



SPECIAL TO THE JOURNAL

Bob's Place, located on U.S. Highway 178 in Pickens County, was destroyed by a "suspicious" fire on Saturday night.

'Suspicious' fire destroys historic bar

BY GREG OLIVER
THE JOURNAL

PICKENS — A "suspicious" weekend fire destroyed a Pickens County business billed as the oldest continually operating beer joint in the state, police said.

According to Pickens County Sheriff's Office Chief Deputy Creed Hashe, a passing motorist alerted authorities about flames spotted near the front porch area of Bob's Place shortly before midnight Saturday.

Hashe said the tavern, located "in a remote area of the county" near the North Carolina line on

U.S. Highway 178 north of Pickens, was declared a total loss.

"The sheriff's office is working closely with fire officials and has determined that the fire is suspicious," Hashe said.

Although no arrests had been made at press time Monday, Hashe said numerous people had been interviewed about activities and incidents in recent weeks that could be related to the fire.

The business was closed at the time of the fire, and no one was injured.

According to visitpickenscounty.com, Bob's Place was "famous for

live music, dancing in the streets, horseshoes, bonfires at night and tasty food from the road kill grill."

The bar was also featured as the primary filming location of "The Long Way Home: A Bigfoot Story," a 2007 movie about a despondent alcoholic former Miami Herald reporter who learns of Bigfoot sightings in his hometown and decides to return to the area where he grew up.

Police ask anyone with information about the fire to call (864) 898-5500 or 1-888-CRIMESC.

goliver@upstatetoday.com | (864) 973-6687

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