

Officers seized suspected drugs, firearms during raid in Marion

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 METRICH-MARMET 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.

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, Johnson 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.

"We appreciate the residents bringing this person and residence to the attention of the METRICH-MARMET Drug Task Force and I would like to thank the residents for the tips and the investigation done by the METRICH-MARMET Task Force," Bayles said. "These illegal drugs and guns are now off the streets due to the residents stepping up and saying something. Our county is safer today because of them."

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 Prosecutor's Office.

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