FIU, Fairgrounds dispute continues

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A meeting regarding a possible new location for the Miami-Dade County Fair and Exposition, Inc., was discussed at a Homestead Council meeting Wednesday, Dec. 16, according to WSVN.

FIU has been looking to expand its MMC campus into the Tamiami Park Fairgrounds, on the condition that the institution finds a replacement venue to host the fixture, which moved adjacent to FIU in 1972. FIU must also reimburse the fair for its infrastructural investment at its current location.

The new location discussed at the meeting is one Sandra Gonzalez-Levy, senior vice president of External Relations, discussed as among the most feasible back in 2013 — a county-owned agricultural property next to the Homestead Air Reserve Base.

This venue was previously rejected by the fair due to its potential to reduce attendance by 20 percent, according to Mayor Carlos Gimenez, president and chief executive officer of the Miami-Dade County Fair and Exposition, Inc.

The Miami-Dade County Commission must now vote whether to accept FIU’s proposal to move the fair to Homestead.

According to the Miami Herald, a recent memo from Mayor Carlos Gimenez was sent out Tuesday, Dec. 29 and hinted that the dispute between FIU and the Youth Fair may have to be settled in court.

In the memo, Gimenez mentioned that FIU has “refused” to pledge a protection agreement for the county should the agreement due to the fact that FIU is allotted any amount of money from the 90-year lease for the Tamiami site.

In an interview with the Miami Herald, cultural chief Michael Spring, the Gimenez aide who is tasked with mediating the resolution between the Fair and FIU, said, “There has to be some protection for the county if there is a move to relocate the fair and the fair doesn’t want to leave.”

FIU’s lawyer says that because the university is a tax-funded school, FIU is unable to pledge future revenues to indemnification agreement due to the fact that elected leaders in Tallahassee have the final call on the amount of money FIU is allotted any given budget year.

Richard Perez, a Holland and Knight attorney representing FIU, explained to the Herald that the school is “...not in a legal position to indemnify [the fair].”

“It’s not that we’ve said we won’t give it to them. It’s that we’ve said we can’t give it to them,” said Perez.

There has to be some protection for the county if there is a move to relocate the fair and the fair doesn’t want to leave.

Michael Spring
Cultural Chief
City of Miami

Student suffers car crash, community unites to help

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Monday, Jan. 11, freshman psychology major Loretta Gonzalez practices her piano skills with Jose Parra, a freshman pre-med management major in the GSC piano room.

Monday, Dec. 21, 2015, Andrea Mirabal, an anthropology major and former Miss FIU 2014, was Christmas shopping near campus when a third car hit the rear of her vehicle to inspect the damage. After the surgery, Mirabal is expected to undergo a GoFundMe page to help pay for her surgeries and financially help with the healing process.

As of January 11, the FIU community and Mirabal’s loved ones have raised over 14,500 dollars.

Mirabal is expected to undergo months of physical therapy but her family, friends and the entire FIU community remain hopeful on her recovery.

University’s new hoverboard policy announced

ERICA SANTIAGO
News Director
ERICA SANTIAGO/THE BEACON

Monday, Jan. 11, FIU External Relations sent out an email to the university community detailing rules and regulations pertaining to hoverboards on university property.

The email states that hoverboards are covered by the university regulation, FIU-115. According to external relations, this same regulation also relates to “skateboards, longboards, scooters, skates and similar devices.”

The FIU-115 prohibits the use of hoverboards inside any university building. Hoverboards, along with other devices mentioned in the FIU-115, may only be used on university sidewalks and crosswalks.

According to the email, the storage and use of hoverboards is explicitly banned in residence halls and university apartments. External Relations warns that those harboring hoverboards in campus housing must remove the hoverboards immediately. Otherwise they are in violation of Housing and Residential Life policy.

This policy is effective immediately, though any official changes to the policy will be adopted by the Board of Trustees at a future meeting.

FIU’s Department of Environmental Health & Safety will be conducting a review of best practices concerning hoverboards. The review will take into consideration the results of investigations conducted by the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission and certification currently being completed by the Underwriters Laboratories.

Students can contact EH&S Director Yenny Diaz at 305-348-7882 for more information concerning the policy.
NATION & WORLD BRIEFS

Abe offers apology, payment to South Korean ‘comfort women’

Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe made a landmark apology to South Korean “comfort women” coerced into Japanese military brothels before and during World War II, with his government agreeing to provide $8.3 million to a fund for compensating victims.

The governments of Japan and South Korea agreed that this would be a final “irreversible” solution to an issue that has dogged bilateral ties for decades. Abe’s message was delivered by Japanese Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida at a press conference in Seoul after a meeting with South Korean counterpart Yun Byung Se.

Indian court rejects more jail time for man

A day after a man convicted as a minor in a brutal 2012 gang rape and murder in New Delhi was released from detention, India’s Supreme Court on Monday rejected appeals to extend his sentence in a case that has sparked a passionate debate over juvenile justice. The man, who was shy of his 18th birthday when convicted, was released Sunday after completing a three-year term in a reform home. The maximum sentence allowed under Indian law on Monday, India’s highest court dismissed a petition filed by the Delhi Commission of Women, a government body, arguing that the man should be returned to custody. The court ruled that despite the emotions surrounding the case, which prompted international outrage and reforms that have expedited prosecutions of rape cases, it had no legal grounds to extend the man’s sentence.

Indian court rejects more jail time for man convicted as a minor in 2012 gang rape

President Mark B. Rosenberg, Student Government Association President Alexis Colaycoyoy and Student Affairs Vice President Larry Lunsford cut the ribbon on the renovated Graham Center Pit, which features a large screen and speakers, Monday.

Monday, Jan. 11, the revamped GC pit was finally unveiled to FIU students. The ribbon cutting event included a live DJ to show off the pit’s new speakers and Campus Life was also on hand to provide food and refreshments.

The newly refurbished pit has been updated to include blue and gold stage lighting, a large flat screen mounted into the wooden panels behind the pit and the ability to plug music into the GC sound system. The updated sound system will allow for pit events and other broadcasts to be heard throughout the building.

For safety measures, the floor of the pit has been raised to make the pit more shallow in depth. This is to keep it pit safe, especially those carrying equipment, from tripping into the pit. President Mark B. Rosenberg, who was present at the unveiling of the pit, expressed that the GC pit has served as the “epicenter” of FIU since the university’s earliest days.

Rosenberg expressed that the pit will not only be used to broadcast FIU events, but world events as well. Events like the World Cup, presidential debates, news broadcasts and more, will be showcased on the pit’s big screen.

Rosenberg has expressed that it is important for the pit to be gradually modernized to heighten the quality of events. The renovations took about two months to complete, having started back in November 2015.

L-CAVE brings Shakespeare’s London to FIU students

As part of the programming for the arrival of the First Folio at FIU in February, a full immersion experience of Shakespeare’s London will open on the Engineering Campus.

The project will use the University’s Computer Augmented Virtual Environment technology, which will allow students to experience London c.1599. The project is lead by english graduate student David Frisch. In an interview with FIUSM, Frisch explains how engineering will enhance the experience of Shakespeare’s London.

Q: The I-CAVE is a very new system, under works since last year. Is this the first major project the English Department has undertaken using this system?

Yes, and not only is this the first major project for the English department in the I-CAVE, but it’s also our first major Digital Humanities project. With the growing trend in digital humanities, a project like this is an important milestone in our department.

As well, this project is also a first of its kind in regards to the interdisciplinary nature of the experience. We have architecture students doing the 3D Modeling and computer science students programming and texturing the area of Bankside and The Globe. We also have students from theater doing voice acting and a student from fine arts who is helping with the character design.

Q: How much time has been necessary to complete such an experience?

So far, I’ve been working on the project since August and we’re still going strong into January. We’ve hit some bumps in the road, but my team is fantastic and we’ve been able to overcome all the obstacles that we came across.

Q: What is your favorite part of Shakespeare’s London?

My favorite part is the stylized approach we took to creating the experience. While the buildings and the environment are 3D modeled, the characters that populate the area are 2D figures. We cropped and animated them in two dimensions and the buildings and the environment are 3D. We took to creating the experience. While the participant is walking in a 3D environment, we cropped and animated them in two dimensions and the environment is 3D. We took to creating the experience. While the participant is walking in a 3D environment, we cropped and animated them in two dimensions and the environment is 3D.
Going to the movies these days is a pretty straightforward and simple form of entertainment. You can call up some of your friends, head down to the local multiplex and figure out which of the 20 different movies that are playing you would like to see without giving it much thought or effort.

A night out at the movies wasn’t always this casual and routine, from the early 1950’s through the 70’s a going to a movie was a spectacular event in its own right. Seeing a new movie back then was akin to going to a Broadway show in modern times. People dressed up in their fanciest clothes, the theaters provided souvenirs programs, an overture would play before the movie, sometimes even with a live orchestra, attendees would have reserved seats, and the longer films would have an intermission in the middle to split them up in two parts.

Classic epics such as “Ben-Hur” “Cleopatra” and “Lawrence of Arabia” made full use of this roadshow experiences taking advantage of new widescreen and stereophonic sound technology to create breathtaking sights and sounds to be enjoyed by patrons at their special night out at the movies.

Noticing the recent lack of enthusiasm by today’s moviegoers, filmmakers仿佛正在尝试重现这种魔法。在2016年12月30日上映的《无耻混账》（The Hateful Eight）是一部由昆汀·塔伦蒂诺（Quentin Tarantino）执导的电影，该片改编自1960年上映的同名电影。影片讲述了一群人在旅途中发生的故事，但这并不是塔伦蒂诺的唯一一部作品。

昆汀·塔伦蒂诺通过他的新电影《无耻混账》重新点燃了复古的电影发行模式。

### University holds health insurance marketplace

Guethshina Altena  
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For the fourth time since 2013, the Affordable Care Act Committee is collaborating to put in place the fourth annual Health Insurance Marketplace Enrollment Events.

The committee consists of the FIU Healthy Living Program, Student Health Services, FIU College of Law and the Health Council of South Florida.

These Health Insurance Marketplace Enrollment events are aimed at students still wondering which health insurance they should get or simply haven’t made a choice because there are too many options. According to Melodie Peinse, the Wellness Advisor of the Healthy Living Program, the ultimate goal of the event is to educate students about the importance of insurance and assist them if they are not insured in navigating the insurance options available through the marketplace.

Four of the events will be held on the Student Life Campus on Saturday, Jan. 16 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Law Clinic (RBD 1010), Tuesday, Jan. 19 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Graham Center Computer Lab, Thursday, Jan. 28 from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. in the GC Computer Lab and Saturday, Jan. 30, 2016 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Law Clinic (RBD 1010).

The same Health Insurance Information Enrollment Events will take place at the Biscayne Bay Campus on the second floor of the Hubert Library. The days for the BHC campus events are Thursday, Jan. 14 from 4:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. and Saturday, Jan. 23 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. All events are open to the public. Participants are encouraged to register in advance, but will not be required to do so. Students can visit [http://go.fiu.edu/ACAEEnrollment](http://go.fiu.edu/ACAEEnrollment) to view the schedules of the various events available on campus.

At the events, participants will have an opportunity to discuss the various options available, and can meet with a navigator. Navigators will then educate them about the different insurance options and if they need assistance in obtaining insurance, will assist them with navigating the Affordable Care Act marketplace,” said Peinse.

One-on-one appointments with the Modesto A. Maidique Campus Health Insurance Marketplace Navigator are available Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Springs opened with a new section available to guests called the Shopping District, and two new restaurants: The Bazaar, which sells mostly seafood and has a well-featured bar, and gift shop, and Jock Lindsey’s Hangar Bar, themed to Lucasfilm’s Indiana Jones franchise.

Most Recently, it added Morimoto Asia, owned by Iron Chef Morimoto. As well as few retail outlets like Chapel Hats and the Art of Shaving. The next and last area opening for the expansion, Town Center, does not have a projected opening date yet, but the complete transformation of the district is expected in mid 2016.

The Town Center has been confirmed to include The Edison, an Industrial-Gothic themed restaurant, in addition to retail outlets such as UGG Australia and Pandora.

If you haven’t been to the resort in a while, other things to look out for as part of the Disney Springs development is a bridge in the Marketplace area leading to The Landing, as well as new touches to the West Side area like a plaza where food trucks are licensed to sell, a Marvel merchandise store and a new next generation parking garage.

Just in case visitors need that shot of caffeine to keep them going on their shopping spree Springs boasts not one, but two Starbucks. Thanks to Disney’s deal with Starbucks, there are also locations in each theme park with special location based coffee mugs depicting each park.

Other things expected to change soon range from the Marketplace of the World’s Marketplace to undergo a massive expansion and the DisneyQuest, the district’s interactive video game

There is no cost for parking at Disney Springs and it is a walking distance of Hollywood Bouvelard, which is like non-Disney resorts such as Best Western and B Reservations also offer free Disney shuttles.
Tuesday Times Roundtable returns

LESLEY OVALLE
Associate Entertainment Director
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Tuesday Times Roundtable, the weekly discussions centered around various New York Times articles, began in 2009 and have continued every fall and spring semester since then without fail. Tuesday Times Roundtable will be kicking off the semester on Tuesday, Jan. 19 in GC 150, from 12:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Tuesday Times Roundtable is not lectures, everyone is encouraged to participate,” said Eric Feldman, coordinator for the office of Global Learning Initiatives.

“Vickie Feldman, a librarian at FIU specializing in government documents, will be leading the first roundtable of the year. She will be talking about how the housing market will impact South Florida graduates.

The topic seems fit to begin the semester, especially considering South Florida’s housing market is continuously ranking among the least affordable nationwide.

In September it was reported by the SunSentinel that Palm Beach and Broward counties ranked in the 35 least affordable housing markets nationwide, with buyers needing to spend around 50 percent of their income on housing, utilities and commuting.

Miami-Dade County did not fall short on the list, ranking third overall behind San Francisco and Los Angeles.

In Miami-Dade buyers need to spend 69.2 percent of their income on housing and commuting expenses.

“On a personal note, I am a relatively recent graduate and I am at the point where I am hoping to have a house instead of renting,” said Feldman. “I am definitely looking to get something out of the discussion.”

These Tuesday Times Roundtable events can also be valued as points towards the “Excellence in Global Learning Medallion.”

The medallion requires students to participate in global co-curricular activities, research projects, complete four global learning classes, create an portfolio and have a minimum 3.0 cumulative GPA at the time of graduation.

According to Feldman, as soon as someone is interested in the medallion they can sign up on the University’s global learning website.

Tuesday Times Roundtable happens weekly, at the same time and place. Free lunch is offered, along with occasional prizes and an interactive discussion with a professionals and insightful peers.

Feldman recommends arriving early, as “some of them get rather packed, so sometimes the food is gone before everyone arrives.”

Details and a schedule of topics can be found on the global learning website.

Underdeveloped health a unique American problem

SDA HEALTH

My transition from Italy to the United States began about three years ago, when I came to this country to study nutrition and play for the FIU tennis team.

I began to wonder how such a developed, innovative and educationally advanced country is still so behind in solving health-related problems such as obesity, malnourishment and cardiovascular issues.

Coming from another country that is internationally famous for its cuisine, I have a completely different cultural perspective than the one I have observed in Americans.

I ask, “why are all these personal health related issues still so prominent in the U.S.? And what is America doing wrong?”

For starters, family-sized and supersized food options, which are common to Americans, are not common overseas. The immense availability of products in supermarkets and of fast food restaurants such as Starbuck and McDonald’s right around the corner is also something very common in America’s culture.

In Italy we are not used to seeing so much food availability. After all, Italy has 512 restaurants in the entire country, compared to the 1986 McDonald’s distributed in Florida alone!

Here, in America, we see a constant bombardment of unhealthy food advertisements, which is something that is not so common to find in Italy.

America’s relationship with food is also unique in that it lacks meaning. In America, everything needs to be fast and ready to eat. In Italy, home cooking is part of the daily routine where lunch and dinner are moments to connect with family or friends, have fun and enjoy your food. So, those who just want to taste of America, without paying exorbitant park fees, Disney Springs may be just the place for you.

LifeStyle points is a weekly column by Joseph Cardenas, for suggestions or comments email entertainment@fiusm.com

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America’s relationship with food is also unique in that it lacks meaning. In America, everything needs to be fast and ready to eat. In Italy, home cooking is part of the daily routine where lunch and dinner are moments to connect with family or friends, have fun and enjoy your mind a break from the day’s monotony.

There is no rush in Italy. For example, when I walk by the food court in the Graham Center, I frequently see people eating and studying at the same time, or biking a sandwich while texting or sending emails. Americans are too busy counting countless of other things that they don’t even pay attention to what or how much they are eating.

This way of eating leaves them vulnerable to distraction or falling into food temptations when they dine out--and let’s be honest, they do that a lot!

It is important to consider that the portions served in restaurants here are huge compared to Italy. With this, Americans tend to make the incorrect assumption that the quantity on the plate is the appropriate amount to eat. In Italy and other parts of the world a “pugliesiagna”, which means a little walk after eating, is very common. And here lies a key problem: Italians eat less and walk more, while Americans eat more and walk less.

Ultimately, small changes can sometimes be the best changes.

Start giving more meaning to your meal and take small walks after, giving yourself time to bond with your company and unwind.

Stop assuming that what’s on your plate is what your body needs. Just because you are used to something, that doesn’t mean that it is normal or right.

I strongly believe that it begins with each individual, taking small steps in improving your daily routine can drastically improve the health of America.

SDA Health is a weekly column written by members of the Student Dietician Association.

The column focuses on healthy eating and living. For more commentary or to suggest a topic, email life@fiusm.com.
Panthers fend off feisty Oilers for 12th consecutive win

**DAVID DRUCKER**
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While most FIU students spent their winter vacation huddled up at home, the men’s basketball team was hard at work on Lime Court and on the road. From the end of the fall season to the beginning of spring, the Panthers compiled a 4-3 record, redeeming some of their early season troubles as they fought their way back to .500 (8-8, 2-1 in Conference USA). During this stretch, the Panthers saw a five-game winning streak end and a four-game winning come to life.

The holiday season started with a rough patch for the Panthers. On Monday, Dec. 14, FIU traveled to Jacksonville to face off against the University of North Florida. The Ospreys went up by the Panthers’ defense, shooting 41 percent from three and 75 percent from the free throw line in a 94-72 rout. UNF only turned the ball over on four occasions compared to the Panthers’ eleven.

Next up for FIU’s three-game road trip was a battle against the Northern Illinois University Huskies on Saturday, Dec. 19 that stretched into a second overtime. Senior center Adrian Diaz got himself into foul trouble early in this contest, scoring just seven points in 17 minutes. He battled with 5:29 left in the second half. Stepping up in his place, however, was junior guard Donte McGill; the forward Elmo Stephen drained a three from 25 feet out to tie the game at 58-58 and force overtime. Stephen scored a total of 15 points in what was his second game at the University. The Panthers were fouled often in the first overtime against NIU, but to Head Coach Anthony Evans’ delight, they shot 7-8 from the free throw line. FIU couldn’t defend senior Travon Baker with seconds remaining as they watched him run the full length of the court for a game-tying layup. Although the former Sunblazers scored the first points of the second overtime, their offense was shut down in the final two minutes and fell to the Huskies 74-72.

On the last leg of the road trip, the Panthers beat a Binghamton team of a two-game home stand. The Panthers rang in the new year in the best way possible: a 76-59 win over their conference rival, Florida Atlantic University. Diaz took over in the second half, scoring 20 of his 23 at a time when he is usually susceptible to being removed because of foul trouble.

Diaz, who normally struggled from the charity stripe, went 8-8. Although WKU had the edge for most of the second half, FIU found its rhythm again with 5:33 left in the game and got on a stunning scoring run. In the final 3:26 of the game, the Panthers outscored the Wildcats 13-2. As the final minute was evaporating with the score tied up 72-72, McGill gained possession off of a WKU turnover and sank game-winning three pointer. The win gave the Panthers a perfect 2-0 conference record.

On Saturday, Jan. 9, Marshall University broke the Panthers’ relatively stout defense over the break in a 99-81 victory over FIU. Although Draper set a new career-high with 25 points, this game was all Marshall. The Thundering Herd secured a 34-17 lead midway through the second half and didn’t give up its lead the rest of the game. FIU picked up their first loss in C-USA play with the defeat on the road.

FIU’s record over the break confirms that this team is more sturdy than they were in 2014-2015. Beginning with a stunning 75-71 loss at home to Stetson on Monday, Nov. 30, the Panthers skidded to five losses in a row. They rebounded with the win over Binghamham, however, ripping off four wins in a row. The longest winning streak last year was the Panthers’ 3-0 start against Florida College, Stetson and Florida Memorial. Their longest losing streak was during their C-USA stretch late in the season against North Texas, Texas, and Western Kentucky University.

The Panthers are scheduled to play their first game of the spring semester on Thursday, Jan. 14 when they host Louisiana Tech.

The Florida Panthers’ franchise-record winning streak hasn’t been a complete picture of dominance.

Some recent wins were on the ugly side.

Coming off four games in which they won despite being significantly outshot, the Panthers were eager to get back on their A game Sunday in their final visit to Rexall Place, one of the many virtuoso performances by the Wayne Gretzky-era Oilers.

Instead the Panthers had to scratch and claw to extend their streak to 12 games in a contentious 2-1 victory. It was also their sixth consecutive road win, another franchise record.

In a game that featured three fights, two of them involving Edmonton’s Matt Hendrickz, and several showing matches, the Panthers showed more fight than artistry against the game Oilers.

Once again goaltending saved the day for Florida with back-up Al Montoya turning away 24 shots, many of them sensational, to improve to 7-1-1.

Montoya was at his best in the second period when the Oilers kept the Panthers bottled up and outshot them 14-2 in a lopsided but scoreless 20 minutes that ended with Florida clinging to a precarious 2-1 lead. Edmonton had a 25-14 advantage for the game.

A double-minor for high-sticking on Jonathan Huberdeau late in the period carried over to the third. They killed it off with Montoya denying Teddy Purcell, who was set up with a crossing pass, just before it expired. For the second game in a row the Panthers scored on their first two shots. Unlike at Ottawa when it took them 12 minutes to do so, the first came 3:22 in when Jaromir Jagr stole the puck from Darnell Nurse at the Florida blue line and skated free on a breakaway.

As he began to make a move on Cam Talbot, Jagr lost control of the puck but it fluttered through the goalie’s legs for his 15th goal of the season. His 736th moved him within four goals of Brent Hall for third on the career list.

The Oilers thought they had the equal-izer four minutes later on a nifty play by their top scorer Taylor Hall. But the Panthers’ successfully challenged that Purcell was offsides before he made the pass to Hall, and the goal came off the board.

Panthers defenseman and Edmonton native Alex Petrovic celebrated his first NHL game in his hometown by fighting Hendrickz late in the second period. Petrovic, who at age 45 found his way back to the NHL with the Oilers, fought his way back to .500 (8-8, 2-1 in Conference USA). During this stretch, the Panthers saw a five-game winning streak end and a four-game winning come to life.

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Heat falls flat in loss to Jazz

Heat closed with 34 points, including 23 in the second half, finishing 14 for 22 from the field, offsetting 24 points from Chris Bosh.

"They read our schemes of what we were trying to do defensively," Dwyane Wade said. "Making matters worse, Wade said, scored just eight, closing 3 of 17 from the field, including 1 for 11 in the second half.

This 98-83 loss dropped Miami to 22-15, and the road trip becomes substantially more difficult for the defending champion Golden State awaiting on Monday, the Clippers on Wednesday, and Oklahoma City on Sunday.

There’s also a game Friday at Denver, where the Heat traditionally struggles.

The second-half shooting told much of the story. Utah shot 21 for 36 after halftime, Miami 14 for 36.

For two, turned on the Heat in the third quarter, with Utah scoring 11 for 17 in the period to transform a four-point halftime deficit into a 72-68 lead after three.

Score of the game was done by Hayward, who scored 18 in the third, making eight of nine shots.

He missed the final 6:08 of the third quarter with a strained left shoulder, an injury that required him to go to the locker-room. Wade said he still doesn’t know what the exact injury is. "It’s something that happened with no contact," he said.

"I’m their guy," he said after the game, "so I had to be able to come back in."

He said he will see how he feels Sunday before determining his availability for the Golden State game on Monday.

Meanwhile, Goran Dragic, who scored 14 in the first half, finished with only 16. He left just two minutes into the third quarter with his fourth foul, fouling out with the equivalent of a quarter. Erik Spoelstra said he could have brought Dragic back sooner than two minutes into the fourth quarter.

"But in hindsight, we were still in control of the game," Spoelstra said. "I don’t know if it would have mattered."
EVELYN PEREZ  
FIU NEWS

Mustafa Kamal Sikder wants more than a change in Everglades restoration efforts.

The FIU environmental studies student is examining Floridians’ opinion on the various benefits they currently enjoy from the River of Grass, including water purification, storm protection, recreational opportunities and birding. He also wants to explore their attitudes about restoring it. His research project is funded by the Everglades Foundation FIU ForEverglades Scholarship.

“This Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan is one of the largest restoration efforts ever attempted in our country. It is being implemented in 16 counties over an 18,000 square-mile area, but its outcomes will be felt in the entire state,” Sikder said.

“Restoration can affect everything from fisheries, which are major, economic drivers, to how we extract ground water for our consumption. People need to be informed of and care about what’s happening with Everglades restoration.”

In 2000, the U.S. Congress authorized the Everglades Restoration Plan to restore, preserve and protect the water resources of the Florida Everglades.

By redirecting freshwater flow to areas that need it most, the plan would likely alter the various ecosystems services it provides.

White research has generally focused on the science behind Everglades restoration, Sikder is collecting information from residents living in different areas throughout Florida, including coastal, inland, agricultural and urban communities, through an online survey.

The study will also analyze the public’s perception on climate change and sea level rise risk, and how these perceptions align with the restoration plan. According to Sikder, decision-makers and university residents are going to respond to the plan as it is implemented in the next 30 years.

“Policy decisions that have a direct or indirect impact on people require knowing the public’s preference to ensure its sustainability,” he said. Sikder, a graduate student conducting research under Earth and Environment Professor Pallab Mohanty, hopes the body of knowledge derived from his work will help policy-makers in introducing, amending or voiding legislation pertaining to Everglades restoration; avoiding local conflicts; and better implementing the restoration plan.

FIU should have addressed the hoverboard policy sooner

SHADY CORNER

I’m going to preface this piece by getting one simple opinion out of the way: hoverboards are stupid.

Honestly, let’s talk about the thing you’re not even overthinking, so why is everyone calling it a hoverboard? I can’t really think of any time I’ve seen a person on campus riding a hoverboard and haven’t thought they’re pretentious.

Riding a bike, scooter or even a scooter isn’t about using a hoverboard. Imagine, if you will, a person riding around campus using a segway. You’d laugh at that person, right? You’d laugh at that person, right? You’d laugh at that person, right?

The University continues its email to insist that “the storage of hoverboards is expressly prohibited in residence halls and University apartments.”

I understand they’re a safety hazard, especially when some idiot is riding down the hallway practically barreling over people. But I think it’s ridiculous that the University has to remind students not to be inconsiderate, to not barrel over people in the hallway or damage floors by using the hoverboards.

However, the University continues its email to insist that “the storage and/or use of hoverboards also is expressly prohibited in residence halls and University apartments.”

Here, is where my critique of the policy comes in.

Students who eagerly bought their new Christmas gifts to school are now being told they’re prohibited. Where are these students supposed to keep their belongings, if not in their home for the next 15 weeks? Do they suppose to pay to ship them home, wherever that may be?

In addition, the email states that “until further notice, hoverboards cannot be charged anywhere on FIU campuses, centers, museums or any FIU property.” So, you can bring your hoverboard, but if it dies you’re on your own.

I know that the University is concerned primarily with the safety of hoverboards, which have been shown on the news to have caught fire. But, the devices that have caught fire have done so due to negligence and improper use.

Furthermore, any concerns the University might have had about students’ use of the devices should have been addressed before students returned to school, especially those who live on campus and now have to figure out where to keep their belongings or face being kicked out of housing.

Hoverboards have been in the news for at least four months now, and the craze didn’t just happen overnight. Chris Brown, Tyga and both of their children were the first seen on social media using the boards months ago. For someone to convince me that the University didn’t know that students would be using them on campus, they’d have to make me reasonably believe that those in charge do not watch the news, or at least haven’t done so at all in December.

I find that incredibly hard to believe. It’s almost impossible to convince anyone of this.

So, why is it that the University didn’t have the foresight to inform students of such harsh restrictions and give proper warning of the changes and possible consequences?

I have absolutely no issues with the University looking out for my safety. I just feel that their decisions that have such an effect on students should have been given much sooner to give students proper time and options as to how to abide by them.

In the future, I’d prefer to have an email such as this sent at least three days before move in day, as I’m sure most of my peers would as well. This would not only give the students who live on campus enough time to make the proper adjustments to what they’re bringing on campus, but would also give commuter students time to take note and heed the changes as well.

Shady Corner is a column that tackles University policy and offers suggestions on how comments contact Cayla at cayla.bush@fiu.edu

Volleyball signs important recruit

STEFANO RIVERA  
Contributing Writer  
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Monday, Jan. 4, FIU women’s volleyball Head Coach Rita Buck-Crockett announced the signing of a new commit, Sidney Henderson to a National Letter of Intent.

Henderson is a 5-foot-9 outside/opposite hitter from Chicago, Illinois, and a senior in Gwendolyn Brooks College Preparatory Academy.

Henderson was awarded Most Valuable Player for the 2015 season and continues to be among the top-ten of various FIU volleyball records. Henderson provides impressive athletic ability. Her approach touch is 9 feet inches, block touch is 9 feet, and vertical leap is 28 inches.

In 2015, the Panthers finished 15-13 (9-7 in Conference USA), which was good for seventh in the final conference standings. The team bounced back from a 7-23 record in 2014, and improved in many areas.

Henderson will attempt to follow the footsteps of Lucia Castro, one of the best players to play for the Panthers in recent years. Like Henderson, Castro was a middle hitter, and finished in the top ten of various FIU volleyball record books.

The Panthers are a young team and will be looking to utilize Henderson’s abilities and talents throughout the 2016 season.

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Henderson will attempt to follow the footsteps of Lucía Castro, one of the best players to play for the Panthers in recent years. Like Henderson, Castro was an outside hitter, and finished in the top ten of various FIU volleyball record books.

The Panthers are a young team and will be looking to utilize Henderson’s abilities and talents throughout the 2016 season.