

# Baden Baden struck by arson

## Gift store shares building with restaurant, Sage, that burned in late October

**By Desiree Stennett**  
Democrat writer

The second fire in two months has ravaged the businesses on Maclay Boulevard in Northeast Tallahassee, this time at Baden Baden, the novelty gift shop and card store that shares a building with Sage and Gidgets.

Julius Buford, who has owned the building for the last nine years, is overwhelmed by the fire that Lt.

Travis Oaks, spokesman for the fire department, said was intentionally set.

“You can’t really describe how you feel, I don’t take this personally but this is a crime against society,” said Buford.

“Financially, it’s terribly devastating, but emotionally, it’s just as devastating. It affects your family, it affects your customers, and it affects your tenants. It’s hard to fathom how you’ll even begin

to cope with something like this, but we’ll get through it.”

The fire was set before 3 a.m. Thursday and no one was injured, but Oaks said the fire marshals have estimated that the flames and smoke caused about \$200,000 in damage. Buford, however, thinks it may have caused more, adding that the damage to his inventory alone looks to be near \$100,000.

Sage is the restaurant that went up in flames in late October and

suffered about \$200,000 in damage. Oaks said that fire was also intentionally set.

“The only connection between this fire and the one at Sage, right now, is that they were in the same building,” Oaks said.

Fire marshals are still investigating both fires.

Gidgets, the women’s clothing store that shares a building with Baden Baden and Sage, just reopened on Monday after smoke

from the Sage fire ruined clothing and building insulation and will have to close yet again.

Buford said he will be installing surveillance equipment as a precautionary step to make sure that if this happens again, police will be able to find whoever is responsible.

“I’ll be out of business for the next couple of months,” Buford said. “It makes you wonder if you even want to start again.”

# Intergenerational Week bridges the divide between the decades

**By Sharon Kant-Rauch**  
Democrat staff writer

Marie Holmes sits at a table next to 1-year-old Ma’Layah Roach who is clutching a spoon, a bowl of cereal and fruit in front of her. Ma’Layah looks up at Holmes expectantly.

“Eat some more,” Holmes encourages. “I like that you’re doing such a good job.”

Ma’Layah eats a bite, then dips the spoon in the cereal and offers it to Holmes. Holmes says that she’s already eaten, but Ma’Layah thrusts the spoon at her again. To please her, Holmes pretends to eat something out of her own hand.

“I appreciate you sharing your breakfast,” Holmes says.

For six years, Holmes has held these morning conversations with toddlers at the Budd



Holmes

Bell Early Learning Center on Laura Lee Avenue. As a volunteer foster grandparent, she’s assigned to several children, helping them to eat, walk and say their first words.

“As much love as I give to them, they give it back to me,” Holmes said. “They give me something to look forward to, the spirit to get up and go.”

That kind of give and take between children and seniors has been celebrated all over the state this week during Intergenerational Week, sponsored by the Florida Department of Elder Affairs.

“In today’s society, we get separated by generation,” said Zsa Zsa Ingram-Fitzpatrick, program manager for the office of volunteer and community service with the Department of Elder Affairs. “Teens hang out with teens, tweens hang out with tweens, seniors with seniors. But in most cultures the generations live together, there’s a natural blend.”

According to “Developing Intergenerational Relationships,” a document published by the University of Florida extension office, both young and old benefit from being around each other. Both groups can learn new skills and provide each other a sense of purpose. The seniors can help the young become less fearful of older people and of aging itself.

Meanwhile, being around young people decreases elders’ depression and sense of isolation. Perhaps most important, the interaction between the generations keeps family stories and history alive.

Jack Levine, a former child advocate



PHOTOS BY MIKE EWEN/DEMOCRAT

Marie Holmes gets her little charges, Rayyan Aghar (right) and Eshaal Aghar, ready for playtime on Wednesday. The Department of Elder Affairs is celebrating Intergenerational Week this week, promoting opportunities for the generations to interact. Marie Holmes, who has been a foster grandparent at the Early Head Start program on Laura Avenue for six years, loves working with young toddlers.

### FIND MORE ONLINE TALLAHASSEE.COM

■ View more photos of Marie Holmes working with toddlers online at [www.Tallahassee.com/generations](http://www.Tallahassee.com/generations)

well-known among Florida legislators, broadened his focus to intergenerational issues six years ago because concentrating on children wasn’t enough. Children grow up in families, he said, and by definition, families are intergenerational.

He said he grew up around elders, par-

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### IF YOU GO SENIOR SINGERS

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■ People interested in becoming foster grandparents should call 921-5554 or email [ecs@bigbend.org](mailto:ecs@bigbend.org). Volunteers must be 55 years old, meet income qualifications (125 percent of federal poverty levels) and have a criminal background check. They will receive 20 hours of training, followed by four hours of training every year.  
■ For more information on 4Generations Institute, visit [www.4gen.org](http://www.4gen.org).

# Doors open on FSU’s FAR

## Facility for Arts Research raises the bar on design

**By Mark Hinson**  
Democrat senior writer

If you want to make a three-dimensional plaster bust using a state-of-the-art printer, turn recycled materials into art, print a handmade book or have a computer draw a portrait on paper, Florida State University’s new The Facility for Arts Research (FAR) is the place to go.

“It’s a one-of-a-kind facility in the country and probably the world,” FSU College of Visual Arts, Theatre & Dance dean Sally McRorie said during opening ceremonies for FAR on Thursday afternoon. “We don’t know what’s going to come out of it — and that is a wonderful thing.”

“The objective is to take our art and design program to the next level,” FSU President Eric Barron said. “I think it’s a wonderful idea and a sign that the arts at FSU are powerful and strong. If you want to study the arts, FSU is the place to go. I can’t wait to see what starts coming out of this building.”

In keeping with the building’s high-tech mission, the ribbon-cutting ceremony was performed by a computer-driven laser beam and the cutting was projected on a computer screen. No human hands were involved in the act.

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■ Send your holiday wishes.

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# Santa Paws Walk celebrates pets, raises funds for Treats Inc.

**By Elizabeth M. Mack**  
Democrat staff writer

Dogs just want to have fun.

The annual Santa Paws Walk on Saturday at Lake Ella will provide a guaranteed good time for dogs, said Jan Collier, Treats Inc. board member.

Treats Inc., a nonprofit that raises money for food, surgeries and other needs for dogs is hosting the fundraising event.

“We want people to be able to hold on to their pets and not have to give them up because

they can’t afford to care for them,” Collier said.

Dogs will have the opportunity to frolic, get free treats and have photo ops with Santa Claus.

There also will be a parade of reindeer-dressed dogs and contests ranging from most unique-looking dog to best owner-dog look-a-like and best caroler to sweetest face.

“It has a sweet and crazy side,” Collier said. “We have a lot of



fun with this.”

Many dog rescue groups will be on hand to provide information and introduce the public to their four-legged friends who are also up for adoption.

“Walk activities begin with the parade of reindogs, a special selection of homeless dogs up for adoption from Tallahassee’s animal shelter and local rescue groups,” said Cyndi Futch, Treats Inc. board member. “Thanks to an audience of proven pet-lovers, many homeless dogs find homes

through the showcase Santa Paws Walk provides.”

Registration for the walk starts at 9 a.m., at the lake’s gazebo. The registration fee is \$25 for each dog entered.

Cat lovers are welcome to attend as well, Collier added. However, for the cats’ safety, it’s best if cats attend in spirit only.

“Santa Paws Walk is just a good way to be among people who love animals and want to help them,” Futch added.



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**By Bill Cotterell**  
Florida Capital Bureau

Bondi and Putnam joined State Attorney Brad King of Ocala, Executive Director Steve Casey of the Florida Sheriffs Association, Flor-

**BERNIE NAVARRO**  
president of the Latin Builders Association

King, a 30-year prosecutor, said Florida and Nevada were tied for the nation's worst crime rates in the late 1980s and early 1990s. Since then, he said, Florida has had steadily declining crime statistics, while Nevada's have increased —

“There’s a reason Las Vegas adopted the tag line, ‘What happens in Vegas stays in Vegas’ — and it’s not good,” said Casey.

**By TaMaryn Waters**  
Democrat staff writer

"If you are trying to increase business to the various shops in Tallahassee by offering free bus service on Saturday, but not to those who use Dial A Ride, what are you telling people with disabilities," Elliott said. "Our money isn't good enough?"

Currently, 8,164 residents are registered for Dial-A-Ride, which is often used as a way to get to medical appointments. However, every registered rider doesn't necessarily

"I'm not going to take the chance," Garrison said.

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Egby also explained how the ZPrinter 450 used a computer program and wet plaster — applied one thin level at a time over and over — to make a tiny bust of FSU vice president of research Kirby Kemper, who was instrumental in creating FAR. The bust took eight hours from

Barron pulled Eby aside

"I don't know where all of this is going to end up," Kemper said, "but it's a heluva beginning."



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