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**Report: Church fire suspect tries suicide****SECTION:** TAMPA BAY AND STATE; STATE DIGEST; Pg. 4B**LENGTH:** 677 words**DATELINE:** OCALA; SMYRNA, Ga.; BARABOO, Wis.; ST. AUGUSTINE

A man suspected of setting at least some of the 50 suspicious church fires in Florida over the past 19 months tried to kill himself in prison during the weekend, a newspaper reported. Arson suspect Patrick Lee Frank tied a sheet around his neck, but fellow inmates at the Marion County Jail prevented him from tying the other end to a second-floor railing and jumping over the railing, Lt. Beth Yeaton, watch commander at the jail, told the Ocala Star-Banner for a story in Monday's editions. Frank, 41, of Chattanooga, Tenn., was taken to a medical unit and placed under suicide watch, Yeaton said. Frank was arrested Nov. 13 on charges of trespassing and loitering. But state arson officials think Frank started several church fires in the Gainesville and Chattanooga areas. Officials estimate more than \$ 8-million in damage has been caused by 36 Florida church fires in 1991. Frank was placed under a 24-hour suicide watch after he was booked, because he admitted attempting suicide three years ago in Tennessee, authorities said. After two weeks in a medical unit under observation, Frank was ruled fit to be among the general jail population on Wednesday. "It's our procedure to have the inmates under suicide watch to be examined regularly by either a psychologist or a psychiatrist, and it is on their recommendations whether we transfer the inmate back to the general population or not," said Maj. John Pauls, jail administrator. Arson officials have stressed that Frank is not the only suspect in the string of church fires.

Floridians picket Georgia **drug** center

SMYRNA, Ga. Four demonstrators picketed in front of a **drug** treatment center to draw attention to lawsuits against the center's facilities in Florida and **Virginia**. Protesting at Smyrna's **Straight** Adolescent **Drug** Rehabilitation and Family Treatment Center were members of a Tampa group called Community Improvement. Tampa-based **Straight** is a private **drug** treatment program with centers in Georgia, Florida, Maryland, California, Michigan, Texas and Massachusetts. **Virginia** court documents show it has been the target of lawsuits, state investigations and complaints from former clients who say they were imprisoned, beaten, stripped, abused and starved as part of the program's **drug** therapy. **Straight** officials contend they've done nothing wrong, but acknowledge they modified the program after complaints. A St. Petersburg family settled a lawsuit with similar charges against that city's **Straight** center seven years ago, said Tampa **Straight** administrator Helen Gowanny.

Whooping crane's trek to help species

BARABOO, Wis. A young whooping crane is ready for shipment to Florida as part of a long campaign to save her species from extinction. The chick, named Wisconsin, was hatched recently at the International Crane Foundation, a Wisconsin breeding ranch. The foundation was chosen in 1989 by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to care for almost half the 64 whooping cranes in captivity. Wisconsin is to be flown in the next few days to Patuxent Wildlife Center in Maryland, which also has a captive flock. She and four Maryland chicks of similar age are to be turned loose eventually in the Kissimmee Prairie in Central Florida.

Navy seeks source of stray dummy mine

ST. AUGUSTINE The Navy is trying to determine the source of a dummy mine that washed ashore at the Anastasia State Recreation Area. The mine had been in the water about a month and likely came from somewhere in the Gulf of

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Mexico or the Caribbean Sea, said Navy spokesman Lt. Commander Brad Goforth of the Mayport Naval Air Station. The 4-foot diameter blimp mine was manufactured in the United States in the 1940s or '50s, Goforth said. Blimp mines have not been deployed on U.S. ships since the early 1960s, he said. The Navy sold the mines to other countries for training exercises. Goforth said the mine's manufacturer probably can be traced through the serial numbers. A park officer found the device Friday. Once it was determined the mine was not live, it was taken to Mayport.

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