



METRICH Enforcement Unit

Information Bulletin

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35 Years Serving North Central Ohio Communities

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Large Oxycodone & Fentanyl drug seizure in Upper Sandusky Wyandot County

On May 26, 2021 the Wyandot County major crimes unit and the METRICH enforcement unit served a residential search warrant at 1049 North Warpole St., Lot 6, Upper Sandusky, Ohio. Levi M. Blankenship and Sarah J. Larick were found at this residence.

Blankenship and Larick were taken to the Wyandot County Sheriff's Office and held for questioning after a search of the residence revealed 267 suspected oxycodone 30 mg pills. A large amount of Fentanyl, cash and a fire arm were also located inside the residence. Both Blankenship and Larick were released from custody.

The evidence seized in this case was sent to the Mansfield forensic laboratory for analysis. This case will be sent to the Wyandot County prosecutor's office to be reviewed for a potential felony charges.

This search warrant was it a result of an investigation into drug trafficking in the METRICH enforcement unit region. Assisting with this investigation was the Wyandot County Sheriff's office, the Upper Sandusky police department, the Carey Police Department, and the Wyandot county prosecutor's office.

The Wyandot County major



crimes unit need your help to stop the drug problems in our neighborhood. Please report illegal drug activity to your local law enforcement agency.

Originally published on the buck-eyecountry943.iheart website on May 27, 2021.

Fostoria man arrested on felony drug charge

Seneca County

A Fostoria man was arrested at his residence on a drug charge Tuesday as the Seneca County Drug Task Force METRICH Enforcement unit and other law-enforcement officers and agents executed a search warrant at 532 N. Poplar St., a news release from METRICH said.

Richard "Fred" Seaburn III, 51, was taken into custody on a second-degree felony charge of possession of methamphetamine in an amount greater than five-times bulk, the news release said. The release said additional charges anticipated from evidence found during the search include possession of criminal tools, trafficking in methamphetamine, trafficking in fentanyl and receiving stolen property, pending laboratory analysis results at the conclusion of the entire investigation.

Det. Brandon Bell of the Fostoria Police Division and METRICH said about two months of investigation went into Tuesday's operation, which was authorized by the warrant signed by Judge

Jay A. Meyer of the Seneca County Common Pleas Court Juvenile Division. "The task force and the Fostoria Police Division were receiving a lot of drug intelligence on this specific residence, reporting drug activity for some time, as well as an influx of citizens' complaints," Fostoria Police Chief Keith Loreno said. "This operation was a good ending to addressing those complaints and shutting down the business."

Bell said the operation was executed smoothly, with Seaburn being arrested without incident. The news release said the special response teams of the Fostoria Police Division and Tiffin Police Department made entry into the house. Other officers and agents from the Fostoria Police Division and the Ohio Attorney General's Office Bureau of Criminal Investigation took part, according to the release.

"There were no hiccups," Bell said. "Everyone entered safely, which is the most important thing in this type of situation."



Evidence unveiled at the scene included U.S. currency, criminal tools, suspected methamphetamine, suspected fentanyl, prescription pills "and other items indicative of use and drug trafficking," the news release said.

Originally published in the Advertiser Tribune on June 9, 2021.

METRICH raid nets arrest, more than \$71,000 in illegal drugs

Richland County

Detectives with the METRICH drug task force arrested one man and seized suspected drugs with a street value of more than \$71,000 while executing a search warrant Thursday at 418 1/2 Sherman

Place.

METRICH officers raided the residence of Desanjay N. Taylor, who leapt from a second-story window in an attempt to evade officers.

During the search, detectives seized approximately 601 grams of suspected methamphetamine at a street value of \$8,400; 508 grams of suspected heroin at a street value of \$45,000; 18.5 grams of suspect THC wax; 36 grams of suspected cocaine at a

street value of \$3,600; 140 grams of suspected crack cocaine at a street value of \$14,000; and 20 grams of suspected marijuana at a street value of \$600.

Authorities also seized a loaded Glock 9mm handgun and a loaded 32-cal. revolver, along with a large amount of drug paraphernalia used to package and traffic narcotics.

Originally published in the Richland Source on April 22, 2021.



Findlay drug bust unveils over 11 pounds of marijuana, \$22K cash and numerous guns

Hancock County

A Findlay man is facing charges after police raided his residence Tuesday afternoon.

At approximately 4:33 p.m., the Hancock County METRICH Drug Task Force, along with the Findlay Police Department ERT (Emergency Response Team), executed a search warrant at 1116 Brookside Drive, Findlay.

The search of the residence unveiled over 11 pounds of marijuana, \$22,945 in U.S. currency, four handguns, and numerous other items indicative of drug trafficking, according to



police.

As a result of the search, 31-year-old David L. Fenderson, of Findlay, was arrested and charged with possession of marijuana, a third-degree felony. Additional drug-related charges are expected at the conclusion of the investigation.

Originally published on the TiffinOhio.net website on May 5, 2021

Ashland authorities seize drugs, cash in 4 search warrants

Ashland County

Ashland County authorities were busy last week concluding a drug investigation that included four searches in five days, accord-

ing to a Monday afternoon press release from the city's police department.

Detectives seized over 100 grams of suspected Methamphetamine, 15.5 grams of suspected Heroin, a gram of suspected Cocaine, 85 grams of suspected Dabs, 45 THC Vape cartridges, \$840 in cash, and evidence related to drug trafficking during the searches, authorities reported.

Detectives identified five suspects but are not releasing names at this time. Upon completion of the investigations cases will be forwarded to the Ashland County Prosecutor's Office for review.

Detectives from the Ashland Police Department, and Ashland County Sheriff's Office assigned

to the METRICH Enforcement Unit, along with members of the Ashland Police Department and Ashland Sheriff's Office executed four search warrants between the dates of April 15 and April 20 in Ashland County.

The METRICH Enforcement Unit would like to thank the community for providing tips that helped lead to the successful execution of these search warrants and encourages all citizens to continue to report suspected Drug Activity.

Originally published in the Ashland Source on April 26, 2021.



Two people arrested near Crestline in meth bust *Crawford County*

Two people were arrested around 7 p.m. on Wednesday at 7199 Klahn Road, Crestline, when the Crawford County Sheriff's Office, along with the METRICH Drug Task Force, concluded a drug investigation that had spanned several months.

Gerald Cotsmire, 56, who resides at this address, was arrested along with 57-year-old Sherie Pfleiderer.

Officers seized a large amount of methamphetamine, estimated to weigh 253.11 grams, with a street value between \$15,000 to \$20,000. Drug paraphernalia, fire-

arms and \$6,339 in cash were also seized. Officers also recovered a Polaris side-by-side that had been stolen out of Kentucky.

Criminal charges are pending against Cotsmire and Pfleiderer, who are currently in custody at the Crawford County Justice Center. Both suspects will be arraigned in court on Friday for possession of methamphetamines, a first-degree felony, along with other charges. Reports will be forwarded to the Crawford County Prosecutor's Office for review of all possible charges.

The case is still currently being



investigated by detectives from the Sheriff's Office.

Originally published on Crawford-CountyNow.com on July 8, 2021.

Two arrested in Fostoria drug raid *Seneca County*

A man and woman were arrested in a Fostoria house Thursday after a police raid uncovered meth and drug trafficking-related items, a release from the METRICH Enforcement Unit states.

The Seneca County Drug Task Force — METRICH Enforcement Unit, along with officers from Fostoria Police K9 Unit, Seneca

County Sheriff's Office, Ohio Attorney General's Office Bureau of Criminal Investigation, Tiffin Police Department, Ohio National Guard Drug Unit and Seneca County Ohio Adult Parole Authority executed the drug-related search warrant at 1020 Buckley Street in Fostoria Thursday.

The address was linked to Anthony N. Nix of Strongsville and Crystal N. E. Dayton of Fostoria, according to the release.

The search unveiled U.S. currency, criminal tools, suspected methamphetamine and other items indicative of drug trafficking, the release states.

Dayton was arrested on an active warrant for absconding parole supervision. Nix was arrested on charges of tampering with evidence, possession of criminal

tools and possession of methamphetamine, pending the conclusion of the investigation.

The search warrant was signed by Judge Michael P. Kelbley of the Seneca County Common Pleas Court.

"I am extremely pleased to see that the hard work being conducted by the Seneca County Drug Task Force has once again produced stellar results," Seneca County Sheriff Fred Stevens is quoted saying in the release.

"I will continue to say it until dealers hear me loud and clear: we will not let you ruin our county with the poison you are trying to peddle to our citizens," he said in the release.

Originally published in the Advertiser Tribune on April 8, 2021.



Drugged Driving Grant & tip line yield several large seizures

Marion County

The Marion County Sheriff's officer applied for, and received, a grant to assist in the enforcement of drugged driving laws. METRICH-MARMET assisted the Sheriff's Office in providing suspected drug locations from information provided through the TIPS Line. This enabled Marion law enforcement to focus on this dangerous activity.

This cooperation resulted in several traffic stops and 2 search warrants and yielded the following results during this 16-hour effort:

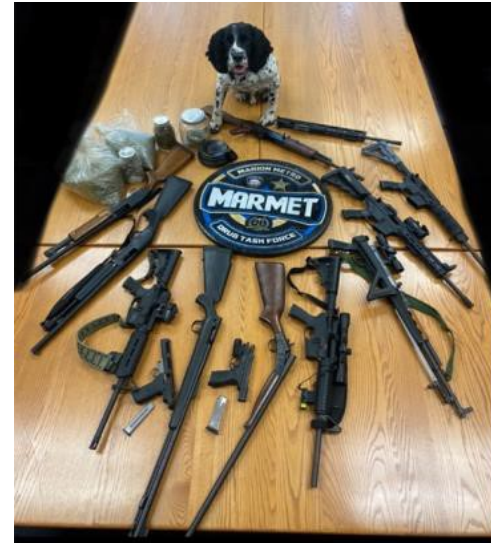
- 1 Operating a Vehicle while under the Influence (Drugs) arrest
- 68.8 grams of Heroin/Fentanyl
- 6.8 grams of Crack
- 6.8 grams of Cocaine
- 45.5 grams of Methamphetamine
- 3,298.7 grams of Marijuana
- 17 Dosage Units of Tramadol
- 25 Dosage Units of Xanax
- 18 Unknown Pills
- 15 Firearms
- \$737 in Cash
- 8 Arrests



Marion County Sheriff Matt Bayles and his Chief Deputy Bill Collins were both out working alongside their deputies during this operation. Sheriff Bayles stated, "I am pleased with the outcome of these seizures and my message continues, drugs will not be tolerated in Marion County. I believe that lives were saved, not only by the drugs taken off the streets, but also by the guns seized from persons who illegally possessed them".

Chief Jay McDonald stated, "The cooperation and teamwork shown by the Police Department and the Sheriff's Office, as well as the community, is the key to fighting illegal drugs in our community. McDonald thanked the community members who provid-

ed tips through the TIPS Line and the new METRICH-MARMET website where tips can be submitted. Chief McDonald said "We can-



not do this job without the help of the community and all of us are so grateful that Marion citizens share our priority of combating illegal drugs in our community."

These cases will be forwarded to Marion County Prosecutor's Office.

Originally published on the News-Force website on August 20, 2021.

Fostoria woman arrested after METRICH Drug Task Force raids residence

Seneca County

A Fostoria woman was arrested Friday after authorities raided her residence on a drug related search warrant.

METRICH Enforcement Unit, along with additional officers from the Fostoria Police Division, executed the search warrant at 638 Maple St., Fostoria.

The raid unveiled suspected methamphetamine, a firearm, ammunition, U.S. currency, and drug paraphernalia.

Mara D. Simpson was arrested

on an outstanding warrant out of Findlay and was transported to the Hancock County Jail.

Simpson faces additional charges of possession of drugs, trafficking in drugs, having weapons under disability, and possession of drug paraphernalia. Police say those charges are pending the conclusion of the entire drug investigation.

"Our department was receiving a lot of drug intelligence on that specific residence, reporting sus-

pected drug activity for some time," Fostoria Police Chief Keith Loreno said. "I consider the entire investigation to be successful due to the search warrant being executed safely, with drugs and a gun being removed from our community and our citizens' complaints being addressed."

Originally published on the TiffinOhio.net website on September 17, 2021.

METRICH drug sweep leads to 67 indictments

Richland County

A drug sweep in Richland County last month led to 67 individuals being indicted by a grand jury, according to a Monday afternoon press release by METRICH Sgt. Steve Blust.

The press release stated that on Aug. 31, the METRICH Enforcement Unit with assistance from the U.S. Marshal's Northern Ohio Violent Fugitive Task Force (NOVFTF), Richland County Sheriff's Department and the Mansfield Division of Police conducted a large scale drug sweep.

Blust said METRICH detec-

tives presented cases to the Richland County Prosecutors Office. The 67 individuals were indicted by the Richland County Grand Jury on 318 counts of drug trafficking and other drug-related charges.

There was also a search warrant served at 1095 Koogle Road, rooms 132 and 133, Mansfield. As a result, authorities seized approximately 3.5 grams of suspected Methamphetamine, 3 grams of suspected heroin, and other drug-related evidence.

METRICH Sgt. Steve Blust

stated the collaboration between the Richland County law enforcement agencies and the METRICH Enforcement Unit continues to have a positive impact on removing illegal drugs coming into the Mansfield, Richland County communities.

The METRICH Enforcement Unit will continue to target those individuals who engage in trafficking drugs and use all available resources to assist in removing illegal drugs from Mansfield/Richland County.

Originally published in the Richland Source on September 13, 2021.

Two arrested after narcotics search warrant in Bucyrus

Crawford County

The Crawford County Sheriff's Office assisted by Homeland Security Investigations unit, METRICH and Bucyrus Police Department executed a narcotics search warrant at 1101 S. Walnut St. Bucyrus.

Arrested during the search warrant was Cory Musselman, 32, and Paige Hickman, 25, of Bucyrus.

A large amount of prescription medication and drug paraphernalia was located during the

search warrant and are listed below:

Tapentadol 200mg (400 pills)
Carisoprodol 500mg (600 pills)
Zopiclone 7.5mg (100 pills)
Sildenafil Citrate 100mg (38 pills)
Anastrozole Anaridex 1mg (200 pills)
Clomifene Citrate 50mg (200 pills)
Tamoxifen Citrate 20ng (200 pills)

In total there were over 1,700 pills recovered.

The investigation is still ongoing at this time and both Cory Musselman and Paige Hickman are being held at the Crawford



County Justice Center and additional charges are being reviewed by the Prosecutors Office.

Originally published on the Crawford County Now website on Sep-

One arrested in Findlay drug raid

Hancock County

One person was arrested early Thursday morning after a search of a Findlay residence yielded a large amount of fentanyl powder.

METRICH Drug Task Force, along with the Findlay Police Department Emergency Response Team, executed a search warrant at 916½ W. Main Cross St.

The search yielded a large amount of fentanyl powder. Officers also seized cash, other drug paraphernalia and items indicative of drug trafficking, the release states.

Brittany A. Ferguson was arrested and incarcerated at the Hancock County Justice Center

on a charge of possession of fentanyl, a third-degree felony. Additional charges related to drug trafficking are expected at the conclusion of the investigation, according to the release.

Originally published in The Courier on July 15, 2021.

METRICH Drug Task Force raids Fostoria residence

Seneca County

A Fostoria man is facing charges after authorities raided his residence following a traffic stop Tuesday.

Fostoria Police Division patrol conducted a traffic stop on Andrae N. Moorer, at which point he was taken into custody.

After Moorer was detained, the METRICH Enforcement Unit, along with additional officers from the Fostoria Police Division and the Tiffin Police Department, executed a drug-related search warrant on Moorer's residence located at 636 Northview Dr., Fostoria.

The search unveiled U.S. currency, criminal tools, suspected

cocaine, suspected crack cocaine, a stolen firearm, and additional items indicative of drug trafficking, according to METRICH.

Moorer is currently under supervision with the Adult Parole Authority and was taken into custody.

Additional charges of possession of criminal tools, trafficking in cocaine, trafficking in crack cocaine, having weapons under disability, child endangerment, and receiving stolen property are expected.

"This type of operation improves the quality of life in our community when we have the success of removing not only



drugs from our streets, but also keeping firearms out of the hands of felons," Fostoria Police Chief Keith Lorenzo said.

Originally published on TiffinOhio.net on June 22, 2021.

Arrests made in connection with meth investigation

Wyandot County

An investigation into the distribution of methamphetamine in Wyandot County resulted in some arrests.

The Wyandot County Major Crimes Unit along with the METRICH Enforcement Unit served two search warrants on Monday at 20184 and 20228 State Highway 67 in Upper Sandusky.

Detectives say a large amount

of meth and suspected fentanyl was seized from the 20184 address and the tenant, Arthur L. Jackson, 53, was arrested along with Larry R. Hill, 53, of Florida.

Hill was charged with felony possession of drugs and Jackson was held on a probation violation.

Authorities say four other people also face charges of felony possession, pending lab results on

the drugs.

The Wyandot County Sheriff's Office Special Response Team and The Wyandot County Prosecutor's Office assisted with the investigation.

Originally published on the WKXA website on July 13, 2021.

Stolen vehicles, suspected drugs found

Morrow County

On Tuesday, Aug. 24, Morrow County deputies recovered two stolen vehicles at a residence in Harmony Township. Inside one of the vehicles, deputies discovered a firearm, suspected methamphetamine, suspected fentanyl and suspected prescription medication. Also seized was approximately \$2,400 in

fake U.S. currency. Morrow County Deputies were assisted by members of the METRICH drug task force.

Originally published in The Morrow County Sentinel on August 25, 2021.



35 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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Hancock County

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