



METRICH Enforcement Unit

Information Bulletin

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33 Years Serving North Central Ohio Communities

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2 arrested, 11 guns taken after OD leads to drug bust Huron County

What started out as a response to save one person's life led to a drug bust and two arrests.

Chad C. Holbrook, 45, and Blayre B. Menkhoff, 30, were arrested Monday in Norwalk Township after police realized a drug overdose call was more than it might have seemed. Authorities seized several types of drugs and nearly a dozen weapons during the bust, reports said.

On Monday, the Huron County Sheriff's Office, Norwalk Fire Department and North Central EMS responded to 867 Seminary Road for a reported overdose. The first responders provided care for the woman, who reportedly overdosed and was transported to Fisher-Titus Medical Center.

During the investigation, deputies observed evidence of drug crimes going on inside the home, the report said. Holbrook and Menkhoff were taken into custody while detectives got a search warrant for the property. Norwalk and Willard police departments then assisted the sheriff's office in searching the residence.

Detective Sgt. Ted Evans said evidence of drug abuse, drug possession and drug trafficking were found during the search. The agencies seized methamphetamine, marijuana, prescription drugs, at least 11 firearms and drug paraphernalia.



Holbrook was charged with aggravated trafficking of drugs and possession of criminal tools, while Menkhoff was charged with possession of methamphetamine.

Evans said that's not the end of the investigation or the action law enforcement will take in this case.

"Additional charges and arrests will result from this investigation pending laboratory testing," he said.

The Huron County Sheriff's Office and Norwalk and Willard Police Departments are part of the METRICH Enforcement Unit, a 10-county drug task force.

Originally published in the Norwalk Reflector on July 5, 2019.

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Authorities intercept 111 grams of MDMA sent to Mansfield *Richland County*

A controlled delivery was conducted by police Thursday after federal authorities intercepted a package last week that contained more than 100 grams of MDMA, commonly known as ecstasy.

The controlled delivery of 111 grams of MDMA to 231 West Fifth St. was conducted Thursday by agents with Homeland Security Investigations (HSI), the investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security, the METRICH Enforcement, and inspectors with the U.S. Postal Service. The Mansfield Division of Police provided assistance.

After the delivery, METRICH detectives searched the residence and interviewed three occupants.

They were not taken into custody, according to a news release from METRICH.

The investigation into the source of the MDMA, which authorities say originated in Belgium, is ongoing.

Charges will be forwarded to the Richland County Prosecutor's Office once the investigation is complete, according to the release.

In the release, METRICH Sgt. Steve Blust said the collaboration between federal law enforcement agencies and the METRICH Enforcement Unit continues to have a positive impact in removing illegal drugs from coming into Richland County communities.



Originally published in the News Journal on August 23, 2019.

Task force raids residence, arrests man for trafficking crack *Hancock County*

A Findlay man was arrested after a drug task force executed a search warrant at his residence.

The Hancock County METRICH Drug Task Force, with the assistance of the Findlay Police Department's Emergency Response Team, executed the warrant at 1425 Bernard Avenue on Monday.

Authorities say a search of the residence turned up prescription pills, marijuana, drug paraphernalia, items indicative of drug trafficking and a lot of cash.

As a result of the search warrant 52-year-old David K. Claypool was arrested.

He was taken to the Hancock County Jail on a charge of traf-

ficking in crack cocaine, a 5th degree felony.

Authorities say additional charges are expected to be filed at the conclusion of the investigation.

Originally published on the 106.3 FM website on August 7, 2019.

Three arrested In Upper Sandusky for drug trafficking *Wyandot County*

On Tuesday, July 23 at 2:36 p.m., a Search Warrant was served at 9768 Township Highway 111, in Upper Sandusky. The warrant was issued after a four week investigation by the Wyandot County Sheriff's Office, and the METRICH Enforcement Unit, into drug trafficking.

Three people were arrested during the service of the warrant. Luis E Diaz-Castillo, of Upper Sandusky, was arrested for trafficking in heroin. Richard A Baum Jr, of Kenton, was arrested for possession of heroin. Timothy J Cole, of Kenton, was arrested for a probation violation warrant.

Detectives removed over 140 unit doses of black tar heroin during the search warrant.

Originally published on the 1490 WMRN-AM on July 25, 2019

Four people arrested on felony charges

Huron County

On August 1, 2019 the Huron County Sheriff's Office arrested Donald S. Adams (34) and Tommy J. Adams (31), both of New London. Both were charged with Trafficking in Heroin. Also arrested were Misty Morgan, (36) of Greenwich for tampering with evidence and Kenneth Low (30), of Norwalk for a possession of a controlled substance. Low's charges are a result of a Norwalk Police Department investigation.

Detectives began the investigation when they received information the Adams brothers were

traveling outside of Huron County to purchase illegal narcotics and bringing them back to Huron County to sell. During the investigation it was learned that Donald and Tommy had taken a vehicle without authorization and traveled to Cleveland to purchase illegal narcotics. The New London Police Department completed a stolen vehicle report with the victim. A BOLO was put out for the vehicle and later located by the Ohio State Highway Patrol, it was found abandoned. Upon further investigation Detectives and Po-

lice located the involved subjects and they were subsequently arrested. Suspected illegal narcotics were recovered as a result of the investigation. Additional charges are expected.

The Huron County Sheriff's Office and Norwalk Police Departments are both part of METRICH Enforcement Unit, a 10-county drug task force.

Published from a press release from the Huron County Sheriff's Office.

Drugs seized, 2 arrested after search of vehicle, Hopley Ave home

Crawford County

A wide variety of suspected drugs and drug-related items were seized and two people were arrested after Bucyrus police searched a vehicle and home on Tuesday.

"The suspects are facing very serious drug charges," said Lt. Tom Walker, the Bucyrus Police Department's public information officer. "As it stands right now, we are somewhere in the vicinity of \$200,000 street value for the suspected drugs.

"It was a bad day for somebody, but it was a really good day for the community."

According to a news release posted on the Bucyrus Police Department's Facebook page, a warrant was obtained to search 341 Hopley Ave.

"This was the product of an ongoing investigation that they had had into the individual," Walker said.

On Tuesday, two people in a

vehicle were stopped on Hopley Avenue near Southern Avenue, the release stated. During a search of the vehicle and occupants, officers found methamphetamine, cocaine, THC oils and approximately 1 pound of marijuana. The Crawford County Sheriff's Department K-9 Unit assisted in the search.



Officers from the department, with support from the METRICH Drug Task Force, then searched 341 Hopley Ave. and seized suspected narcotics, a kilogram (2.2 pounds) of methamphetamine, a

large amount of cocaine, a large amount of prescription drugs, THC oils, several pounds of marijuana and other drug-related items, the release states.

"It was pretty much a one-stop shop, is what it sounded like," Walker said of the variety of suspected drugs.

Two individuals are in custody and are awaiting formal charges from the Crawford County Prosecutor's Office, according to the release.

The methamphetamines alone had a street value of more than \$140,000, Walker said.

"It's truly a large amount of dangerous drugs that did not hit the street," he said. "Anywhere you go, that's significant. But particularly in the city of Bucyrus, that's extremely significant ... that is a lot of drugs that didn't make it out there."

Originally published in the Bucyrus Telegraph-Forum on July 18, 2019.

Marion man charged in drug investigation

Marion County

A Marion man is facing multiple drug and weapons charges after being arrested earlier this week.

According to a press release issued by the MARMET/METRICH Drug Task Force, Keair L. Key, 29, Marion, was arrested around 7:30 a.m. on Wednesday in the 800 block of East Church Street in Marion. Officers from MARMET/METRICH drug task force and the Marion Police Department's Special Response Team executed a search warrant at a residence in the vicinity and took Key into custody.

Key was wanted on drug and weapons charges, according to the press release. He was being sought in connection with an investigation MARMET/METRICH has been conducting.

According to the press release, detectives seized a loaded 45-caliber handgun, 487 Ecstasy

pills, 18 grams of suspected fentanyl, 16 oxycodone pills, and \$1,055 in cash.

"I am very grateful for the hard work of the detectives assigned to MARMET/METRICH Drug Task Force and to the citizens of Marion County for continuing to call in tips," said Lt. Chris Adkins of the MARMET/METRICH Drug Task Force. "Our partnership with the community enables us to continue to arrest drug traffickers and make our community safer."

Key appeared Thursday in Marion Municipal Court for arraignment. According to records from the court website, Key has been charged with aggravated trafficking/drugs, a second-degree felony; trafficking/heroin, a second-degree felony; aggravated possession of drugs, a second-degree felony; aggravated possession/heroin, a second-degree felo-



ny; having weapons under disability, a third-degree felony; aggravated trafficking/drugs, a fourth-degree felony; and aggravated possession/drugs, a fifth-degree felony. Bond for Key was set at \$250,000, cash or corporate bond. He is scheduled to appear in court for a preliminary hearing at 8:30 a.m. on Monday, Sept. 23. The court appointed Caleb Carson to serve as Key's attorney.

Originally published in the Marion Star on September 20, 2019.

4 arrested after Huron County drug investigation

Huron County

Law enforcement in Huron County arrested four people following a drug investigation that yielded drugs and paraphernalia.



These people were recently arrested:

- Zachary Miller, 25, Norwalk, possessing a controlled substance,

possessing criminal tools and having weapons under disability.

- Sabrina Love, 23, Norwalk, possessing a controlled substance, possessing criminal tools and having weapons under disability.

- Gerald Altman, 22, Norwalk, permitting drug abuse.

- Clarke Berkey, 21, Norwalk, permitting drug abuse.

The Huron County Sheriff's Office and Willard police executed a search warrant at a home in the 5100 block of U.S. Highway 250 in Norwalk following a drug trafficking investigation, according to a news release. Inside, law enforcement found and seized

suspected methamphetamine, ecstasy, a loaded handgun and drug paraphernalia.

The evidence collected will be sent to a state crime lab for testing, and more charges are expected once the tests are done, the release states.

Both Willard police and the sheriff's office are members of the METRICH Enforcement Unit, a 10-county drug task force.

Originally published in the Norwalk Reflector on September 23, 2019.

4 arrested after Wallace Avenue drug raid

Crawford County

Four people were arrested and a large amount of drugs and cash seized during a drug raid Thursday afternoon on Wallace Avenue, Bucyrus police Chief David Koepke said.

“We had a long investigation — unfortunately, it took a long time and the neighborhood was really frustrated because these guys, as far as drug dealing goes, this house was just terrible,” Koepke said of 115 Wallace Ave. “I don’t know how to say it any other way.”



Arrested were Jonathan Paul Bagley, 30; Cierra N. Vermaaten, 21; Jonathon Arbie Alsept, 24; and Detrell Vashon Lee Bennett, 30, according to a police department news release. All four suspects were taken to the Crawford County Jail to await charges.

As officers continued bringing evidence out of the house shortly after 3 p.m. Thursday, a cluster of smiling neighbors watched from the curb.

“Thank God for the cops; we got this over with,” neighbor Dar-

lene Johnson said. “Just thank goodness; our neighborhood will be clean again for a while.”

Neighbors said there had been at least two overdoses at the house.

“This has been going on for a while; we prayed and prayed for this to happen, and thank God, today it did,” Johnson said.

Bucyrus police Officer Jason Pennington had been investigating activity at the house for several months, Koepke said.

“It was a search warrant ... we served it to this house today and found exactly what we were looking for and more,” he said. “It was a drug operation that was operating with drugs that were trafficked from Columbus to here. ...”

“The two guys from Columbus were running a deal where they were paying rent to sell drugs here. The person from Bucyrus is definitely looking at permitting drug abuse, a felony charge.”

Investigators won’t be certain what they found until after evidence is tested at the lab, but Koepke said they found suspected meth, heroin and crack. “And somebody was lighting up a marijuana blunt when we went in,” he added. Officers arrived at the scene at 1:19 p.m., according to the news release.

”There were several hundred doses of methamphetamine and several hundred doses of heroin

not sold yet,” Koepke said.

According to a news release from the Bucyrus Police Department, the search led to the seizure of about \$40,000 in street value of methamphetamine, heroin and crack packaged for sale and in bulk quantities. Officers also found more than \$1,300 in cash and other drug-related evidence.

Officers were searching the house carefully because they’d seen signs that the house had been altered to conceal drug activity, he said.

As officers entered the house, two men were sitting on the roof; one jumped off, but was not injured, the police chief said. “We had them surrounded,” he said.

The Crawford County Sheriff’s Office, Crawford County Special Response Team, Galion and Crestline police departments, METRICH and the Bucyrus Fire Department also assisted.

“I guarantee you, we’re going to keep going after folks that are peddling drugs and keeping people sick all over this community,” Koepke said. “We’ve had too many people die. Anyone who says they don’t really want to do anything bad can get help. In the meantime, we’re going to take as many to jail as we can.”

Originally published in the Bucyrus Telegraph-Forum on August 22, 2019.

Fentanyl changes everything' METRICH speaker says

Regional

"Fentanyl changes everything," Michael Gray, the CEO of Actus Analytical Inc., said Tuesday at the Ohio State Reformatory.

That's because fentanyl is "easier to make than other opioids, easier to ship, smuggle than other opioids, significantly more profitable and far more potent than other opioids," Gray said as he gave a slide show presentation.

"There is one downside: It kills customers.

"Used to get 8 years/more than 10,000 doses from a customer before death. Now, maybe three or four doses. Amanda bought just 12 to 13 doses in her life. Amanda was likely killed intentionally, why?" Gray said before a packed central guard room in the prison-turned-museum off Ohio 545.



Gray's daughter, Amanda Gray, 24, was killed by a poisoning of straight fentanyl on Jan. 11, 2018. The Gray family battled with Amanda's acute mental illness throughout her life and substance abuse in the two years before she died, the father told local, state and federal members of law enforcement who gathered with community leaders in the room.

Gray and his wife Nancy founded The Actus Foundation,

which advocates for solutions to treating the entirety of the overdose epidemic problem in America. The foundation also advocates for the mentally ill.

Cocaine and heroin still remain prevalent

Tony Tambasco, director of the Mansfield Police Department Crime Lab, said cocaine, heroin, methamphetamines and fentanyl continue to dominate the 10-county region in which the METRICH drug task force is active.

In his 37 years on the job, Tambasco said he is now seeing seven to nine different components in some drug samples he tests.

"There's even a new group called Thiambutens showing up as a major component and it's morphine-like," Tambasco said. "It's showing up as a major component in the drug samples we're getting."

Tambasco said 971 drug samples were tested in the Mansfield police crime lab.

In the last 20 years, statistics show that cocaine has not gone away, nor has heroin.

"You look at heroin, wow, you might think heroin is going down. Unfortunately it's not," he said.

This year carfentanil — a synthetic opioid 100 times more potent than fentanyl — returned, he said. "It went away for about 18 months."

"We have to get out in the community to address education"

The annual meeting also in-

cluded comments from Mansfield police Chief Keith Porch and Assistant police Chief Joe Petrycki.

Petrycki highlighted drugs, cash and firearms that were confiscated in various counties in the past year. In Richland County, members of METRICH were able to collaborate on a long-term investigation with the FBI to get 43 people federally indicted and 36 indicted on state charges.

Porch said METRICH is a success because of the FBI, Secret Service, DEA, U.S. Marshals, the prosecutor's offices, the sheriff's offices



and more.

"To the state and federal agencies who are here, thank you very much," he said. METRICH has collaborated since 1986.

He said METRICH is not only an enforcement unit but an educational unit.

"We have to get out in the community to address education and demand reduction, educate the community of the issues. If we don't do it, who will?" Porch said.

He said he is extremely proud of the efforts that investigators have accomplished throughout the 10 counties because of the goals and objectives set for them

Originally published in the News Journal on September 11, 2019.

3 arrested on drug-related charges following raid in Galion *Crawford County*

Three people were arrested on drug-related charges Wednesday following a METRICH raid at a residence on Chiswick Place.

Authorities with METRICH and the Crawford County Sheriff's Office served a search warrant at 615 Chiswick Place Wednesday and seized suspected heroin, cocaine and drug paraphernalia.

Stacey L. Cox, 51 was arrested and has been charged with possession of heroin, permitting drug abuse and identity fraud, all felo-

nies of the fifth degree. Cox also had an active warrant out for her arrest.

Alex E. Cox, 23, was arrested and has been charged with possession of heroin, permitting drug abuse and identity fraud, felonies of the fifth-degree; and corrupting another with drugs, a felony of the second degree. Authorities say he also had two active warrants out for his arrest.

Brittany M. Haga, 24, was arrested and has been charged with

possession of heroin, a felony of the fifth degree; and falsification, a first-degree misdemeanor, according to a news release.

Galion and Crestline Police Department, Galion Fire Department, the Crawford County Dog Warden, and Crawford County Adult Protective Services assisted the Crawford County Sheriff's Office.

Originally published in the News Journal on August 8, 2019.

Drugs seized, one arrested during Marion drug investigation *Marion County*

A drug investigation resulted in one arrested and drugs seized in Marion.

Detectives from the MARMET/METRICH Drug Task Force executed a search warrant at 304 and a half South High Street in the City of Marion.

33 grams of suspected crack cocaine, four handguns, and \$4,042 in cash were seized as a result of the search warrant.

Larry Brady, age 58 of Marion was arrested. Brady was initially charged with probation violation

and additional charges are expected.

The warrant was a part of a narcotics investigation started after the task force received tips from concerned citizens.

"The partnership between the MARMET/METRICH Drug Task Force and the community is essential in combating illegal drugs in our community," said Marion Police Department Major Jay McDonald. "We are grateful that the citizens of Marion continue to stand by our side to fight back



against illegal drugs."

Originally published on the WMFD website on September 20, 2019.

Authorities search massage parlor *Hancock County*

The Hancock County METRICH Drug Task Force and the Findlay Police Department searched a Findlay massage parlor Wednesday.

Around 12:18 p.m., law enforcement took "numerous items" from Relaxation Massage, 2020 Tiffin Ave., Suite 2, according to

a METRICH press release. The items were relevant to an "ongoing investigation."

The two agencies also seized undisclosed "items" from Healthy Relax Massage, 825 Tiffin Ave., in February.

No other details concerning Wednesday's search were re-

leased.

Originally published in The Courier on August 29, 2019.

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.

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