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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 Gidgits.

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

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

to cope with something like this, 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.

Gidgits, 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 respon-

"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.

Facility for Arts

Research raises

By Mark Hinson

Democrat senior writer

the bar on design

If you want to make a three-

dimensional plaster bust using a

state-of-the-art printer, turn recy-

cled materials into art, print a hand-

made book or have a computer draw

a portrait on paper, Florida State University's new The Facility for Arts Research (FAR) is the place

"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 won-

"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-cut-

ting ceremony was performed by

a computer-driven laser beam and

the cutting was projected on a com-

puter screen. No human hands were

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derful thing.'

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. Hol-



mes 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," Holm-

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

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



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

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

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Where: Tallahassee Senior Center, 1400 N.

When: noon on Tuesday (lunch available for purchase)

For more information, call 891-4003 ■ People interested in becoming foster grandparents should call 921-5554 or email 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.

TALLAHASSEE.COM ■ View a photo gallery of servicemembers and families.

involved in the act.

■ Send your holiday wishes.

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Honor your loved ones in the military

Do you have a family member or friend who is currently serving or has served in the military? Send us photos of your loved ones in uniform with holiday wishes. We will put them in a free photo gallery to share with the world as a thank you for their service. Send the photos with a message to readerphotos@tallahassee.com by 5 p.m. today to be featured.

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 hostthey can't afford to care for them," You are 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 uniquelooking dog to best owner-dog

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 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.

ing the fundraising event. look-a-like and best caroler to groups," said Cyndi Futch, Treats We want people to be able sweetest face. Inc. board member. "Thanks to "It has a sweet and crazy side," to hold on to their pets and not an audience of proven pet-lovers, have to give them up because Collier said. "We have a lot of many homeless dogs find homes

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State leaders oppose gambling legislation

By Bill Cotterell

Florida Capital Bureau

Two state Cabinet officers joined business executives and law-enforcement leaders Thursday to warn that the state will be gambling with its family-friendly tourism image and risking a rise in crime rates if legislators authorize three "mega casinos" in Southeast Florida.

"The very character of our state is at stake here in this debate. We don't want Florida to be the next Las Vegas," said Agriculture Commissioner Adam Putnam. "We want to continue to build up what makes Florida special and what makes Florida great, and those things don't include casino gambling."

State Sen. Ellyn Bogdanoff, R-Fort Lauderdale, and Rep. Erik Fresen, R-Miami, have introduced twin bills to authorize three "destination resorts" in Southeast Florida, each requiring a \$2-billion investment. The issue has split the powerful business lobbying corps, with Associated Industries of Florida running advertisements saying the resorts will produce 100,000 new jobs — and that the legislation would strictly limit "gaming" to the populous Southeast Florida region, while creating a new state commission to regulate gambling.

Attorney General Pam Bondi said that, despite promises that passage of pending bills would limit the big casinos to South Florida, it would throw open the entire state to new forms of gambling. She said the Seminole Hard Rock Casino in Hillsborough County, which has limited forms of games, could immediately become "a full-blown,

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

"One million Floridians are out of work, including many minorities who have been hit even harder by these tough economic times. ... Now is Florida's chance to change for the better." **BERNIE NAVARRO**

president of the Latin Builders Association

ida Chamber of Commerce President Mark Wilson and officers of the Florida Retail Federation, Restaurant and Lodging Association and Florida Attractions Association at a news conference in the Capitol. The event was organized by No Casinos Florida, which has been periodically combating casino ballot initiatives since 1979.

Putnam noted that Internet cafes have spread across the state and barrel racing has started in Gretna with a card room scheduled to open next week. He and Bondi said casino proponents claim their bills would tightly control gambling, but that they would do just the oppo-

"They could not be more wrong," said Putnam. "Look at small communities, the size of Gretna — this is an insidious threat."

John Sowinski, president of No Casinos, said the Council on Compulsive Gambling found that 35 percent of people contacting its counselors admitted turning to some form of crime to get money for gambling or pay gambling debts. He said slot machines and card games are their most popular forms of gambling.

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 —

and he said gambling is a factor in those numbers.
"I couldn't agree more

with Commissioner Putnam about the kind of Florida that we have," said King. "It is built on the nature of our resources and the familyoriented style of tourism.'

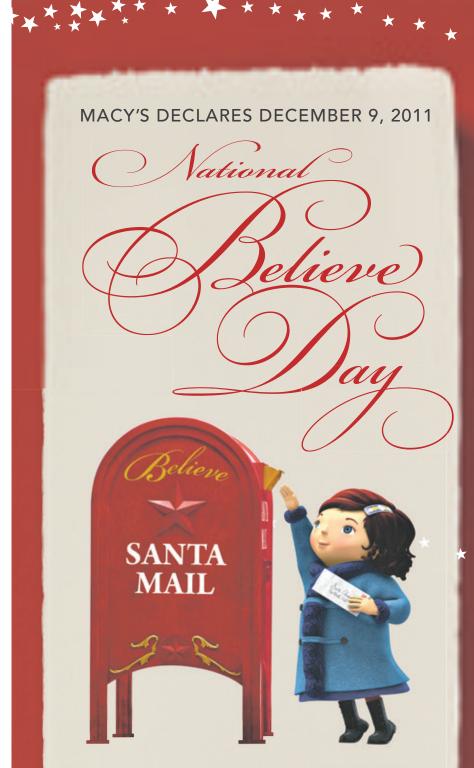
Bernie Navarro, president of the Latin Builders Association, issued a statement disputing the No Casino coalition's warnings that Florida's tourism image would be harmed and that crime would rise if the big casinos are authorized.

"One million Floridians are out of work, including many minorities who have been hit even harder by these tough economic times," said Navarro. "Opportunities like this with such substantial benefits don't come around very often. Now is Florida's chance to change for the bet-

"Florida sheriffs oppose expansion of all forms of gambling in our state, and especially we oppose casino gambling," said Casey. He said that includes the Inter-

net cafes. Casey said the promise of job creation is "partly true." But he said several studies have shown crime rates increasing 5.5 percent to 30 percent, in various categories, within five years of a state or city allowing

"There's a reason Las Vegas adopted the tag line, 'What happens in Vegas stays in Vegas' — and it's not good," said Casey.



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Don't miss this season's traditional animated classic based on the timeless true story that inspired a whole new spirit of believing! Yes, Virginia will air on CBS-TV, Friday, December 9. Check your local listings.



Free-ride Saturday leaves some Dial-A-Ride users frustrated

By TaMaryn Waters

Tallahassee Mayor John Marks spent part of Thursday passing out fliers to bus riders at the C.K. Steele Plaza informing them of free rides offered Saturday by StarMetro for holiday shop-

But Dial-A-Ride users such as Michael Elliott, who is visually impaired, are outraged since they won't be able to take advantage.

"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?"

ilarly to a taxi-cab service, but it is provided by StarMetro. It costs \$2.50 per trip.

StarMetro Executive Director Ron Garrison says his staff was aware Dial-A-Ride users wouldn't be able to get a free ride using the service, but he said his hands are tied.

"We are not allowed to make it free because we would not be able to handle the capacity, which would not be in compliance with the (federal) Americans with Disabilities Act," Garrison

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 necessar-

Dial-A-Ride operates sim- ily use the service daily.

StarMetro has offered free rides on special occasions, most recently for a week when the new system was launched during the sum-

"Most of our Dial-A-Ride users are used to this. We have gotten a call or two before when we have done this," Garrison said.

He also said Dial-A-Ride is required to provide service within three-quarters of a mile of bus service, although it often goes beyond that. If Dial-A-Ride went over capacity in order to provide free rides, Garrison said StarMetro could face consequences that could include fines or loss of federal funding.

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

FAR

From Page 1

"Everyone knows I struggle with scissors," Barron joked as he looked on.

FAR is housed a 22,500-square-foot former cancer-research facility and Taxol laboratory just north of Interstate 10 off North Monroe Street. Its mission is to create an interdisciplinary environment where college and faculty engineers collaborate with visual artists, poets work with printers or musicians dream up projects with technicians.

"Artists can program (chip-sized) computers to make art, to use as robotics, to make their art interactive, whatever they want," FAR creative director Chad Eby said during a tour of the building. "They can integrate electronics into nearly everything. The idea is simple but the technology is high."

Eby 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 Eby also explained how the ZPrinter 450 used a computer program and wet plaster to make a tiny bust of FSU vice president of research Kirby Kemper, who was instrumental in creating FAR.

inception to completion.

"Right now (the printer) is in its infancy, at a hobby level," Eby said. "It's where Steve Jobs and the desktop computers were in the '70s when he was in a garage in California. Who knows where it will be in just a few years. China is terrified of this because it will revolutionize manufacturing." Barron pulled Eby aside and quizzed him about the possibility of using a musical score to make a 3-D

"What would it look like if you take a symphony and put it into a 3-D image?" Barron said. "I'd love to see that."

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



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