



METRICH Enforcement Unit

Information Bulletin

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March 2024

38 Years Serving North Central Ohio Communities

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METRICH-MARMET arrests one and seizes crack cocaine during search of Marion home *Marion County*

A Marion man is facing charges after law enforcement officers executed two search warrants March 13, with the primary location at 207 Neil Ave., Marion.

The warrants were the result of a narcotics investigation by the METRICH-MARMET Drug Task Force and were granted by Marion Municipal Court Judge Teresa Ballinger.

One man was arrested and transported to Multi-County Correctional Center. Charges of possession of drugs, along with additional charges, will be forwarded and reviewed by the Marion County Prosecutor's Office.

Authorities says they seized about 410 grams of crack/cocaine, over \$3,000 cash and drug paraphernalia consistent with drug trafficking.

"Thank you to everyone who calls into the TIPS line and provides information to the METRICH-MARMET Drug Task Force. It is the community partnerships, along with dedicated deputies and officers, that enable METRICH-MARMET to target major drug offenders like they did in this case,"



Marion Police Chief Jay McDonald said. "If you are a drug trafficker, you will be arrested and charged. We know that this arrest will make our community safer."

"Another great job by our officers and deputies in taking down a major drug dealer," Sheriff Matt Bayles added. "Marion is safer today than it was yesterday with this dealer off the streets."

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

Originally published in the Marion Star on March 18, 2024

METRICH Central Office
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Mansfield, Ohio 44902

Major drug bust near Elementary School in Marion *Marion County*

Law enforcement officers from the Marion Police Department and the Marion County Sheriff’s Office executed a search warrant on January 24, 2024, in the 700 block of Silver Street, leading to a significant drug bust. The operation was part of a narcotics investigation conducted by the METRICH-MARMET Drug Task Force Detectives.

The residence, located within 300 feet of Hayes Elementary School, was placed into lockdown as a precautionary measure during the search warrant execution. Three Marion City Police Department School Resource Officers were present at the scene.

As a result of the search warrant, approximately 67 grams of crack cocaine, a firearm, drug paraphernalia, and cash were seized. Paul A. Courtney, born on January 4, 1991, from Columbus, Ohio,

was arrested in connection with the incident. Courtney also had a felony escape warrant out of Franklin County. He was charged with possession of drugs (F1), weapons under disability, and the warrant out of Franklin County. Formal charges will be reviewed and submitted by Marion County Prosecutor Ray Grogan and his Office.

Marion Police Chief Jay McDonald commended the officers and deputies involved in the investigation. “Shutting down drug trafficking in our community is one of the most important goals of the Marion Police Department, especially so close to an elementary school in our community. I am proud of the excellent work of the officers and deputies involved in this investigation, as they have made Marion a safer place with their actions taken today,” said McDonald.



Sheriff Matt Bayles echoed these sentiments, stating, “Excellent job today by our deputies and officers on this drug arrest. We have a drug task force that is second to none. If you deal drugs in our community, you will get caught, you will get prosecuted and you will go to jail.”

Originally published in the Crawford County Now Staff on January 25, 2024.



Saturday April 27, 2024 10:00 am – 2:00 pm

Traffic stop leads to big drug bust *Crawford County*

On February 5, 2024, at 6:09 pm, Deputies and METRICH officers made a traffic stop on CR 330 west of US 30 on a vehicle for traffic violations.

The driver was identified as Brian P. Caldwell, age 41, of Bucyrus, and the passenger was identified as Steven L. Conner, age 30, of Galion.

K9 Nora was requested and deployed, indicating the presence of a narcotic odor.

Deputies then searched the vehicle and located drug paraphernalia, approximately 224 grams of methamphetamines, and an unknown amount of fentanyl.

The vehicle was towed from the scene by Hensley Towing. Both Caldwell and Conner were arrested and transported to the Crawford County Justice Center and held on drug charges.

On February 6, 2024, Deputies and METRICH executed a search warrant on Caldwell's apartment, 200 E Warren St., Apt U, Bucyrus, Ohio.

Deputies recovered more methamphetamines, psilocybin mushrooms, and drug paraphernalia.



The Crawford County Sheriff's Office will be forwarding a report to the Crawford County Prosecutors Office for consideration of additional charges.

Originally published in the Crawford County Now Staff on February 6, 2024.



Multi-agency blitz yields arrests, drugs *Hancock County*

An area interdiction blitz conducted by several agencies yielded drug and cash seizures and arrests throughout Findlay and Hancock County.

On Wednesday, the Hancock County METRICH Drug Task Force, Findlay Police Department, Hancock County Sheriff's Office, Ohio State Highway Patrol and U.S. Customs and Border Protection conducted the blitz, targeting drug trafficking and use in the area.

In a news release, Detective

Sgt. Brian Dill said 59 traffic stops were made Wednesday. The blitz yielded 15 citations, three felony arrests, three misdemeanor arrests, two arrest warrants and five vehicle searches. Also, 10 pounds of marijuana, one gram of fentanyl and \$100,000 were seized Wednesday.

It was the first operation locally to involve the Family Resource Center, to include a prevention and treatment aspect for those in the community struggling with addiction or

substance use disorder.

"Our hope is to connect them to treatment and resources as soon as possible," Dill said. The blitz is one of several multi-agency events planned for the area and part of numerous scheduled around the state.

Originally published in The Courier on March 1, 2024.

Drug task force executes search warrant in Tiffin *Seneca County*

On February 01, 2024, the Seneca County Drug Task Force-METRICH Enforcement Unit, along with additional Agents from the Sandusky County Drug Task Force, Homeland Security Investigations Unit, United States Postal Service, and the Tiffin Police Department, executed drug related search warrant on a residence located at 72 St. Clair Street, Seneca County, Ohio. That being the residence of Zachery K. Wilson, 30 YOA and Eva I. Hunter, 29 YOA.

The search warrant signed

by Judge Damon Alt of the Seneca County Common Pleas Court unveiled Criminal Tools, suspected Methamphetamine, US Currency & items indicative of Drug Trafficking.

Charges are pending on the suspects for Possession of Methamphetamine & Criminal Tools upon the conclusion of the entire drug investigation & the return of the lab analysis of the substances involved in the investigation.

“Controlled substances being shipped or distributed through the United States Post-

al Service have plagued our community for some time. The Task Force’s goal is to combine all of our local and federal resources to prohibit mail containing illegal items, and dismantling the Dark Web which allows drug dealers to sell their goods through an internet connection!”...Chief David W. Pauly, Tiffin Police Department said.

Originally published on the WFIN website on February 2, 2024.

Major drug bust in Bucyrus: two arrested, investigation ongoing *Crawford County*

In a significant blow to the local narcotics trade, the Crawford County Sheriff’s Office and METRICH Enforcement Unit executed a search warrant at a residence in Bucyrus on March 17, 2024. The operation was the culmination of a multi-



month investigation into the illegal trafficking of Percocet pills from Michigan to Crawford County.

The residence, located at 519 W. Charles St., was allegedly a hub for the sale and use of narcotics. Arrested at the scene were Jillianne Moore, and Storm Penix,. Moore, the primary target of the investigation, is facing charges for drug possession, trafficking in drugs, and other drug-related offenses.

During the operation, deputies seized approximately 90 Percocet pills, an undisclosed amount of currency, firearms, marijuana, and drug paraphernalia. Both Moore and Penix



were taken to the Crawford County Justice Center. Reports will be forwarded to the Crawford County Prosecutor’s Office for consideration of additional charges.

Penix was later released, pending possible charges at a later date. The case remains under active investigation by detectives from the Sheriff’s Office.

Originally published in the Crawford County Now Staff on March 18, 2024.

Major drug bust near school in Marion *Marion County*

In a significant operation on February 26, 2024, the METRICH/MARMET Drug Task Force, in collaboration with the Marion City Police Department and the Marion County Sheriff's Office, executed a search warrant at a residence dangerously close to Garfield Elementary School.

The search warrant, granted by Marion Municipal Court Judge Teresa Ballinger, was carried out at 537 Swiss Dr in Marion, Ohio, a location within 600 feet of the school. The operation was strategically conducted after school hours to ensure the safety of students and staff.

The search resulted in the seizure of approximately 117.39 grams of methamphetamine, nearly \$2,000 in cash, two pistols – one of which had been reported stolen, and additional items associated with drug trafficking.

Curtis Sexton was arrested for having weapons under disa-

bility, a restriction due to a previous criminal conviction. Clinton Heth was also taken into custody for a felony probation violation, resulting from the items seized during the search.

METRICH/MARMET Detectives are continuing their investigation into the case, and additional charges may be forthcoming after a review from Marion County Prosecutor Ray Grogan and his Office.

Sheriff Matt Bayles commended the operation, stating, "Today's operation is just another example of the hard-working men and women of METRICH/MARMET, protecting our community from drug dealers. This person was dealing his poison within 600 feet of a school with weapons ready at hand. We will seek out people that put our children in danger and put them where they belong, in jail."

Echoing these sentiments,



Chief Jay McDonald added, "A narcotics dealer, who was illegally possessing firearms, this close to a school is extremely dangerous for our community. I am grateful for the hard work by officers and deputies in removing this trafficker from our streets."

The METRICH/MARMET Drug Task Force is a collaborative effort comprising members of the Marion Police Department, Marion County Sheriff's Office, and the Marion County Prosecutors Office.

Originally published in Marion County Now on February 27, 2024.

Narcotic search warrant leads to arrest in Bucyrus *Crawford County*

Crawford County Sheriff's Office, METRICH, and Crawford County Special Response Team executed a successful narcotics search warrant at 117 Fisher St., Bucyrus.

The primary target of this operation was Gary Wayne Gallant, suspected of trafficking in methamphetamines. Gallant was

promptly apprehended during the search.

Additionally, Sandra Gallant was also detained on the premises.

The authorities seized a substantial quantity of methamphetamine, along with drug paraphernalia, cash, and two firearms from the residence. One of the firearms

was traced back to a stolen weapon from California.

Gary Wayne Gallant has been transported to the Crawford County Justice Center, where he awaits further legal proceedings.

Originally published on the Crawford County Now Staff website on March 28, 2024.

Ohio men arrested after cocaine, \$2,000 in cash seized in Marion search warrant

Marion County

Two Ohio men have been arrested after authorities found cocaine, gun parts and more than \$2,000 in cash while executing a search warrant in Marion.

Marcus Pickens, 39, has been charged with possession of drugs and illegal manufacturing of drugs, according to the Marion Metro Drug Enforcement Unit. Randy Johnson, 19, was also arrested for a probation violation and could face charges later on.

Law enforcement attached to the drug enforcement were

executing three search warrants in Marion on Thursday when they seized 32.7 grams of cocaine, a loaded gun, several high-capacity pistol magazines, more than \$2,000 and items associated with drug manufacturing.

Marion police said all three search warrants were the result of a months-long narcotics investigation conducted by the drug enforcement unit, with the warrant granted by Marion Municipal Court Judge Teresa Ballinger.

"This investigation removed



a significant amount of drugs and a weapon off our street and Marion is safer because of it," said Marion Police Chief Jay McDonald.

Originally published in yahoo!news on February 22, 2024.

Drug task force conducts drug interdiction ops

Seneca County

Five people were arrested as the METRICH Seneca County Drug Task Force conducted drug interdiction operations on the past two Thursdays.

Drug interdictions take place to prevent illicit drugs from reaching their intended destinations and "are essential in stemming the flow of illegal narcotics and countering the adverse effects of organized criminal groups," said Charles W. Boyer, chief deputy of the Seneca County Sheriff's Office and METRICH coordinator.

"We also attempt to add an outreach initiative to the interdiction efforts to add a systematic effort to identify individuals who need assistance in vari-

ous ways and offer it to the," Boyer said in a release. "Most outreach initiatives aim to fill the gap between a community's needs and the services they can usually access."

Officers from the Fostoria Police Division, the Tiffin Police Department, the Sandusky County Drug Task Force and the Seneca County Sheriff's Office took part in the operations, as well as canine units from various agencies.

With several areas throughout Seneca County being targeted, the two interdictions resulted in 32 traffic stops and eight citations to go with the five arrests.

Charges filed were resisting

arrest, aggravated possession of drugs, possession of drug paraphernalia, driving under suspension, possessing drug-abuse instruments, possession of criminal tools and trafficking in drugs. Several arrest warrants were served and quantities of methamphetamine, fentanyl and prescription pills were seized.

"The cooperation and efforts of the participating agencies were instrumental to the success of this investigation," Boyer said. "Our unit continues to work with all law-enforcement agencies to focus on the problem drug areas in their communities and our region."

Originally published in the Review Times on March 29, 2024.

2023 REGIONAL STATS

CASE ACTIVITY

New Cases	1,027	Felony 1	47
Search Warrants	455	Felony 2	97
Non-Fed Indictments	697	Felony 3	180
Fed Indictments	39	Felony 4	147
INTEL	3269	Felony 5	520

Drug	Cultivation	Manufacturing	Trafficking	Possession	Amount
Cocaine			54	27	3,693.41 g
Crack			24	0	741.98 g
Ecstasy			0	0	3.0 UD
Fentanyl/Fentanyl Mix			62	45	2,046.62 g
Heroin			9	2	96.20 g
LSD			0		90.10 UD
Marijuana -processed			0	13	39,021.75 g
Methamphetamine			126	193	5,361.71 g
Psilocybin Mushrooms			0	10	1,040.40 g

Rx ACTIVITY

Rx Cases	12	Felony 1	0
		Felony 2	0
Indictments	16	Felony 3	3
		Felony 4	2
		Felony 5	11

Drug	Amount Seized
Alprazolam	112.5 UD
Amphetamine Mixture	60 UD
Buprenorphine	37 UD
Gabapentin	302 UD
Other Rx	1,421.30 UD
Oxycodone	174 UD
Percocet	20 UD

MISC

Asset	Seized	Non-Drug Cases	
			363
CURRENCY	\$156,646.00	Demand Reduction	55
		Firearms	88

38 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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