



METRICH Enforcement Unit

Information Bulletin

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31 Years Serving North Central Ohio Communities

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METRICH seizes drugs, weapons during arrest Richland County

The US Marshals task force served an arrest warrant for Hendrick Bradley at 837 S. Diamond St., Apt. 1, and contacted the METRICH Enforcement Unit after seeing drugs in plain view, according to a METRICH news release.

METRICH, the Northern Ohio Violent Fugitive Task Force and the Mansfield Police Department served a search warrant signed by Jude Frank Ardis Jr., the release said.

During the search, METRICH detectives seized suspected heroin, cocaine and marijuana; an assortment of drug paraphernalia; \$4,128 in cash; and three handguns.



METRICH detectives seized drugs and cash during the arrest of a 26-year-old man in Mansfield on Wednesday.



Hendrick Bradley was arrested on Wednesday and charged with possession of heroin, cocaine and weapons under disability, all third-degree felonies.

METRICH detectives arrested Bradley and charged with him possession of heroin, possession of cocaine

and possession of weapons under disability, all third-degree felonies.

He was taken to Richland County Jail, where he awaits a court appearance. Additional charges may be forwarded to the Richland County Prosecutor's Office for review, according to the press release.

"The METRICH Enforcement Unit will continue to target those individuals that traffic drugs in the community and would like to thank those individuals who called in the numerous tips and complaints regarding Hendrick Bradley which assisted detectives in this investigation," METRICH Sgt. Steve Blust said in the press release.

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METRICH Central Office
30 N. Diamond Street
Mansfield, Ohio 44902

Couple charged with involuntary manslaughter for August overdose death *Ashland County*

An Ashland couple has been indicted on a charge of involuntary manslaughter in connection to an opiate overdose that occurred in August 2016.

Christopher and Danielle Luce were indicted by the Ashland County grand jury on Thursday, according to a news release from Ashland County Prosecutor Christopher Tunnell.

Christopher Luce's mother, Sharon Parker was also indicted on two counts of obstructing justice for allegedly "providing transportation and other means for her son and his wife to elude authorities in connection with the case," according to the release.

The involuntary manslaughter charge is related to the overdose death of Ashland resident Jeffrey Sanders, who died August 9 at his home in the Almond Tree Inn, according to the release. Sanders had carfentanil in his system, according to the release.

Christopher and Danielle Luce had previously been in the Ashland County Jail and charged with

a count of aggravated possession of drugs, specifically, methamphetamines. They both pleaded not guilty to the charge.

Now, the pair have been indicted on eleven charges.

According to the release, police began to investigate after Christopher Luce overdosed on August 8 at the Luce home. Ashland Police and Fire Departments were called to their Cleveland Avenue home and Luce was transported to University Hospitals Samaritan Medical Center. Both Luces were questioned following Christopher's overdose, according to the release.

The METRICH Enforcement Unit investigated both Luce's overdose and Sanders' which ultimately led to the charges being filed.

Tunnell said in the release that METRICH and Ashland Police detective Brian Evans "was able to link" the two incidents. Sanders' home at the Almond Tree Inn was close to the Luce's Cleveland Avenue home, according to the

prosecutor.

"Based on interviews from witnesses, along with cell phone data, a connection was made between the Luces and Sanders death which has been ruled as caused by a drug overdose after an autopsy was performed at the Cuyahoga County Coroner's Office, Tunnell said.

The Luces have been charged with involuntary manslaughter, a first-degree felony; corrupting another with drugs, a second-degree felony; two counts of aggravated trafficking in drugs, fifth-degree felonies; and three other drug related misdemeanors in connection to the August overdoses.

They were also charged with aggravated possession of drugs, a fifth-degree felony; possessing drug abuse instruments, a first-degree misdemeanor, and possession of drugs, a first-degree misdemeanor after a search warrant was executed at the Luce home on Jefferson Avenue on Feb. 10, 2017.

Originally published in the Ashland Times Gazette on March 11, 2017.

Drug gear found in search of home *Seneca County*

Drug paraphernalia was found during the search of a residence in the first block of St. Clair Street Friday afternoon.

A search warrant was executed at about 4 p.m. at 72 St. Clair St., said Detective Chuck Boyer, unit coordinator for Seneca County Drug Task Force — METRICH Enforcement Unit, with assistance

from Tiffin Police Department.

Paraphernalia "indicative to marijuana use" was found inside, he said.

Terry L. Ellis, 39, of Tiffin, was in the house at the time of the search, Boyer said, and charges were pending against him Friday for possession of drug paraphernalia.

Boyer said police were made aware of potential drug activity at the residence through tips from neighbors who said suspicious people were moving in and out of the house.

Originally published in the Advertiser Tribune on February 4, 2017.

Drugs found in search of Findlay residence

Hancock County

A large amount of drugs were seized during a search of a Summit Street residence on Saturday, according to the Hancock County METRICH Drug Task Force.

At approximately 7:05 p.m. Saturday, a search warrant was executed at 1211 Summit St.,

Findlay, by METRICH and the Findlay Police Department's Emergency Response Team.

According to METRICH, the search uncovered "a large amount of cash, crack cocaine, heroin, marijuana, drug paraphernalia, criminal tools, and other items

indicative of drug trafficking."

METRICH said that no arrests have been made and the investigation is still open. However, charges are expected at the conclusion of the investigation.

Originally published in the Courier on February 6, 2017.

Drugs found in search near TC

Seneca County

Suspected crack cocaine and drug paraphernalia were found during a search warrant execution in the 200 block of South Monroe Street early Friday morning.

Seneca County Drug Task Force – METRICH Enforcement Unit, with assistance from Tiffin Police Department Special Response Team, executed a search warrant at 283 S. Monroe St., Apt. 2 – across the street from Columbian High School – at 12:44 a.m., said Chuck Boyer, unit coordinator of Seneca County Drug Task Force – METRICH Enforcement Unit.

Police found suspected crack cocaine, prescription Vicodin, US currency, drug paraphernalia and criminal tools, including digital

scales, cellphones and crack pipes, Boyer said.

Harold E. Taylor, 35, of Fremont, also known as "DIRT" or "D," was charged with trafficking crack cocaine in the vicinity of a school and Scott L. Wingart, 49, of Tiffin, was charged with permitting drug abuse, stated a Seneca County Drug Task Force – METRICH Enforcement Unit release. The two were taken to Seneca County Jail, Boyer said.

There was a woman in the house during the search, but she was not charged, Boyer said.

"There was a female, but we couldn't show that she was related to the investigation," he said.

Charges of trafficking crack cocaine and possession of crimi-

nal tools are pending on Taylor upon completion of lab analysis of the substance, the release stated.

Police learned of drug activity through tips from people in the community, Boyer said. He said Taylor had come into town only hours before the search was executed.

"We received information that he was in town. He comes in, comes out," he said. "We've had dealings with him in the past."

Although heroin was not found during the search, Boyer said Taylor is also a "person of interest" in heroin overdoses in the area.

Originally published in the Advertiser Tribune on February 11, 2017.

Police raid massage parlor on West Fourth Street

Richland County

Police reported they raided a massage parlor Wednesday afternoon at 1504 W. Fourth St. because of complaints of suspected prostitution and sexual-related activity at the business.

The business in question is Tuina Studio, according to a news

release from the METRICH.

Detectives reported they seized an assortment of potential evidence.

METRICH was assisted by Mansfield police and the local office of the FBI. METRICH and the FBI will follow up to identify

any possible connections to human trafficking. Lt. Joseph Petrycki thanked the FBI for its help.

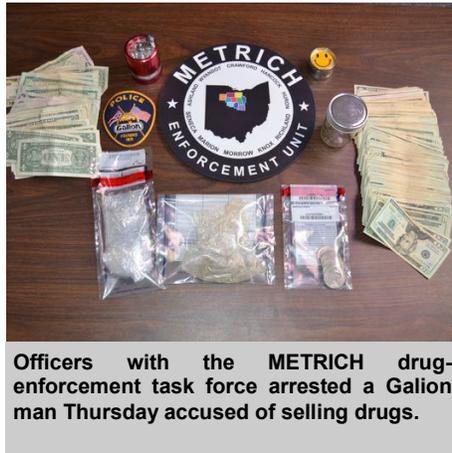
Originally published in the News Journal on March 2, 2017.

Galion drug bust lands man behind bars *Crawford County*

A man accused of selling drugs was arrested Thursday morning in Galion. Officers found him at home after entering with a search warrant.

Anthony Ross, 41, was arrested in his house at 427 Harding Way West by members of the METRICH drug-enforcement unit. The Galion Police Department, Bucyrus Police Department and Crawford County Sheriff's Office worked together while investigating Ross.

Officers seized suspected co-



Officers with the METRICH drug-enforcement task force arrested a Galion man Thursday accused of selling drugs.

caine, marijuana, drug paraphernalia and approximately \$3,500 in

cash during the search. Ross was transported to the Crawford County Jail pending formal filing of charges for possession of cocaine, possession of marijuana, drug paraphernalia and drug trafficking.

"Drug trafficking will not be tolerated in Crawford County," Galion Police Chief Brian Saterfield said. "This is another great example of all Crawford County Law Enforcement agencies working together."

Originally published in the News Journal on February 16, 2017.

House search nets arrest *Hancock County*

A Hancock County man was arrested on drug charges Thursday afternoon after law enforcement authorities raided a rural Jenera residence.

The Hancock County METRICH Drug Task Force, with the assistance of the Hancock County Sheriff's Office Emergency Response Team, executed a search warrant at 7697 Van Buren

Township 29.

According to the drug task force, a search of the residence yielded about 100 grams of MDMA (Ecstasy), suspected LSD, marijuana, drug paraphernalia, criminal tools and cash.

Following the search, authorities arrested Forest W. Adams, 21, of 14851 Hancock County 26, on a charge of possession of a

schedule I controlled substance, a third-degree felony, the task force reported. Adams was being held in the Hancock County jail.

Additional charges and arrests are expected at the conclusion of the investigation, according to METRICH.

Originally published in The Courier on March 3, 2017.

METRICH raid of residence nets drugs *Richland County*

Two people were arrested during a Thursday drug raid on the city's west side by the METRICH Enforcement Unit

METRICH, with help from the Mansfield Police Department, Allied Special Operations Response Team and the Northern Ohio Violent Fugitive Task Force, searched the residence at 465 Park Ave. W.

Detectives arrested Devall L.

Williams Sr. on six counts of trafficking in drugs and Gerald S. Nixon Jr. on a parole violation.

During the search, detectives reported finding suspected crack cocaine, suspected heroin, marijuana and several packages of hash oil, also known as "dabs." Detectives also seized over \$2,000 in U.S. currency.

The search warrant was the result of a short-term investiga-

tion after several complaints of suspected drug trafficking in the area of Park Avenue West and Bartley Avenue.

METRICH Commander Lt. Joe Petrycki said, "METRICH will continue to target suspected drug dealers in the community, especially those that are selling Fentanyl."

Originally published in the News Journal on January 19, 2017.

Person of interest in ODs nabbed

Seneca County

Police say a Tiffin man who is a “person of interest” in heroin overdoses was arrested on an outstanding warrant Tuesday night.

Detective Chuck Boyer of Seneca County Drug Task Force — METRICH Enforcement Unit said Cody R. Brown, 26, was out on bond on drug charges.

Brown was indicted by a Seneca County grand jury on two counts of trafficking in heroin, both fifth-degree felonies, in December.

Court records state Allstate Bail Bonds posted bond for him Dec. 21. Brown failed to appear for his arraignment in Seneca County Common Pleas Court Judge Steve Shuff’s courtroom Jan. 12, and a bench warrant for his arrest was issued, they state.

Boyer said Tiffin Police Department had information Brown was living with his girlfriend, Leticia Lopez, at 70 1/2 Coe St., the residence of Lopez’ mother, Terri Smith. When officers arrived, Lopez told them Brown wasn’t there, but they saw him in a back room, he said.

“(They) arrested Cody,” he said.

Officers suspected Brown had heroin in the back room and summoned the drug task force, Boyer said.

“We found a safe,” he said.

The task force obtained a search warrant for the safe and located a gun inside. Officers found what appeared to be heroin, digital scales and other items consistent with drug trafficking, Boy-

er said.

He said the gun was sent to a laboratory for testing to prove it belonged to Brown.

Brown cannot have guns while out on bond and also is prohibited from having them due to a prior drug conviction, Boyer said.

Charges of trafficking heroin and having weapons while under disability were pending Wednesday based on the outcome of laboratory results. A charge of possession of criminal tools also was pending.

Brown is a person of interest in task force investigations, including into overdoses, Boyer said.

Originally published in the Advertiser Tribune on February 16, 2017.

Woman charged in fiance’s fatal overdose

Hancock County

A Vanlue woman was charged with involuntary manslaughter Tuesday in connection with the overdose death of her fiance.

Ashton Shull, age unknown, was indicted by a Hancock County grand jury for involuntary manslaughter, a first-degree felony; corrupting another with drugs, a second-degree felony; and two counts of aggravated possession of drugs, both fifth-degree felonies.

Shull allegedly caused the death of Tony Buxton, 27, of Mount Blanchard, on Aug. 20, according to County Prosecutor Phil Rieggle. Buxton was found at his residence on County Road 26

in Amanda Township, Rieggle said.

According to Rieggle, Shull allegedly furnished Buxton with Carfentanil, reportedly 10,000 times more potent than morphine, and U-47700, also a synthetic opioid.

On the same day, Shull allegedly possessed unspecified amounts of the same drugs, the prosecutor said.

A coroner’s report on Buxton’s death was not available Tuesday, but Rieggle said the cause of death was drug toxicity.

According to Shull’s Facebook profile, she had been engaged to Buxton since September 2015.

Shull is the second person to be recently charged in connection with the overdose death of another.

Nathan S. Brown, 28, was charged in December for the overdose death of Jarrod T. Barger, 24, in Liberty Township. Brown is accused of administering Fentanyl to Barger, according to the indictment.

Autopsy results for Barger revealed that the cause of death was cocaine and Fentanyl toxicity, according to the county coroner’s report.

METRICH conducted the overdose investigations.

Originally published in The Courier on February 8, 2017.

Fentanyl overdoses lead to arrest *Richland County*

An investigation of several Fentanyl overdoses in the Mansfield and Madison Township areas led to the arrest Friday night of 55-year-old man.

Michael Bolden, of 1813 Richard Drive, was arrested on two charges of drug trafficking, fifth-degree felonies.

Bolden was picked up at an address on Armstrong Avenue in the city. The METRICH Enforcement Unit, with help from the Richland County Sheriff's Office,

searched Bolden's home on Richard Drive.

As a result of the residence search, METRICH obtained two more search warrants, one for a vehicle and one for a storage unit associated with Bolden.

Overall, METRICH detectives seized suspected heroin/fentanyl, crack cocaine, assorted drug paraphernalia, suspected counterfeit currency and over \$3,600 in U.S. currency.

Detectives will continue to fol-

low up leads on the fentanyl overdose cases and further charges may be forwarded to the Richland County Prosecutor's Office for review.

This successful investigation is a result of collaboration between the sheriff's office and METRICH working together with the same goal of removing drugs and weapons from the streets of Richland County.

Originally published in the News Journal on January 21, 2017.

Findlay man arrested after drug raid *Hancock County*

A Findlay man was arrested on drug charges after local law enforcement authorities raided a city residence Wednesday evening.

At 6:25 p.m. Wednesday, the Hancock County METRICH Drug Task Force, with the assistance of the Findlay Police Department Emergency Response Team, executed a search warrant at 425 Monroe Ave., Lot 32, according to a release from the METRICH Drug Enforcement Unit.

The search yielded crack co-

caine, heroin, methamphetamine, LSD, prescription narcotics, marijuana, drug paraphernalia, criminal tools and other items indicative of drug trafficking.

Justin J. Beagle, 27, who lives at the Monroe Avenue address, was arrested on three drug-related charges and was being held in the Hancock County jail Wednesday night, METRICH reported. Beagle has been charged with possession of crack cocaine and possession of heroin, both fifth-degree felonies,

and possession of schedule II controlled substance, a third-degree felony.

Additional charges and arrests are expected pending the conclusion of the investigation. The Hancock METRICH Drug Enforcement Unit is supported by METRICH in Mansfield and funded in part by the Office of Criminal Justice Services.

Originally published in The Courier on February 8, 2017.

Trafficking charges pending after search *Seneca County*

Money, criminal tools and drug paraphernalia were found during execution of a search warrant Monday night.

Entry was made at 3027 S. US 23, Apt. 4, according to a Seneca County Sheriff's Office report.

It is the residence of Sheila Burdine, 35. Jamaine Hill, 39, of Toledo, was arrested on an out-

standing warrant in Portsmouth, according to a drug task force release.

Detective Chuck Boyer, unit coordinator for Seneca County — METRICH Enforcement Unit, said officers found drug paraphernalia, including straws, scales and mirrors with powder residue.

Charges of trafficking drugs,

permitting drug abuse and possession of criminal tools were pending on Burdine Tuesday.

Seneca County Sheriff's Office deputies and Fostoria Police Department officers assisted with execution of the search warrant.

Originally published in the Advertiser Tribune on January 25, 2017.

Warrant leads to 4 arrests *Seneca County*

METRICH Enforcement Unit executed a search warrant at 22 Tiffin St., Tiffin.

Joellen Harshman, 53; Billy J. Bright, 28; Nicholas A. Vassar, 35; and Haley M. Martin, 29, live at the residence, according to a release from Seneca County Drug Task Force – METRICH Enforcement Unit.

Vassar was arrested on warrants through Seneca County Common Pleas Court and Tiffin-Fostoria Municipal Court, and Martin was arrested on a parole violation from Jackson County.

Adult Parole Authority ordered

the arrest of Harshman and Bright.

Harshman had pleaded guilty to a charge of aggravated possession of drugs, a fifth-degree felony, November 2011. Her request for early release was granted in March 2015, and her sentence was modified to two years of community control, Seneca County Common Pleas Court records state.

Bright had pleaded guilty to a charge of felonious assault, a second-degree felony, and was sentenced to four years in prison in March 2013, court records state.

His motion for judicial release was granted in April 2015, and his sentence was modified to three years of community control, they state.

Charges of possession of methamphetamine were pending on Bright, Harshman and Martin Monday.

The search warrant, which was signed by Shuff, yielded suspected methamphetamine, money, drug paraphernalia and criminal tools, the release states.

Originally published in the Advertiser Tribune on February 28, 2017.

2016 Regional Stats Summary

New Cases	1872	Weapons	201
RX Cases	160	Demand Reductions	121
Indictments	1176	Marijuana Grows	86
INTEL	5076	Meth Labs	23
Felony Arrests	1161	Overdose Deaths	124
Search Warrants	847		

DRUG STATS					
Drug Type	Cultivation	Manufacturing	Trafficking	Possession	Amount
Cocaine			77	104	6870.5 g
Crack			51	24	921.84 g
Heroin			322	246	1998.68 g
Marijuana			66	40	227.76 lbs.
Marijuana Plants					2427 plants
LSD			8	3	80.88 DU
Ecstasy			4	1	6.84 DU
Meth		37	16	43	603.55 g
Synthetic			26	57	167.87 g

31 Years Serving North Central Ohio Communities



Project Director, Chief Ken Coontz
 Phone: (419) 755-9753
 Email: kcoontz@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, 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

Det. Brian Evans, Access Officer (419) 289-3639

Crawford County

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

Hancock County

Sgt. Jason Seem, Access Officer (419) 424-7887

Huron County

Sgt. Seth Fry, Access Officer (419) 663-8960

Knox County

Det. J.T. DeChant, Access Officer (740) 393-9534

Marion County

Lt. Chris Adkins, Access Officer (740) 387-2222

Morrow County

Det. Mark Colburn, Access Officer 419-946-4444

Richland County

Lt. Joseph Petrycki, Access Officer (419) 755-9726

Seneca County

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

Wyandot County

Sgt. Kerwin Wisely, Access Officer (419) 294-2362

FBI

S/A Matt Komar (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) 522-8100

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