



Rick Staly, Sheriff
FLAGLER COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
"An honor to serve, a duty to protect."

NEWS RELEASE

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Flagler County Sheriff's Office and Florida Gaming Control Commission Serve Four Search Warrants After Undercover Operation Focused on Illegal Gambling

Illegal Gaming Machines and Cash Seized

BUNNELL, Fla. — The Flagler County Sheriff's Office Special Investigations Unit (SIU), in coordination with the Florida Gaming Control Commission (FGCC), conducted an undercover operation – dubbed "Reels of Fortune" – which focused on reports of illegal gambling at Flagler County businesses, seizing illegal gaming machines and cash.

The undercover operation was part of a multi-agency investigation across Brevard, Duval, Flagler and Volusia counties. The Flagler County businesses raided during Tuesday's operation include Palm Coast Lanes (11 Old Kings Rd., Palm Coast, FL 32137), 1405 Saloon (1405 E. Moody Blvd., Bunnell, FL 32110), Ike's Saloon (801 S. State St., Unit 10 and 11, Bunnell, FL 32110) and Crossroads Tavern (111 N. State St., Bunnell, FL 32110).



(Left) Flagler County Sheriff Rick Staly speaks with a Florida Gaming Control Commission special agent during "Reels of Fortune" undercover operation. (Right) Crime Scene Investigator Caitlin Butler photographs illegal gaming machines at Crossroads Tavern.

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In total, detectives seized 20 illegal gaming machines and \$16,856.80 in cash as a result of Tuesday's raids.

"These unregulated machines rarely pay out because they are set for the house to win," said Sheriff Rick Staly. "Illegal gambling is not a victimless crime. Often, it fuels other crime and preys on residents who are often elderly and on a limited income in the hopes of a big win."

"Unlawful gambling operations often play a role as the financial backing behind criminal networks," said Attorney General James Uthmeier. "These illegal casinos fuel organized crime, prostitution, and other illicit activities. Florida will see a major statewide crackdown on illegal gaming in 2026. If you're running an illegal operation, don't roll the dice; shut it down now."

"The Florida Gaming Control Commission is very impressed with this fabulous collaboration with our law enforcement partners during the 'Reel of Fortune' operation," said FGCC Executive Director Alana Zimmer. "With so many agencies coming together, we are amplifying our impressive results. The citizens of Florida are the real winners as more and more illegal casinos are shuttered. Thank you, Flagler County Sheriff's Office, for being a part of this important effort."

No arrests were made, and the investigation continues in partnership with the Florida Gaming Control Commission. The business owners could face up to \$10,000 in fines per machine.

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