



METRICH Enforcement Unit

Information Bulletin

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34 Years Serving North Central Ohio Communities

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Fostoria man wearing 'Pugs Not Drugs' shirt busted for drug trafficking in Tiffin Seneca County

So much for following the advice printed on his t-shirt...

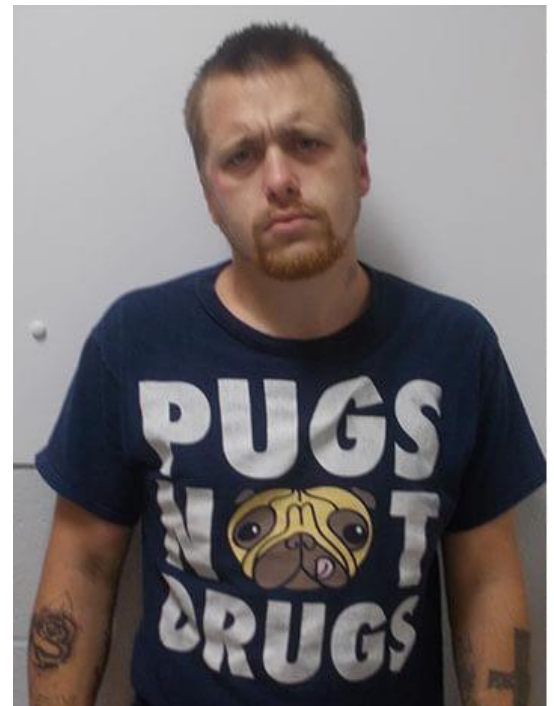
A Fostoria man wearing a "Pugs Not Drugs" t-shirt was arrested on drug trafficking charges Wednesday as part of a sting operation.

The Seneca County Drug Task Force / METRICH Enforcement Unit, along with officers from the Tiffin Police Department, conducted the operation at the corner of Madison St. and S. Washington St., where 25-year-old Jacob Woodruff, of Fostoria, was arrested.

Authorities stopped Woodruff's vehicle and immediately placed him into custody without incident.

Woodruff was charged with trafficking in fentanyl and heroin, and police say additional charges are pending, including another trafficking charge and possession of fentanyl & heroin, upon the conclusion of the investigation and the return of lab analysis on the substances seized in the operation.

Tiffin Police Chief Fred Stevens says Woodruff is a "person of interest" in numerous recent overdoses throughout the city of Tiffin and Seneca County.



Jacob Woodruff

"We can say without any hesitation the community is a little safer tonight putting him behind bars for the time being," Stevens said in a statement.

Originally published on TiffinOhio.net on July 22, 2020.

Mount Vernon man held without bail after drug charge

Knox County

Rockey E. Clark, 30, of Mount Vernon, was arrested Wednesday night and charged with third-degree aggravated trafficking of drugs, according to a press release from the Mount Vernon Police Department.

Clark was transported to the Knox County Jail without incident and is being held without bond, police said.

According to a press release, Mount Vernon Police executed a search warrant at 209 James St. at approximately 10:50 p.m. on May

27. Numerous items of drug abuse and drug trafficking were seized as evidence.

The search warrant was the result of an investigation by the Mount Vernon Police Detective Division with the assistance of the Knox County Sheriff's Office into ongoing illicit drug activities being conducted at the residence.

The Mount Vernon Police Department is a member of the METRICH Enforcement Unit, a multi-jurisdictional drug enforcement task force dedicated to the

improvement of the quality of life for the citizens of the METRICH region by reducing the availability of illegal drugs and weapons through community partnerships and promoting safe, secure neighborhoods.

The Mount Vernon Police Department thanked its law enforcement partners and the citizens that have assisted the Mount Vernon Police Department during this investigation.

Originally published in the Knox Pages on May 28, 2020.

METRICH Drug Task Force raids Tiffin home, seizes drugs

Seneca County

Authorities raided a W. Market St. home on Wednesday, seizing drugs and collecting evidence related to potential drug trafficking.

The Seneca County METRICH Drug Task Force, along with officers from the Tiffin Police Department, Fremont Police Department, and the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation Narcotics Division, executed a search warrant on the residence located at 229 W. Market St.

That residence is the home of 39-year-old Loren M. Andrews, Jr. and 38-year-old Keri L. Wilson, police said.

The raid on the home unveiled U.S. currency, suspected LSD, suspected ketamine, psilocybin mushrooms, marijuana, drug paraphernalia, and criminal tools.

The Tiffin Police Department's Special Response Team (SRT) and the Fremont Police Department's SRT were utilized to execute the search warrant, signed by

Judge Mark Repp of Tiffin-Fostoria Municipal Court, safely and effectively on the residence.

Police said charges of trafficking LSD, permitting drug abuse, possession of psilocybin mushrooms, possession of marijuana, possession of ketamine, drug abuse and possession of criminal tools are all pending on Andrews and other individuals upon the conclusion of the investigation and the return of lab analysis results.

"The Tiffin Police Department and the Task Force were receiving complaints of suspected drug trafficking and drug abuse going on inside the residence, which initiated the investigation on the suspect residing at the residence," Tiffin Police Chief Fred Stevens said in a statement. "And several weeks ago, our agency dealt with a subject who jumped out a window and sustained injuries while suspected being under the influ-



ence of LSD. These hallucinogenic drugs are illegal for a reason and our zero-tolerance will always be the same. I would like to thank the citizens who assisted with their tips and we appreciate the many tips we get on locations throughout the entire city."

Originally published on TiffinOhio.net on June 24, 2020.

METRICH-MARMET drug task force seizes 430 grams of fentanyl

Marion County

A Marion man has been arrested following one of the largest fentanyl busts in county history, according to law enforcement officials.

In a press release issued Friday, May 1, Lt. Chris Adkins of the METRICH-MARMET Drug Task Force said the unit seized 430 grams of fentanyl, \$10,000 in cash, and a firearm during the raid of locations in the 400 blocks of Executive and Lynn drives and the 100 block of South Seffner Avenue. Task force members executed warrant searches at each location last week. The raid ended an investigation that lasted several months, Adkins said.

Officers arrested Travon Floyd, 23, Marion, as a result of the investigation. Charges against Floyd are pending. No court date has been scheduled, according to

online court records. He is being held at the Multi-County Correctional Center.

"This seizure of fentanyl, one of the largest fentanyl busts in Marion history, undoubtedly saved lives of citizens of our community and perhaps others as well," Marion Police Chief Bill Collins said. "We are grateful that this major drug trafficker was able to be apprehended without any incident. Marion's law enforcement officers continue to do all they can to protect and serve our community, even in this COVID-19 crisis."

METRICH-MARMET worked on the case in conjunction with the Marion City Police Department, Marion City Special Response Team, Marion County Sheriff's Office, Marion County Prosecutor, Marion County Adult Probation, and the Wyandot County Sheriff's



Office.

METRICH-MARMET, the Marion Metro Drug Enforcement Unit, is a member of the METRICH Drug Task Force, a collaboration of nine counties promoting regional cooperation and greater efficiency in drug investigations.

Originally published in the Marion Star on May 4, 2020.

Ashland Police arrest Butler man on weapons charge

Ashland County

Ashland Police announced Wednesday the arrest of a Butler man as part of the office's proactive policing program.

Ryan Day, 37, of Butler, was arrested by Ashland Police on May 20 after leaving his residence on Arch Street. Police say Day was carrying a loaded 9mm. In addition to the loaded gun, suspected methamphetamine, narcotics and assorted drug paraphernalia were discovered.



Following a search warrant, a criminal complaint was later filed

on Day for a weapons under disability charge, police said. The Ashland Prosecutor's Office is reviewing the case.

Originally published in the Ashland Source on May 21, 2020

Two Fostorians facing charges after drug search

Seneca County

Multiple drug-related felony charges against two Fostoria residents are pending after the Seneca County Drug Task Force's METRICH Enforcement Unit executed search warrants early Tuesday mornings at the suspects' homes.

Though neither was arrested nor considered international flight risks, charges are pending against 27-year-old Ismael S. Hernandez of 461 W. Lytle St., Lot 28, and 32-year-old Cynthia M. Harper, 1207 Peeler Drive, Apt. C, according to a news release from METRICH.

Charges of trafficking in fentanyl, possession of criminal tools and possession of drug paraphernalia are pending against Hernandez upon the conclusion of the entire investigation and laboratory analysis results, the press release says.

Harper potentially faces charges of possession of drugs and possession

of drug paraphernalia; the news release says.

The search discovered suspected fentanyl, drug paraphernalia and evidence indicative of drug trafficking at Hernandez's residence, while suspected heroin, prescription pills and drug paraphernalia, were located at Harper's residence, the release says.

The searches, executed by the Fostoria Police Division's SWAT team, took place after Judge Mark E. Repp of Tiffin-Fostoria Municipal Court signed the warrants.

"With drug overdoses on the rise in our area, we're committed to sending the message that these poisons will not be tolerated in our community," Fostoria Police Chief Keith Loreno said. "I consider the entire investigation to be successful due to the search warrant being executed safely and drugs were being removed from our community."

Det. Charles Boyer, METRICH coordinator, said the warrants were executed after several months of investigation.

"We were getting reports and complaints that Ismael was selling drugs," Boyer said. "We had started a couple of investigations. We were able to get into him and the investigation went on from there, basically."

In addition to METRICH and Fostoria officers, representatives of Tiffin Police and the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation took part in Tuesday's activity, Boyer said.

"With the drugs that were seized in today's operation, I believe our community is a safer place," Loreno said. "We will work tirelessly to rid Fostoria of these scourges."

Originally published in the Review Times on June 25, 2020.

Three arrested in Findlay following METRICH Task Force raid

Hancock County

Three people were arrested in Findlay early Thursday morning after the METRICH Drug Task Force executed a search warrant.

At approximately 5:05 a.m., the Hancock County METRICH Drug Task Force along with the Findlay Police Department's Emergency Response Team (ERT), executed a search warrant at 248 Monroe Ave., Findlay.

The search of the residence yielded a large amount of fentanyl, prescription drugs, drug paraphernalia, U.S. currency, and items indicative of drug trafficking.

As a result of the search, three were arrested and incarcerated at the Hancock County Justice Center:

- 22-year-old Cedric D. Slough, of Findlay – Possession of fentanyl (second-degree felony)
- 22-year-old Tyler M. Courtney, of Findlay – Possession of fentanyl (second-degree felony)
- Ariel M. Miller, of Findlay (age unknown) – Possession of fentanyl (second-degree felony)

Additional charges of drug trafficking are expected at the conclusion of this investigation.

Originally published on TiffinOhio.net on September 3, 2020



Fentanyl, crack cocaine, guns, cash seized in Marion hotel raid

Marion County

Police seized drugs, guns, and cash, and made one arrest during a raid conducted this week.

According to Lt. Chris Adkins of the METRICH-MARMET Drug Task Force, law enforcement agents discovered 9.2 grams of crack cocaine, 3 grams of suspected fentanyl, 4 firearms, and \$5,100 in cash while executing a warrant on Tuesday, Aug. 18 at America's Best Value Inn, 1952 Marion-Mount Gilead Road, Marion.

David W. Davis Jr., 40, Marion, was arrested on suspicion of drug trafficking, according to Adkins. Davis is incarcerated at the Multi-County Correctional Center in Marion, according to jail records.

According to the Marion Municipal Court website, the following charges have been filed against Davis: trafficking in cocaine, a fourth-degree felony; trafficking in heroin, a fourth-degree felony; and eight counts of having a weapon under disability, each of which is a third-degree felony. No bond amount has been

set, according to court records.

A preliminary hearing has been scheduled at 8:30 a.m. on Friday, Aug. 28 in Marion Municipal Court.

Adkins said this marks the "second time in recent months" that METRICH-MARMET has executed a search warrant for drug trafficking at America's Best Value Inn in Marion. In May, agents and deputies arrested two people and seized 71 grams of suspected crack cocaine during a warrant search at the hotel.

"A lot of hotels are used for drug trafficking because it's not (the traffickers') residence," Adkins said. "It's a way for drug traffickers to hide themselves instead of doing deals in neighborhoods where, now with COVID, there's a lot more individuals that are home. Drug trafficking in the local hotels has always been an issue, though.

"This hotel seems to be used quite a bit. Why that is, I don't know. But this hotel definitely has the attention of law enforce-



ment as well as the administrators of the drug task force."

METRICH-MARMET detectives executed this week's search along with deputies from the Marion County Sheriff's Office and officers from the Adult Parole Authority.

"Chief Bill Collins, Prosecutor Ray Grogan, and I continue to support and provide resources for the METRICH-MARMET Drug Task Force to fight drug crimes locally," Marion County Sheriff Tim Bailey said. "This continues to be a Nationwide issue and we will not ignore it locally."

Originally published in the Marion Star on August 19, 2020.

Two Findlay men arrested on drug charges

Hancock County

Two Findlay men are charged with drug possession after an early Tuesday raid at a residence, according to a media release from the Hancock County METRICH Drug Task Force.

On Tuesday, members of the drug task force and the Findlay Police Department Emergency Response team executed a search warrant at a residence in the 8100 block of Oakwood Drive. The

search yielded a large amount of marijuana, LSD, a handgun, drug paraphernalia, money, and other items indicative of drug trafficking, according to the media release.

Henry Palacios, 23, and Cruzito Sanchez, 19, both of the 8100 block of Oakwood Drive, were arrested and booked in the Hancock County jail on possession of LSD charges, a fifth-

degree felony. Mr. Palacios is also charged with a fifth-degree felony of possession of marijuana.

Additional charges of drug trafficking are expected pending the ongoing investigation.

Originally published in The Blade on June 9, 2020.

43 arrested during major drug raid in Marion County

Marion County

Forty-three alleged drug dealers were arrested Wednesday morning as part of major law enforcement operation in Marion County.

Special Agent in Charge Eric B. Smith of the Cleveland Division of the FBI said the sweep started at 6 a.m. Wednesday when about 200 law enforcement agents began executing 36 federal arrest warrants and one local arrest warrant in Marion County.



"This operation is in response to a 46-person federal indictment along with one individual indicted locally," Smith said during a press conference after the raid Wednesday. "Currently we have 43 suspects in custody and our operations are ongoing. Nine individuals named in this indictment were already in state custody and two in federal custody on other charges."

Smith noted that Wednesday's arrests are the result of several years of investigations into drug trafficking in Marion County and elsewhere in the region.

"The arrests this morning are based on a long-term investigation involving three drug trafficking organizations that have been importing, processing, and distributing large amounts of heroin, fentanyl, cocaine, crack cocaine, methamphetamine, and prescription pills



and marijuana since approximately 2015," Smith said. "These drug trafficking organizations have been shown to supply and distribute these drugs in Marion, Columbus, Detroit, and Chicago."

Smith said during the course of the investigation, law enforcement agents have seized more than 175 grams of heroin, 184 grams of fentanyl, 128 grams of marijuana, 40 grams of cocaine, \$42,000 in cash, and 10 firearms.

One Wednesday morning alone, Smith said agents seized \$25,000 in cash, six firearms, and undisclosed amounts of fentanyl and marijuana.

"Organizations like the one dismantled here today target communities like Marion because they mistakenly assume that they can operate either without detection or without people speaking up," said First Assistant U.S. Attorney Bridget Brennan. "Let these indictments serve as notice that law enforcement partners in this District and the residents of Marion are paying attention. And we will act."

Chief Bill Collins of the Marion Police Department said he believes drug traffickers have targeted Marion County over the years because "sentences handed down (by previous judges) were not very severe at all."

"We partnered with federal (authorities) many years ago because we couldn't get good sentencing here in Marion," Collins said. "That has since changed. We do have some judges that'll hand out some very hefty sentences. It certainly won't affect our partnership with the feds because we still need to be able cross state lines in some cases. But no doubt about it, the history that we've had here judicially has led to the amount of drug traffickers we have in our town."

Sheriff Tim Bailey agreed with Collins' assessment, further stating that "the judicial system in Marion County (has been) somewhat soft on crime."

"We've actually taken our drug task force to other counties and built cases because we felt that instead of getting probation like they would here, they would actually get a jail sentence there," Bailey said. "We knew a lot of these people that are dealing drugs in Marion County; we just needed the support of our federal partners to actually bring this together so we could make a case in court."

Both Bailey and Collins noted that past layoffs at the sheriff's office and police department due to county and city budget issues also made Marion County an easier target for criminal activity because of fewer deputies and officers on the streets.

Bailey and Collins said all 43 individuals arrested were transported to the federal courthouse in Toledo. None will be held in Marion County.

Originally published in the Marion Star on September 23, 2020.

Federal indictment charges 17 in Mansfield drug trafficking conspiracy *Richland County*

Seventeen people were charged Monday in a 26-count indictment handed down by a federal grand jury in Cleveland for alleged roles in a drug trafficking conspiracy that involved the distribution of methamphetamine, heroin, fentanyl and crack cocaine in the Mansfield area.

Fifteen were arrested during an early morning takedown operation, the U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of Ohio Justin Herdman, FBI Special Agent in Charge Eric B. Smith, Mansfield Police Chief Keith Porch and Richland County Sheriff J. Steve Sheldon said in a news release.

“During the past few years, federal and local law enforcement partners have been working tirelessly to identify, arrest and incarcerate drug traffickers in the Mansfield and Richland areas,” Herdman said. “Anyone attempting to sell drugs in this community should be prepared for a strong law enforcement presence and response.”

“Another group of drug traffickers are being held accountable for their illicit distribution of illegal narcotics on our neighborhood streets,” Smith said in the news release. “Over the past three years, collaborative law enforcement efforts have rid the streets of Mansfield of over 150 individuals for bringing poison to our community. Law enforcement will continue to identify, disarm and disrupt drug trafficking organizations in our territory.”

“Today’s operation was another fine example of collaboration between local law enforcement, our federal law enforcement partners, and the U.S. Attorney’s Office from the Northern District of Ohio in targeting drug trafficking suspects and removing illegal drugs from Mansfield as well as the surrounding communities in Richland County,” Porch said.

According to the release, named in the indictment are: Antoine Bentley, 36, of Mansfield; Tiffany Boggs, 25, of Mansfield; Jerry Bowen, 28, of Mansfield; Ryan Day, 37, of Butler; Ashley Fields, 25, of Mansfield; Sheldon Holbrook, 27, of Mansfield; Eric Jackson, 43, of Bellville; Michelle Jarvis, 36, of Ashley; Jason Jarvis, 40, of Mansfield; Brandon Mann, 38, of Mansfield; Gregory McClintok, 27, of Mansfield; Michael Murphy, 37, of Mansfield; Mark Spear, 37, of Ashland; Roger Schlupp, 33, of Tiffin; Nicholas Vargas, 39, of Plymouth; Zachary Wallen, 39, of Mansfield; and Roz Whitworth, 38, of Mansfield.



The indictment alleges that, from March 2018 to September 2020, these defendants conspired together to distribute and possess

more than a kilogram of methamphetamine, heroin and fentanyl throughout the Mansfield area via drug suppliers in California. The indictment states that defendants Eric Jackson, Jason Jarvis, Mark Spear and Roz Whitworth obtained the illegal drugs and distributed them to the other named defendants, who then sold the drugs to various customers in the Northern District of Ohio.



The investigation preceding the indictment was conducted by the Cleveland Division of the FBI, OCDEF, METRICH Unit, Ashland Police Department, Mansfield Police Department, Richland County Sheriff’s Office, Richland County Prosecutor’s Office and Ashland County Prosecutor’s Office. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Vasile C. Katsaros.

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34 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.

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