

Sheriff teams up with DPS' Special Investigations Division

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Nabs one liquor establishment for violation

Out of seven liquor establishments visited during an undercover sting March 11, MCSO Lt. Pat Salazar said the Shalimar Lounge & Dancing, 2618 W. Hwy 66, was cited for selling alcohol to an intoxicated individual.

Both the server, Jessica Haley, and the establishment's owner, which is listed as Itaf Rashid, according the New Mexico Secretary of State's website, received violations.

The sting was done in cooperation with the state's Department of Public Safety Special Investigations Division agent Peterson Long. Salazar said the agent faced an uphill battle trying to work a large demographic of McKinley County, in which he became a familiar face.

The McKinley County Sheriff's Office narcotics division utilized the help of undercover and underaged agents to test the integrity of area bars and packaged liquor sales establishments.

Rocket Lounge, Sports Page, American Bar, Coal Street Pub, Goodfellas Sports Lounge, and Sammy C's were all investigated and were found in compliance with state liquor laws.

"There are a lot of of bar owners that don't want these problems," MCSO Sheriff Ron Silversmith said. "I commend them for running a clean operation."

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Salazar said they plan on conducting these type of stings periodically in cooperation with DPS and other area law enforcement agencies.