



# METRICH Enforcement Unit

## Information Bulletin

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32 Years Serving North Central Ohio Communities

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### Findlay man arrested in Ely Avenue drug bust *Hancock County*

A Findlay man was arrested after a search of an Ely Avenue residence early Friday morning uncovered drugs, according to the Hancock County METRICH Drug Task Force. At 6:58 a.m. Friday, METRICH, with assistance from the Findlay Police Department, executed a search warrant at 243 Ely Ave.

Officers found cocaine, crack cocaine, methamphetamine, a large sum of cash, drug paraphernalia, a firearm, and other items indicative of drug trafficking.

Timothy Journigan, 22, of Findlay,

who lives at the address, was arrested and charged with possession of crack cocaine, a third-degree felony; possession of a Schedule II controlled substance, a fifth-degree felony; and having weapons under disability, a third-degree felony.

He was being held Friday in the Hancock County jail.

The case remains under investigation, and METRICH said additional charges and arrests are expected.

Originally published in The Courier on January 13, 2018.

### Search yields drugs, arrest *Hancock County*

A Findlay man was arrested after a search of an East Dundee Drive residence by the Hancock County METRICH Drug Task Force early Thursday morning.

At 6:15 a.m., METRICH, with help from the Findlay Police Department Emergency Response Team, executed a search warrant at 2325 E. Dundee Drive, in the Highland Estates mobile home park.

METRICH said the search uncovered methamphetamine, marijuana, cash, drug paraphernalia, and items

indicative of drug trafficking. Detectives arrested Corey J. Long, 29, of Findlay, and charged him with possession of methamphetamine, a third-degree felony. Long is being held in the Hancock County jail.

Additional charges and arrests are expected, METRICH said.

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## Two arrested after meth lab found in Wyandot County residence

### *Wyandot County*

Two people who were being sought on felony warrants were arrested Tuesday at a Wyandot County residence, with a meth lab also found inside.

According to the Wyandot County Major Crimes Unit, the crimes unit and METRICH Enforcement Unit were notified that two people staying at 15486 Township Highway 71, north of Marseilles, were wanted on felony warrants out of Franklin County.

Detectives responded to the residence and found Zachary L.

Malone, 33, and Allyson N. Youngquist, 27, inside the building. Both Malone and Youngquist were arrested without incident, according to authorities.

Detectives also observed indications that a working meth lab was present at the residence. The building was sealed off and Upper Sandusky Municipal Court Judge James Ruhlen granted detectives a search warrant, authorities said. In their search, detectives located items used in the manufacturing of methamphetamine and a deactivated lab, according to authori-

ties. Other items seized also contained methamphetamine.

Malone and Youngquist were charged today in Upper Sandusky Municipal Court with one count each of illegally manufacturing a schedule II controlled substance, a second-degree felony.

The Wyandot County Sheriff's Office, Wyandot County Prosecutor's Office, and Marseilles Fire Department assisted in the investigation.

Originally published in The Courier on January 3, 2018.

## 3 arrested following searches

### *Seneca County*

Three people were arrested when two drug-related search warrants were executed early Thursday morning.

Seneca County Drug Task Force – METRICH Enforcement Unit, along with officers and agents from Fostoria Police Department, Tiffin Police Department, Seneca County Sheriff's Office and Ohio Attorney General's Office's Bureau of Criminal Investigation's Narcotics Division executed the search warrants, which were signed by Tiffin-Fostoria Municipal Court Judge Mark Repp.

They were executed at 210 Potter St., the residence of Brian K. Martin, 42, Antwantonyo Romez Waites, 32, and Krista L. Jackson, 40; and at 111 W. Crocker St., the residence of Shela Long, 28, and Andre Holmes, 39, according to a release.

The searches yielded money, suspected crack cocaine, marijuana and criminal tools, it states.



The release states Waites was arrested on an outstanding warrant out of Lucas County, and Long and Holmes were arrested on warrants out of Tiffin and Findlay.

Additional charges of trafficking crack cocaine and possession of criminal tools were pending for Waites and Martin, and additional charges of trafficking crack cocaine, permitting drug abuse and possession of criminal tools were

pending for Long and Holmes pending the conclusion of the entire drug investigation and laboratory results, according to the release.

Holmes, Long and Waites were taken to Seneca County Jail.

Detective Charles Boyer, unit coordinator of Seneca County Drug Task Force — METRICH Enforcement Unit, said the task force had received information about drug activity, which included complaints alleging crack cocaine was being sold from both residences.

He said the operation was a success because they were able to get drugs off the street and nobody got hurt.

“That’s what I would consider to be a successful operation,” he said.

Originally published in the Advertiser Tribune on January 5, 2018.

## Two Marion men out on bond arrested in drug bust *Marion County*

Two Marion men, both of whom were out on bond in felony cases, were arrested after a drug bust Monday at a Wilson Avenue house that uncovered dozens of grams of potent opiates.

Tylor N. Gruber, 23, Marion; and Andre D. Mincey, 36, Marion, were arrested on drug-related charges after officers with the MARMET Drug Task Force raided a house at about 7 a.m. Monday in the 600 block of Wilson Avenue, according to a press release.

A search warrant was issued for the house after an investigation by drug task force agents into heroin and fentanyl trafficking from the residence. Agents who conducted the search found 98 grams of suspected heroin or fentanyl, prescription pills, two handguns, a rifle and \$15,000 in cash, according to the release.

Gruber, who had been out on bond in a felony drug trafficking case, was charged Tuesday with an additional count of possession

of drugs, a minor misdemeanor, in Marion Municipal Court.

Gruber had been arrested in August after drug task force agents pulled his car over off U.S. 23 and found 275 grams of suspected heroin hidden in his car during the stop.

In that case, he was charged with aggravated trafficking in drugs, a second-degree felony; aggravated possession of drugs, a second-degree felony; designing a vehicle with a hidden compartment used to transport a controlled substance, a fourth-degree felony, and possessing criminal tools, a fifth-degree felony, in Marion County Common Pleas Court.

Gruber's bond was lowered in September from \$100,000 to \$25,000 and he bailed out of jail later that month.

Mincey, who had been out on bond in a pending case involving a felony charge of having a weapon while under disability, was charged Tuesday with multiple



felony counts, including first-degree possession of heroin and first-degree trafficking of heroin in Marion Municipal Court, according to online court records.

He also was charged with three more felony counts of having a weapon while under disability, according to online court records.

Marion Police Chief Bill Collins said in the release that he is seeking federal charges against Gruber and Mincey "in the hopes of getting them out of our community for a significant stint in prison."

Originally published in the Marion Star on January 9, 2018.

## Upper Sandusky man arrested for meth lab *Wyandot County*

An Upper Sandusky man was arrested and charged with illegal manufacturing of methamphetamine, in what detectives described as the largest meth lab discovered in Wyandot County.

Detectives of the Wyandot County Major Crimes Unit and the METRICH Enforcement Unit obtained a search warrant for 514½ W. Johnson St., Upper Sandusky, on Thursday.

Detectives discovered a work-

ing lab inside the apartment. A business that was in operation in the same building was evacuated.

Detectives found items used to manufacture meth, and approximately 10 small labs, or "one pots," that were in different stages of producing meth.

Ethan J. Stansbery, 25, of Upper Sandusky, was arrested and charged with manufacturing meth.

A 6-year-old child and a 66-year-old man were also found in

the apartment. The child was taken to Wyandot Memorial Hospital, Upper Sandusky, and was checked for exposure to toxic fumes.

A lab unit performed cleanup at the scene.

Originally published in The Courier of January 7, 2018.

## **Galion police investigate possible meth lab on Atwood Street**

### *Crawford County*

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Galion police Tuesday made two arrests following a search of a residence at 220½ W. Atwood St., where officers report investigating a possible meth lab operation.

Galion police received information of a possible meth lab at the residence. Initially police were called to the residence on a disturbance call shortly after 4 a.m. Tuesday, according to Chief Brian Saterfield.

Officers and detectives were able to obtain a search warrant based upon the investigation. The Crawford County Special Response Team was activated for

the search warrant entry. Assistance was received from the METRICH Drug Task Force for the purpose of possible hazardous material evidence collection and preservation on the case, Saterfield said.

Officers seized numerous articles of drug paraphernalia and evidence of possible manufacturing of methamphetamine. There was no evidence of a large-scale drug manufacturing operation at the residence, Saterfield said.

Police arrested Michael Shaw, 36, 220½ Atwood St., on charges of permitting drug abuse and pos-

session of drugs. Joey Horton, 45, 220½ Atwood St., was charged with permitting drug abuse and possession of drugs, according to police.

They were taken to the Crawford County Jail.

The case remains under investigation and will be presented to the Crawford County Prosecutor for charges and an additional charges, Saterfield said.

Originally published in the News Journal on February 21, 2018.

## **Marion man arrested in connection with 2016 overdose death**

### *Marion County*

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A Marion man was taken into custody on Thursday in connection with a 2016 overdose death, according to the Marion City Police Department.

Detectives with the METRICH-MARMET Drug Task Force arrested Brandon Crowe, 36, in the 200 block of East Washington Ave., on suspicion of committing involuntary manslaughter in connection with the case of Michael Foltz, a 35-year-old man who died from a drug overdose in January 2016.

Foltz was discovered by members of the Marion City Police and Fire departments on Jan. 3, 2016, after units were called to a home in the 200 block of Kenmore Ave.

Foltz was unresponsive due to suspected drug use and was transported to Marion General Hospital and then to Columbus, where

he was pronounced dead the next day.

An investigation was launched by METRICH-MARMET shortly after it was determined by the Franklin County Coroner's Office that the death was due to a drug overdose.

After wrapping up the investigation in the end of 2016, drug task force agents believe Crowe supplied Foltz with the drugs "We concluded the investigation a while ago, however we were waiting on charges to be reviewed by the prosecutor's office," Lt. Chris Adkins said. "We always try to pursue federal charges first and that took some time. He ended up being charged by the state."

Crowe was indicted by a Marion County grand jury on Wednesday, before his arrest, on one count of involuntary manslaughter, a first-degree felony, and one

count of corrupting another with drugs, a second-degree felony.

Adkins said it is usually difficult to tie a suspected drug dealer to an overdose death, noting that the percentage of convictions is relatively low.

"Drug dealers are aware of our tactics and tend to evolve their operations in order to avoid being caught. We evolve as well." Adkins said. "The prosecutor's office wants to make sure that we are pretty positive that the suspected dealer supplied the drugs, before charges are filed. We have no doubts in this case."

Crowe is scheduled to be arraigned on Monday and is being held at the Multi-County Correctional Center. His bail is set at \$200,000.

Originally published in the Marion Star on January 12, 2018.

## One arrested after METRICH finds suspected heroin, crack *Richland County*

Authorities arrested a 24-year-old man on drug charges Thursday after several complaints of suspected drug trafficking near a Henry Street residence on the city's south side.

METRICH, with assistance from the Mansfield Police Department, Richland County Sheriff's Office and Mansfield office of the FBI, served a drug-related search warrant signed by Judge Frank Ardis at 382 Henry St., Mansfield, according to a METRICH press release.

The search warrant was the result of an investigation after authorities received several complaints of suspected drug trafficking in the area, according to the press release.

During a search of the residence, METRICH detectives found suspected heroin and crack cocaine, according to the press release.

Detectives arrested Wesley Walker, 24, and charged him with two counts of trafficking in drugs and two counts of possession of drugs, according to the press release.

The charges of trafficking in heroin and possession of heroin are second-degree felonies, and the charges of trafficking in cocaine and possession of cocaine are fourth-degree felonies.

Walker was incarcerated at the Richland County Jail, where he awaited a court appearance.

Additional drug trafficking charges will be forwarded to the Richland County Prosecutor's Office for review.

According to Richland County court records, Walker was charged with possession of heroin and cocaine, both fifth-degree felonies. He was sentenced to a diversion program in July 2014.

After violating drug court con-

ditions, he was sentenced to 24 months in prison in April 2015, according to court records.

In a separate drug possession case, Walker was charged with aggravated possession of drugs, a fifth-degree felony. He pleaded guilty and was sentenced to an additional six months in prison in November 2015.

"The METRICH Enforcement Unit continues to target those individuals selling drugs in the community and urges the community to continue reporting suspected drug activity," METRICH Commander Lieutenant Joseph Petrycki said in the press release. "The complaints received about 382 Henry St. assisted the detectives in this investigation."

Originally published in the News Journal on January 11, 2018.

## METRICH executes search warrant in Fostoria *Seneca County*

A drug-related search warrant was executed at 616 N. Union St. residence Thursday.

The Seneca County Drug Task Force, METRICH Enforcement Unit and law enforcement from Seneca County Sheriff's Office, Fostoria Police Department and Ohio Attorney General's office, Bureau of Criminal Investigation – Narcotics Division executed the warrant.

The address is the home of Cinnamon Barchus, 21, and the warrant was executed following a

traffic stop of Barchus' vehicle, according to a release.

The warrant was signed by Seneca County Common Pleas Court Judge Steve Shuff.

Money, prescription pills, drug paraphernalia and criminal tools were found, the release states.

It states Fostoria Police Department's SWAT team was used to execute the search warrant safely and the department's canine unit also was employed.

Barchus and Demond R. Dunaway and Gantay A. Reynolds,

two people from Detroit connected to a residence, face pending charges of possession of prescription pills, permitting drug abuse and possession of criminal tools, it states. Charges are pending the conclusion of the investigation and results of lab analysis of substances discovered in the residence, the release states.

Originally published in the Advertiser Tribune on March 24, 2018.

## Two arrested after meth lab found on Cline Street *Huron County*

The Norwalk Police Department special response team (SRT) used a search warrant Thursday morning at a suspected methamphetamine lab on Cline Street, resulting in the arrest of two suspects.

“Two children were placed in the temporary custody of other relatives,” said Detective Sgt. Jim Fulton.

Jessica S. Bryan, 26, of 13 Cline St., was charged with complicity to illegal manufacturing of methamphetamine, a second-degree felony. Jacob G. Henderson, 29, of 21 Parsons St., was arrested on a probation violation through Norwalk Municipal Court.

Fulton said an arrest warrant has been issued for Henderson’s

younger brother and Bryan’s husband, Brandon W. Henderson, 34, on the charge of illegal manufacturing of meth.

“Anybody who knows his whereabouts (should) give us a call,” the detective added. “We want him picked up. He is the main person.”

Members of the SRT used the search warrant at 13 Cline St. at 11:41 a.m. Thursday.

“They have lived there about five months. We had been aware of this since probably January,” Fulton said. “I think he (Henderson) had been doing this longer.”

When the tactical team used the warrant, the Norwalk Fire Department and North Central EMS were on stand-by.

After the drug raid, agents with the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation and members of METRICH, collected evidence at the scene.

“This was a one-pot method and there were several of those,” the detective said. “There were two people in the vehicle in the front and two people inside the residence.”

Fulton said the people inside the vehicle have possible drug connections, but not to this case.

“They were transported to the station, interviewed and released,” he added.

Originally published in the Norwalk Reflector on February 16, 2018.

## Marijuana grow site raided on Linn Hipsher Road *Wyandot/Marion County*

An Upper Sandusky man was arrested Wednesday during a drug raid on a marijuana grow operation on Linn Hipsher Road north of Marion, according to the Wyandot County Sheriff’s Office.

William S. Rimmer, 37, of Upper Sandusky, was arrested at 1841 Linn Hipsher Road after members of the METRICH-MARMET Drug Task Force and Marion County Sheriff’s Office carried out a search warrant at the residence north of Marion.

Several others were detained at the Linn Hipsher Road property and questioned, the release says. Charges are pending against the others.

The Linn Hipsher raid was one

of three raids carried out Wednesday in Crawford, Marion and Wyandot counties, all stemming from an investigation of marijuana growing facilities that began in Wyandot County and extended into Marion and Crawford counties. More than 250 marijuana plants were seized as a result of all three raids.

Law enforcement officials found 84 marijuana plants, a little over four grams of cocaine and marijuana wax at 1841 Linn Hipsher Road.

Law enforcement also carried out search warrants at 325 Norse St. in Bucyrus and at 341 W. Wyandot Ave. in Upper Sandusky. Law enforcement found marijuana

and marijuana wax at both residences, including 184 marijuana plants and a “large amount” of marijuana in the drying process at the Upper Sandusky house, where Rimmer lived.

Rimmer is being held in the Wyandot County Jail on a \$75,000 cash bond, according to the Wyandot County Sheriff’s Office. He was charged in Upper Sandusky Municipal Court with one count of endangering children, a third-degree felony and additional charges were pending.

Originally published in the Marion Star on March 15, 2018.



## Return of meth means danger for users, police and others

### *Richland County*

Methamphetamine has made a colossal return to north central Ohio, leaving its users in strung-out confusion and police officers on high alert.

"They'll stay up for days on end, and that does strange things to a person," said Shelby police Chief Lance Combs of those who use the drug.

Officers across the region started seeing meth more frequently last year after a nearly half-decade stretch of fighting the use of heroin and other opioids. Now that they're almost equal in popularity with addicts..

"This stuff can change on a dime," Combs said. "It's a business, really."

Meth is 12 times more common now than just a couple of years ago, according to Lt. Joe Petrycki of the Mansfield Police Department, who is also the commander of METRICH.

METRICH collected 109 grams of meth in 2015, 603 grams in 2016 and 1,388 grams in 2017, Petrycki said.

"Based on the stats we've seen so far, I can see it continuing to be an issue," Petrycki said.

Most of the meth METRICH has found recently wasn't produced in local meth labs.

"A lot of it is being brought in by the cartels," Petrycki said. "It's really good — it's crystal clear."

Officers suspect the drug has been marketed to compete with heroin sales, making it a temporarily less-expensive option for drug users. Combs has already noticed the effects of the paradigm shift — there have only been

three opioid overdoses in Shelby during the first three months of 2018, compared to seven overdoses during the first quarters of both 2016 and 2017.

The reduction in overdoses doesn't make officers' jobs any easier, though. The volatility of people who are high on meth can make police work even more dangerous, according to Crawford County Sheriff Scott Kent.

"They can be combative and paranoid — the street term is called tweaking — which certainly creates an officer-safety issue," Kent said.

The unpredictability of meth users is clear to every officer in the region. Combs recalled a man who had been awake for three days from using meth and was hallucinating severely.

"He believed people were trying to kill him, so he was out walking around town with a baseball bat," Combs said.

Then there was a man officers found lying outside his house in the middle of the night, watching his neighbor's house. The man warned the officers to be careful of the people robbing the house next door and was concerned the thieves would try to hurt someone.

"Of course, there was nobody there," Combs said. "We are very concerned when people are hallucinating."

Local production of meth has started to increase as well, even though homemade meth isn't as strong as the meth sold by the cartels. Kent said a newer production method — known as "shake and



bake" on the streets — allows meth labs to be much smaller and portable.

"Instead of having this elaborate lab and garbage laying all over the place in a woods or under a bridge, we're seeing where they're making it in plastic pop bottles right in the trunk of a car," Kent said.

The smaller labs are still dangerous for anyone in the area, as they can blow up or burn just like the larger labs that were common a decade ago.

"You have to be careful around it, real careful," Kent said. "Even when we encounter it during a drug raid, we're securing the area and waiting until we have the trained team come in to neutralize it and dispose of it for us."

"They'll want it so bad," Petrycki said. "They'll do just about anything to get it."

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## 31 Years Serving North Central Ohio Communities



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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.

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