**Fort Lauderdale bridge scandal has ties to FIU campus, Miami-Dade**

**Michael Vasquez**

The Miami Herald

**TNS Staff**

An unusual bridge-repair contract in the city of Fort Lauderdale has sparked a criminal investigation, and those involved have ties to Miami-Dade County and Florida International University.

Miami-Dade’s new deputy director of water and sewer, Harbor Anand, was public works director in Fort Lauderdale when the strange bridge contract was awarded. Anand acknowledged to the Miami Herald on Thursday that he’s hired a criminal defense attorney, but insisted he wasn’t connected to the bridge contract, which was awarded to his wife’s former business partner.

“I have no involvement in it,” Anand said of the contract. “The procurement department handles it.”

Also connected to the investigation is former FIU engineering dean Amir Mirmiran. It was a company run by Mirmiran’s wife that landed the city contract - even though it had just been incorporated. Mirmiran, earned $242,168 at FIU, and had previously supervised Zohrevand’s work.

An internal city of Fort Lauderdale investigation memo states that Zohrevand worked behind the scenes to make sure that a company he had a relationship with, “I didn’t do that. I did all things the right way,” he told the TV station.

Zohrevand, who left his $106,433 city job in October, could not be reached by the Herald.

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The铛咚 dispute between Apple and the Justice Department over unlocking the San Bernardino gunman's iPhone became a public relations war on Monday with both Apple and Apple exchanging words on the Internet. Additionally, Congress has prepared to intervene. For now, the FBI appears to be winning the battle according to new polling information from the Pew Research Center.

Monday called on the government to drop the court case in favor of a congressional "commission or other panel of experts on intelligence, technology and civil liberties to discuss the implications for law enforcement, national security, privacy, and personal freedoms."

President Barack Obama on Thursday agreed to the summit, as did Apple CEO Tim Cook. However, the summit was called in response to the FBI's public attacks on Apple, and the FBI has not yet agreed to participate.

The FBI released a video on Saturday showing the iPhone being unlocked, which has been widely criticized for being a "red herring." The FBI has also been criticized for its handling of the case, including the use of a "ransomware" virus to unlock the phone.

Apple President and COO Jeff Williams said on Thursday that the FBI's public attacks on Apple were "an attempt to divide the technology community and to undermine the company's work on national security and privacy.

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PIPELINE PERFORMANCE

Local band Salas plays with WRGP’s Pipeline as audience

Wednesday, Feb. 17, Salas stopped by WRGP’s studio for an interview with Pipeline’s Natalie Bojorquez and Jasmine Romero. During the interview and broadcast of the show, the local band played a few of their staple songs for the duo and radio listeners.

Band Members:
Guitarist: Joey Prats
Drummer: Mikey Gomez
Bassist: Yawn “Doodles” Dominguez
Domestic duties, What roles do men and women take on today?

HEART TO HEART

Musician uses old instruments to make new sounds

CINDY HERNANDEZ
Contributing Writer
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Venetian Snares, also known as Aaron Funk, manage to create IDM on his new album that breaks traditional concepts of the genre through only the use of modular synthesizers.

The war created between synths and drum machines are exciting, new, and most of all, reflective of our faith in Venetian Snares delivering a quality product regardless of his inspiration or comfort zone.

The faded synths and far away blasts on the first track ‘Dreamt person v4’ promise a kind of distortion that is ultimately not given to us, but for the better.

Leading into the track ‘Everything About You Is Special,’ Funk uses quick, sparse drum patterns that are not atmospheric, but intricate that force listeners to explore the many complexities of the album.

Chimes and squeaky pitches ring in the track ‘Slightly Bent Fork Tong V2,’ as a common theme of what’s to come, which v2 derives its loopy sounds like some early video game soundtracks, progressively getting lighter and lighter until an end goal, which is the fabulous transition to the song, ‘Decembers.’

On ‘Decembers,’ we get a Drexciya inspired track, laced with aquatic gurgling against a traditional breakcore beat along the fading sounds of old computer monitors being turned on.

The magical sounds of old technology definitely ruminate over the album. The same manic, excitable sound carries throughout the rest of the album, with the track ‘Can’t Vote For Yourself v1.’

Keep in mind, the instruments on this album were used to make music for the most primitive video games, and what was displayed on the screen, mere tiny pixels in the shape of a box with two pixels in another color for eyes, for example, had to evoke the image of some kind of force in the player to be enjoyable.

Funk really delivers a culmination of themes and sounds on “She Married A Chess Computer In The End,” going back to the kind of nostalgia of old computers, making more erratic musical choices as if imitating a chess game.

On the tracks “Health Card40,” and “Pageant Ratchets,” we find Funk ending back in noisy, terrifying breakcore that ultimately has us go back to the sound of wind instruments blending into the fast drum patterns and randomly sequenced synth beat to mimic the intensity of a boss battle in a video game.
FIU takes four out of five in Panther Invitational

JAYDA HALL
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If there was one word to describe the softball team’s performance on Friday, Feb. 19, it would be unconquered. FIU started the Panther Invitational with a doubleheader, and despite the heavy wind each team faced, the Panthers landed wins against both College of the Holy Cross (5-4) and Indiana University (5-4). Holy Cross was first to be dominated by the Panthers. FIU made it impossible for HC to score a run for the entire game making the final score 7-0.

Ashley Leon, junior infielder, lead the bottom of the first inning and scored FIU’s first run of the game.

Both teams played the second inning without scoring any runs. It wasn’t until the third inning when HC finally managed to make it to third base. The team, however, was shell shocked after scoring only one hit, allowing five earned runs.

FIU’s starting pitcher, Chris Mourelle (0-1) on the mound for FIU, gave up two runs all day, but no hits in nine innings.

The Panthers held their own, a day after taking a doubleheader against Indiana (0-1) and Ole Miss. FIU outscored their opponents 10 to 1 (32 runs to 11 in three games), and lost all three.

Most of the damage was done in the second inning, around two errors committed by FIU’s infield. The Rebels only gave up two runs all game, but scored nine of their own, on 10 hits. One of those hits was a homerun.

Chris Mourelle (0-1) was the rotation’s anchor a year ago, and for his consistency, was rewarded with Sundays off this spring. Mourelle had a slightly better go of things on Saturday afternoon. With a good bit of support from the offense posting eight hits, and doubles from Zach Files, Kenny Meimerstorf and Nick Day, respectively, Friday’s run total was doubled.

The Panthers held the Rebels to their lowest run and hits totals in the series, and recorded eight hits of their own, a day after stringing together three hits in nine innings.

This was the most well-rounded game the
**TURTLE, PAGE 1**

The Panthers completed the sweep, of themselves, as Eddie Silva struck out swinging for the last out, and lost 16-5.

The Panthers were overwhelmed and outplayed by a team we’ll likely be hearing a lot more from in the next couple months, in Ole Miss.

Not many conclusions can be drawn about this team yet, from these first three performances because of the disparity between these two teams, the better of the two hauling it from the far and widely respected Southeastern Conference.

Going forward, this FIU squad faces a three-week lead of the week without the run-support, Ole Miss’ recovery.

The Panthers were overwhelmed and outplayed by a team we’ll likely be hearing a lot more from in the next couple months, in Ole Miss.

Any doubt left as to why this Rebels team was ranked 24th in the nation before this weekend was put to rest, at least for now, as the team didn’t even steal a base all afternoon, and still scoring 16 runs.

They even committed their first and second errors of 2016, but with that explosive first inning, there wasn’t much the Panthers could do to recover.

With so much run-support, Ole Miss’ pitching staff could kick back on cloudy afternoon, and record 10 strikeouts, while not even batting-an-eyelash at FIU’s 10 hits, the most they had gotten all weekend.

The Panthers were overwhelmed and outplayed by a team we’ll likely be hearing a lot more from in the next couple months.

**POWER AID**

Students congregate at the Wellness and Recreation Center during the Strongest Panther competition held by the FIU powerlifting team Monday, Feb. 22.

**TENNIS**

**REINALDO LLERENA  Staff Writer  reinaldo.llerena@fiusm.com**

The FIU women’s tennis team defeated Georgia State University and George Washington University the weekend of Feb. 19-21 in Atlanta and swept their second weekend in a row.

The Panthers defeated the Georgia State Panthers, who were ranked at No. 67 on the ITA rankings, 5-2 on Friday, Feb. 19. The following day, the FIU Panthers swept the George Washington Colonials, 7-0, to complete their second weekend sweep of the season.

With the sweep over the weekend, the Panthers are off to their best start since the 2001 season. In that season, the Panthers finished 23-3 with a final ITA ranking of No. 24 according to fiusports.com.

In the match against Georgia State, the Panthers won two out of three doubles matches to claim the doubles point.

Freshman Maryna Veksler and junior Nina Nagode won their fourth-straight doubles match. The duo defeated Tarani Kamoe and Linn Timmermann of Georgia State, 6-3, 7-0.

Redshirt-freshman Andrea Lazarro and senior Carlotta Orlando won their doubles match and secured the doubles point for FIU with a 6-3 win over Niri Rasolomalala and Kristen Rehse of Georgia State.

In singles play, the Panthers picked up four points against Georgia State.

Veksler defeated Timmermann in straight sets, 6-3, 6-3, to put FIU up 2-0. Orlando beat Lara Vovk and Lazarro defeated Rasolomalala, both in straight sets, to clinch the match for the Panthers, 4-0. Sophomore Nerma Caluk won FIU’s fourth point when she beat Chiara Volejnicek in straight sets, 6-4, 6-1.

A day after defeating Georgia State, the Panthers continued their hot streak against George Washington, sweeping the Colonials, 7-0.

The duo of Veksler and Nagode won their fifth-straight doubles match, defeating Allison Hansen and Taylor Nederlander, 6-2. The Panthers claimed the doubles point when Orlando and Lazarro defeated Sara Grubac and Marie-Louise Decamps, 6-3.

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**Student media at Florida International University**

Get up to the minute news coverage, instant sports updates, what’s new in student life, music and talk shows, event photo galleries and more at fiusm.com.
Big US banks to roll out ATMs that take smartphones

JAMES RUFUS KOREN
Los Angeles Times

To the long list of things you can do with your phone, you can soon add take cash.

Over the next few months, the nation’s three biggest banks will start rolling out ATMs that will let customers withdraw money by using their smartphones instead of debit cards — the latest step toward a future in which phones could replace bank branches and wallets.

“My boys are five and six and I don’t think they’ll carry around plastic anymore,” said Michelle Moore, head of digital banking for Bank of America, which plans to make cardless ATMs widely available as early as May.

San Francisco banking giant Wells Fargo plans to offer cardless access at a limited number of ATMs by the summer and at all ATMs by the end of the year. Most of JPMorgan Chase’s ATMs will start offering cardless access sometime in the second half of the year.

Cash machines that work with a phone instead of a card aren’t new, but they are rare. The number of cardless ATMs stands in the low thousands nationwide.

In 2014, the nation’s three largest banks each had a combined 47,000 ATMs, more than 10 percent of the nation’s cash machines.

The banks’ entry into cardless ATMs comes as a small but growing number of Americans are using smartphones more than they used to one another and to make purchases using so-called mobile wallet apps such as Apple Pay and Android Pay.

It also comes as banks are trying to push customers to do more transactions online, on their phones or through ATMs, all of which are cheaper and less expensive than transactions done at branches staffed with tellers.

Soon, as with mobile wallet payments, which make up a tiny fraction of payments overall, analysts expect using a phone to get cash from an ATM probably will start out as a little-used novelty.

But over the longer term, it could be one more application that will make customers feel comfortable using their devices as financial tools, leading to a general growth in mobile banking, said Mark Schwanhausser, a director at consulting firm Javelin Research & Strategy.

“You’re acclimating people to the techniques of mobile payments,” he said. “It’s like a mobile wallet on training wheels.”

Banks will offer cardless access to ATMs using either near-field communication, which uses the tap-to-pay technology used in Apple Pay and Android Pay that connects phones with credit card payment terminals, or codes that customers get through their bank’s mobile app.

Using near-field communication, or NFC, a customer would sign in to a mobile wallet or bank app, then physically tap the phone on the ATM and enter a PIN.

Both plan to allow customers to set up an ATM transaction in advance, cutting down on the amount of time they have to spend in front of the machine.

A customer could log in or enter a PIN, say he wanted to withdraw $50, and that he’d like a $5 bill, four $20s and two $10s, a feature that will be available as the banks also provide more ATMs stocked with multiple types of bills.

Once the transaction is set up, he could go to an ATM, unlock his phone, grab the cash and move on.

Schwanhausser of Javelin likened it to picking up a pizza at will-call instead of buying them at the box office.

Mark O’Brien of Mercator said being able to spend less time at the ATM could also improve security.

“You get your money in 10 or 12 seconds. You’re not having to look at whether someone is behind you, you don’t have to hide your PIN,” he said.