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SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

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Mission Statement: We are committed to the success of every student!

NEWS RELEASE

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Stolen Alachua County school buses recovered in Flagler County

Two buses stolen from an Alachua County Public Schools bus compound in Hawthorne back in early September have been recovered in Flagler County.

Earlier this month the Flagler County Sheriff’s Office arrested a Jacksonville man in connection with what was apparently a multi-state theft ring that targeted school buses. Those buses, stolen from several districts in Florida and Georgia, were then allegedly leased out by a company called 95 Tours and Transportation for shuttling fans to the Florida-Georgia game, transporting students to private schools and other uses.

One of the buses stolen from Alachua County has already been returned to the district. The name of the district had been removed from the exterior and the bus VIN number was altered, but otherwise the bus has been found to be in good shape. The second bus is still in the hands of law enforcement in Flagler County, but is expected to be released and picked up by district transportation staff in the next couple of days.

Ironically, two school buses stolen from Flagler County were found in Gainesville about two weeks ago.

The district had received an insurance settlement for the stolen buses but had not yet cashed the check. District staff say they were holding off as a result of news that buses stolen from other districts had been recovered.

“We’re so grateful for the work of law enforcement agencies throughout Florida and Georgia, including the local agencies, that worked together to solve this case,” said Alachua County Public Schools Interim Superintendent Hershel Lyons.

Since the theft of the buses, Alachua County Public Schools has installed cameras in all of its five bus compounds.

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