



METRICH Enforcement Unit

Information Bulletin

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June 2019

33 Years Serving North Central Ohio Communities

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Six arrested in drug raid Crawford County

Six people were arrested after a raid of a Bucyrus residence Thursday evening.

According to Bucyrus Police Chief David Koepke, his officers, along with METRICH, the Marion County Sheriff's Office and the Crawford County Special Response Team, which is comprised of members from the Crawford County Sheriff's Office, Bucyrus, Galion and Crestline police departments and the Galion and Bucyrus fire departments, entered a residence at 818 S. Sandusky Ave., at 7:30 p.m. Thursday.

During the search of the residence, a large amount of suspected methamphetamine, heroin and drug-related paraphernalia was seized. The street value of the suspected methamphetamine is approximately \$6,000.

"This bust was the result of weeks and months of work, along with numerous tips," Koepke said. "The people involved were trying to be sneaky by not dealing at the house. It took a while, but we figured it out, including who was involved."

Koepke said the neighbors in the area were fed up with the people at the residence.

"They were a terrible nuisance to their neighbors," Koepke said. "Our police officers share the residents' frustration with people using and dealing drugs. There's plenty of help



available for addicts. They need to stop."

He also thanks the motorists that were inconvenienced during the raid as traffic was delayed and detoured while law enforcement approached the residence and made entry.

The incident remains under investigation and suspects in custody are being detained at the Crawford County Justice Center awaiting formal charges, which Koepke said probably will not be filed until Monday.

"A few of the people involved were on probation or had warrants so they will be held on those until formal charges are filed from this incident," Koepke said.

Originally published in Crawford County Now on May 31, 2019.

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

Authorities seize drugs during sting operation in Fostoria *Seneca County*

On Tuesday, the Seneca County Drug Task Force-METRICH Enforcement Unit, along with additional Officers/Deputies & Agents from the Seneca County Sheriff's Office, Fostoria Police Department and the Ohio Attorney General's Office/Bureau of Criminal Investigation-Narcotics Division conducted an undercover "sting" operation in the City of Fostoria, Seneca County, Ohio.

Immediately after conducting the undercover "sting" operation, a traffic stop was conducted on the suspect's vehicle by Officers/Deputies from the Seneca County Sheriff's Office and the Fostoria Police Department on Elm Avenue, Fostoria, Ohio. The drug operation unveiled suspected RX pills from the vehicle involved in the Task Force Operation. Arrested was Coty Richard J Snyder, 32 YOA, Columbus, Ohio, for Trafficking in RX, that



being a Felony of the Third Degree.

Additional charges of Trafficking RX pills, Permitting Drug Abuse & Possession of Criminal Tools are all pending on Snyder & others upon the conclusion of the entire drug investigation & the return of the lab analysis of the substances involved in this investigation.

"The collaboration between the Task Force, the Ohio Attorney General's Office & area Law Enforcement agencies was instrumental to the success of this operation. We are seeing the results from the efforts of our men &

women in Law Enforcement who are continuing to remove these drugs off the streets & arrest those who bring their drugs from their streets to ours!"..... Sheriff William Eckelberry, Seneca County Sheriff's Office, said.

"I am pleased to see the outcome of this evening's arrest. Arrests like today, allows our Law Enforcement to send a strong message to the folks who come in to our area to poison our community that it just won't be tolerated!".....Chief Keith Loreno, Fostoria Police Department said.

Originally published on TiffinOhio.net on May 29, 2019.

Findlay man arrested on drug charges Tuesday *Hancock County*

A Findlay man was arrested on drug charges after a search warrant was executed by the Hancock County METRICH Drug Task Force on Tuesday.

According to a release, authorities conducted a search of room 134 of the Super 8 Motel on Broad Avenue in Findlay where the confiscated crack cocaine, drug paraphernalia and items in-

dicative of drug trafficking.

53 year old Darrin J. Wyse was arrested and charged with possession of crack cocaine and tampering with evidence.

Additional charges of drug trafficking are expected to be filed at the conclusion of this investigation.

The Hancock METRICH Drug Enforcement Unit is supported by

METRICH in Mansfield, Ohio and funded in part by the Office of Criminal Justice Services.

Originally published on the WKTN website on April 10, 2019

Man arrested on suspicion of dealing drugs in Mansfield *Richland County*

A 42-year-old man suspected of dealing drugs was arrested Friday during a search of a Mansfield home, according to the METRICH Enforcement Unit.

Akili Roberts, 42, was booked into the Richland County Jail on suspicion of trafficking in drugs, according to a press release issued by the METRICH Enforcement Unit.

METRICH detectives carried out a search warrant at 264 E.

First St. in Mansfield Friday, where they seized what they believe to be heroin and fentanyl, drug paraphernalia, a handgun and \$4,761 in cash, according to a press release issued by the METRICH Enforcement Unit.

The release said that the case would be forwarded to the Richland County Prosecutor's Office for review.

Originally published in the News



Journal on May 10, 2019.

Tiffin area law enforcement conducts 'Operation Blue Light' *Seneca County*

On Tuesday, June 25 through Thursday, June 27, the Seneca County Drug Task Force-METRICH Enforcement Unit, along with additional Officers/Deputies & Agents from the Tiffin Police Department, Seneca County Sheriff's Office, Fostoria Police Department and the Ohio Attorney General's Office/Bureau of Criminal Investigation-Narcotics Division participated in a state-wide criminal patrol initiative called Operation Blue Light - 2019.

The Carey Police Department's & Upper Sandusky Police Department's K-9 Units were also utilized to assist in the three day initiative.

The state wide operation consisted of a coordinated saturation of identified drug corridors leading into and through the State of Ohio in conjunction with local drug task forces, in an effort to reduce traffic crashes and deter

criminal activity.

The focus of this operation was to conduct high volume traffic stops in marked patrol cars on identified drug corridors. Drug task force officers would conduct enforcement, in conjunction with marked patrol units, at known drug locations (drug houses, truck stops, hotel/motel, etc.).

According to the Seneca County Drug Task Force, a total of 62 (sixty-two) traffic stops were conducted during the 3



(three) day interdiction initiative resulting in 21 (twenty-one) traffic citations & 41 (forty-one) traffic warnings. 9 (nine) Misdemeanor

drug investigations & 2 (two) Felony drug investigations were conducted during the initiative, as well.

There were 3 (three) Felony arrest warrants and 1 (one) Misdemeanor arrest warrant executed. The initiative also resulted in the seizure of Methamphetamine, Marijuana, RX pills & drug paraphernalia.

Identities were not released at the time of the press release from authorities.

Originally published on TiffinOhio.net on July 1, 2019.

Marion County men suspected of running 'one-pot' meth lab indicted

Marion County

Three men suspected of making methamphetamine in a New Bloomington trailer were indicted on felony charges this week.

Donald E. Hurrell Jr., 53; Patrick W. Kepler, 44; and Jonathon M. Klaiber, 36, all of New Bloomington, were each indicted on two

counts of illegal assembly of chemicals to manufacture methamphetamine, both second-degree felonies, and other charges Wednesday in Marion County Common Pleas Court.



Donald E. Hurrell Jr.



Patrick W. Kepler

MARMET Drug Task Force agents allegedly uncovered a "one-pot" meth lab at a trailer in the 400 block of South Washington Street in New Bloomington, where two of the men are believed to have lived, during a search on April 15, said Marion Police Lt. Chris Adkins.

"We did find evidence of manufacturing such as the one pot, what we call the gas generators (and) chemicals associated with manufacturing methamphetamine," he told the Star.

Though investigators are waiting on lab results, they also found what they believe to be a few grams of methamphetamine powder and liquid containing meth at



Jonathon M. Klaiber

the trailer, he said.

Adkins said he believed the men were making the meth for their own use.

The three also were charged with one count of complicity to illegal manufacture of methamphetamine, a second-degree felony, and one count of aggravated possession of drugs, a first degree felony, in Marion County Common Pleas Court.

All three are being held in the Multi-County Correctional Center each on a \$250,000 cash or surety bond, according to court records.

Originally published in the Marion Star on May 3, 2019

Crestline woman arrested in drug raid

Crawford County

A rural Crestline woman was arrested after the Crawford County Sheriff's Office led a drug investigation at her residence Wednesday afternoon.

At 2:32 p.m. on June 19, the Sheriff's Office, along with the Ottawa County Drug Task Force, METRICH Drug Task Force and the Bucyrus Police Department converged on the home at 4306 Ohio 598, Crestline after ongoing complaints that methamphetamine was being sold at the residence.

Officers seized significant

amounts of methamphetamine from the residence along with drug paraphernalia and cash.

Heidi Arms, 39, who lived at the residence, was arrested and is being held at the Crawford County Justice Center on possession of methamphetamine, a second-degree felony.

According to the Sheriff's Office, the report from the drug investigation will be sent to the Crawford County Prosecutor's Office for review of additional charges and the case remains un-



der investigation.

Originally published on the Q92.7 website on June 20, 2019.

Drug search warrant executed on Fostoria residence, arrest one *Seneca County*

On Tuesday, agents from the Seneca County Drug Task Force-METRICH Enforcement Unit, along with additional Officers from the Fostoria Police Department, Special Agents with the Drug Enforcement Administration Task Force (DEA), Toledo, OH and Special Agents from the Bureau of Criminal Investigation-Narcotics Division (Bowling Green, OH), executed a drug related Search Warrant on a residence located at 526 Gormley Street, Fostoria, Seneca County, Ohio.

That being the residence of Florentino Rodriquez, 27 YOA and Vanessa Rodriquez, 27 YOA. The search warrant signed by Judge Michael Kelbley of the

Seneca County Common Pleas Court unveiled a large amount of Marijuana, Cocaine, Criminal Tools, U.S. Currency, a Firearm and Drug Paraphernalia.

“The Seneca County Drug Task Force – METRICH Enforcement Unit, along with State and Federal Law Enforcement authorities will be continuing this investigation and it is presently considered ongoing. The collaboration of the agencies involved in this entire investigation was instrumental in its success”, Chief Keith Loreno, Fostoria Police Department said.

Arrested was Florentino Rodriquez, 27 YOA, Fostoria, Ohio for Trafficking Marijuana, a Felony of the Second Degree and



Trafficking Cocaine, a Felony of the First Degree. Rodriquez is presently being held at the Seneca County Correctional Facility pending further prosecution.

Originally published in on TiffinOhio.net on June 18, 2019.

Authorities arrest two, seize drugs from Willow Creek Apts in Tiffin *Seneca County*

On Tuesday, May 14 2019, the Seneca County Drug Task Force-METRICH Enforcement Unit, along with additional Deputies, Officers/Detectives from the Seneca County Sheriff's Office and the Tiffin Police Department, executed a drug related search warrant on an apartment located at Willow Creek Apartments, 575 E. St. Rte. 18, Apt. #F12, Tiffin, Seneca County, Ohio.

That being the residence of Ashly Renee Anderson, 26 YOA and Kyle M. Baker, 25 YOA.

The warrant signed by Judge Steve Shuff of the Seneca County Common Pleas Court unveiled US Currency, large amounts of suspected Methamphetamine, RX Pills, Marijuana, Drug Paraphernalia & Criminal Tools.

Arrested were Kyle Matthew

Baker, 25 YOA for Trafficking Methamphetamine, a Felony of the Second Degree & Ashly Renee Anderson, 26 YOA for Permitting Drug Abuse, a Felony of the Fifth Degree. Both were transported to the Seneca County Correctional Facility.

Additional charges of Trafficking Methamphetamine, Permitting Drug Abuse, Possession of RX Pills, Possession of Marijuana wax & Possession of Criminal Tools are all pending on Baker upon the conclusion of the entire drug investigation & the return of the lab analysis of the substances involved in the investigation.

“The Task Force had been receiving complaints of suspected Drug Trafficking going on from the apartment, which began the investigation on the suspects residing in-

side the apartment complex. According to the Task Force, this is an ‘ongoing’ investigation into the distribution of Methamphetamine out of Bellevue and Akron, Ohio. We have been seeing an increase in Methamphetamine related calls throughout the entire county. Our office, along with the Task Force Agents & area Law Enforcement have been addressing the issue since the beginning of the year!,” Sheriff William Eckelberry, Seneca County Sheriff's Office, said.

Originally published on TiffinOhio.net on May 14, 2019.

Prescription Take Back Event Totals

On April 27, 2019 the METRICH Enforcement Unit along with the Mansfield Division of Police, the Richland County Sheriff's Office, the Bellville Police Department and the Shelby Police Department participated in the Drug Enforcement Administration's (DEA) National Prescription Take Back Initiative.

In addition to Richland County law enforcement agencies, numerous other law enforcement agen-

cies from the METRICH region also participated. The METRICH region collected 2,310 pounds of unused or expired prescription medication. Community participation and commitment by all law enforcement agencies in the METRICH region was key to the success of this event.

Richland County Agencies

Mansfield PD	128lbs
Richland County SO	48lbs
Bellville PD	51lbs
Shelby PD	50lbs

Ashland County Agencies

Ashland County SO	228lbs
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Crawford County Agencies

Crawford County SO	123lbs
Bucyrus PD	65lbs
Galion PD	109lbs

Hancock County Agencies

Hancock County SO	188lbs
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Huron County Agencies

Norwalk PD	150lbs
Willard PD	31lbs
Monroeville PD	33lbs

Knox County Agencies

Mount Vernon PD	74lbs
Fredricktown PD	17lbs
Danville PD	16lbs

Morrow County Agencies

Morrow County SO	198lbs
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Seneca County Agencies

Seneca County SO	25lbs
Fostoria PD	65lbs
Tiffin PD	34lbs



2019 First Half Regional Stats

CASE ACTIVITY

New Cases	1,012	Felony 1	89
Search Warrants	376	Felony 2	71
Non-Fed Indictments	683	Felony 3	175
Fed Indictments	45	Felony 4	164
INTEL	2,302	Felony 5	438

Drug	Cultiva-tion	Manufacturing	Trafficking	Possession	Amount
Cocaine			60	56	5,518.5 g
Crack			60	56	36..51 g
Ecstasy			0	0	22.50 UD
Fentanyl			30	45	66.89 g/
Heroin			92	72	456.78 g
LSD			3	2	78 UD
Marijuana (plants)	1				18
Marijuana (processed)			10	11	37,634.05 g
Methamphetamine			103	109	1,800.00 g
Psilocybin Mushrooms			1	1	79.98 g
TOTAL	1		114	121	

Rx ACTIVITY

Rx Cases	80	Felony 1	0
		Felony 2	1
Indictments	22	Felony 3	3
		Felony 4	14
		Felony 5	12

Drug	Traffick-ing	Possession	Theft	Forgery	Amount Seized
Alprazolam	1				104 UD
Buprenorphine	2	5			116 UD
Clonazepam					48 UD
Diazepam					24 UD
Fentanyl					1,794 UD
Gabapentin					176 UD
Hydrocodone	3	1			332 UD
Methylphenidate					60 UD
Morphine					17 UD
Other Rx		2			139 UD
Oxycodone - ER		1			304 UD
Oxycodone - IR		4			24 UD
Percocet	15	1			124 UD
TOTAL	21	14			

MISC

Asset	Seized		
CURRENCY	\$1,922,070.00	Non-Drug Cases	251
VEHICLES	\$4,500.00	Demand Reduction	91
		One Pot	3
TOTAL	\$1,926,570.00	Other Labs	1

33 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, Danville, Fredericktown, Mt. Vernon, Marion, Cardington, Mt. Gilead, Bellville, Butler, 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; FBI; ATF; DEA; IRS.

Points of Contact

Ashland County

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

Crawford County

Lt. Craig Moser, 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. Rob Chalfant, Access Officer 419-946-4444

Richland County

Sgt. Steve Blust, Access Officer (419) 755-9728

Seneca County

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

Wyandot County

Lt. Kerwin Wiseley, Access Officer (419) 294-2362

FBI

S/A Matt Komar (419) 525-2200