



Rick Staly, Sheriff
FLAGLER COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

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

NEWS RELEASE

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'See Something, Say Something' Leads to Two Arrests, Missing Child Recovered Following Driver Fleeing Traffic Stop

BUNNELL, Fla. — The Flagler County Sheriff's Office has made two arrests and recovered a missing juvenile following a traffic stop that turned into a vehicle apprehension through western Flagler County.

On the morning of Dec. 31, deputies conducted a traffic stop on a white Ford F150 on U.S. Highway 1 near Whiteview Drive after a caller "saw something, said something" when they witnessed suspicious activity. During the traffic stop, deputies contacted the driver, identified as Darnell Hairston, 60, of Hastings, and two juvenile passengers. Deputies asked the occupants to exit the vehicle.

While speaking with the three occupants, deputies determined one of the juvenile passengers had been reported missing in St. Johns County. Deputies recovered the missing juvenile and placed them in a patrol vehicle while the investigation continued.

As deputies were gathering further information, Hairston suddenly fled, running and tripping into the roadway. After a brief struggle, in which Hairston attempted to grab a deputy's gun, deputies quickly apprehended him. Deputies arrested Hairston for resisting an officer with violence and attempting to deprive a law enforcement officer of their firearm.

While deputies were arresting Hairston, the other juvenile, whom deputies had identified as Junior Bishop, 15, of Hastings, entered the truck and fled, nearly hitting a deputy in the roadway.

Deputies pursued Bishop southbound along U.S. 1, then westbound along State Road 100. As the

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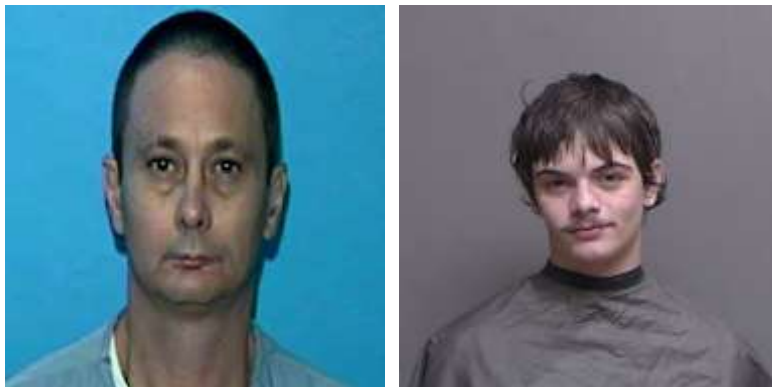
vehicle apprehension neared the Putnam County line, a deputy passed Bishop on the left and got in front of his vehicle in an attempt to stop him. Bishop then briefly entered the eastbound lane into oncoming traffic, then re-entered the westbound lane and purposely rammed into the deputy's patrol vehicle, causing both vehicles to crash into the wood line and Bishop's vehicle to roll over.

After Bishop exited the vehicle, deputies quickly apprehended him. Deputies arrested Bishop for aggravated fleeing and eluding, aggravated battery on a law enforcement officer, reckless driving, driving without a license, and resisting an officer without violence.

During the vehicle apprehension, a second deputy lost control of his patrol vehicle and struck an automotive repair building in Bunnell.

Two deputies received minor injuries during this incident. Both were treated at AdventHealth Palm Coast and released. Bishop was also evaluated by medical personnel and was not injured.

Deputies transported Hairston and Bishop to the Sheriff Perry Hall Inmate Detention Facility, where they are currently being processed. Hairston is being held without bond until first appearance, while Bishop will be turned over to the Florida Department of Juvenile Justice after being booked.



Darnell Hairston (Florida Department of Corrections) and Junior Bishop (Sheriff Perry Hall Inmate Detention Facility mug shot)

Hairston is a registered sexual offender and was released from the Florida Department of Corrections in 2009, where he had been serving a 12-year sentence for three counts of false imprisonment. He has a lengthy arrest history, including previous arrests for aggravated assault with a deadly weapon, burglary with assault or battery, cruelty toward wife, disorderly intoxication, lewd or lascivious offenses committed upon a child, property damage, and sexual battery.

"This was a very suspicious incident that is still under investigation by our detectives, but I am thankful that nobody was seriously hurt and that we were able to recover a missing child from this pervert's grasp," said Sheriff Rick Staly. "I also do not understand why a pervert who was sentenced to 12 years in prison in 2004 was released after only five years in 2009. Clearly, he has

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not learned anything!”

The investigation is still ongoing, including the relationship between Hairston, Bishop, and the missing juvenile.

View [footage](#) from the arrests and vehicle apprehension.

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