



**Rick Staly, Sheriff**  
**FLAGLER COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE**

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

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## **NEWS RELEASE**

**Date:** December 16, 2025

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### **Weekend Roundup: December 11-15**

#### ***Man Arrested for DUI, Habitual Driver without License Tries Smuggling Contraband***

BUNNELL, Fla. — Flagler County Sheriff's Office deputies made 17 arrests this past weekend between 6 p.m. on Friday, December 12, 2025, and 6 a.m. on Monday, December 15, 2025. Deputies handled 669 calls for service and made 204 traffic stops.

#### **Man Found Unconscious at Green Light Charged with DUI**

On Friday evening, while returning from Shop with a Cop, Flagler County Sheriff's Office deputies and Flagler Beach Police officers noticed a man slumped in the driver's seat of a vehicle at the intersection of State Road 100 and Seminole Woods Boulevard. Officers and deputies were unable to wake the driver, who was seat belted in the locked car. The car was in drive. The driver was pale, slumped forward and drooling. Due to the immediate need for medical intervention, a FBPD officer used their baton to break two windows and put the vehicle in park.

As officers and deputies made physical contact with the driver, identified as Ryan Ronnenburg, 32, of Palm Coast, he jolted awake. Ronnenburg told deputies that he was coming from Buc-ee's. When asked if he had taken any narcotics, he said, "not recently" but that he had "a bit of everything, a while ago." Ronnenburg did not specify what he had taken or when he had taken it.

Ronnenburg appeared lethargic, his eyes pinpoint, and he mumbled in response to questions asked of him.

Deputies initiated a DUI investigation, conducting a series of field sobriety exercises, which Ronnenburg failed.

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During an inventory search of his vehicle, deputies located a small, clear, plastic baggie containing a white powdery substance in the center console along with two cut straws. Deputies also found a brown waxy substance wrapped in tinfoil and paper towel and a third straw. Both the white powder and the brown wax tested positive for fentanyl.

“Ryan’s actions could have killed himself, or someone else, had it not been for the deputies and officers who found him,” said Sheriff Rick Staly. “December is a month for wrapping presents with paper, not wrapping fentanyl with tinfoil.”

Deputies arrested Ronnenburg for driving under the influence, possession of a controlled substance without a prescription, and possession of drug paraphernalia. He was transported to the Sheriff Perry Hall Inmate Detention Facility, where he provided breath tests. The tests did not indicate any alcohol in his system. Due to the results of the tests not matching the level of impairment that deputies observed, they asked him to provide a urine sample, which he agreed to do.



*Ryan Ronnenburg's Mugshot*

### **Habitual Driver Without a License Tries to Sneak Fentanyl into Jail**

Friday afternoon, a Flagler County Sheriff’s Office deputy conducted a traffic stop on a vehicle because both registered owners’ licenses were suspended or revoked.

The driver, Howard Hooper III, 53, of Jacksonville stated that he did not have a driver’s license but handed the deputy his Florida Identification Card.

Hopper has had his license suspended or revoked at least 12 times, and he has been convicted in Florida for driving while license suspended 11 times, among other traffic infractions.

Hooper was arrested for knowingly driving while license suspended (habitual offender) and transported to the Sheriff Perry Hall Inmate Detention Facility.

During the intake search at the Green Roof Inn, deputies located a small, clear, plastic baggie, which contained a brown powdery substance in Hooper’s wallet. The brown powdery substance, which weighed 3.17 grams, tested positive for fentanyl.

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“Dear criminals, it is in your best interest that you inform our deputies of any drugs or weapon on or in you when you are arrested,” said Sheriff Rick Staly. “It helps our deputies stay safe, our facilities drug free, and keeps you from getting charged with an additional felony.”

Due to his wallet containing fentanyl during the intake process, Hooper was additionally charged with Possession of a Controlled Substance without a Prescription and Smuggling a Controlled Substance into a Detention Facility.



*Howard Hooper III's Mugshot*

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