



Flagler County Sheriff's Office

Donald W. Fleming, Sheriff

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Three Arrested On Heroin Charges And More Expected

Heroin use may be on the rise in Flagler County following a statewide crack down on pills mills in Florida.

The Flagler County Sheriff's Office Narcotics Enforcement Team arrested three people in the last two days in connection with possession and trafficking of heroin and had seized more than \$26,000 worth of heroin.

Recent legislation aimed at reducing the flow of prescription pain medication in the state has started to take effect with several pain clinics being shut down. The dispensing of these medications has also been limited.

In the first two months of 2011, Sheriff's Narcotics Detectives noticed none or very little heroin activity within the county. At that time, oxycodone pills, mostly Roxicodone 30 mg pills, were plentiful and detectives were purchasing pills on the street for prices ranging between \$13 and \$17 a pill. These medications were being funneled into the county mostly from South, Central and North Florida.

During the past several months, detectives have noted that there has been a spike in the price for Roxicodone with detectives now paying \$25 or more per pill.

During this same time period, the Narcotics Detectives have noticed an increase in the local distribution and consumption of heroin.

“Detectives have identified an organization that is a major distributor of heroin in the area. There will be more arrests in connection with this organized crime ring,” said Flagler County Sheriff Donald W. Fleming. “We are committed to protecting our community from this attempt to do business in our county.”

Two Palm Coast men were arrested Saturday after detectives witnessed them purchase heroin on the parking lot of a local Palm Coast restaurant. The exchange took place around 4:30 p.m.

Jason Hanson, 28, of 7 Pine Grove Drive, and Dennis Chervyakov, 32, of 6 Pillar Lane, were charged with possession of heroin.

This morning Edward McLaughlin, 29, of 1911 County Road 75, Bunnell, was arrested for trafficking in more than 14 grams of heroin. Deputies stopped him as he was southbound on I-95 near the 289 mile marker in Flagler County. Detectives, who had McLaughlin under surveillance said he was transporting the heroin from South Carolina to his Bunnell home. He was being held in the Flagler County Inmate Facility Monday afternoon on no bond.

“This one charge carries a minimum mandatory prison term of 15 years if convicted,” said Sheriff Fleming. “This man is a major player in the distribution ring.”

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