



METRICH Enforcement Unit

Information Bulletin

2nd Quarter, No. 2-10
June 2010

24 Years Serving North Central Ohio Communities

Inside this issue:

Heroin problem addressed in raids Crawford County	2
Drug search warrant at multi-county correction center Marion County	2
Citizens drop off 219 pounds of medicines Richland County	3
Citizens tips lead to Tiffin search warrant Seneca County	3
Regional Statistics	4
Traffic stop leads to drug arrests in Prospect Marion County	5
Joint effort in search warrant execution Seneca County	5
Mansfield home a likely meth lab Richland County	6
"One-pot" or "Shake and Bake" meth production	6
Online sting led to prostitution arrest Marion County	7
Weapons, drugs seized in raid by METRICH Richland County	7

METRICH Central Office
30 N. Diamond Street
Mansfield, Ohio 44902
Phone: 419-755-9728
Fax: 419-522-7546

Knox County Officer Retires After 20 Years *Knox County*

When I asked Richard "Dick" Brenneman about his training or what year he was promoted to Detective Sergeant of the Knox County Sheriff's Department, he went to a bookcase in his office and returned with a very large binder and began leafing through the pages looking at all kinds of certificates and letters until he found the promotion letter from 1994.

The big binder is a collection of hours of training and documents associated with his 19 years with the Knox county Sheriff's Office.

Friday was Dick's last day with the department, and he was honored at a gathering of fellow officers, county officials and friends Friday afternoon at the sheriff's office.

He began his years in law enforcement in 1990 as a special deputy when Paul Rowe was sheriff. Rowe hired him full-time in April 1991, he was promoted to Detective Sergeant in 1994, and received his final promotion in 2007 to the rank of Captain.

Those early years were difficult ones for Brenneman and his family, because when he joined the sheriff's department he still owned his hometown newspaper, the *Knox County Citizen*, which he purchased from Don Clark several years before. Before that sale and after he joined the Sheriff's Office, Dick worked every night



Capt. Richard Brenneman retired from the Knox County Sheriff's Office on Friday after a 20-year career. He started as a special deputy in 1990 and has served in a variety of areas, including training, hostage negotiation and grant writing. He was promoted to captain in 2007, the second in command of the sheriff's office. He will stay on as a special deputy working part time at jobs that include the Marine Patrol Division. (Virgil Shipley)

of the week going to school, working as a deputy and working on the paper. On Tuesday nights, when he had to get the paper to the printer, he'd often work his shift until midnight, then finish putting the paper to bed.

In 1995, he sold the newspaper to Hirt Publishing who in turn sold it to Brown Publishing Company, the current owner and publisher.

See Brenneman retires, page 4

Heroin problem addressed in raids

Crawford County

Ron Shawber doesn't like the heroin numbers he sees in Crawford County.

So, the Crawford County Sheriff's Office is doing something about it. About 30 people will be arraigned Monday in Crawford County Common Pleas Court, the vast majority of them snagged in a heroin sweep.

"We need to put more pressure on heroin traffickers, especially when we are ranked in the top 10 in the state for heroin addiction and deaths," Shawber said. "We should not be in the top 10 at all and need to make a change in those numbers."

Crystal D. Lowe, 520 S. Boston St., Galion, was among those indicted April 9. Lowe was arrested on charges of trafficking in drugs and possession of drugs, both fifth-degree felonies.

She was arrested as part of a probe involving the Crawford County Sheriff's Office in conjunction with officers from Bucyrus and Galion police and the Morrow County Sheriff's Office.

"We are doing everything we can to (combat the problem), but it is also up to the individuals to make changes in their lives," Shawber said.

Israel W. Conklin, Shelby, was indicted on charges of trafficking in drugs, a fifth-degree felony, along with Jamie J. Nye, 5384 Walnut St., North Robinson; Jeffrey E. Newcome, 2589 Ohio 61, Crestline; Norma M. McNeal, 105 Sherman St., Galion; Brandon L. Johnson, 656 S. Boston St., Galion; Douglas A. Gardner, 1125 E. Walnut St., Galion; Bryan F. Damron, 360 Pine St., Galion; Peggy S. Polley, 3687 Ohio 309, Iberia; Nicholas C. Biederman, 450 Sears St., and Darick W. Hunter, Tiro.

According to Shawber and Prosecutor Stan Flegm, the arrests are part of an effort by the Crawford County branch of METRICH.

Others who face arraignment next week include Jerald Jordan, 62, 1046 S. Thoman St., of Crestline. He was arrested Monday on

three felony charges: unlawful sexual conduct with a minor, a third-degree felony, illegal use of a minor in nudity-oriented material, a second-degree felony, and attempted illegal use of a minor in nudity-oriented material, also a third-degree felony.

Jordan is accused of engaging in sexual conduct with a minor and photographing or videotaping the minor for illegal sale of nudity-oriented material.

Rudel J. Chatman, no permanent address, Bucyrus, was arrested on one count of intimidation, a third degree felony. He is accused of threatening family members of Bucyrus Police Officer Barry Miller while Miller was acting in the line of duty.

Daniel P. Lunsford, 28, of Mansfield, was arrested on one charge of burglary, a second-degree felony. He remains in Crawford County Justice Center.

Originally published in the Telegraph Forum on April 17, 2009.

Drug search warrant at multi-county correctional center

Marion County

On April 19, 2010, the MAR-MET-METRICH Drug Task Force detectives and their K-9, Kilo, conducted a drug search at the Multi-County Correctional Center at the request of the Director Dale Osborn.

Marion City Police and MAR-MET-METRICH K-9's have con-

ducted drug searches at the jail in the past at the request of Director Osborn who has remained aggressive in his position to maintain a drug free facility.

As a result of the search, seven balloons of heroin were located weighing 1.5 grams total with a street value of \$250.00.

Twenty-six year old inmate Kelly Joe Joseph of 442 West Columbia Street, Kenton, Ohio is being criminally charged with Possession of Heroin; a fifth degree felony and Conveyance into a Correctional Facility; a third degree felony.

Citizens drop off 219 pounds of medicines

Richland County

METRICH Commander Lt. Dino Sgambellone admitted he didn't know what to expect from the first Operation Drug Disposal.

METRICH teamed up with MedCentral Health System and Community Action for Capable Youth for Saturday's undertaking, which allowed people to drop off outdated or unused prescription medication.

More than 80 people dropped off a total of 219 pounds of medications.

"We're pleased, but we plan on having these events again and increasing removals as the word gets around," Sgambellone said. "Oftentimes it's hard to quantify preventive measures. This represents a significant amount of pre-

scription medication that we know is not going to be misused or abused."

MedCentral spokeswoman Cindy Jakubick dropped off a few meds of her own.

"We've collected a variety, everything from baby aspirin to the kinds of drugs they were hoping to get off the streets," she said.

One over-the-counter medication that was left with authorities Saturday was from the late 1960s.

A steady stream of cars passed through the parking lot at the Mid-Ohio Education Service Center, their drivers anonymously handing over medications to uniformed city cops.

A 50-year-old Mansfield

woman, who asked not to be identified, dropped off old prescriptions, vitamins and pet medication.

"This is an excellent idea," she said. "I had no idea what to do with it, and you don't want to throw it in the trash."

Tom Arkwright, MedCentral's director of pharmacy, advises residents with unwanted medication to place it in a plastic bag and dissolve it with water, then add coffee grounds or kitty litter to make it less desirable for pets or children.

Sgambellone said Saturday's collection would be incinerated.

Originally published in the News Journal on May 16, 2010.

Citizens tips lead to Tiffin search warrant

Seneca County

On Wednesday, April 14 2010, the Seneca County Drug Task Force-METRICH Enforcement Unit, consisting of the Tiffin Police Department, Seneca County Sheriff's Office, the Seneca County Prosecutor's Office and the Fostoria Police Department, along with additional Officers from the Tiffin Police Department executed a drug related search warrant at 99 Frost Parkway, Tiffin, that being the residence of Roy L. Staton, and Lisa M. Head.

The search warrant signed by Judge Mark Repp of the Tiffin Municipal Court yielded crack cocaine, US Currency, drug paraphernalia, illegally possessed prescription medication (Oxycontin)

and criminal tools.

The Tiffin Police Department's SRT Team was utilized to make entry into the residence and execute the search warrant safely and effectively. The Tiffin Police Department K-9 Unit also assisted in the execution of the search warrant.

Charges of Possession of Crack Cocaine, Trafficking Crack Cocaine, Possession of Criminal Tools, and Permitting Drug Abuse are pending after further investigation and lab testing of the contraband discovered by agents inside the residence.

"Tips from area citizens assisted officers with successfully executing the search warrant and

confiscating crack cocaine and prescription drugs. This investigation continues to be an ongoing investigation involving the distribution of crack cocaine throughout Seneca County", Det./Sgt. Donald R. Joseph, Task Force Agent/Lead Investigator said.

"Our investigations are leading us to the sources of prescription drug sales in our community, but it's evident that these investigations are also leading us to other illicit drugs, such as crack cocaine, which also has a correlation with violent crimes in the community! ", Det. Charles W. Boyer, Unit Coordinator said.

Brenneman retires, from page 1

But neither newspaper or law enforcement were Dick’s first career. The 1971 graduate of Fredericktown High School received a Bachelor’s degree in education from Ohio State University and then a Master’s, also in education, from Bowling Green State University. Eight days after graduation from OSU, Dick married his wife Bonnie, also a teacher. They have two children, Renee and Gary.

He loved teaching and taught for four years and was a principal for more than three years in the Marion Local School District in Mercer County, three years teaching sixth grade in Grand Rapids, Ohio, then spent four years as director of business affairs for the Northfork School District in Licking County.

He also spent four years in the Air Force, serving in Texas and Ohio.

On Jan. 18, 1993, Sheriff David Barber promoted Dick to

the detective division. Dick remembers the date because there was a murder in Knox County that day.

In August 2002 the Sheriff’s Office moved into its new building east of Mount Vernon. Dick said the new building provided space and computers and more technology to crime investigators. “Barber brought the department into the 21st century,” Dick said explaining that in the early days if you needed to get to in touch with the office, deputies had to use a payphone. Today their equipment is some of the finest available.

Dick says the best part of the job has been helping victims. The worst part has been all the middle of the night calls. He will miss the people he has worked with and being in the midst of everything as it’s happening.

He dug through a pile of papers on his desk and gave me two thank you notes to read from victim’s families. “Some cases stay

with you longer than others,” he explained. “Some you just can’t forget.”

Dick certainly isn't ready for a rocking chair and slippers, He’s going to take some time off and prepare for a family wedding before taking the next step on his exciting and varied career path. He thinks he will get back to teaching, not the sixth grade variety but criminal justice. He has so many skills to share in negotiation and crisis intervention and more from all the training and years in crime investigation.

Good luck Dick and thanks for all you’ve done for Fredericktown and Knox County.

Originally published in the Knox County Citizen.

NOTE: Dick has served as the Knox County METRICH Access Officer for several years and will truly be missed. Good Luck in retirement Dick!

METRICH Regional Statistics

1 - 2nd QTR Statistical Summary	Jan-Jun 2009	Jan-Jun 2010	09-10 Change %
CASE ACTIVITY			
Total New Cases	829	772	-6.9%
Open Pharmaceutical Cases	254	156	-38.6%
Drug-Related Arrests	311	420	35.0%
Non-Drug-Related Arrests	17	29	70.6%
Search Warrants	94	80	-14.9%
Demand Reduction - Public Appearances	43	70	62.8%
Intel Submissions	2061	1664	-19.3%
DRUG REMOVALS			
Cocaine (g)	336.72	6753.72	1905.7%
Crack (g)	399.41	219.96	-44.9%
Ecstasy (du)	524	146	-72.1%
Heroin (g)	308.62	274.77	-11.0%
LSD (du)	0	30	3000.0%
Marijuana (g)	37759.22	315976.15	736.8%
Marijuana Plants (#)	479	307	-35.9%
Methamphetamine (g)	0.00	7.10	710.0%
PHARMACEUTICAL REMOVALS			
Hydrocodone (du)	255	187	-26.7%
Methadone (du)	301	43	-85.7%
Oxycodone (du)	1,194	520	-56.4%

Traffic stop leads to drug arrests in Prospect

Marion County

On May 8, 2010, at approximately 1:30 am, a deputy with the Marion County Sheriff's Office conducted a traffic stop on a vehicle in the village of Prospect for failing to stop at a stop sign.

While interviewing the driver of the vehicle, the deputy recovered a bag of marijuana and drug paraphernalia from the driver. Through his investigation, the deputy learned that the driver had just purchased the marijuana at a residence in the village of Prospect.

The driver of the vehicle, Arick T. Osborn, 22 years old, of 4470 Berry Road in Marion was charged with drug abuse, possession of drug paraphernalia, and a stop sign violation.

The Delaware County Sheriff's Office assisted with the traffic stop.

With the information obtained from the traffic stop, deputies and detectives with the Marion County Sheriff's Office and the MARMET-METRICH Drug Task Force executed a search warrant at 210 South East Street (Rear Unit) in the village of Prospect.

During the search, the officers located and seized 93 marijuana plants, cash, firearms, marijuana, and drug paraphernalia.

Also inside the residence were three adult males and one juvenile female. Zachary T. Phillips, 21 years old, of 210 South East Street (Rear Unit) was arrested for felony trafficking in mari-

juana, drug abuse, cultivation of marijuana, and possession of drug paraphernalia.

James M. Dudkiewicz, 20 years old, of 210 South East Street (Rear Unit) was arrested for felony trafficking in marijuana, drug abuse, cultivation of marijuana, possession of drug paraphernalia, and for an outstanding warrant out of the city of Marion for failure to appear. Both suspects were transported to the Multi-County Correctional Center awaiting formal charges from the Marion County Prosecutor's Office.

The other adult male was released at the scene and the juvenile female was released to her parents.

Joint effort in search warrant execution

Seneca County

On Thursday, April 15, 2010, Officers from the Fostoria Police Department along with the Seneca County Drug Task Force-METRICH Enforcement Unit, consisting of the Fostoria Police Department, Tiffin Police Department, Seneca County Sheriff's Office and the Seneca County Prosecutor's Office and officers from the Seneca County Dog Warden's Office, executed a drug related search warrant at the residence located at 121 Taft Boulevard, Fostoria, that being the residence of Laura M. Lopez, 38 and Clarence D. Smith Jr.

Law enforcement officials confiscated and seized suspected marijuana, US currency, prescription drugs, drug paraphernalia and

criminal tools from the residence.

The Fostoria Police Department's SWAT team was utilized to make entry into the residence and execute the search warrant safely and effectively.

The Fostoria Police Department's K-9 Unit also assisted in the execution of the search warrant.

Numerous pit-bull dogs were found at the residence and officers from the Seneca County Dog Warden's Office safely secured the dogs during the execution of the search warrant.

Laura M. Lopez was charged with Possession of Percocets, Possession of a Dangerous Drug, Possession of Drug Paraphernalia and Possession of Criminal Tools.

Additional charges of Trafficking Crack Cocaine, Possession of Criminal Tools, Possession of Marijuana and Permitting Drug Abuse are all pending on the suspects involved in reference to the "on going" investigation.

"The Fostoria Police Department, along with the Task Force continues daily to aggressively enforce the law and go after those individuals involved in the illegal sale, use, or transportation of narcotics within our city and surrounding communities. This investigation is an ongoing investigation stemming from the sales of crack cocaine throughout the City of Fostoria and City of Tiffin." Fostoria Police Chief John McGuire said.

Mansfield home a likely meth lab

Richland County

Local and state authorities found a suspected meth lab Friday night at a house on Malone Road on Mansfield's south side.

Responding to a call about underage drinking and a possible meth lab around 7:30 p.m. Friday, police noticed chemicals and other items associated with methamphetamine production and called in the METRICH Enforcement Unit's Clandestine Laboratory Response Team and a similar unit of the Ohio BCI, according to Mansfield police Lt. Dino Sgambellone.

Jeff B. Cogar, 47, who resides at 87 Malone Road, gave authorities consent to search the house. Police reported finding items used to make methamphetamine in the kitchen and garage.

One arrest came out of the incident, though it was unrelated to the suspected meth lab.

Police took Cogar's brother - Bruce A. Cogar, 45, of 170 Cleveland Ave. in Butler -- into custody and charged him with drug possession after finding him

with both cocaine and marijuana. Police also seized \$665 from the scene. Bruce Cogar was taken to Richland County Jail.

Sgambellone said Clandestine Lab Unit officers from several agencies discovered many methamphetamine "cooks" using a method not yet seen in this area.

Agents saw evidence of the use of the "one-pot" or "shake and bake" method at the Malone Road house, along with hazardous waste from previous cooks. With the one-pot method, nearly all of the ingredients used to make meth are mixed into one container, typically a used pop bottle.



Sgambellone said the method is especially dangerous because of the extreme pressure created by

the mixed chemicals.



At the Malone Road address, at least two of the cook containers exploded, police said, which presents a potential fire hazard.

No one answered the door to the house Saturday afternoon, although several vehicles were parked in the driveway and yard.

Jeff Cogar is listed as a suspect in the incident, and charges may be filed against him and another man at the scene when police arrived.

Sgambellone said authorities will put a case together and forward it to the prosecutor's office.

Originally published in the News Journal on June 27, 2010.

“One-Pot” or “Shake and Bake” Methamphetamine Production

A one-pot methamphetamine laboratory actually uses a variation of the lithium ammonia method of production; however, in the one-pot method, a combination of commonly available chemicals is used to synthesize the anhydrous ammonia essential for methamphetamine production.

Cooks using this method are

able to produce the drug in approximately 30 minutes at nearly any location by mixing, or “shaking,” ingredients in easily found containers such as a 2-liter plastic soda bottle, as opposed to using other methods that require hours to heat ingredients.

Producers often use the one-pot cook while traveling in vehi-

cles and dispose of waste components along roadsides. Discarded plastic bottles may carry residual chemicals that can be toxic, explosive, or flammable.

Originally published in the 2009 National Methamphetamine Threat Assessment

Online sting led to prostitution arrests

Marion County

After being tipped off that a website advertising female escorts and body rubs in the Marion area also was offering illegal services, local authorities set up a meeting with two women they alleged were soliciting sex, leading to an arrest and other charges.

Marion police investigators alleged Vincent Miller, 47, of 385 Commercial St., operated a prostitution business out of his north-west Marion home, using the website columbus.backpage.com to attract customers throughout central Ohio.

Bond for Miller was \$5,000 when he was arraigned on two felonies Monday afternoon in Marion Municipal Court, county Assistant Prosecutor Greg Perry said. He filed a felony complaint citing promoting prostitution and trafficking in marijuana.

Two undercover detectives of the METRICH-MARMET Drug Task Force sent Miller messages online to set up a meeting at a local hotel, after police learned about the advertisements 10 days ago, said Maj. Jay McDonald of the Marion Police Department.

Miller brought marijuana and two women with him to meet the

officers, acting as their business manager, McDonald said.

Officers videotaped and recorded audio of the conversations when they met with Miller, and then paid him money for the services before he left. He was stopped in his car shortly after and arrested, McDonald said.

The two women he brought with him, Freda A.R. Johnson, 19, of Marion, and Laura B. Skinner, 22, of Nevada, were issued summonses for soliciting prostitution, third-degree misdemeanors.

They told officers Miller ran the operation, and that they'd made trips all across central Ohio for him.

"He made money off the top," McDonald said. "He came with the girls. He basically delivered them." After detectives arrested Miller, they searched his home, seizing computers and other evidence, McDonald said.

"This was an operating business," he said.

Officers don't anticipate making any more felony arrests in the case, but are continuing to investigate, with concern about services advertised by one female on the website who seems to be younger than 18.

Detectives hoped to identify her last week in the sting, but Miller brought different women than had been requested.

Advertisements on the website go back to May, McDonald said, and the operation could have been going on before that.

He estimated there were five or six other women working with Miller.

"If they're of age, that's my main concern," he said. "Then finding out if they were forced into it. There hasn't been any evidence of that so far."

McDonald said he doesn't believe prostitution is a major problem in Marion, but officers have cited people for soliciting prostitution from time to time.

This was the first time officers in the area used the Internet to investigate such a complaint and set up a sting, and it went well, he said.

"They're not standing on the corner anymore," he said. "If there's anyone else out there running something like this, you never know if a customer is an undercover police officer or not."

Originally published in the Marion Star on June 22, 2210.

Weapons, drugs seized in raid by METRICH

Richland County

Authorities seized 14 weapons, including high-powered rifles, shotguns and handguns, during a Thursday residence search at 306 Superior Ave.

Officers went to Linael T. Smith's home to serve him with an indictment alleging possession of weapons under disability. The report said Smith, 28, would not open the door, so authorities

forced their way in and saw several weapons.

Officers contacted the METRICH Enforcement Unit, which obtained a search warrant and seized the weapons, marijuana, drug paraphernalia, numerous bullets and prescription medication, according to the report.

One of the weapons was a loaded .357-caliber handgun,

which authorities said was on a closet shelf within arm's reach of where Smith was taken into custody.

In addition to the indictment, Smith was hit with a second charge of possession of weapons under disability.

Originally published in the News Journal on May 21, 2010.

24 Years Serving North Central Ohio Communities

Project Director, Chief Phil Messer
 Phone: (419) 755-9753
 Email: pmesser@metrich.com
 Website: www.metrich.com

METRICH Central Office
 30 N. Diamond St
 Mansfield, Ohio 44902
 Phone: 419-755-9728
 Fax: 419-522-7546

METRICH (Metro-Richland County) Enforcement Unit is a ten county law enforcement task force created to address multi-jurisdictional violators of Ohio's drug, weapons, and organized crime statutes. The project operates with a basic "Community Policing Philosophy" using a "Weed and Seed Strategy" from ten "de-centralized" offices.

Participating agencies: Ashland, Crawford, Hancock, Huron, Knox, Marion, Morrow, Richland, Seneca, Wyandot County Sheriff's Offices and Prosecutors Offices; Ashland, Loudonville, Bucyrus, Crestline, Galion, Findlay, Bellevue, Greenwich, Monroeville, New London, Norwalk, Plymouth, Wakeman, Willard, Mt. Vernon, Marion, Mt. Gilead, Lexington, Mansfield, Ontario, Shelby, Fostoria, Tiffin, Carey, Upper Sandusky Police Departments; Ohio State Highway Patrol; Ohio Department of Public Safety; BCI&I, Ohio State Board of Pharmacy; U.S Department of Housing & Urban Development; FBI; ATF; DEA; IRS.

Points of Contact

Ashland County

Sgt Joel Icenhour, Access Officer (419) 289-3639

Crawford County

Sgt Chris Heydinger, Access Officer (419) 562-7906

Hancock County

Det Tom Blunk, Access Officer (419) 424-7887

Huron County

Capt Robert McLaughlin, Access Officer (419) 663-2820

Knox County

Lt Gary Rohler, Access Officer (740) 397-3333

Marion County

Maj Aaron Corwin, Access Officer (740) 382-8244

Morrow County

Dep John Hinton, Access Officer (419) 946-4444

Richland County

Lt Dino Sgambellone, Access Officer (419) 755-9726

Seneca County

Det Chuck Boyer, Access Officer (419) 447-2323

Wyandot County

Deputy Rich Kesler, Access Officer (419) 294-2362

FBI

S/A Brad Hoffert (419) 525-2200

IRS-CID

SAC Rowland Cresswell (419) 259-7440
 S/A Jeffrey M. Paul (330) 375-5514

DEA

A/RAC Gene Corley (216) 274-3600

ATF

Lance Kimmell, Group Supervisor (216) 522-3080

Ohio BCI&I

S/A Mike Masterson, Investigations (419) 353-5603

S/A Fred Moore, Investigations (740) 845-2000

Chrissie Ross, Analyst (330) 884-7510

Ohio Investigative Unit

AAIC Greg Croft, Marion (614) 644-2413

AIC Rita Raimer, Akron (330) 644-0318

AIC Ray Rodriguez, Toledo (419) 866-9907