



METRICH Enforcement Unit

Information Bulletin

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37 Years Serving North Central Ohio Communities

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Officers seized suspected drugs, firearms during raid *Marion County*

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Marion County law enforcement officers seized more than 500 grams of suspected illegal drugs and arrested a local man in connection with an investigation conducted by agents from the METRICHMARMET Drug Task Force.

According to a press release issued Friday by the Marion Police Department, officers from MPD and deputies from the Marion County Sheriff's Office executed a search warrant on Thursday at a residence in the 200 block of Bellevue Avenue, where they discovered the suspected illegal drugs and suspected illegally-possessed firearms. Ryan C. Johnson, age 37, Marion, was arrested.

Johnson appeared Friday morning in Marion Municipal Court where he was arraigned on the following charges: aggravated trafficking in drugs, a second-degree felony; aggravated possession of drugs, a second-degree felony; trafficking in cocaine, a second-degree felony; possession of cocaine, a second-degree felony; possession of a fentanyl-related compound, a fourth-degree felony; aggravated trafficking in drugs, a third-degree felony; aggravated possession of drugs, a third-degree felony; and trafficking in drugs, a fifth-degree felony.

Bond for Johnson was set at \$75,000. He is in the Multi-County Correctional Center in Marion. His next court appearance is scheduled for



8:30 a.m. on May 12 in Marion Municipal Court.

According to an affidavit filed in support of the arrest warrant by Det. Stacy McCurry of the METRICH-MARMET Drug Task Force, during the course of searching Johnson's residence officers found "multiple firearms, drug paraphernalia and equipment used to manufacture drugs." Suspected drugs seized included 92.74 grams of suspected methamphetamine, 22.42 grams of suspected cocaine, 1.57 grams of a suspected fentanyl-related compound, 392 grams of suspected marijuana, 116 suspected Xanax pills, 62 suspected suboxone pills, and suspected LSD.

Some of the suspected illegal drugs were found inside a safe located in a closet. A blender and digital scale believed to be used for the manufacturing of illegal drugs were also found at his residence.

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Crestline man arrested in drug search *Crawford County*

On April 12, deputies from the Crawford County Sheriff's Office and the METRICH Enforcement Unit executed a narcotic search warrant at 811 Colby Rd in Crestline, Ohio. The search warrant was the culmination of an investigation into the illegal use and sale of narcotics from the property.

The target of the investigation was identified as Ralph Warren Hurst, age 66, who was arrested on the scene. During the search,



deputies seized approximately 100 grams of methamphetamines,

marijuana, currency, and drug paraphernalia.

Mr. Hurst was transported to the Crawford County Justice Center, and reports will be forwarded to the Crawford County Prosecutors Office for consideration of charges.

Originally published on the Crawford County Now Staff site on April 12, 2023.

Repeat offender busted again in Fostoria drug raid *Seneca County*

The Seneca County Drug Task Force – METRICH Enforcement Unit, in collaboration with officers from the Fostoria Police Division, executed a drug-related search warrant Wednesday at 345 W. Lytle St., Room #1 in Fostoria.

The warrant was for the residence of 53-year-old Richard "Fred" Seaburn III.

The search warrant, signed by Judge Jay A. Meyer of the Seneca County Common Pleas Court Juvenile Division, resulted in the discovery of criminal tools, drug

paraphernalia, suspected methamphetamine, prescription pills, and other items indicative of drug trafficking.

This is not the first time Seaburn has been the subject of a drug-related search warrant. He is currently out on bond from two previous drug trafficking investigations stemming from search warrants conducted on two separate residences on June 8, 2021, and July 21, 2022, in the City of Fostoria.

During the operation, Seaburn was arrested and taken to the Sen-

eca County Jail on charges of possession of a schedule II controlled substance and possession of criminal tools, which are pending laboratory analysis results at the conclusion of the entire drug investigation.

"Mr. Seaburn is a perfect example of why we need stiffer penalties for habitual offenders," said Chief Gabe Wedge of the Fostoria Police Division.

Originally published on TiffinOhio.net on May 10, 2023.

Marion raid (continued from page 1)

Firearms seized from Johnson's residence included an HNR .22 caliber revolver, a Lorcin .22 caliber handgun, a Diamond Back .380 caliber handgun, a Lorcin .25 caliber handgun, and a Bersa .380 caliber handgun. At least two of the firearms were said to be loaded when officers found them. According to the affidavit, during the search of the residence, John-

son allegedly admitted to officers that he is addicted to drugs.

"Law enforcement continues to aggressively pursue traffickers in our community," Marion Police Chief Jay McDonald said. "I am proud of the work they do to keep our community safe. We will continue to attack the presence of illegal drugs from all angles because we lose far too many of our

neighbors to addiction and death caused by them."

Marion County Sheriff Matt Bayles said the investigation into Johnson's alleged illegal activity was the result of tips called into law enforcement by community residents.

Originally published in the Marion Star on May 5, 2023.

Home raided, man arrested

Huron County

A man is in custody after the execution of a search warrant at a Young Road home.

Alan A. Osborn, 35, 500 block N. Sandusky St., Bellevue, is facing intimidation and obstructing official business, two counts of aggravated drug possession (methamphetamine), possession of fentanyl and possession of a fentanyl-related compound. All of these charges are felonies.

He is also facing charges of driving under OVI suspension, following too close and marked lanes violation from Bellevue Municipal Court, according to jail records.

On Monday, a search warrant was executed at a Young Road home in Bellevue, according to a press release from the Huron County Sheriff's Office.

Osborn was arrested on warrants from indictments as well as in relation to a high-speed pursuit that occurred on April 11, the release states.

During the search of the residence, deputies seized "a large amount of methamphetamine," two shotguns, two rifles, three handguns and more than \$7,500 in cash.

Additional charges will be forthcoming due to the items seized, the release states.

The investigation saw the cooperation of many agencies including: Norwalk police, Huron County Sheriff's Office, Bellevue police, Erie County Sheriff's Office, Sandusky County Drug Task Force, Sandusky County prosecutor's office, Ohio National Guard Counter Drug Task Force and



METRICH Enforcement Unit. Tips from private citizens also aided the investigation, the release states.

Osborn has a pretrial hearing scheduled for 9 a.m. on May 9 in Judge James W. Conway's court.

Originally published in the Sandusky Register on April 21, 2023

Suspect sentenced to prison in Fostoria drug-related death case

Seneca County

A suspect has been sentenced to 12 to 16 years in the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Corrections following a guilty plea in a case involving the death of Dwaine D. Sexton.

Kegan W. Woodland was indicted on multiple charges related to drug trafficking and involuntary manslaughter.

The incident occurred on 01/14/21, when the Fostoria Police Department responded to a report of a deceased male. Upon arrival, officers discovered the lifeless body of Dwaine D. Sexton, who was suspected to have died from a drug overdose.

The Seneca County Drug Task Force METRICH Enforcement Unit was called in to assist with the investigation. Agents from the

task force identified Kegan Woodland as a suspect involved in providing the drugs that contributed to Sexton's death.

In November of 2021, the Seneca County Grand Jury handed down a nine-count indictment against Woodland. The charges included trafficking in heroin, three counts of trafficking in a fentanyl related compound, complicity to trafficking in a fentanyl related compound, complicity to corrupting another with drugs, two counts of corrupting another with drugs, and involuntary manslaughter.

Woodland, who had fled to California, was eventually apprehended and extradited back to Ohio in July of 2022. At that time, he was served with the in-

dictments.

On Tuesday, Woodland entered a guilty plea to the aforementioned charges, accepting an agreed sentence recommendation.

Detective Brandon Bell, Unit Coordinator, expressed support for the sentence, acknowledging that it cannot fully bring closure to Mr. Sexton's family. Bell stated, "Unfortunately, no amount of time will bring closure to the family of Mr. Sexton, but we fully support this sentence and hope Mr. Woodland takes this time to better himself and reflect on the pain and destruction his actions have caused."

Originally published on the TiffinOhio.net Staff on June 20, 2023.

Galion woman arrested in hotel drug bust *Crawford County*

On Monday, the Crawford County Sheriff's Office and the METRICH Enforcement Unit conducted a search warrant at the Rainbow Motel, Room 124 located at 920 Charles St. The warrant was issued after an investigation revealed that illegal narcotics were being used and sold from the property.

The target of the investigation, Melissa A. Thomas, age 43, was arrested for trafficking methamphetamines. During the search, deputies seized suspected methamphetamines, marijuana, currency, and drug paraphernalia.

Thomas was taken into custody and transported to the Crawford County Justice Center. The

case has been forwarded to the Crawford County Prosecutor's Office for potential charges.

Further details about the case have not been disclosed at this time.

Originally published on the Crawford County Now Staff site on April 25, 2023.

Human trafficking investigation underway into Findlay massage parlor *Hancock County*

Police expect prosecutors will file human trafficking charges against the owner of a massage business in Findlay.

According to the Hancock County METRICH Enforcement Unit, law enforcement officials executed a search warrant at Massage Max on Croy Drive in Findlay Thursday morning. The statement from METRICH said

officials expect promoting prostitution, prostitution and trafficking of persons charges will be filed at the end of the investigation.

Investigators had received anonymous complaints about the business, alleging human trafficking and sex work. Law enforcement seized cash, cell phones, point of sale items, business documents, bedding and towels dur-

ing the search on Thursday.

Open Arms Domestic Violence and Rape Crisis Services of Findlay helped the task force in the investigation, the METRICH statement said.

Originally published by WTVG on June 29, 2023.

Two arrested in drug bust *Crawford County*

A narcotics investigation conducted by the Crawford County Sheriff's Office and METRICH came to a conclusion on May 9, 2023, when deputies executed a search warrant at 204 E. Irving St in Bucyrus, Ohio. Members of the Crawford County Special Response Team (SRT), which includes officers from the Sheriff's Office, Bucyrus Police Department, Crestline Police Department, Galion Police Department, and New Washington Police De-

partment, were on hand to assist.

The investigation targeted Brice A. Ison, 25, and Heaven L. Borders, 24, who both reside at the address. A search of the premises resulted in the seizure of methamphetamines, prescription pills, marijuana, and drug paraphernalia.

Following the search, both individuals were taken into custody and transported to the Crawford County Justice Center. Ison was arrested and is facing charges of

trafficking in methamphetamines, while Borders was arrested for a bond violation. Reports related to the investigation will be forwarded to the Crawford County Prosecutor's Office for consideration of charges.

The case remains under investigation by the detectives from the Sheriff's office.

Originally published On Crawford County Now on May 10, 2023.

METRICH raids net cash, firearms, suspected drugs

Richland County

METRICH Enforcement Unit, with assistance from Mansfield police and the Allied Special Operations Response Team, arrested two men at 391 Henry St. and 482 W. Dickson Ave. on drug-related charges Thursday and Friday.

The search warrants were a result of drug trafficking investigations after receiving several complaints of suspected drug activity in this neighborhood, according to a METRICH press release issued Friday evening.

As a result of the search warrants, METRICH detectives seized suspected suspects drugs, \$515 and drug-related evidence at 391 Henry St. and arrested and charged one person on two counts

of drug trafficking, according to METRICH.

After a search of 482 W. Dickson Ave., METRICH detectives seized suspected fentanyl/cocaine, two firearms, \$3,477 and other drug-related evidence. Detectives arrested and charged another suspect with four counts of drug trafficking and two counts of possession of drugs, METRICH said.

Both subjects were incarcerated at the Richland County Jail pending court appearance and further charges will be forwarded to the Richland County Prosecutor's Office.

The METRICH Enforcement Unit said it will continue to pur-



sue those involved with illegal narcotics and Lt. Steve Blust encouraged all citizens to continue reporting suspected drug activity.

Originally published in the News Journal on May 12, 2023

Trafficker arrested in narcotic search warrant

Crawford County

Deputies from the Crawford County Sheriff's Office and the METRICH Enforcement Unit conducted a narcotic search warrant on April 26, at 5198 Spring Valley Ct. in Galion, leading to the arrest of Jerimiah David Cottrell, aged 37. The search warrant was executed following an investigation into the sale and use of illegal narcotics on the property.

Jerimiah was the target of the investigation for trafficking in methamphetamines. Prior to the execution of the search warrant, deputies stopped a vehicle in

which Jerimiah was a passenger. During the search, he was found in possession of about 45 grams of methamphetamines. Deputies also found and seized suspected methamphetamines, a Glock semi-automatic pistol, marijuana, currency, and drug paraphernalia at the searched residence.

Jerimiah was taken into custody and transported to the Crawford County Justice Center. Sheriff's Office detectives are still investigating the case.



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37Years 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, Martinsburg, 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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