



Rick Staly, Sheriff
FLAGLER COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

"An honor to serve, a duty to protect."

NEWS RELEASE

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Arrests for Vehicle with Flashing Blue and Red Lights, Striking Deputy's Vehicle while Drunk Highlight Weekend

BUNNELL, Fla. — Flagler County Sheriff's Office deputies made 11 arrests this past weekend between 6 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 24, 2025, and 6 a.m. on Monday, Oct. 27, 2025. Deputies handled 902 calls for service and made 143 traffic stops.

Man Arrested for Driving Vehicle Equipped with Flashing Blue and Red Lights

On Saturday night, deputies responded to a report involving a reckless driver in a vehicle that was equipped with red and blue lights.

According to the victim, they were traveling on State Road 100 in west Bunnell when a black Dodge Ram began to closely follow them and drive recklessly. The vehicle continued to follow the victim onto County Road 302 and when they approached County Road 75, the vehicle activated flashing red and blue lights, leading the victim to pull over thinking it was a law enforcement vehicle.

The victim stated that once they pulled over, the vehicle went around them and sped off at a high rate of speed. The victim then contacted the Flagler County Emergency Communications Center believing the vehicle was not law enforcement. While on the phone with dispatchers, they followed the vehicle to describe its direction of travel, but lost track as it was driving too recklessly.

Deputies located the suspect vehicle on Lemon Street and conducted a traffic stop. During the stop, they interviewed the driver, identified as Justin Bikowski, 22, of Bunnell. Bikowski told deputies that he was on his way to deliver groceries to his mother when a vehicle was traveling slowly in front of him.

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Bikowski stated that he observed the passenger in the vehicle filming him and passed the vehicle as soon as they entered a passing zone. Bikowski then stated that he believed the vehicle was now following him, and that he was attempting to get away from it. He did not, however, mention turning on any flashing lights.

Once deputies began to question Bikowski's statement, he added that he had turned on the vehicle's orange hazard lights but stated he did not know why he did so. After further questioning, Bikowski stated the vehicle was not his, but he was aware that it had police-style lights, which could be activated by a switch. Deputies asked Bikowski to show them the switch, which he did and, when turned on, deputies observed flashing red and blue lights on the vehicle's grill.

"If you are not a first responder, it is dangerous and against the law to have law enforcement-style emergency lights on your vehicle," said Sheriff Rick Staly. "And if you attempt to pull anybody over, it's an automatic felony and a trip to the Green Roof Inn."



Justin Bikowski (Sheriff Perry Hall Inmate Detention Facility mug shot)

Deputies arrested Bikowski for using red or blue lights to stop another vehicle. He was transported to the Sheriff Perry Hall Inmate Detention Facility, where he was later released on a \$2,500 bond.

Drunk Driver Arrested After Hitting Putnam Sheriff's Vehicle and Failing to Stop

On Sunday night, deputies responded to a report that a drunk driver had struck a Putnam County Sheriff's Office vehicle on State Road 100 in west Bunnell.

Prior to deputies' arrival, FCSO was contacted by PCSO who advised that one of their deputies was involved in a hit-and-run collision while assisting a disabled vehicle on SR 100 near the county line. While the deputy was assisting the disabled vehicle, a silver Ford F-150 traveling on SR 100 struck the deputy's patrol vehicle, causing damage to the vehicle's mirror, and continued driving.

The PCSO deputy followed the vehicle for approximately one mile until it stopped, then made contact with the driver, who was later identified as Michael Natale, 42, of Bunnell. While waiting for FCSO

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deputies to arrive, Natale fell asleep in his vehicle.

Once FCSO deputies arrived, they initiated a crash investigation. Due to inclement weather and heavy vehicle traffic in the area, deputies requested that Natale exit his vehicle, so they could speak with him safely. Deputies noticed that Natale stumbled while exiting the vehicle, then swayed while he was standing. While speaking with Natale, deputies also noticed that he smelled of alcohol and had glassy and bloodshot eyes.

Deputies then started a DUI investigation and conducted a series of field sobriety exercises, which Natale failed. Following the exercises, deputies placed Natale under arrest. While searching him, deputies located a vaping device that contained THC.

Deputies transported Natale to the Sheriff Perry Hall Inmate Detention Facility for observation. At the jail, Natale provided breath tests. The first test indicated he had a blood alcohol content of 0.161 and the second indicated a BAC of 0.149.



Michael Natale (Sheriff Perry Hall Inmate Detention Facility mug shot)

Deputies arrested Natale for DUI with a BAC of 0.15 or higher, DUI with property damage, leaving the scene of a crash with property damage, and possession of hashish. He was then transported to a local hospital for medical clearance.

“This guy’s decision to get behind the wheel was very stupid and dangerous, and his decision to not stop after hitting a deputy’s car was even more foolish,” said Sheriff Staly. “I’m thankful the Putnam County deputy was not injured by this drunk driver. This is a reminder that you should not drink and drive or you will visit new bars at the Green Roof Inn.”

Once medically cleared, Natale was booked into the Sheriff Perry Hall Inmate Detention Facility, where he was later released on a \$3,250 bond.

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