

Sweetwater housing will not provide parking

CARLOS COBA
Assistant News Director

Future student residents of the private off-campus development being built north of Modesto A. Maidique campus, 109Tower, will have to cross Southwest Eighth Street to get to their vehicles.

109Tower will add 542 beds to the University and will be specifically managed for collegiate housing, but it will not provide its residents on-site parking. Residents will have to park in one of MMC's garages, where parking is provided to all students via the parking fee portion of tuition.

The development is unaffiliated with the University; it is being privately built and will be privately managed.

"This housing project is a sign

that private developers are interested in investing in off-campus housing," said Robert Griffith, director of Facilities Planning.

Due to the fact that 109Tower is a private off-campus development, it does not have to be consistent with the University's methods of developing student housing. According to Jim Wassenaar, director of Facilities Planning and Operations, the University generally applies one parking spot for every two beds that are added to housing inventory. There are only 20-25 parking spots available in this 15-story development, designated for logistical purposes.

"When I evaluated that project, I indicated my concern with the lack of parking being provided,"

SEE HOUSING, PAGE 2

STUDENTS COMMEMORATE 9/11



BEACON FILE PHOTO

Members from the FIU community gather together in the GC Pit to commemorate the 9/11 attacks. Students arranged lighted candles and had a moment of silence in memory of the attacks. This year will mark the 12th anniversary of the attacks that killed thousands of American men, women and children in New York, a field near Shanksville, Pennsylvania and Washington, D.C in 2001.

Should Stand Your Ground be an elective course at FIU?

MARISOL MEDINA
Staff Writer

In Florida's most recent high profile court case, the Stand Your Ground law became key in determining George Zimmerman's acquittal of second-degree murder. Upon the verdict, Trayvon Martin became one more victim of justifiable murder cases in Florida, which have tripled since the law was passed in 2005, according to the Washington Post.

The law's unprecedented notoriety has led Florida Atlantic University to start a new elective course focusing on the Stand Your Ground law and its implications, as well as the school being the only university offering such a course according to the Sun Sentinel.

Phyllis Kotey, an FIU Law clinical associate professor that specializes in criminal law, believes the class would be best offered to general students, given that most non-legal people don't understand the complications involved with Stand Your Ground, and the FIU Law graduate students are

already taught Stand Your Ground in their Criminal Law classes.

"I think the course would work best as an introductory course to our new students who are just entering adulthood as they come to college and are not familiar with their rights as citizens," said Kotey.

Kotey believes an entire course about Stand Your Ground for law students would be too narrow in scope, where the concept alone could be taught in a week. She instead suggests the possibility of a Stand Your Ground seminar at FIU.

"A seminar where students express their different perspectives in terms of the law's implications throughout the state, whether the law should be changed and what changes, if any, should be made, would be a good course to teach students," said Kotey.

Joelle Moreno, the associate dean for Research and Faculty Development and a law professor at FIU, said in an e-mail that she is interested in FAU's Stand Your

Ground course.

"It will be interesting to see how the course at FAU, taught by Broward County Assistant Public Defender Frank de la Torre, is constructed and received," said Moreno.

Moreno, who was part of a panel led by State Sen. Chris Smith, tasked with reviewing the law, said, "I believe that thoughtful and well-informed discussion of this new law is important in the context of a robust understanding of criminal law trends."

Kendra New, a first-year law student at FIU, also believes that general society, not only lawyers, should be more educated about Stand Your Ground and other self-defense laws.

"I think people need to know what it would take to have the law be applicable to them. I don't want it to become an overused defense, where it can justify any murder. If people understand what the true elements are, our society

SEE LAW, PAGE 2

University expands Communities in Schools program

MACKENZIE BARTELS
Contributing Writer

This fall, beginning the week of Sept. 23, 2013, FIU is launching a mentoring program that will pair students from Miami Northwestern High School with FIU faculty and staff.

There will be two programs: Fostering Panther Pride, which is intended for students who are or have been homeless or in the foster care system, and Golden Scholars Bridge Program, which intends to help provisionally admitted students transition into college life.

While these two programs are new engagements, this will be the University's second year participating in the Communities In Schools (CIS) program.

This year, FIU is extending the program to the Biscayne Bay campus as well. CIS will provide transportation for the students to both

campuses.

The Office of Human Resources is collaborating with the Office of Undergraduate Studies, the Office of Enrollment Services and the Office of Engagement to make sure that the students get even more out of the program its second year running.

El pagnier K. Hudson, the assistant vice president of FIU human resources and former Miami Northwestern graduate, said that CIS contacted FIU.

"We want to provide a platform, a place where they can go to get information, to get direction," said Hudson. "Someone to share with, or ask questions of, or somebody to challenge you. Sometimes you just need somebody to push you a little bit more."

Heidy Louisy, the assistant director of human resources at BBC, said that one of the most important things about the program is to retain incoming freshmen students.

"We tend to see if there isn't that guidance, or someone that's really there for them, it might take them a lot longer to get through the process," said Louisy.

At the University of Miami, Hudson said that having a resource for everything from her studies to simply navigating around the campus changed her experience.

"You have a go-to person and you feel a sense of connectedness," said Hudson.

CIS will provide as many students as there are available mentors. Between the two campuses, there are currently 39 mentors, but applications remain open with no deadline.

Becoming a mentor requires that each applicant passes a Florida Department of Law Enforcement background check and complete Miami-Dade County Public Schools fingerprinting. Mentors will also attend a Sept. 20 workshop to launch the programs.

The workshop will include a panel of

mentees that participated last year and a group coming in to speak from Florida State University.

"I think that we, as a university, got a greater benefit from the program than maybe even CIS intended," said Hudson.

According to Hudson, 85 to 90 percent of the students mentored last year are now attending college.

Hudson said that she personally feels that mentoring is a great segway into the next level of education.

"I think one of the things as professionals we always focus on is continuous improvement," said Louisy, "we are always looking for a way to enhance the services that we provide."

MMC will launch the program on Tuesday, Sept. 24 and BBC will start on Wednesday, Sept. 25.

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WORLD NEWS

Mexico president gambles with left-leaning reform

President Enrique Pena Nieto is gambling that a surprise plan to increase social spending and raise taxes on wealthier Mexicans can quiet much of the left-wing opposition to his most ambitious proposal, opening the state-owned oil company to private investment, analysts and politicians said Monday.

Pena Nieto took aback critics and supporters alike Sunday night with a fiscal reform plan that would introduce Mexico's first national pension and unemployment insurance plans, along with its first capital gains and dividends taxes, its first carbon tax and its first tax on sugary drinks.

Afghans mark killing of northern rebel leader

Afghans on Monday honored a rebel leader who was slain two days before the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks, and whose fellow fighters helped the U.S. overthrow the Taliban government.

The annual commemoration marks the anniversary of the death of Ahmad Shah Massoud, a legendary ethnic Tajik commander of the Northern Alliance. He remains widely admired in this country for his resistance to Soviet rule as well as to the Taliban, whose harsh interpretation of Islam made life unbearable for numerous Afghans in the late 1990s.

For more world news, check out www.FIUSM.com.

CORRECTIONS

In Volume 25, Issue 11, the women's soccer photo was incorrectly labeled as a Beacon File photo. The photo was taken by Romina Angelelli.

The Beacon will gladly change any errors. Call our MMC office at 305-348-2709 or BBC at 305-919-4722.

Parking not provided for FIU off-campus housing

SWEETWATER, PAGE 1

said Wassenaar. "Our hope is that the private sector will provide good housing solutions for our students and safe access to campus."

Safe access to campus and back will be an issue for future residents of 109Tower; they will have to constantly use the pedestrian walkway located at the intersection of Southwest Eighth Street and 109th Avenue, between Red Garage and PG5.

Administration emphasizes that the University and the City of Sweetwater are planning the construction of a pedestrian bridge in the area of said intersection.

"The Florida Department of Transportation is committed to creating a safe crossing for students," said Griffith. "We feel the bridge will not only make it safe for students, but will also avoid congestion of traffic."

The pedestrian bridge is part of UniversityCity Alliance, a project involving the university, the City of Sweetwater, Miami-Dade County, Miami-Dade

Expressway Authority, and the FDOT. Construction is set to begin in fall of 2014.

"The FDOT grant is coming through for the bridge project, which will

housing complex without providing something as essential as parking," said Valencia Augustin, senior public relations major and on-campus resident.

parking accommodations has financial disadvantages.

"It's a matter of cost when you're dealing with a development that is so close to campus," said Scott

Barton, vice president of EdR's real estate acquisitions. "The parcels of land are limited and the cost of building structured parking is very high."

Off-campus housing will increase as private developers step in to meet the high demand for student housing. This housing might not provide certain accommodations that are usually expected, such as parking.

"More private developers will build," said Wassenaar. "Two to three large projects are being considered."

Student residents weighed in on the issue of off-campus housing.

"Off-campus developments are a good idea to meet the needs of the growing student population," said Massucci. "They give students a choice that many other schools do not offer."

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“Our hope is that the private sector will provide good housing solutions for our students and safe access to campus.”

Jim Wassenaar
Director
Facilities Planning and Operations

move quickly," said Griffith.

As quickly as the bridge project might progress, however, it would probably be in the earliest stages of its construction by the time that students move into 109Tower. The date of 109Tower's completion is set for August 2014. Until then, student residents will have to rely on traffic lights, pedestrian walkways and drivers' discretion. "I don't understand why anyone would construct a nice

Some students wouldn't mind the commute.

"I currently live two minutes away from the Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine, which is very convenient," said Nicole Massucci, a graduate student from the College of Medicine. "I, personally, would choose to cross the street."

When asked about the lack of on-site parking, EdR, 109Tower's developer, pointed out that providing

Stand Your Ground law as a course

LAW, PAGE 1

would be much better off," said New.

New studied criminology as an

undergraduate at the University of Tampa, has an interest for criminal law and would like to learn more about Stand Your Ground at FIU. She feels that lawyers, especially those that

pursue criminal law, should have a thorough knowledge of the law as it is becoming more prevalent.

Grettel Zubiaur, a first-year law student at FIU, would be interested in taking the course as an elective in addition to the criminal law classes

erty, and the law is just a protection to a natural human reaction of defense under a stressful situation, but since the law can be used to justify murder,

addressing the public's lack of knowledge about the law would be great," said Zubiaur.

For now, students interested in furthering a discussion about Stand Your Ground can attend an upcoming Roundtable Discussion session discussing the Trayvon Martin Verdict. The session is organized by the African & African Diaspora Studies Program and will be held on Sept. 13 in GC 150 at the Modesto Maidique Campus.

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“I think people need to know what it would take to have the law be applicable to them. I don't want it to become an overused defense, where it can justify any murder. If people understand what the true elements are, our society would be much better off.”

Kendra New
First-year student
Law

already offered at FIU. "I think everyone has a right to protect themselves and their prop-

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You should sign out, maybe?

JENNA KEFAUVER
Staff Writer

For those of you who don't know, the Green Library rents out iPads, Kindles and laptops for free; the iPads and Kindles for 24 hours and the laptops for three hours. Which is awesome, especially for me because I don't have an iPad or a Kindle.

What's not awesome is turning them on and accidentally seeing parts of someone's private conversation because they forgot to sign out of Facebook, iMessage, Twitter or a dating/hookup site.

And now I know too much about a stranger I've never met, which is just awful because I might eventually have them in class or something.

These people will never know because I'm not the type of person that finds it funny to hack someone's Facebook status and write "This person forgot to sign out so now I'm going

to post something stupid about what they like which everyone knows they don't."

But it's still awkward.

Last night, after checking out an iPad, I decided to watch Netflix.

downloaded some weird sexual positions app.

I never needed to know anything about your Kama Sutra positions and seeing as you left your Netflix signed in, I know who you are.

And even though I wasn't expecting to find a beer pong game app on there, that was fun.

So thanks for that.

But, seriously, just realize that there are over 40 thousand students that attend the University and any one of them can see what you've been doing on the library devices if you don't sign out.

No one needs to know about the boy or the girl you like or the Twitter

direct message conversation you've had, so sign out next time.

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No one needs to know about the boy or the girl you like or the Twitter direct message conversation you've had, so sign out next time.

I signed in on the Netflix site with my account information, but it took me to whoever had used the application before me, and I was five minutes into an episode of Cake Boss before I realized I wasn't on my account.

Also, don't download gross applications.

And if you do, delete them.

No one needs to know that you

Outgrowing our childhood

NERLYN GALAN
Contributing Writer

Do you remember when you were a kid in elementary school and you had a backpack with a cartoon character on it?

You might have had one with a character from "The Powerpuff Girls," "Mighty Morphin Power Rangers" or "Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles" – shows considered cool at the time.

Your bag might have changed every year, a new character displayed on the back.

Although, things must have changed when you went to middle school since you were older and suddenly previous cartoons weren't considered cool anymore.

While taking my middle-school aged sister backpack shopping, she refused to get a beautiful "The Little Mermaid" bag, who she loved, because it was "too childish" and "uncool."

Yet walking around campus, I see people with bags and cell phone covers displaying the same cartoon characters we were suddenly too old for not so long

ago.

Do we ever really outgrow our childhood idols or are we just succumbing to some massive societal norm?

I think we are.

When we were in middle school and high school, we were afraid to express ourselves in this way because we thought we were going to be made fun of and fall down the imaginary social ladder.

However, in college, this staircase is burnt down and forgotten because no one cares enough to make fun of it or point it out.

Everyone here has the freedom and the right to express their individualism; with no societal group standards to meet, there isn't any fear.

Oddly enough, it's also about maturity and respect; we are all old enough to understand that people have the right to walk around with whatever they want.

While you might not share the same taste, you don't make fun of it because they don't make fun of you.

Even though some people do have mature tastes, they are respectful and even encouraging to those that express

their childish taste on-campus.

These childish cartoon items can be great conversation starters because they catch the attention of the people who used to or still watch the shows.

Why is it that after all these years later, after outgrowing them and conforming to different standards, some of us decide to use them again?

"Internally, you never outgrow cartoons – they're reminders of a time you can never revisit," said Danielle Van Der Eijk, a freshman international business major. "But externally, some people tend to dismiss their existence because they would rather dress or represent the person they are now."

This is very true and although we'll probably have to leave behind our childhood things in the future while out in the real world, it's nice to know that you never really outgrow them.

The freedom we currently have in college allows us to be as childish as we want or as mature as can be. There is nothing stopping us from expressing ourselves.

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THE BEACON | Editorial

Services available to you aren't as bad as you think they are

As we enter the third week of the 2013 fall semester, we want to give a progress report of some concerns and newest policies that students face this semester.

A main problem that students face this semester, and almost every semester, is difficulties with parking and navigation throughout the campus.

We also want to look into the dining experience and services that are provided on campus.

As far as parking is concerned, it's the normal 'if you get here after 9 a.m., good luck finding parking in the Gold and Blue garages.' However, we noticed that the University has taken some steps into helping with the parking dilemma by offering a shuttle from Tamiami to Modesto Maidique Campus.

Also, the University has additional parking in lot four, which is located south of the former Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity house and lot five, which is located south of the School of Music.

The parking issue can also be easily solved by carpooling with fellow students, if possible. Carpool spaces are practically always available and only require students to register at get2fiu.com.

However, even with these additional services and lots that are being provided, students still find difficulty finding parking.

Granted, some of this may be due to just plain laziness and students not wanting to walk a little bit farther to their classes, but it can't be denied that enrollment is increasing.

Each person on campus could use the extra walk since for the most part, we spend our days sitting in a classroom listening to professors talk or sitting in front of a computer screen updating our Facebook statuses.

If students aren't complaining about the parking situation, they spend their time bashing the food that is served on campus and why their favorite restaurant or fast food place isn't available for them.

The truth is that the food provided on campus isn't as bad as students make it out to seem. Think about the places that students eat such as Subway, Chick-Fil-A, Moe's, Sushi Maki and Bustelo just to name a few.

The University is even constructing a new building, MANGO, which will include a Taco Bell and Panda Express to add to the diversity of the food experience at FIU.

Of course, the one place that seems to avoid all criticism is Chilis and we wonder why? The University continues to expand their dining experience by adding different meal choices to the campus.

The recently added Greek and Middle Eastern venue Almazar, which opened up this summer, giving the campus even more of a selection when it comes to a student's dining experience.

Still, students may find different topics to complain about whether it be parking or transportation or even what food is being served on campus but one thing's for certain, students should do less complaining and actually stop and think about what is being provided to them.

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Student researches cardiac stem cells from zebrafish during Harvard internship

EDWIVE SEME
Staff Writer

"It felt surreal, it didn't hit until I left the program to be," said Chavely Valdez Sanchez after her internship at Harvard. "I never saw this summer going this way...It was more than I could have wished for."

Chavely Valdez Sanchez is a senior majoring in biology at FIU, and was one of the two FIU students accepted for the Howard Hughes Medical Institute program this summer.

"We were nominated and we both got accepted which FIU never had," added Valdez.

Through this program she was able to become one of the 44 undergraduate students around the country to conduct stem cell research at Harvard.

"Chavely's very hardworking, and very curious," said Irina Agoulnik, associate professor in the Department of Cellular Biology and Pharmacology. "She was always dedicated; she would be patiently working until she masters a technique before moving on, and she's also a very positive person. I think she can inspire other people to do well and take advantage of opportunities."

Valdez usually is part of Agoulnik's cancer research lab, but this

summer she wanted something different.

"Stem cells in cardiac development and cancer research are very different fields of biology and I think the reason why she chose it is so she can experience this very different part of research," said Agoulnik.

Sanchez chose to study stem cells because she thought it would pose a greater challenge while also learning something new.

"I've never really learned anything about them [stem cells]; we've only touched upon it in my science classes," said Sanchez. "And stem cells are amazing, so why not?"

Her research was specific to stem cells in cardiac development, and Sanchez was able to study the development of zebrafish up close from birth in order to understand cardiac diseases in humans. It focused on the Outflow Tract, which is made of elastin and smooth muscle and is responsible for pumping blood to the body and lungs. Therefore, any defect to it will affect blood circulation. In humans, there is a condition called Supravalvular Aortic Stenosis which causes a mutation in the elastin gene, and thus decreases elastin levels and increases smooth muscles in the OFT, making it more narrow

which reduces blood flow. Sanchez tried to find out about this interaction by mimicking the condition in the zebrafish.

"I literally saw them grow from being one cell until they become this little fish. What's fascinating about them is that they're transparent," said Sanchez. "You can see the heart of the fish and you

which is involved with smooth muscle and elastin regulation.

"If you inhibit certain molecules, we noticed that we can actually reduce elastin levels or manipulate smooth muscle proliferation," said Sanchez. Once the zebrafish were about three days old, Sanchez and her group would put chemicals in the plate

toward concluding that this was the pathway we need to target to study that condition."

Sanchez worked with two young Principal Investigators and had a daily mentor, and other times she would also work with actual Harvard graduate and undergraduate students. Throughout the semester they were available to help her whenever she needed, showing interest in the work she was doing and making sure she has a good experience.

"The PIs that I worked with were younger and aren't that well known and I think that worked to my advantage," said Sanchez. "A lot of my roommates worked with people such as George Daley, a lot of big names, and they told me they barely met with them because they didn't have time for undergraduates."

In addition to learning about this field of research, working with the fascinating zebrafish, and meeting new people, Sanchez also got to enjoy the new environment, "One of my favorite parts of the program was getting to be in a different city, a very nice area. So many things to do like festivals, and people are very nice. It's a place that has a lot to offer," said Sanchez.

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CHEN HOWEN/CREATIVE COMMONS

can see the blood being pumped out, so that's really cool."

In addition to being able to monitor blood circulation because of their transparency, the zebrafish is also able to live without a heart for three days. "If you do induce any defects to the heart, you can actually track the progress of the fish and the case of the defect running, that's why it's very good to use the zebrafish for heart research," explained Sanchez.

The project targeted the nitric oxide-guanylyl cyclase pathway

they were in to see how it affects elastin and if it decreases or not, they could see the part of heart with elastin and see if there was any change.

"We treated them with certain chemicals and we noticed there was a decrease in elastin level so in that aspect we mimicked the condition, but we weren't able to figure out why smooth muscle increased because we didn't see any change," said Sanchez. "But the fact that we were able to manipulate elastin and smooth muscle was a step

What to expect during Panhellenic Recruitment

NICOLE AGUIAR
Staff Writer

Sorority recruitment is right around the corner, beginning Sept. 14, and for many who have never been through this process, it can be exciting, nerve-wracking and overwhelming all at the same time; all of which is completely normal to feel when in pursuit of the letters one hopes to hold dear to her heart one day. Since everyone only gets one chance to pick lifelong sisters, it is helpful to have an idea of what to expect during the two weekends of recruitment.

Expect to meet many different women. Do not expect them all to fall under a certain stereotype (pretty, smart, dumb, etc.)

because these words are nothing more than that: a stereotype.

"Keep an open mind. All sororities have great values and traditions. Get to know each and every one so that when you run off on Bid Day to your chosen sorority, you will be sure you found your second home like I did," said sophomore Tiffany Ruiz.

First, each woman will be assigned a Rho Gamma, which means Recruitment Guide, which will be announced at "Meet your Rho Gamma" on Sept. 13. This is whom the women going through recruitment will be reporting to at the beginning of every day as well as in between parties. She is an affiliated woman who temporarily gives up

her letters in order to properly help others women find theirs. She will be the one to give out the schedule to her Rho Gamma group each day, the one many women will turn to for advice during the process, and the one who will hold the group's cell phones, wallets, watches and other belongings while her "Rho babies" are at their parties.

As I am sure you could guess, these "parties" hosted during recruitment are not the typical music and dancing kind of party. They are where woman going through recruitment will get the opportunity to speak to someone from each organization and learn about their activities, goals, philanthropy, traditions, etc. This is basically

when they get to see for themselves what each organization is about and learn which the best is for them.

"I struggled through the process of opening up to the women I spoke to and sometimes let my nerves get the best of me. Towards the end of the process, I realized I just had to let go and be myself," said sophomore Doris Gonzalez.

As natural as it may seem to stress over which organization to join, the advice many sorority women would give is to try to remain relaxed and enjoy your time during recruitment.

"Don't be nervous, at the end of the process you're going to end up exactly where you belong," said Gonzalez.

At the end of each night, the women in the process will be voting on their top picks as will the sorority women. It is a mutual selection process.

Day One: "Sorority 101": This is the day everyone is scheduled to attend all seven of the organizations' parties. It will be their first time attending a recruitment party which means it will be the first time they walk into a room with 100 plus girls singing and clapping. No one should be alarmed, this is normal. On Sorority 101, expect the conversation to be very light because the parties are the shortest. Conversations might also be held in small groups rather than one-on-one just because there are more

people.

Day Two: "Philanthropy": This day is themed "philanthropy" which is the donation of money to a certain cause. On this night most of the women will be attending up to five parties (don't worry if you don't have five, that's fine).

Each organization has a philanthropy it supports and raises money for through its events.

Not everyone going through the process is involved in philanthropy work or knows much about it, but feel free to ask questions.

During the week in between recruitment, sorority women are not allowed to contact any

RECRUITMENT, PAGE 5

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Documenting FIU since 1990

Students teaching themselves biology

KIERON WILLIAMS
Contributing Writer

Last month, FIU partnered up with Miami-Dade Public Schools and invited more than 20 teachers from around Dade County to a workshop on biology modeling instruction.

Unlike the way most FIU students learned biology, this method is far more student-driven. Biology modeling involves treating students as practicing scientists that are developing and deploying a model based on the subject of the class.

For example, the teachers in the workshop developed models of plant cells through experiments with waterweed plants and potatoes.

This method of instruction lets the teacher take a step back and gets the students more active in their own education by communicating ideas, solving problems and analyzing their experiments, preparing them for real work in a scientific community.

FIU's STEM Transfor-

mation Institute is at the forefront of these innovative approaches to education. STEM stands for Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics, the majors that are becoming more and more necessary as the world evolves and newer problems unfold.

The STEM Transformation Institute was founded as FIU's call to action, empowering potential engineers and scientists with the knowledge and practical experience that will prepare them to take on the world.

Although biology modeling is fairly new, modeling instruction in both chemistry and physics have been in use at FIU for the past 10 years.

"Traditionally your job as a professor is to convey the information, but students are not going to learn anything if they are not motivated to learn or put in the effort," said David Brookes, assistant professor of physics. "I take on this role of designing the environment to help them see the point

in what they're doing. If I can get students to want to work hard, that's 90 percent of my job done."

Brookes is a part of a new breed of professors who have come to understand that lecturing to students has become outdated.

"When my class usually comes in on the first day of school, they're afraid of physics," he said. "So I do this activity where I ask them to name something they're good at outside of academics. I split them up into groups, and ask them to come up with a learning cycle that would show everyone what it would take to become an expert in their hobby. While they're designing this learning process, I go around the room and ask them things, like 'what do you do if you fail?' And they'll say, 'well, we read tutorials, we analyze our mistakes and we practice until we get it right.' This shows me that students are already expert

SUPER STARS



STEPHANIE MASON/THE BEACON

A select number of students received the honor of attending an event where Olympian Billy Demong and Paralympian Sam Kavanagh both spoke to share their success stories. The students were able to mingle with the athletes and enjoy a complimentary coffee bar after the speeches.

learners, they just don't apply that expertise to their school subjects."

Brookes's goal, as well as the goal of similar professors, is to get students to access the knowledge they already have about learning.

"Students can learn physics if I can reorient their attitudes and convince them to put in

the work," Brookes said. "I'm teaching them how to learn."

Sofia Schlossman, a STEM student majoring in biomedical engineering, sees the potential value of herself and her classmates.

Schlossman believes that an added difficulty of being a STEM student is that the University is "counting on [the students'

success]."

"We aren't really a well-known school but we're trying to get our name out there, putting a lot of money into STEM research and encouraging students to go to conferences and competitions."

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Recruitment: a time of discovery and sisterhood

RECRUITMENT, PAGE 4

woman going through recruitment.

Day Three: "Sisterhood and Traditions": This is the first day back after a whole week off, and everyone will

have less sororities to visit (no more than three) and much longer parties.

This night is when the candidates already begin to have a much better idea of what they are looking for in an organization.

Day Four: "Preference": By now, most women are down to their last two organizations, and here is when conversations become the most serious, including topics such as the traditions, principles and values

of each chapter. It may include a presentation or ceremony depending on the sorority.

Bid Day: The most anticipated day of them all, when every woman learns which organization they

can now call home. Sometimes a bid turns out to be a complete shock, other times there was never a doubt.

Either way, this is an "everything happens for a reason" kind of day. Each woman in the process will

receive an envelope which will hold her Greek fate: a bid from her new sisters.

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How to invest in your health care for the future

KEN SWEET
Associated Press

You already can invest your retirement money and your kid's college savings on Wall Street. Next on the list: your health care.

A growing number of employees are required by companies to set up special savings accounts to cover part of their medical bills. Over time, they are also encouraged to invest a portion of it in stocks, bonds or a mutual fund, just like they do with a 401(k) or IRA.

Americans now have \$18 billion in Health Savings Accounts, a type of plan that allows them to save pre-tax dollars for future medical expenses, according to the Employee Benefit Research Institute, a non-partisan group that studies worker benefits. That's up more than 40 percent from a year ago. The amount of money in

HSAs is expected to double by the end of 2015, according to consulting firm Devenir.

"They have nowhere to go but up," says Paul Fronstin, a researcher at EBRI.

An HSA is similar to the better-known Flexible Spending Account. Like in an FSA, an employee puts pre-tax dollars into a special account to use toward medical expenses not covered by insurance, from dental check-ups to prescription drug co-pays.

But the similarities end there. Unlike an FSA, HSAs do not have a "use it or lose it" rule, so the money carries over year to year. A majority of companies who offer HSAs also contribute to the account, more than \$1,000 a year for families, according to EBRI. HSAs are also portable. An employee can take their HSA to their next job or save the money for future use. The accounts can also provide significant tax advantages when used correctly.

For workers, HSAs offer flexibility, although they are not appropriate for everyone.

For employers the accounts can provide savings. The plans have been shown to slow the rise in health care costs, or even lower them.

For Wall Street, HSA's are another way to make money. Why? The savings in HSAs can be invested once they hit a certain threshold, typically \$2,000.

Nearly all HSA accounts are used in combination with a type of health insurance known as a high-deductible health plan, or HDHP. These plans are also sometimes known as a "Consumer Driven Health Plan." As their name implies, HDHPs have high deductibles, often \$1,200 or greater for a single person, or \$2,400 for a family.

HDHPs provide coverage for medical emergencies, leaving the day-to-day health care costs to the employee. HSAs can be

used along with a HDHP to help offset those day-to-day costs.

When used correctly, HSAs can also provide a triple tax advantage, something even a 401(k) or IRA cannot do. The money put into an HSA is not subject to federal income tax and if the money is invested, any growth is tax-free as well. Any money used toward eligible medical expenses can be tax-free too.

If your employer hasn't offered an HDHP plan yet, it's only a matter of time. By next year, 80 percent of all large employers will offer a HDHP, according to 2013 employer survey by Towers Watson. The vast majority of those HDHP plans will include an HSA, according to the survey.

"Companies are becoming more interested in offering medical benefits that put a lot of the ownership on the employee," says Elizabeth Ryan, head of Wells Fargo's Health Benefit Services.

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Football commits for 2014 showing promise in senior campaigns

RHYS WILLIAMS
Staff Writer

Saturday night Sept. 7 had the Wolverines of Belen Jesuit taking on the Christopher Columbus High School Explorers in a rivalry game at FIU Stadium.

The Explorers, who won the game by an impressive score of 37-0, are led on defense by future Panther Senior linebacker Nick McBeath.

"When I have Nick McBeath on the field, I know that side of the defense is secured pretty well," Columbus Head Coach Chris Merritt said. "We are going to put him to the wide side of the field where we think we are going to get attacked because he is one of the best. He is a Division-1 player and we know that if we put our best at the point of attack that we had a better chance to win. The shutout tonight

was a good indicator of that."

Merritt also commented on McBeath's readiness to transition to the collegiate level.

"I don't think there is any better place in the state to get these athletes ready to play college football than Dade County," said Merritt. "They are playing other athletes who are Division-1 talent and I believe he will transition great to the next level."

The Explorers, who will face American Heritage High School in Plantation Friday, will look to improve from a 1-1 start. The loss this season was to South Dade High School in Homestead.

The lass of 2014 commits also include Luke Medlock, the younger brother of current Panthers quarterback Jake Medlock and backup long-snapper Sam Medlock.

Luke is the starting quarterback for the Fletcher High School Senators in

Neptune Beach, Fla.

Medlock, who scored twice for the Senators, had a one-yard touchdown run in the second quarter and a reception touchdown for 10 yards in an overtime game last Friday.

Overall, he had three completions on 14 pass attempts for 52 yards and an interception.

The Senators go into week three of the season with a record of 1-1 and will face the Sandalwood High School Saints of Jacksonville, Fla, who come in with a 2-0 record.

Along with Medlock and McBeath, a defensive tackle that will join the Panthers next summer is 6 foot 9 inches tall, 320 pound Joshua Deuyour.

Deuyour, who is a stand out for the Hollywood Hills High School Spartans, also plays basketball and anchors a defensive line that goes into their week three matchup with the Everglades High School Gators in Miramar, Fla on



BEACON FILE PHOTO

Luke Medlock, younger brother of Jake Medlock, quarterback, and Sam Medlock, backup long-snapper, has committed to FIU. Luke Medlock will be graduating from Fletcher High School in Neptune Beach, Fla. Older brother Jake Medlock is a red-shirt junior.

Thurs, Sept 12.

Outside of McBeath, there are four other recruits from the Miami area including Anthony Brown from Killian High School, who is listed as a defensive end.

Mark Bruno will join Brown and Deuyour on the defensive side of the ball at cornerback from Flanagan High School in Pembroke Pines.

As well as Tyree Johnson, who currently suits up for the Carol City

High School Chiefs of Miami as a cornerback. The lone safety in the recruiting class is Andrew Soroh, who will graduate from American High School in Hialeah in the spring.

The incoming recruiting class holds no athletes from outside the state of Florida, but to date has 16 commitments.

Those 16 include seven primarily defensive players, five players that play multiple positions,

and four primarily offensive players.

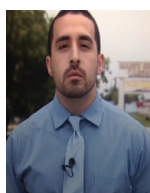
Those numbers include a single offensive tackle in Chris Miller from First Academy in Orlando and a pair of quarterbacks in Medlock and Alex McGough from Gaither High School in Tampa.

National Signing Day for these commits will be in early Feb. 2014.

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Panthers falter in the eye of the Storm

COLUMNIST



PATRICK CHALVIRE

No support and missed opportunities seemed to be the norm for the Panthers as they opened up at home against the Knights of Central Florida.

Friday night came and went and by the looks of it, the Panthers may have been happy it didn't last any longer.

In a stadium filled with Knights fans and their rambunctious band, home field advantage didn't seem to make a factor at all.

Blown coverages, pressure on quarterback Jake Medlock and dropped passes all seemed to become habit in the home opener.

After losing 38-0, the team has been outscored by a combined 81-10 in just two games, as well as being outgained 966-354 in total yards.

On Friday, the Panthers seemed to finally get some

motivation going as a series of quick slants from Medlock to receiver Fred Porter brought the Panthers

would say this team is on a downhill spiral to the point of no return, but to Medlock, there isn't a drop

moved the ball."

I'm going to assume he meant moving the ball after the first quarter.



CARL-FREDERICK FRANCOIS/THE BEACON

As the FIU football team continues their first season in conference USA, the road ahead looks like a long one.

to a 34-yard field goal, though a wide right by kicker Sergio Sroka failed to put points on the board at the half.

To the naked eye, one

of concern.

"I feel we improved 100 percent," Medlock said. "Even though we're a young team, we're very athletic, very talented. We

The Panthers failed to get one first down throughout the quarter, and finished the game with 10, to the Knights 16.

The highlight of the

game went to UCF's six-foot monster of a running back Storm Johnson. Johnson ran for 89 yards and three touchdowns on 18 carries.

"He's one of the best backs we'll play," senior defensive tackle Greg Hickman said. "I think we did pretty well for the most part."

Quarterback Blake Bortles had his was with the Panther defense.

Going 12 for 19, 214 yards and a touchdown, with two big plays to receiver Rannell Hall for 60 yards, and then 34.

It looks like a week of training and watching tape of last week's game didn't seem to help the defense work on over commitment by their secondary.

All of them coming from corners Sam Miller and Randy Harvey, along with another for Justin Halley.

"We still make too many mistake," Head Coach Ron Turner said. "We made mistakes we can't have. We played a very good foot-

ball team; let's give them credit. We had opportunities to make plays in the first quarter on offense, defense and special teams."

Halley, a redshirt junior, continued where he left off from last week.

Must be missing his former teammate Johnathan Cyprien.

Halley also dropped an easy interception.

The offense also hurt themselves with penalties.

Four of them for 31 yards.

Not a lot on the box score, but costly when they turned third-and-short plays to third-and-long plays.

Plays that would later fall short of converting to a first down.

The Panthers will now look to try and fix those mental mistakes once again as they face the Bethune-Cookman Wildcats. The Wildcats will enter FIU Stadium undefeated, recently beating Virginia Union 66-7.

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New coach brings fresh perspective to Panthers

STEVEN ROWELL
Staff Writer

Despite not having much coaching experience to show for, new Assistant Coach Lindsay Bowen brings a different element to the coaching staff of the women's basketball team.

Bowen, a former standout at Michigan State University, is someone the players can relate to. Bowen was once a student-athlete just as the women on the lady Panthers are currently.

"It is nice to be able to relate to the girls, and yeah it's very tough, you have to be responsible and have time management," Assistant Coach Lindsay Bowen said.

As the men's basketball team has had problems with APR and many of their players have issues on the academic side, Bowen supports the idea of being a student-athlete with the student side coming first and likes what she sees from the FIU women's basketball team when it comes to hitting the books and the classroom.

"There is tons of academic support and the girls have study halls and they are very focused in their books and that's great, Bowen said. "It's a lot of pressure on them but they do really well in the classroom and on the floor." Bowen said.

While Bowen will have the chance to share her experiences as a student-athlete with the team, Bowen also has experience of playing basketball on the professional level. Bowen played a few years in the WNBA with the New York Liberty.

"The WNBA is great league; there are not many teams but it is very competitive and it's the best players in the world that play there," Bowen said.

Bowen looks forward to preparing senior Jerica Coley, who might be bound for the WNBA draft after her tenure at FIU. Bowen, like Coley, was also a point guard.

"She is a very athletic player and can make an impact in that league [WNBA] and she is obviously a great player and we believe in her, and for sure I can definitely help her," Bowen said.

While Bowen was a former college and WNBA player, she also has experience of playing overseas which is also another alternative that many players do after college if they do not make it to a WNBA squad.

"It was life changing going there, it's a different world, it kind of opened my eyes and made me appreciate what I have here," Bowen said. "It was a great experience and I encourage any player who gets the opportunity to go over-

seas to play. A lot of times too, players will play in the WNBA and then go play overseas for like six to seven months to make it a year round thing. Getting a lot of experience and a lot of playing time."

Bowen also has been in favor of the Panthers playing their up-tempo style that was seen last season and sees it being effective for them this upcoming season.

"We definitely want to run, push the ball and get easy buckets, that's what we want to do, so definitely an up-tempo style but we also want to play with poise and with patience as well in the half court," Bowen said.

With the up-tempo offense comes questions about how effective the defense can be.

"We have a lot of energy on the offensive end but we need to have that same intensity on the defensive end and taking it one step at a time," Bowen said. "It's tough but the girls are great and are very coachable."

As Bowen enters her first season, she hopes that her experience as a former player can be a new dimension to the coaching staff and be of benefit to the team for this season and beyond.

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Nyad plans to meet with swimmers doubting her feat

JENNIFER KAY
Associated Press

Diana Nyad is planning to meet with members of the marathon swimming community who are skeptical about her 110-mile swim from Cuba to Florida, her team said Monday.

Since Nyad finished her swim last week, long-distance swimmers have been debating on social media and in online forums whether the 64-year-old endurance athlete got into or held onto the boat accompanying her. They say she could not have picked up as much speed as she says she did from the fast-moving Gulf Stream current.

"Diana is proud of what she and her team accomplished last week, and she is committed to complete transparency," said Alexandra Croton, one of Nyad's spokeswomen.

Nyad planned to meet Tuesday with "her peers in the swimming community," Croton said.

Her navigator, as well as one of the swim's two official observers, told The Associated Press over the weekend that Nyad swam in favorable currents the entire distance herself without aid.

According to Nyad's team, she finished the swim Sept. 2 after roughly 53 hours in the water, becoming the first to do so without a shark cage. It was her fifth try over the course of more than 30 years.

Nyad's progress was tracked online via GPS by her team — data that is now fueling speculation that Nyad stopped swimming or received assistance for hours at a time in the middle of the Florida Straits.

Many wonder about a roughly seven-hour stretch

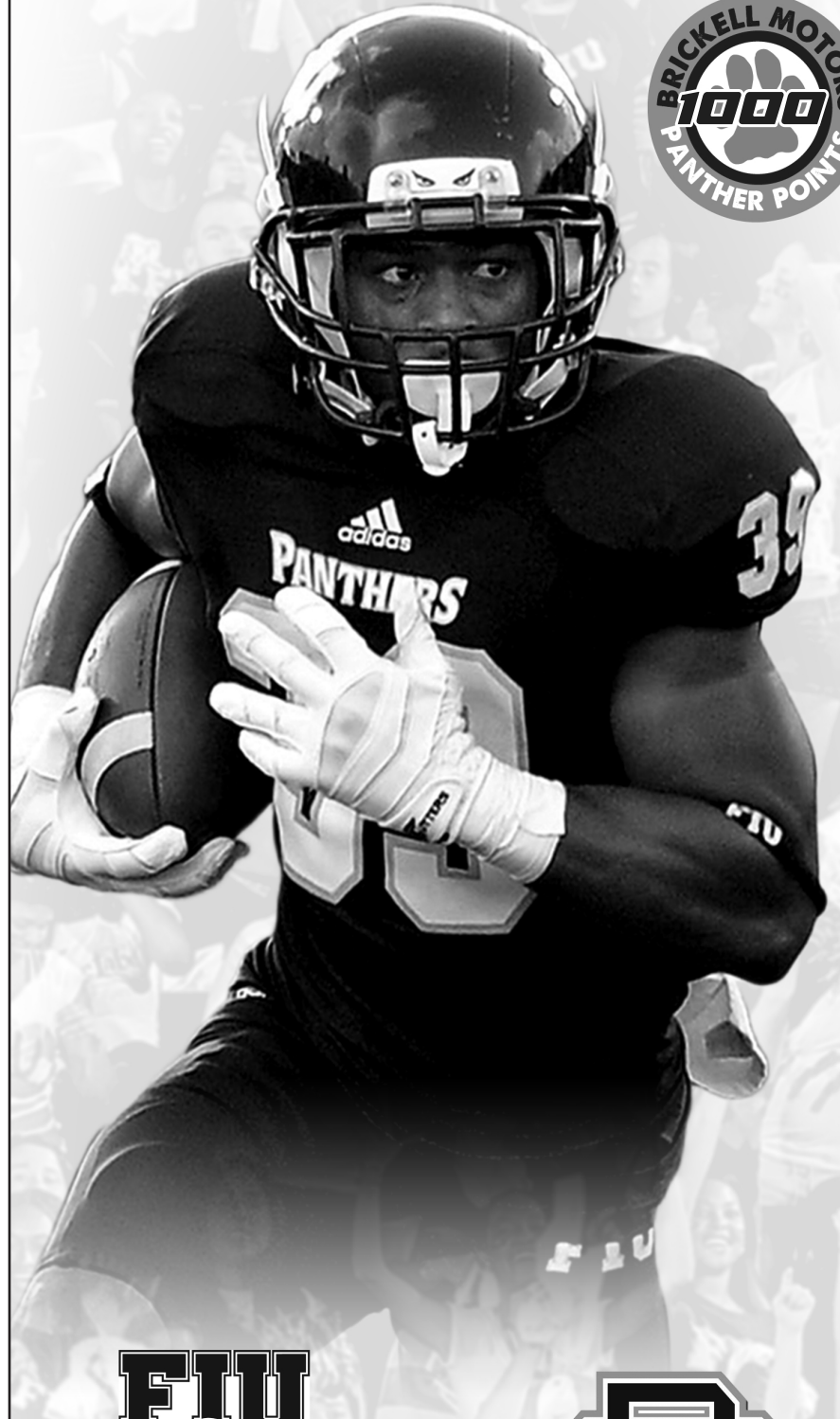
when Nyad apparently didn't stop to eat or drink, recalling her 2012 attempt when she got onto the boat for hours during rough weather. Nyad eventually got back into the water to try finishing, but her team was criticized for delaying the release of that information to the public.

Some swimmers analyzing the available data say Nyad, who has said she tends to swim at a speed of roughly 1.5 mph, appeared to maintain sprinter's pace or faster for a considerable amount of time.

Navigator John Bartlett said the increased speed was due to the Gulf Stream working in her favor, nothing more.

"At some points we were doing almost 4 miles an hour," Bartlett said. "That's just the way it works. If the current is in your favor at all, that explains it."

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Kopenhagen Center hosts leadership series

AILYS TOLEDO
Staff Writer

On September 9, the Lillian Lodge Kopenhagen Center for the Advancement of Women in Communications began the first event in a Leadership Development Series.

The series, which is hosted by the SJMC and FIU's PRSSA organization, featured Heather Radi-Bermudez and Rosanna Fiske, both professionals in the PR field and former employees of FIU.

Rafael Brazon-Di Fatta, a recent FIU grad who majored in PR and Marketing, was also a guest speaker at the introductory meeting.

"The mission of Dr. Kopenhagen when she started this is to have a forum as support for women in the communications industry both professionally and scholarly," said Maria Elena Villar, professor of graduate studies.

"I want to hear more honesty about what is going on in my field and what to expect after we graduate," said Gissell Torres, a senior majoring in advertising.

According to Villar, many students have expressed how different what they learn in school and what they learn in the working world is.

The goal of the series is to bring people in from the corporate agencies and expose students to different perspectives.

"I think it's very helpful and a good experience because it's important that I get prepared for what's to come," said Carolina

WE ALL SCREAM FOR ICE CREAM



STEPHANIE MASON/THE BEACON

Students lined up to cool off their day with a cup of free Cold Stone ice cream thanks to an event hosted by SPC.

Lopez, junior PR major.

The Leadership Development Series is not only centered for women in the communication field.

According to Villar, the program was expanded to include male counterparts also seeking guidance and perspective.

"It's more challenging and there's more competition in this job market," said Jorge Gonzalez, junior, advertising.

From questions about office politics and internships, to how to balance personal

responsibilities while working full time, students are able to ask the speakers for advice and insight.

"The speakers provide a more sophisticated and experienced perspective and I'm looking forward to attending future events," said Natalie Rigaurd, junior advertising major.

"The series is useful in regards to internships and a lot of information coming from the speaker's point of view."

"Everyone got to get their questions

answered and it was done in a very structured manner. I thought it was good that the he speakers were patient and willing to address whatever topic came up," said Natasha Londono, senior, advertising.

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Program introduces electric rental cars in Orlando

TAMARA LUSH
Associated Press

Visitors to Orlando often try new things while on vacation: thrilling roller coasters, luxury hotels, different cuisines.

Now they can try out a fully electric car — and not have to pay for gas during their vacation.

Under a new program announced Thursday called Drive Electric Orlando, anyone who rents one of 15 Nissan Leaf cars from Enterprise Rent-A-Car will be able to charge the car for free.

There are about 300 charging stations in the greater Orlando area, with many located at hotels, near theme parks and even downtown outside of City Hall.

"This is a first of its kind. This is groundbreaking," said Robbie Diamond, the president and CEO of the Washington, D.C.-based Electrification Coalition, a group that worked with Enterprise, several hotels, corporations and local officials to organize the program.

The group, whose aim is to get more people behind the wheel of electric cars, is made up of business executives, including some from Nissan — which means they have an interest in marketing the rental cars in hopes of courting future buyers.

"Our hope is that it's a revolutionary project — once we get people in the car, we're confident that the technology will sell itself," Diamond said.

Here's how it works: Once a driver rents the Leaf (at a cost of about \$30 a day or less) at the Enterprise counter at the Orlando International Airport, they can stop at any of the kiosks in the area when the car has a low charge. More than 25 hotels, including The Peabody Orlando and Renaissance Orlando, have charging stations, and valets

will charge the cars overnight. Other large public places, such as the Orlando Convention Center, have charging stations in the parking lot.

There are no charging stations inside the area's theme parks, but there are many nearby — and organizers say more charging stations are "in the works." Renters are more likely to charge their vehicles at hotels overnight, they said.

If the car runs low on power while on the road, its dashboard screen displays the nearest charging stations. If the vehicle's battery dies entirely, then AAA will come to charge the car for free, said Lisa Martini, a spokeswoman for Enterprise Rent-A-Car.

The cars have a range of about 80 to 100 miles (about 130 to 160 kilometers) on a full charge. All of the details, including how to plug the car into a charging station, are fully explained to the renter at the Enterprise counter, said Martini.

"We want people to be comfortable with the technology," she said.

Diamond, along with other officials, say that many people like the idea of fully electric vehicles like the Leaf or the Chevy Volt, but are worried about how far the car's battery will go.

Electric car sales are only a tiny fraction of overall U.S. auto sales.

Automakers sold just over 12,000 pure-electric vehicles in the U.S. through April, according to WardsAuto InfoBank, an industry database, and Tesla Motors, which designs electric vehicles.

That's less than 1 percent of the 4.97 million cars and trucks sold during the same period. Even a \$7,500 tax credit from the U.S. government that effectively lowers prices couldn't persuade most car buyers.

The Nissan Leaf sells for \$29,650 including shipping costs, although the company does offer \$199 monthly leases with \$1,999 down.

Renting a car and driving it while on vacation or on a business trip is a "try before you buy" scenario, said Orlando Mayor Buddy Dyer, who took reporters on a cruise around downtown Orlando on a recent day in a Leaf.

He pointed out the charging station in front of City Hall, at the Amway Center — where many concerts and sporting events are held — and at other county-owned locations, all within a 2-mile (3.2-kilometer) radius of downtown.

At one location, he popped the car's tiny hood and clicked a charging "pump" into the socket.

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