

Business owners celebrate anniversary

■ **BUSINESS:** Stardust Book Lounge, Rhapsody Glassworks celebrating anniversaries this Friday



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Billie Jo Gage, owner of Stardust Book Lounge, and Anna Miccolis, who runs Rhapsody Glassworks, will celebrate their anniversaries this First Friday. See additional First Friday coverage on Page B1.

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The Observer

A pair of downtown business owners will celebrate their respective anniversaries this First Friday.

Billie Jo Gage, owner of Stardust Book Lounge, and Anna Miccolis, who runs Rhapsody Glassworks, have shared their Front Street location for one year now, and say their partnership is working magic.

"This place is full of eye-candy," said Gage, noting the walls of books complimented by glassworks hanging from the ceiling. "It's really amazing."

She has been running the used bookstore now for four years, while Miccolis started up shop last year.

"For me, it's not your typical used book store. I've tried to put a different spin on it," said Gage, noting her funky and cozy atmosphere.

Miccolis, who also operates glassworking classes and workshops, said it has been a dream come true.

"I'm blown away, really. A lot of people have come through here and taken a chance on a new business," she said. "And now my work is filling peoples' homes."

Both say that First Friday — the monthly downtown walkabout which showcases local arts and entertainment at various venues — has contributed to their success.

"I'm really starting to see it grow," said Gage. "More people are shopping locally, which makes everything more special, and from the heart."

The First Friday walkabout will take place Friday, May 1; other events include:

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