

# Fire at *The Pit* restaurant results in University purchase of land

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Youngstown fire fighters spent several hours dousing flames that broke out at The Pit Restaurant, 534 Fifth Ave., in late December.

The fire was reported at approximately 8:30 p.m. Dec. 23. No injuries were reported and the cause for the fire has not yet been determined.

The Youngstown Fire department is not disclosing any information about the incident.

The Pit Restaurant, known for its barbecued wings and ribs, has housed its business across from YSU since 1979.

Owner Clara Brown said she had insurance on the building

and will rebuild her business in town.

Brown said, "This (fire) has taken a hunk out of my life, but I feel so warm and welcome here in Youngstown. We aren't going anywhere, we will stay and rebuild as soon as possible."

When asked what caused the fire, Brown said two containers of fat caught on fire and exploded. "Thank God there weren't any customers at the time." Brown also said she and her husband have agreed on terms to sell the property to YSU. "We'll let them have it for parking," said Brown.

Ed Salata, executive director of facilities at YSU, said, "We have negotiated for the purchase of the land and it is in the ac-

quisition process." It has not been determined whether or not YSU will use the land for parking purposes.

Although damage to The Pit was a complete loss, Brown said she will be operating out of her home in as little as two to three days, as soon as the health department grants approval.

Brown said she is anxious to get back in business and until a new location for the business is determined, she will be taking telephone orders at her home and making deliveries. Those interested in having food delivered can call 744-1671.

The building which housed The Pit was built in 1912 and was at one time a business for horse shoeing.