, Ill., like the made-to-order quesadillas and omelets.

Now Remec grabs a granola bar or a piece of fruit in her room before going to class in the morning.

“I have the Black plan and I still have a ton of extra meals,” she said.

Students with leftover meals or dining dollars often go on spending sprees at the end of the semester, stocking up on snacks or energy drinks at campus convenience stores to avoid losing the money.

UNI students used more than 97 percent of their dining dollars in 2014-2015, said Annie Karr, assistant director of Residence, Marketing and Conference Services. The surplus of nearly $14,000 about $5 per student was used to fund improvements in dining facilities or equipment purchases, she said.

Liz Mills, president of the UI Student Government, said she’d like to see cheaper meal plans. But as former executive director of Associated Residence Halls, another student government group, she knows food service prices are expensive.

Instead, she thinks USIG and individual students could do more to explain to younger students they can use flex meals in the Iowa Memorial Union, the main library and Pappajohn Business Building.

“We do hear ‘I’m only eating there X number of times a week,’ ” she said. “I think it’s important for students to make sure students know where they can use them. There’s a lot of education that can happen.”
The Leviner

The Leveler

Audrey Carr

Later in the semester, you are likely to find college students scattered all over campus: studying or even cramming for exams rather than being out having a grand old time. Somewhat, the workload can become overwhelming and a quick fix to help get through it all becomes very tempting.

Some overworked and overloaded college students are pushing themselves to enhance their abilities through the use of amphetamine drugs dubbed ‘study drugs’. Amphetamine drugs are often referred to as ‘smart drugs’. Amphetamines are a chemical compound class that stimulate the central nervous system and are most often used to focus on patients with ADHD. In most cases, while amphetamines also have the ability to cause euphoria, they are being abused as a cognitive performance enhancer.

Amphetamines are well-known euphoriant, with benzene backbones that target the nervous system’s neural receptors in ways similar to methamphetamine, cocaine, and MDMA. This effect is most commonly known as ecstasy. The 2009 National Survey on Drug Use and Health, a study conducted by the US Department of Health and Human Services, reported that full-time college students were twice as likely to use Adderall under non-medical circumstances as their non-full-time counterparts. According to the SFU’s Pharm D and Ph.D. candidate who majored in biochemistry, students most commonly abuse amphetamines for a variety of reasons. He states that “the dangerous side effect to any drug that is being abused is when one keeps developing dependency on it, and it is followed by its ever so slight increase in dosage respective to tolerance.”

Depending on the magnitude of abuse, some of the following can occur: acne breakouts, weight loss, digestive and urinary problems, and depression. Depression is the most common side effect as amphetamines decrease necessary nutrition and sleep.

While the drug may seem like the perfect fix, students should take the initiative to lead a healthy lifestyle. They can claim that it has the ability to keep them focused on one task, while temporarily increasing energy and mood through the increase of certain neurotransmitters.

Students, without having been diagnosed with ADHD, claim that being on this stimulant helps them complete assignments. The problem is, they are being abused as a cognitive performance enhancer.
Lecture discusses human, dog relationships

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As a feminist in this day and age (2010’s) it’s hard not to face opposition from many men and unfortunately some women as well. Myself and other millennials of this generation are by no means exempt from sexism in our society. Many say that I’m idealistic and would advise me to turn the other cheek regarding these social issues—they would tell me to ignore it, fake a smile, and kindly bear it. However, I disagree strongly with this sentiment. Here is a reason for the male feminist movement after all: we need it and if we ignore the issues at hand that squander the movement altogether. At the end of the day it all comes down to respect. If you respect each individual regardless of their gender and get rid of the preconceived notions of the roles assigned to us, we would be having less problems of sexism in our society.

As a woman, and as a student in my early twenties I experience sexism and prejudice on almost a daily basis. I understand that this is changing, however it is necessary.

Recently, just this summer, I experienced something that I’ve never experienced before. I was in New York and my best friend and I set out to explore central park. As we entered – these men trying to advertise their bikes approached us, which was completely fine until they started becoming disrespectful. I don’t doubt that most women face or have faced sexism multiple times in their lives. In this particular case, it was a woman instead of a man who came to our defense. When my friend and I stated that we weren’t interested in their bikes and proceeded to walk away— they basically followed us and kept asking. At this point I became extremely aggravated and told them to back off and we’re not interested. The men ignored that and continued to badger us. There were men and women in the crowd but the men didn’t try to help us. Instead, one of the women present saw what was happening and told them to leave us alone (luckily she worked with them). They finally left and in light of the situation she offered to give us a huge discount as compensation for what transpired. I was grateful for that and felt very lucky. In this scenario most people would think that a man would come to our rescue with the whole “damsel in distress” act, but such is not the case. Women can relate and the fact that she intervened so strongly gives me cause to believe that our strongest allies are people that can empathize with our plight.

A few weeks ago, as I was backing out of a Starbucks and turned to look out the window, I saw a couple of teenage boys who moved out of the neighborhood. Disregard for a woman. Later that same day, I rode my bike and I passed by these two teenage boys who moved out of the way to let me pass yet one of them made a comment stating “You so cute”. I just shook my head in disappointment; they definitely start young. It’s important to educate young people, even as young as preschool on how its not okay to call a woman, feel entitled to her body, or to disrespect girls, and view them only for your pleasure. That seems to be the mentality in this male dominated society which still has a long way to go despite this idea of “progressiveness” America has become.

The most recent incident of ignorance I’ve experienced actually happened just last weekend. I was in an art gallery with my neighbor: “She’s beautiful, you should buy a painting for her.”

Trying to basically solicit the fact that since we were on a date, he should try to get me something in order to get something out of it. Ofcourse inside I was fuming but I let out a comment and said, “We can buy paintings ourselves and don’t need a guy to buy it for us thanks.” It wasn’t really his remark that bothered me, it was the fact that he spoke to my friend as if I was nonexistent—an object like one of his paintings if you will.

I honestly feel sorry for girls who experience this daily like myself, but at the same time I feel like it is our duty to educate ourselves about it and to educate our young men from childhood and young adulthood. We all live in this society together, the little steps we take to make it that much better . Because of sexism, gender wage gap, and perpetuated gender roles—we need feminism. Through education and the practice of respect, maybe then our young men wouldn’t grow up to be condescending adults, whether they are conscious of it or not.

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For many of us it is known as the ‘half-blood prince’ of the Harry Potter series, Professor Severus Snape, portrayed by British actor, Alan Rickman, died at 69 after a battle with cancer.

Rickman conquered the hearts of many young moviemakers after impersonating the role of the serious, grumpy and mysterious Severus Snape, professor and master of potions at Hogwarts and head of the Slytherin house.

Rickman played Snape amusingly, starting with his villainous- deep voice, to his thoughtful - acted look that always seemed bothered about something. His dedication to this character made him admirable and respected throughout his career as a stage and film actor.

His acting made me want to learn more about Snape such as why was he always so serious, and it helped me reach the conclusion that deep inside Snape was just a good but hurt man for something that went wrong.

Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street turned out great just with the cast, which included Rickman.

He portrayed Judge Faryawan, the antagonist that was madly obsessed with Todd’s wife and daughter. With this movie he showed to viewers more of his acting talents as a stage actor.

Before Harry Potter, and Sweeney Todd he was Hans Ginter in “Die Hard.” He was the mastermind of a terrorist group. It was his first action film and he became well known after the movie’s release.

His roles as a creepy villain gave him the praise and respect he has received over the years. He’s a unique villain with a look that seemed curious, thoughtful, venegful and good all at the same time.

Rickman began his acting career 40 years ago after he left the Royal Academy of Dramatic Arts in London. He began his stage acting career in plays such as “Troilus and Cressida.” In 1972 he had his television debut in “Romeo and Juliet,” he played Tybalt.

He acted on Broadway, directed films, acted on films and even won a golden globe for Best Supporting Actor in a Miniseries or TV Film. Many die-hard fans of Harry Potter respond to Rickman’s death.

“Rickman played Snape amazingly, for South Florida locals to learn about ‘Que Pasa, MIA?’ serves as a source for something that went wrong. "He was an extremely talented actor, not only in Harry Potter but other movies such as ‘Love Actually’ which is one of my favorite films;” said Vanessa Cuadros, a senior broadcast media. "He always played any role perfectly, I’m saddened about his death, he was so good as an actor."

Many loved his acting because of his antagonism but later came to admire him even more as he turned out to be different than what many expected in the series. J.K. Rowling, author of the Harry Potter series shared a memory on her twitter.

“There are no words to express how shocked and devastated I am to hear of Alan Rickman’s death. He was a magnificent actor and a wonderful man.”

Rickman took the role of Snape in 2001 after only three books had been published. According to CNN.

He stated that he wasn’t well aware of what the series was about or his character. After almost nine years of playing Snape, Rickman left a memory in every Harry Potter fan, and I’m sure among many other actors he worked with.

As of me, he will forever be remembered as the man who put natural and effortlessly beautiful work into his roles as an actor, especially of Severus Snape.

His character and story will be passed along through generations as fans grow older.

Student, Sunny Diaz, a senior psychology major and fanatic of the Harry Potter series said, “Alan Rickman is a phenomenal actor in every work that he did. As a Harry Potter fanatic, I wasn’t a fan of Severus Snape in the books,” said Dizt.

“But Rickman brought him to life and made me appreciate the flawed hero. He will truly be missed and thank you for the memories. Rest in Peace. Half Blood Prince.”

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To make the dreaded ride to FIU a little easier, or the necessary ingredient to make the first cup of coffee after a night out, try turning on your “Que Pasa, MIA”? FIU’s finest morning talk show every Tuesday and Thursday from 8-9 a.m.

As of WRGP’s new array of talk shows this upcoming semester, “Que Pasa, MIA?” serves as a source for South Florida locals to learn about FIU, November of Miami for the week.

Hosts Anthony Barroso, Luis Diaz and I feature guests at least once a week. Listeners will be able to experience a wide variety of interviews with local artists, such as alternative rock band Kid Lore, made up of FIU alumni Jorge Mognia, junior Adam Tahoun and his younger brother Daniel. Kid Lore had released its EP “For Those Who Can’t Dance” in November and were hosting a release party at Sidebar Miami on Thanksgiving weekend.

For those who were not too busy traveling over winter break QPM suggested a lineup of movies debuting in December just in time for the cozy holiday season. FIU grad Matthew Abad joined to go in depth and give his take on the most exciting films. Abad runs a successful podcast called “Spiders with Matt” which analyzes the latest motion pictures in any box office with experts. Films included “Star Wars,” The Revenant, Hateful Eighth, and the upcoming North Miami Tropic Bowl. He went on to play in after a great senior season. McKinnon called

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The remainder of the project expected in the series. J.K. Rowling, author of the Harry Potter series shared a memory on her twitter.

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“But Rickman brought him to life and made me appreciate the flawed hero. He will truly be missed and thank you for the memories. Rest in Peace. Half Blood Prince.”
Men suffer ‘dissappointing’ loss, 66-60

After upsetting outpacing a Louisiana Tech team two nights before, the Florida International University men’s basketball team (9-9, 3-2 in Conference USA) suffered a disappointing 66-60 defeat at home against the University of Southern Mississippi. The Panthers traded the lead through half, with a 4-11 overall record, but shot a remarkable 27.3% in the second half.

“[They] tried to attack Diaz and keep him from getting easy touches. They also sat in the paint and were able to make shots when the clock was running out,” said Evans.

FIU got out to a hot start in the beginning of the game. The Panthers scored the game’s first seven points, but they began to have trouble finding open looks against a Golden Eagles defense that was on top of their game. At halftime, the Panthers had a 31-37 edge.

“I think we were taking long shots. They were packed in the paint, so when we drove, the shots that we normally hit when nobody is there, somebody was there. Now we have to make the extra pass and maybe drive it again or take the midrange shot instead of just settling for a three,” said Evans.

The Panthers seemed to lack the same energy that they entered the first half with when they took Linc Court for the second half. The Golden Eagles took their first lead with 15:47 left in the first half. Southern Mississippi senior Kourtlin Smith was instrumental in his team’s comeback effort; he scored a game-high 23 points, 13 of which came in the second half.

Although FIU got the lead back a couple minutes later as Diaz grinded out a few points in the paint, the Golden Eagles ultimately threw the FIU offense out of balance as they took the lead for a final time with 12:37 left in the second half. The Panthers fell behind as much as 12 points but were able to make a late surge to close the lead to 63-60 on a three pointer to play.

The Golden Eagles made the minimal amount of free throws necessary to secure the win and took the contest at 66-60.

The inconsistency of the offense through these games may be what is troubling coach Evans the most. As of Jan 19, LA Tech and Southern Mississippi allow a nearly identical percentage of shot attempts from inside the arc. Against the former, the Panthers scored 56.9% from the field and 50% from three point range, scoring 88 points. FIU shot only 36% from the field and 17.6% from behind the arc against the Golden Eagles.

Despite Saturday’s disappointing loss, the Panthers leave for Texas Wednesday morning having won four of their last six games, including wins against upper-tier C-USA opponent Western Kentucky University and LA Tech. They will begin their tour of the Lone Star state with a visit to the University of Texas at San Antonio on Jan. 30 at 7 p.m. to face the Roadrunners.

Men’s basketball: Evans on the message behind the loss

**STEFANO RIVERA**

A week after all four road teams advanced to the Divisional Round of the NFL playoffs, all four home teams advanced, reaching all four Conference Championships.

This marked the first time since 2004 that both one and two seeds advanced to both Conference Championships.

On Saturday, Jan. 16, the New England Patriots defeated the Kansas City Chiefs 27-20 as Tom Brady and Rob Gronkowski connected for two touchdowns. The Chiefs kept it close with a late touchdown, but were unable to recover the onside kick to regain possession, sending the New England Patriots to the AFC Championship.

That same night, the Arizona Cardinals defeated the Green Bay Packers in a thrilling, overtime finish, 26-20. This was one of the best football games I have ever witnessed. Down 20-13 with only 10 seconds remanining, the Packers heaved a prayer to the end zone, which was caught by Jeff Janis to force overtime. If you remember, this was Jan. 1, 2015, and the Packers had thrown a Hail Mary to win or tie the half game in the final seconds. He defeated the Detroit Lions in Week 13 in similar fashion.

However, Carson Palmer and Larry Fitzgerald connected on a 75-yard pass play on the first play of overtime. Two plays later, Fitzgerald scored the game winning touchdown. It seemed like all the world was against Cards and NFC Championship.

It would be pretty difficult to match that ending and by the early looks of the Carolina Panthers vs Seattle Seahawks game on Sunday, Jan. 17, it seemed like it would never happen. The Panthers got off to an amazing start, leading 31-0 at halftime. Most people including myself, thought this going to be a blow out at the time.

However, Russell Wilson led Seattle to a terrific second-half comeback, scoring 24 unanswered points. This failed to carry the onside kick late in the game as the Panthers defeated the Sawhawks 31-24, advancing to the NFC Championship against the Cardinals.

In the final game of the Divisional Round, the Denver Broncos defeated the Pittsburgh Steelers 23-16 to advance to the AFC Championship against the Patriots.

It seemed like Pittsburgh had control throughout most of the game, until a costly fumble by Fitzgerald Toussaint, gave the Broncos the momentum and favorable field position to lead a touchdown-scoring drive.

Once again, a failed onside kick recovery decided this game and gave Denver the edge against the Steelers. Unlike Wild Card Weekend, all four contests were decided by one score or less.

This sets up a 3:05 p.m. matchup between the Broncos and Patriots on Sunday, Jan. 24, and a 6:04 p.m. matchup between the Panthers and Cardinals after.

Brady vs Manning. What else could football fans want? Well I would like to see Manning get his second Super Bowl ring and finish his career with a bang. However, the Patriots bring a high octane offense into “Mile High” and are never easy to shut down. Earlier this season, these teams met at Denver and it was a classic. Denver won in overtime 30-24 as CJ Anderson ran 48 yards for the game winning touchdown.

This game has much more meaning to it than a typical regular season matchup. This is to punch a ticket into Super Bowl 50.

Although both teams advanced to this stage, they have glaring weaknesses that both teams will focus on: the Patriots lack of a running game, and the Broncos lack of a defense.

**JASON LIESER**

**The Palm Beach Post**

Pat Shurmur had the following to say during his Monday press conference: “Hassan Whiteside was ready to party. At the end of an uneven week in which he missed a key game with a knee issue and got yelled at on the court by teammates, he emerged with one of the best performances of his career and powered the Heat to a major comeback in Denver. The excitement over came him in a post-game TV interview as he pointed out – accurately -- that no one else in the NBA is getting triple-doubles with blocks and pointed to the bulging veins in his forearm.

When he finally made it back to the victorious locker room at Pepsi Center, he got the reception he wanted, but not quite the way he was expecting it. His rowdy teammates were not celebrating his 19 points, 17 rebounds and 11 blocks, but rather the time Whiteside got an offensive rebound and kicked it out to an open teammate instead of trying to blow through a double-team.

“Yeah, that was historical,” Dwane Wade teased. “That is what we’re looking for, and he did it more than just that one time. We want to tell him when he does good, just like we’re on him when he does bad. We were just having a little fun with him.”

Whiteside, who had six assists all last season, laughed. He got the joke. And he might be getting the message behind it.

Whiteside rode out
has been a rookie-like development, however, since
and he wants to do well, but he's gonna do it his own
ally gets to a point where the right moves come as natu
almost always begins unevenly. A player starts by making
the quick, short passes as its
the Steelers.
the Kansas City's defense is no
fields. For the Patriots, it's their
weaknesses. The Denver offense
END ZONE,
Superbowl 50 Prediction: Broncos vs. Panthers
made 30 saves.
year, $12.5 million contract extension,
hours after the club announced a three-
twice. Goalie Cam Talbot, feeling good
arrived with the worst road record in the
season with Alex Len and Kelly Olynyk.
nothing close to the blow-ups that got him in trouble last
trouble."
"The work ethic's lacking for sure," coach Gerard Gallant said. "I'm not happy with the way we played these last couple games.
The game was a rematch of a rough-and-tumble affair two Sundays ago in Edmonton. In that one, Oilers forward
and their fists flying, after he laid an illegal check on star defenseman Aaron Ekblad. The 19-year-old All-Star has not played since, suffering from a suspected concussion, and could return Friday. Hendriks, who was not penalized on the play, was dealt a three-game suspension from the NHL.
Coincidentally, his suspension ended Monday.
Extracting ‘bully’ plants at Virginia Key

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Citizens for a Better South Florida, a non-profit organization that began in 1989 and focuses on bringing education to a diverse, underserved community, will be hosting a habitat restoration day at Virginia Key on Jan. 31 from 8 a.m. to noon.

The event will consist of hands-on restoration, educational booths and food. Entrance to the park and parking will be free of charge.

The hands-on restoration will be comprised of manually removing invasive exotic plants in the area, which can damage the ecosystem.

“These plants become bullies and take over,” said Laura Tellez, a program director for the organization, “so they must be removed to restore a balance.”

These infamous invasive exotic plants have caused a grave threat to native species, some have even become endangered, according to The City of Miami Parks and Recreation.

A few of the endangered species include: the Biscayne Prickly Ash (Zanthoxylum coriaceum), a flowering plant in the citrus family that grows glandular fruits in clusters; the Florida Silver Palm (Coccothrinax argentata), a fan palm with leaves that are dark blue-green above and silver below; it also grown fruits that turn black when ripe; and the Beachberry (Scaevola plumieri), a shrub with dark-green leaves, white flowers and black drupes. 

For more information visit the organization’s website, abettersouthflorida.org

Klamath River deal falls, could rekindle water use feud

BETTINA BOXALL
Los Angeles Times

The demise of a deal to end decades of feuding on the Klamath River could rekindle old battles over water and dams in a remote corner of California.

A key piece of a three-part agreement expired when Congress failed to approve it by Dec. 31. The complicated pact, backed by the states of California and Oregon, called for the removal of four hydroelectric dams, settled water rights disputes and spelled out water allocations for irrigators and wildlife refuges in the Klamath Basin.

But the deal never got traction in the GOP-dominated Congress. And though some backers are holding out hope that it can be resurrected, others are doubtful.

“It would be very difficult if not impossible to pull the same parties to the table and reach a similar agreement,” said Don Gentry, chairman of Oregon’s Klamath Tribes. Conflict over the Klamath embodies classic struggles over western water.

Tribes, farmers, hydropower interests and commercial fishermen all have fought over the 255-mile river, which winds from southern Oregon through Northern California to the Pacific Ocean. Dams, farm and ranch diversions and agricultural runoff have exacted a heavy toll on a waterway that once supported Chinook salmon runs half a million strong.

The clashes drew national attention in 2001, a dry year when the federal government cut irrigation deliveries to preserve fish flows.

Enraged farmers threatened to open irrigation gates by force. The following year, the government increased irrigation deliveries - triggering lethal river conditions that left more than 30,000 dead salmon and steelhead trout floating in the lower Klamath.

The agreements, signed in 2010 and expanded in 2014, were supposed to end the strife. But they didn’t please everyone. California’s Siskiyou County, where three of the utility company dams are located, opposed their removal, as did key Republican congressmen. Environmentalists and some tribes complained that the pact gave too much water to irrigators and too little to salmon.

Attorney Tom Schlosser, who represents California’s Hoopa Valley Tribe, called the expiration “good news.”

“I’m so tired of hearing this story,”... We all sang ‘Kumbaya’ and Congress didn’t pay any attention,” Schlosser said when actually the Congress did exactly what it should have done. They looked at this and said, ‘This is a nonstarter.’

The Klamath Project. “I’m not saying it’s over,” Addington said of attempts to save the accord. But Congress would have to signal more interest before his group makes another big push for the settlement. “We’re not just going to go beat our head against the wall again,” he said.

The U.S. Interior Department, which oversees federal irrigation operations and wildlife refuges in the basin, supported the Klamath deal. “We still believe the future of the basin lies with negotiated agreements, and we will work hard with the parties to find ways to achieve their collective goals,” Interior Secretary Sally Jewel said in a statement.

The dams, spread across 65 miles of the Klamath, are owned by PacifiCorp, a part of Warren Buffett’s Berkshire Hathaway Inc. empire.

Under the pact, the company had until 2020 to remove the structures, the oldest of which was erected in 1918. The dams block historic salmon spawning grounds on the upper river and create stagnant pools of water that breed toxin-producing algae.

The agreements called for California to help pay for the dam removal and granted PacifiCorp immunity from any liability claims that arose from decommissioning.

Without the Klamath agreements, PacifiCorp faces a lengthy dam relicensing process and requirements to meet California water quality standards that could force it to spend an estimated $400 million on fish ladders and other improvements.

“We’re all just waiting to see whether there’s any desire among the congressional delegation, the administration and the settlement partners to try to resurrect the agreements we made,” said PacifiCorp President Sally Greaven. “We don’t know exactly how that would happen or what it would look like.”

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