NEWS RELEASE

Date: Monday, March 11, 2019
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FCSO Arrests Grandfather for D.U.I. and Child Neglect

On March 9, 2019, the Flagler County Sheriff's Office (FCSO) received a call from a concerned citizen who wanted to report a driver in a green truck that was weaving in and out of traffic lanes. Deputies located a vehicle matching the description traveling southbound on US1 at a high rate of speed, swerving through the grass median and driving into oncoming traffic. Deputies initiated a traffic stop and the driver, 58 year-old Michael Bennett, abruptly stopped.

When deputies approached the vehicle, they discovered Bennett had his 14 year-old grandson as a passenger. Bennett informed deputies that he was coming from Daytona and heading to Palatka and was unaware that he was heading in the wrong direction.

Deputies asked Bennett if he would take a Field Sobriety Test, which he did. After the Field Sobriety Test was completed, deputies determined that Bennett was driving under the influence and he was immediately arrested.

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"We have zero tolerance for driving under the influence in Flagler County," Sheriff Rick Staly said. "This guy thought it was a good idea to spend the evening drinking in Daytona and then get behind the wheel of his car. He did not just endanger himself, but his own grandson and every other person on the roadways with him. Thankfully, someone noticed his dangerous driving and notified us before anyone was injured or killed. Let this be a warning, if you are going to drive drunk in Flagler County you will be arrested."

Bennett was transported to the Sheriff Perry Hall Inmate Detention Facility without incident. He was charged with driving under the influence and child neglect. Bennet's juvenile grandson was released to his mother at the scene.

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