



METRICH Enforcement Unit

Information Bulletin

1st Qtr 22, No. 1/22
March 2022

36 Years Serving North Central Ohio Communities

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Man, woman arrested after drug seizure *Hancock County*

Hancock County sheriff's deputies and police officers raided an apartment Tuesday morning at Findlay Commons.

According to a joint press release from the involved agencies, the Hancock County METRICH Drug Task Force and Findlay Police Emergency Response Team executed a search warrant at 5:41 on Kirkwood Court.

There they found roughly 183 grams of methamphetamine, 29 grams of fentanyl and 15 grams of MDMA.

Cash, drug paraphernalia and a loaded firearm with an altered serial number were also seized.

Detectives arrested occupants 29-year-old Frank Brown IV and 22-year-old Madeleine Heater, charging them with possession of methamphetamine,



possession of fentanyl and possession of MDMA.

Other possible charges could include drug trafficking, having weapons under disability, possession of a defaced firearm and endangering children pending investigation.

Originally published on the 24 News website on February 22, 2022.

Bucyrus man jumps from third-story window *Crawford County*

The Crawford County Sheriff's Office assisted by the Bucyrus Police and Fire Departments and METRICH conducted a narcotics search warrant at the Weaver Hotel.

While gaining entry into the apartment, located on the third floor, the target, John Spears, jumped out of the window. Spears was transported to the Bucyrus Hospital, due to his injuries from the fall and later transported to a Columbus hospital.

Also located inside the residence was Amanda Benedict.

While searching the residence deputies located currency, suspected heroin, prescription medication and drug paraphernalia.

Criminal charges are pending against Spears for trafficking in methamphetamines and possession of heroin.

This case is still being investigated by the Sheriff's Office.

Originally published on the Crawford County Now website on February 4, 2022.

Wyandot County Major Crimes Unit arrest 4 residents on warrants

Wyandot County

On Friday, March 25, 2022, the Wyandot County Special Response Team served 4 residential search warrants in succession. The search warrants were served at 375 Spring Street, 663 S. Eighth Street, 539 N. Warpole Street, and 528 O'Donnell Street in Upper Sandusky, Ohio.

The 4 residences were searched by detectives from the Wyandot County Major Crimes Unit, The METRICH Enforcement Unit and the METRICH-MARMET Drug Task Force. Cocaine, LSD, Methamphetamine, and Marijuana were recovered in the searches. A large amount of cash, firearms and items associated with drug trafficking were also seized.

Detectives are currently processing the evidence. When laboratory results are returned and interviews and evidences are investigated, charges will be sent to the Wyandot County Prosecutors Office for review. Indictments are expected.

The seizure of the drugs, firearms, and cash were the result of an extended investigation into illegal narcotics being distributed in Wyandot County. The Wyandot County Major Crimes Unit would like to thank the Upper Sandusky Police Department, the Wyandot County Sheriff's Office SRT, the Wyandot County Prosecutor's Office, the METRICH-MARMET Drug Task Force, and the METRICH Enforcement Unit



for their help in this successful investigation.

If you see suspicious activity associated with drug trafficking, please contact your local police or sheriff's office. Anonymous tips can be left on the Wyandot County Sheriff's App, the METRICH App, or by contacting METRICH at www.metrich.com.

Originally published in the NEWS-FORCE on March 28, 2022.

Two city homes raided in drug trafficking probe

Hancock County

Two homes were raided early Thursday morning in Findlay, stemming from two ongoing drug trafficking investigations.

At approximately 5:10 a.m. Thursday, the Hancock County METRICH Drug Task Force, along with the Findlay Police Department Emergency Response Team (ERT), executed a search warrant at 227 Rector Ave.

The search of the residence yielded suspected crack cocaine, cocaine powder residue and a large amount of drug paraphernalia, according to a news release from METRICH.

Suspects include residents Tracey Dindal, 53, and Danielle Savage, 33. Charges for drug possession, paraphernalia possession, and criminal tools will be sought at a later date pending results

from the BCI Crime Lab, where the seized substances will be sent, METRICH said.

Additional charges of drug trafficking are expected at the conclusion of this investigation. Separately, at approximately 5:36 a.m., a search at 130½ Garfield Ave. yielded over 10 grams of suspected heroin/fentanyl mix, a small number of unknown pills and two handguns — one of which was reported as stolen through the Findlay Police Department. Numerous items of drug paraphernalia were seized, and METRICH notes everything present was indicative of drug trafficking.

Suspects in this case include Michael Hickle Jr., 35, and Atoraya Hall, 28. Charges for drug possession, paraphernalia possession,

receiving stolen property (handgun) and weapons under disability will be sought at a later date, METRICH said.

The Hancock County Justice Center refused admittance to Hickle on his felony weapons and drug possession charges. The Adult Parole Authority was notified and will seek other arrangements for his incarceration, according to METRICH.

The substances seized from the Garfield Avenue address will also be sent to the BCI Crime Lab for further testing.

Both incidents remain under investigation.

Originally published The Courier on in February 10, 2022.

Bucyrus man charged with drugs and weapons possession *Crawford County*

On March 15 the Crawford County Sheriff's Office, assisted by Wyandot County Sheriff's Office and METRICH, concluded a drug investigation into illegal narcotics trafficking and possession. Deputies executed the search warrant at 837 S. Poplar St. Bucyrus, Ohio 44820 at 8:10 PM.

Arrested was Donald M. Justice, age 53 who resides at the address. Justice was the target of the investigation; Deputies seized two firearms, currency, 55 grams of

suspected Methamphetamines and drug paraphernalia.

Criminal charges are pending against Justice for Possession of drugs – methamphetamines, as well as additional weapons charges. Justice is currently incarcerated at the Crawford County Justice Center and reports will be forwarded to the Crawford County Prosecutors Office for consideration of additional charges.

This case is still currently being investigated by the detectives



from the Sheriff's Office.

Originally published in the Galion Inquirer on March 17, 2022.

Two arrested in Marion County on drug trafficking charges *Marion County*

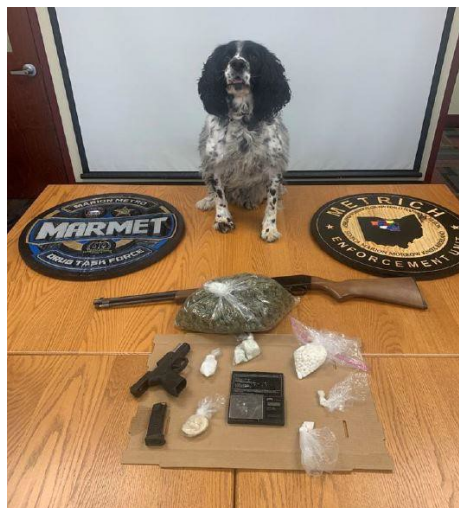
On Tuesday, law enforcement officers from the Marion City Police Department and Marion County Sheriff's Office executed a search warrant in the 1000 block of Fairwood Avenue after an investigation by detectives from the MARMET Drug Task Force

Detectives seized approximately 86.1 grams of suspected Heroin/Fentanyl, 20 grams of Methamphetamine, 38 grams of Crack Cocaine, 204 illegally possessed prescription pills, 456 grams of marijuana, and 2 guns.

Rachel Brown-Vondenberg and Nathan D. Suel were arrested during the execution of this search warrant and charged with Trafficking in a Fentanyl-Related Compound, Trafficking in Heroin, Trafficking in Cocaine and Trafficking in Methamphetamine. This case will be forwarded to Marion County Prosecutor Ray Grogan for the filing of formal charges.

Marion Police Chief Jay

McDonald stated, "I have no doubt that this seizure saved lives of citizens in our community. The teamwork between the citizens we serve, and our Law Enforcement is second to none. I believe we have made our stance on drug traffickers pushing these illegal drugs in our community, it will not be tolerated. MARMET will continue to work to remove traffickers from our neighborhoods and be responsive to TIPS called



in by concerned citizens."

This investigation is a direct result of TIPS called in by the citizens of Marion City & Marion County.

Marion County Sheriff Matt Bayles said, "We appreciate the community utilizing the TIPS line to assist detectives to make for a safer county." Sheriff Bayles also stated, "I believe that with the teamwork of the community and our Law Enforcement that we are making an MPACT and we will continue to seek out persons spreading this poison in our community."

The MARMET Drug Task Force is made of members of the Marion City Police Department, Marion County Sheriff's Office, and the Marion County Prosecutors Office.

Originally published in Crawford County Now on January 27, 2022.

METRICH drug task force adds mobile application

Regional

The decades-long fight against illegal drugs across a 10-county north central Ohio just added a new high-tech tool.

The METRICH Enforcement Unit, which began in Mansfield and Richland County in 1986, has recently added an online application, the first of its kind for a multi-county drug task force in Ohio.

"We've had the website for years and it has been our intent to catch up with the 21st century by offering a new online app platform for our citizens," said Mansfield police Chief Keith Porch, the task force project director.

"It mimics our website in terms of drug awareness and how to report a tip," Porch said. "But now it will be at the citizens' fingertips."

The chief said the app will provide useful information to the public, such as drug education,

addiction resources, and helpful links.

Users will be able to view press releases, and calendar events which are tailored to the specific counties within the METRICH region, Porch said.

METRICH is the first drug task force in Ohio to have a mobile app. But the technology has had success in other locations, including Scott County, Minn. and the southwest section of that state.

The technology is a far cry from the organization's launch 36 years ago.

METRICH began as a cooperative effort between Mansfield police, Richland County Sheriff's Office and the county prosecutor when the two law enforcement agencies learned they were about to raid the same location.

It has grown over the years to include more than 40 communi-

ties in Richland, Ashland, Crawford, Knox, Hancock, Huron, Marion, Morrow, Seneca and Wyandot counties, funded by local agencies grants from the Ohio Office of Criminal Justice Services, which has encouraged regional cooperation and efficiency.

Law enforcement officers in those counties meet, share information, resources and assist one another as needed in drug raids and arrests. The task force remains decentralized, but cooperative.

The app will help streamline citizen tips, creating a more efficient process, according to Porch.

"The app will allow tips to be submitted online, which will be referred to detectives in the county it comes from," he said. "It will be easier than calling in to a tip line and leaving an anonymous message."

Originally published in the richlandsource on February 9, 2022.

Marion man arrested for crack cocaine and weapons

Marion County

On Friday, law enforcement officers from the Marion Special Response Team, Marion City Police Department, and the Marion County Sheriff's Office executed a search warrant for a residence in the 200 block of Barnhart Street, Marion, after an investigation by detectives from the METRICH-MARMET Drug Task Force

Detectives seized approximately 221 grams of crack cocaine and an illegally possessed handgun.

Allen C. Creagh, 41, of Marion,

was arrested during the execution of the search warrant.

Creagh was arrested and charged with trafficking in crack cocaine, weapons under disability, and tampering with evidence. This case will be forwarded to Marion County Prosecutor Ray Grogan for the filing of formal charges.

The METRICH-MARMET Drug Task Force is made up of members of the Marion City Police Department, Marion County Sheriff's Office, and the Marion



County Prosecutors Office.

Originally published on the Crawford County Now Staff on March 18, 2022.

Two arrested and drugs seized *Marion County*

On Thursday, January 27th, law enforcement officers from the Marion County Sheriff's Office, Marion City Police Department, and the Hardin County Crime Task Force executed a search warrant in the 130 block of Marsh Street in Larue after an investigation by detectives from the MARMET Drug Task Force

Detectives seized approximately 27.85 grams of Methamphetamine, 5.15 grams of suspected Heroin/Fentanyl, and 20 illegally possessed prescription pills and \$742.00 in US Currency

Charles E. Rayburn and Ashley Wyomic were arrested during



the execution of this search

Rayburn was arrested and charged with Trafficking in a Fentanyl-Related Compound and Trafficking in Methamphetamine. Wyomic was arrested on an active warrant for her arrest. This case will be forwarded to Marion County Prosecutor Ray Grogan for the filing of formal charges.

Marion County Sheriff Matt Bayles said, "The involvement of the community has led to another successful investigation into drug trafficking. This investigation is a direct result of TIPS called in by the community. Marion and its law enforcement agencies are united in our zero tolerance towards drug traffickers. We are grateful for the support and continual assistance our community provides in our battle with those who traffic in illegal drugs."

"This seizure shows that the teamwork between the Marion Police Department and the Marion County Sheriff's Office, com-

bined with the help of the community is the key to attacking drug trafficking. I am proud to be a part of this team that is focused on saving lives" said Marion Police Chief Jay McDonald.

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The MARMET Drug Task Force is made of members of the Marion City Police Department, Marion County Sheriff's Office, and the Marion County Prosecutors Office.

Originally published in Crawford County Now on January 27, 2022.

Two arrested after raid in Bucyrus on Thursday morning *Crawford County*

Two people were arrested Thursday morning by the Crawford County Sheriff's Office and the METRICH Enforcement Unit after a several month-long investigation into illegal narcotics trafficking and possession.

According to a post on the sheriff's department Facebook page, the Crawford County Special Response Team, which consists of the sheriff's office along with Bucyrus, Galion, Crestline and New Washington police departments, executed a search war-

rant at 119 W. Mary St. at 8:40 a.m.

Arrested were Rickie Bradley, 44 and Chelsie H. Taylor, 19, both of whom live at the address. Bradley was the target of the investigation. Law enforcement officers seized suspected cocaine, LSD, money and drug paraphernalia.

Criminal charges are pending against Bradley for trafficking in drugs – cocaine. Bradley and Taylor were incarcerated at the Crawford County Justice Center and

reports will be forwarded to the Crawford County Prosecutor's Office for consideration of additional charges.

The case is still currently being investigated by the detectives from the sheriff's office.

Galion and Bucyrus fire departments were also on scene when the search warrant was executed.

Originally published in the Crawford Source on February 24, 2022

Marion man arrested for drug trafficking *Marion County*

Law enforcement officers from the Marion Special Response Team, Marion City Police Department, and the Marion County Sheriff’s Office executed a search warrant in the 900 block of Henry Street, Marion after an investigation by detectives from the MARMET Drug Task Force.

Detectives seized approximately 178 grams of crack cocaine, 1010 ecstasy pills, 22.5 grams of methamphetamine, and \$7556.00 cash.

Martez Montgomery was arrested during the execution of this search warrant and charged with Trafficking in crack cocaine and trafficking in ecstasy. This case will be forwarded to Marion County Prosecutor Ray Grogan for the filing of formal charges.

“Marion County law enforcement continues to respond to com-

munity complaints about drug trafficking in our community. MARMET detectives and all of the officers and deputies in this county know that drug trafficking causes so much pain and death in our county, state, and nation and they are focused on finding and arresting these purveyors of this poison” said Marion Police Chief Jay McDonald

Marion County Sheriff Matt Bayles said, “In the past 6 days the MARMET Drug Task Force has taken approximately 156.2 grams of suspected heroin/fentanyl, 229.3 grams of suspected crack cocaine, 70.23 grams of suspected methamphetamine and 1253 illegal possessed pills, 471.95 grams of marijuana, 2 guns and \$13,493 in cash out of the hands of criminals and off our streets. I am proud of the work of



the MARMET Drug Task Force and equally proud of the community that provides the information that gets these investigations off the ground.”

Originally published on the Crawford County Now website on February 3, 2022.

Fentanyl other items seized during Findlay home search *Hancock County*

A search of a Findlay residence late Thursday night resulted in the seizure of approximately 18.5 grams of fentanyl, a .38 caliber revolver and over \$5,700 in cash.

A report from the Hancock County METRICH Drug Taskforce said the items were seized from 205 W. Hardin St. after a search warrant was served at approximately 11:30 p.m..

The report states that Darius Pullom, 30, and Kimberly Wise, 32, both listed as living at the Hardin Street address, along with Andrew Twinning, of 529 W. Hardin St., were arrested and in-

carcerated at the Hancock County Justice Center. Drug paraphernalia and other items indicative of drug trafficking were also seized, the report says.

Pullom and Wise are charged with a third-degree felony of having weapons under disability. Twinning is charged with a third-degree felony of possession of drugs, the report states.

Additional charges of drug trafficking are expected at the conclusion of the investigation. Also assisting at the scene was the Findlay Police Department Emergency Response Team.

The Hancock County MET-



RICH Drug Enforcement United is supported by METRICH in Mansfield and funded in part by the Office of Criminal Justice Services.

Originally published in The Courier on March 25, 2022.

Two arrested after METRICH-MARMET investigation *Marion County*

On Monday, law enforcement officers from the Marion City Police Department and the Marion County Sheriff's Office executed a search warrant in the 400 block of Mound Street, Marion after an investigation by detectives from the METRICH-MARMET Drug Task Force

Detectives seized approximately 61.3 grams of suspected heroin/fentanyl, 4.1 grams of suspected crack cocaine,



Phillip Cox and Auera Robinson were arrested during the exe-

cution of this search warrant.

Cox was arrested and charged with Trafficking in a Fentanyl-Related Compound and Trafficking in crack cocaine. Robinson was arrested on an active warrant for her arrest. This case will be forwarded to Marion County Prosecutor Ray Grogan for the filing of formal charges.

“Stash comes through again!” said Marion Police Chief Jay McDonald.

“METRICH-MARMET detectives and their K9, Stash, have made a significant #MAPCT in removing illegal drugs from our community and this is just one more example of the great work they do. I am proud of the entire team.”

Marion County Sheriff Matt

Bayles said, “METRICH-MARMET targets traffickers and their success equals lives saved. According to the DEA, .02 milligrams of fentanyl has the potential to be lethal, so removing over 60 grams of this poison is outstanding in terms of saving lives in Marion County.”

The METRICH-MARMET Drug Task Force is made of members of the Marion City Police Department, Marion County Sheriff's Office, and the Marion County Prosecutors Office.

Originally published on the Crawford County Now website on January 31, 2022.

36 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, 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.

Points of Contact

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Crawford County

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Hancock County

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