

# THE ISLAND PACKET

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 2010

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SERVING THE LOWCOUNTRY • 50¢

75° 54°

Chance of showers. 6B

**Obama calls for 2-year salary freeze for some federal workers 6A**



**Miniature homes make sizeable dent in real estate market 10A**

WIKILEAKS INVESTIGATION

## US warns release of files broke law

Attorney General Eric Holder said Monday the government is launching an investigation and that those implicated "will be held responsible."

By ANNE GEARAN  
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Striking back Monday, the Obama administration branded the WikiLeaks release of more than a quarter-million sensitive files an attack on the United States and raised the prospect of criminal prosecutions in connection with the exposure. The Pentagon detailed new security safeguards, including restraints on small computer flash drives, to make it harder for any one person to copy and reveal so many secrets.

Army Pfc. Bradley Manning is suspected of stealing the diplomatic memos, many of them classified, and feeding them to WikiLeaks. He might have defeated Pentagon security systems using little more than a Lady Gaga CD and a portable computer memory stick.

Please see FILES on 9A

## 2 CHARGED IN BLAZE

Police: Suspects set fire as distraction for robbery



Photos by JAY KARR • The Island Packet

Clifford Ligato, right, owner of Ligato's Fine Jewelry, talks with Dan's Fan City owner Mark Kratochvil outside Kratochvil's burned store Monday in Bluffton. Thieves torched the fan store as a diversion for their robbery of Ligato's nearby jewelry store, according to police.

## Widower finds help to pay rent

Dean and his wife both had low-paying jobs when she became too ill to work.

The couple discovered she had a fast-moving form of cancer, and she died shortly afterward.

Dean's meager savings went to funeral expenses, and he was left unable to pay his rent.

Deep Well helped pay Dean's rent as well as his electric bill the following month.

Deep Well provides a broad range of social services for poor, working families, the disabled, sick and elderly.

Staff reports

### HOW TO CONTRIBUTE

Those who wish to participate in the Empty Well fundraising campaign, which supports Deep Well's operations, can mail or drop off contributions to:



**Deep Well**  
P.O. Box 5543  
Hilton Head Island, SC 29926,  
154-A Beach City Road or  
go to [deepwellproject.org/donate](http://deepwellproject.org/donate)



### GOT A TIP?

Anyone with information about suspicious fires in the Bluffton area is asked to call the Bluffton Police Department tip line at 843-706-4560, investigators at 843-706-4563, Beaufort County dispatch at 843-524-2777 or the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division arson tip line at 1-800-922-7766.

### MORE INSIDE

Bluffton police say recent fires at area businesses were meant to distract police during robberies elsewhere. See the locations of the stores affected on 9A.

### ONLINE

To watch the Bluffton police press conference about the fires and arrests Monday and to see the damage to the stores, click on this story at [islandpacket.com](http://islandpacket.com).



Bluffton Police Chief David McAllister, left, and Capt. Bryan Norberg hold a press conference Monday afternoon to announce the arrest of two suspects in a fire and jewelry store robbery early that morning.

## Owners survey damage, look to rebuild after fires

By CASSIE FOSS  
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Business owners and managers say they will fight to stay open after a rash of arsons and robberies this month have all but destroyed their Bluffton shops.

The fire early Monday at Dan's Fan City left the store at 22 Palmetto Park Drive in Plantation Business Park "gutted and a total loss," said firefighter Randy Hunter, a spokesman for the Bluffton Township Fire District.

The blaze was the fourth intentionally set in the Bluffton area in the past month and the second in

Plantation Business Park, according to authorities. USA Rider Co. was torched Nov. 11. Investigators believe Monday's fire was set to distract police so the suspects could rob Ligato's Fine Jewelry in the Publix shopping center off U.S. 278.

Dan's Fan City franchise owner Mark Kratochvil, who opened the business in 2004, said he believes damages could reach \$150,000. South Carolina Law Enforcement Division arson investigators and insurance adjusters were assessing the damage Monday, he said.

Please see OWNERS on 9A

By CASSIE FOSS  
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Bluffton police arrested two men they believe firebombed a business early Monday to distract authorities while they robbed a nearby jewelry store.

And investigators say they will drop charges against a Savannah man charged earlier this month for a similar crime after one of the suspects apprehended Monday admitted he was involved in that incident, too.

Anthony Terrell Hamilton, 21, of Walterboro and Andre Leon DeCosta, 30, of Bluffton are charged with arson, burglary and grand larceny after a fire at 2:45 a.m. Monday at Dan's Fan City at 22 Plantation Park Drive, Suite 108 — just a few doors down from USA Rider Co., a motorcycle rental company destroyed by fire Nov. 11.

The fire at Dan's Fan City was the fourth arson at a Bluffton area business in the past month. All started when a flaming object — usually a bottle filled with gasoline — was thrown through a broken window, according to authorities.

DeCosta told police he acted alone in the arson and break-in Nov. 4 at Easy-2-Own Furnishings at 21 Simmonsville Road, Bluffton police Capt. Bryan Norberg said Monday.

Norberg said neither DeCosta nor Hamilton admitted to involvement in any of the other recent fires or robberies.

Felony burglary and arson charges and a misdemeanor theft charge against Joseph Samuel Clements Jr., 23, of Savannah will be dropped, Norberg said.



DeCosta



Hamilton

### QUOTE OF THE DAY

"If you cannot get rid of the family skeleton, you may as well make it dance."  
George Bernard Shaw



### INSIDE TODAY'S PACKET

The residents of Windmill Harbour have reached a compromise with officials about improving the flow of traffic going in and out of the gated community off of William Hilton Parkway — and it does not include a traffic light. 3A