

Local: Late news

2A Clearwater Sun ★

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Elsewhere

Two men charged in Scientology scam

BOSTON — FBI agents on Wednesday arrested a New Hampshire man and a disbarred lawyer on charges of extorting \$33,000 from the Church of Scientology by offering false information about a scheme to steal \$2 million from the church.

George T. Kattar, 67, of Meredith, N.H., formerly of Methuen, Mass., was held without bail pending a detention hearing today. Harvey Brower, 49, of Swampscott, Mass., a former lawyer turned writer, was released on \$50,000 bail.

According to an indictment issued by a federal grand jury in Boston, Kattar and Brower obtained the money from church officials by offering to provide them with information about a forged \$2 million check drawn on an account of L. Ron Hubbard, the church founder.

Kattar and Brower allegedly offered the information — which proved to be false — in return for a \$100,000 fee, one-third of which was to be paid in advance.

The indictment does not specify what information was allegedly supplied by the defendants in return for the \$33,000.