



METRICH Enforcement Unit

Information Bulletin

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33 Years Serving North Central Ohio Communities

Inside this issue:

Man arrested on drug charges 2
Hancock County

Search warrant executed 2
Knox County

Two arrested following armed robberies 2
Wyandot County

METRICH-Marmet arrested man for possession of drugs 3
Marion County

Six facing charges in Ashland 3
Ashland County

Three people arrested in drug bust 3
Hancock County

Two charged after drug bust 4
Hancock County

Two men arrested in burglary 4
Marion County

2019 Regional Stats 5
Regional

Nearly two dozen apprehended in drug sweep Richland County

State and federal officials apprehended nearly two dozen people on Wednesday and are searching for five more in what officials are calling a large-scale drug sweep.

Jason Johnson, 37, Gary Richardson, 43, Devontre Brent, 26, Sonja Adams, 54, and Charity Griffith, 39, are being sought by the U.S. Marshal's Northern Ohio Violent Fugitive Task Force (NOVFTF).

Twenty three out of the 28 people targeted by the task force were apprehended Wednesday, according to a news release from METRICH Enforcement Unit. Four other suspects were arrested for other warrants or on unrelated charges.



searched 354½ Wayne St and 10 Gray Ct. in Mansfield, seizing 21 grams of crystal methamphetamine, powder cocaine, and assorted prescription pills.

METRICH Commander Lt. Jason Bammann stated in the release that the collaboration between federal law enforcement agencies and the METRICH Enforcement Unit continues to have a positive impact on intercepting illegal drugs coming into the Mansfield and Richland County communities.

In addition to NOVFTF, METRICH was assisted by the Ohio Highway Patrol Special Response Team (OSP-SRT), the Mansfield Division of Police, and The Federal Bureau of Investigation.



The 28 people had been indicted by a Richland County grand jury on 56 counts of drug trafficking and other related charges, the release says.

On Wednesday, authorities

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METRICH Central Office
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Man arrested on drug charges this morning in Findlay *Hancock County*

A Findlay man was arrested after a search warrant was executed at a residence in Findlay early this morning.

According to a release from the Findlay Police Department, the Hancock County METRICH Drug Task Force served the warrant at 127 Larkins Street.

A search of the house yielded a large amount of methamphetamine, prescription medication, drug paraphernalia and items indicative of drug trafficking.

47 year old Edward R. Brown



was arrested on a charge of possession of methamphetamine.

Additional charges are expected at the conclusion of the investigation.

The Hancock METRICH Drug Enforcement Unit is supported by METRICH in Mansfield, OH and funded in part by the Office of Criminal Justice Services.

Originally published on the WKTN website on October 2, 2019.

Search warrant executed Tuesday night *Knox County*

On October 15, 2019, The Mount Vernon Police Department's Detective Division executed a search warrant at 907 West Burgess Street, Mount Vernon, Ohio, assisted by the Mount Vernon Police Department Emergency Service Unit and Knox County Sheriff's Office.

During the search, a handgun,

drugs, drug paraphernalia and evidence related to drug trafficking were seized.

Jason Hutton was arrested for a probation violation.

William Horner and Jeremy Pursel were charged with Possession of Drug Abuse Instruments.

Jade Burkeett was charged with Possession of Drug Para-

phernalia.

A warrant was issued for Vincent Crim for 2 counts of Aggravated Drug Trafficking.

The Mount Vernon Police Department is part of the METRICH Enforcement Unit.

Originally published in the Mount Vernon News on October 17, 2019.

Two arrested following investigation into armed robberies in Carey *Wyandot County*

On December 10, the Wyandot County Sheriff's Office was requested by the Carey Police Department to assist with an investigation involving an armed robbery in Carey. An 18 years-old pizza delivery man was robbed by two males wearing masks and armed with knives.

Approximately three hours later, a Shell Gas Station in Carey was entered and cash and merchandise was taken. Video footage confirmed that the same two

suspects were involved in the armed robbery.

On December 11, a search warrant was executed at 214 South Vance Street, Apt B, Carey. Andrew Conner was arrested and charged with Possession of Drugs. Additional charges are pending for Robbery, Breaking and Entering and Burglary.

Jordan Porter was located and arrested in Findlay, and charged with Breaking and Entering, Robbery and Burglary.

The arrest of these two individuals led to a search warrant at 116 Newhard, in Carey, where drugs, money and guns were removed. Kerry McKitrick was arrested and charged with Possession of Drugs. Other felony charges are pending.

Other agencies assisting with the investigation were the Wyandot County Prosecutor's Office, Upper Sandusky Police Department and the METRICH Enforcement Unit.

Press released published on December 10, 2019.

METRICH-MARMET arrests man for aggravated possession of drugs *Marion County*

A search warrant resulted in the seizure of 116 grams of methamphetamine and one firearm on Thursday.

A search warrant was served in the 1800 block of Marion-Greencamp Road by the METRICH-MARMET Drug Task Force with the assistance of the Marion County Sheriff's Office, and Marion City Police. The search followed a month-long investigation into the sale of methamphetamine.

48-year old John Ottaviano of Marion was arrested and charged with aggravated possession of drugs which is a second degree felony. He is awaiting formal charges by the Marion County Prosecutor's Office.

In a press release, Sheriff Tim Bailey said, "I am grateful for the hard work of the METRICH-MARMET Drug Task Force and Marion Law Enforcement for continuing to aggressively go after those which trafficking drugs



in our community."

Marion County Children's Services assisted at the scene.

Originally published on the WMFD.com website on October 4,

Six facing charges in Ashland drug bust on West Main Street *Ashland County*

Six people were arrested after the Ashland Division of Police and the Ashland County Sheriff's Office, assigned to the METRICH enforcement unit, searched a house in the 500 block of West Main Street on Monday morning.

Raini Moss, 25, and Macy Cunningham, 24, both of Ashland, were charged with aggravated possession of drugs. Edward Boswell, 26, Jeremy Casler, 36, Alyssa Gess, 18 and Matthew Dean, 30, all of Ashland, were charged with falsification.

Suspected methamphetamine, suspected heroin, drug paraphernalia, drug abuse instruments and evidence related to drug trafficking was collected by police, according to a news release from Lt.



Garry Alting.

Earlier in the morning, on an unrelated call for service, police were contacted by someone who they say was found to be in possession of suspected methamphetamine. Follow-up in the case led detectives to a residence on West Main Street.

The case is being forwarded to Ashland County Prosecutor's Office for review regarding additional charges.

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

Three people arrested in Findlay drug bust *Hancock County*

Three people were arrested following a drug raid in Findlay on 11/7/19.

The Hancock County METRICH Drug Task Force, along with Findlay police, executing a search warrant at 2123 Candlewick Drive in Findlay.

They recovered cocaine, crack cocaine, heroin, drug parapherna-

lia and a large sum of cash, all likely connected to drug trafficking.

As a result of the search, 49-year-old Alexjandro Williams, was arrested and charged with possession of cocaine, and tampering with evidence. 44-year-old Jason Crampton, of that address, was arrested for possession of co-

caine and heroin. And 34-year-old Marisa Brown of Findlay was arrested on possession of crack cocaine. Additional charges are expected in the case.

Originally published on the hometownstations.com website on November 7, 2019.

Two charged after Thursday morning drug bust in Findlay *Hancock County*

Two people are in custody after authorities found various drugs in their residence during a search warrant Thursday morning in Findlay.

The Hancock County METRICH Drug Task Force, with assistance from the Findlay Police Department Emergency Response Team, executed a search warrant at approximately 5:54 a.m. on the 1000 block of Cedar Ave.

The search yielded cocaine, crack cocaine, suspected fentanyl,

drug paraphernalia, cash, and items indicative of drug trafficking, according to a press release.

Dana Ryan, 27, of Detroit, and Linsay C. Pittman, 32, of Findlay, were arrested. Ryan is charged with possession of crack cocaine, trafficking in fentanyl, and trafficking in cocaine, all fifth degree felonies. Pittman is charged with possession of crack cocaine.

According to authorities, additional charges are expected at the conclusion of the investigation.



Originally published on the 13abc.com website.

Two men arrested in connection with Dunham's burglary *Marion County*

Two suspects have been arrested in connection with a burglary that occurred Monday morning at Dunham's Sports in Marion.

According to a press release issued by the Marion Police Department, detectives from the METRICH-MARMET Drug Task Force have arrested Jaime Contreras, 19, Marion, and Paul K. Black III, 18, Marion.

Dunham's Sports, 1296 Mount Vernon Avenue, Marion, was robbed around 4 a.m. Monday, Oct. 28, according to a press release issued by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. Lt. Chris Adkins of the Marion Police Department stated that three suspects entered the store through the back door and stole nine handguns.

Contreras was arrested on Tuesday, Oct. 29. He was arraigned Thursday in Marion Municipal Court and charged with theft from a federal firearms licensee, a first-degree felony, and breaking and entering, a fifth-degree felony.

Bond for Contreras has been set at \$500,000, according to records on the municipal court website. He is scheduled to appear in court for a preliminary hearing at 8:30 a.m. on Friday, Nov. 8.

Black was arrested on Thursday, Oct. 31. He was arraigned Friday in Marion Municipal Court and charged with grand theft, a first-degree felony, and breaking and entering, a fifth-degree felony, according to the municipal court website.

Black is scheduled to appear in court for a preliminary hearing at 8:30 a.m. on Friday, Nov. 8. No bond amount was listed for Black on the court's website.

A third suspect in the case has not been arrested yet.

"We are tasked with providing for the safety of those who live in our community," said Marion Police Chief Bill Collins. "My staff is keenly aware that there are certain crimes that will require their immediate attention and complete focus, and this is one of those crimes.



"The importance of identifying and arresting these individuals, coupled with the removal of these weapons from our streets cannot be underscored," he added. "It would seem evident that criminals who would go to such extreme measures to acquire multiple handguns did so with the intention of furthering their criminal activity. I am proud of the teamwork displayed by the investigators in this case and their joint commitment to the safety of our community."

Originally published in the Marion Star on November 1, 2019.

2019 REGIONAL STATS

CASE ACTIVITY

New Cases	1,896	Felony 1	137
Search Warrants	660	Felony 2	133
Non-Fed Indictments	1,345	Felony 3	308
Fed Indictments	45	Felony 4	405
INTEL	4,448	Felony 5	948

Drug	Cultivation	Manufacturing	Trafficking	Possession	Amount
Cocaine			94	108	5,802.37g
Crack			115	3	594.61g
Ecstasy			2	2	359.50UD
Fentanyl			69	80	164.74g/1,794 UD
Heroin			152	128	4,024.58g
LSD			13	4	217UD
Marijuana (plants)	2		1	3	455
Marijuana (processed)			16	18	102,008.15g
Methamphetamine			196	250	4,971.49g
Psilocybin Mushrooms			1	2	94.38g
Synthetic			2		6.70g
TOTAL	2		661	598	

Rx ACTIVITY

Rx Cases	159	Felony 1	0
		Felony 2	1
Indictments	46	Felony 3	3
		Felony 4	19
		Felony 5	23

Drug	Trafficking	Possession	Theft	Forgery	Amount Seized
Alprazolam	1	1			157 UD
Amphetamine Mixture		1			151 UD
Buprenorphine	4	14			276 UD
Diazepam					24 UD
Gabapentin		2			371 UD
Hydrocodone	3	1			362 UD
Methylphenidate		1			62 UD
Morphine	1				19 UD
Other Rx		2			141 UD
Oxycodone - ER		3			330 UD
Oxycodone - IR	4	5			43 UD
Percocet	19	2			1,170 UD
TOTAL	23	12			3,106 UD

MISC

Asset	Seized	Non-Drug Cases	
CURRENCY	\$1,970,203	Demand Reduction	162
VEHICLES	\$11,000		
REAL ESTATE	\$35,000	Firearms	354
TOTAL	\$2,016,203.00	Labs	4

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. Andrew Forsthoefel, Access Officer (419) 289-3639

Crawford County

Det. Tracy Keegan, Access Officer (419) 562-1006

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) 393-9500

Marion County

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

Morrow County

Det. Rob Chalfant, Access Officer 419-946-4444

Richland County

Lt. Jason Bammann, Access Officer (419) 755-9728

Seneca County

Det Chuck Boyer, Access Officer (419) 443-0463

Wyandot County

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

FBI

S/A Matt Komar (419) 525-2200