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FROM AROUND THE BIG BEND

TALLAHASSEE

Police seek information on missing 13-year-old

Tallahassee police are looking for a 13-year-old girl who was reported missing Friday night.



Boesha Carter is described as a 5-foot-2, weighing 92 pounds and having a thin build, dark skin, brown eyes and black hair in a ponytail. She was last seen wearing a silver necklace, blue-jean cut-off shorts down to the knees, a white short-sleeved shirt with a pink design on the front and white tennis shoes with a blue Nike "swoosh." She was last seen about 8:00 p.m. at her home in the Apalachee Ridge/Coble Drive area. Anyone with information can call police at 891-4200 or Crime Stoppers at 574-TIPS (8477). The case number is 08-28221.

TPD looking for hit-and-run driver Tallahassee police found a 24-year-old man lying on West Pensacola Street seriously injured Saturday morning. An unknown vehicle had crashed into Felix Velazquez, fracturing his right leg and crushing his shoulder, said Officer David McCraine of the Tallahassee Police Department. A 911 caller told police he was lying in the southwestern lane of Pensacola about 10 feet east of White Drive about 1:30 a.m., he said. Anyone with information about the hit-and-run crash is asked to call police at 891-4200 or Crime Stoppers at 574-TIPS (8477).

Teen sought in robbery A clerk at a Leon County gas station told deputies a robber held up the store at gunpoint. The clerk at Texaco, 5809 W. Tennessee St., gave the robber money and credit-card receipts, according to Lt. Rory Robbins of the Leon County Sheriff's Office. The robber was last seen running west from the store. The robber was described as a teenager, black, 4-foot-10 and weighing 150 pounds. Robbins said he was wearing blue-jean shorts, a white undershirt and a black T-shirt wrapped around his face. Anyone with information can call the Sheriff's Office at 922-5300 or Crime Stoppers at 574-TIPS (8477).

Democrat staff reports

Local&State

Man arrested for police gear enters plea

Fred Houston sentenced to 75 hours community service for having police scanner

By Mic Corbett

The director of a church-security ministry in Virginia says he was treated unfairly by the Tallahassee Police Department when he was arrested three months ago on mis-

demeanor charges of having a police scanner and blue lights installed in his car.

Fred Houston, 41, said he was transporting a security vehicle — a Ford Crown Victoria — he bought on eBay from Fort

Lauderdale to Richmond, Va. He stopped in Tallahassee to visit family.

He said he was jogging around Lake Ella in late May when three to four police officers suddenly swarmed around the security vehicle, which

looked like an unmarked police car.

"The equipment was removed in an effort to protect the public's safety," said police spokesman Officer David McCraine.

"Our fear was he was potentially conducting

traffic stops. ... There have been crimes in other parts of the state that have been the result of people pretending to be law enforcement."

Houston's arrest came

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Rattlers paint stadium orange and green



Sam Dills, Andrew Levent, Fred Hill and Kaitlin Butler play a game of Old White on part of their tailgating party before FAMU's first game of the season Saturday. Below, James West carries his 6-month-old daughter Jazmine West past a large Rattlers logo at Bragg Stadium.

FAMU fans out in full force for first game of the season

By David Tate

Staff Writer

A mixture of food, politics and football permeated the atmosphere Saturday at Florida A&M University's Bragg Memorial Stadium.

Less than an hour before the Rattlers' season-opening game against Alabama State University, college students and die-hard fans paraded the grounds in orange and green.

Along with the familiar rattlesnake, some fans sported T-shirts bearing the image of Democratic presidential candidate Barack Obama.

Lewis Taylor stood behind a table filled with rows of shirts and hats. A vendor with a neon sign that read "Obama" was also there. Taylor identified T-shirts with the words "This Sister is all Rattlers" and Obama apparel as the more popular.

"Obama's about to shake up the world," Taylor said. "Up on the famous 'Bill' where the scoreboard park and tailgate, optimism about new Rattlers head coach Joe Taylor's ability to shake up the FAMU world, mirrored

among fans.

Alumni Derrick Holmes and Johnathan McGriff organized a tailgate party that saw about 50 friends — including a couple of Alabama State fans — wanting to get the season started on the right note.

At Perry and Liberty streets, vendors beneath white tents offered garlic crabs and candied apples on the game's radio broadcast through bar-becue smoke.

Inside the stadium, Tallahassee resident and FAMU alum Elita Newton watched the field as the Marching 100 played

during pre-game activities. Meanwhile, Norton's 8-year-old son, Sam, slid down an inflated rubber slide beside a bouncy house.

"It's just the first game of the year so it's a tradition for us to come and see old friends," Norton said.

"It looks like Taylor is going to be really good for us. We're definitely optimistic."

Outside of the stadium, two teenage boys hung to the chain-linked fence left of the scoreboard to glimpse the promise of a new season.



FILED/Spec to the Democrat

Cold-cash cards like this one are intended to bring in new tips on old, unmarked cases.

FDLE cards could help solve local cold cases

By Jennifer Parnes

Tallahassee Staff Writer

Nearly eight years after he was killed, Tallahassee hunter Mike Williams' fate is appearing in a deck of playing cards that law-enforcement officials hope will generate new leads in the missing case.

Also featured in the deck unveiled Friday is Tracey Mankowski, who was killed leaving work at a Tallahassee movie theater 18 years ago.

The cold-case cards will be distributed to 85,000 inmates in 67 jails statewide, and among 140,000 people in probation.

This is the third edition of the cards produced in cooperation with the Florida Department of Law Enforcement, the Department of Corrections, the Attorney General's Office and the Florida Association of Crime Stoppers.

The cards are intended to bring in new tips on old, unsolved cases. Past editions have helped solve two homicides.

"In all of these cases there is some information missing somewhere," said FDLE spokeswoman Heather Smith. "We're optimistic this is going to bring great results and bring them quickly."

Williams, a 31-year-old Tallahassee real-estate appraiser, was initially thought to have fallen

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