

## Two Marion men arrested in drug raid

On Friday, December 17th, law enforcement officers from the Marion Special Response Team, Marion City Police Department, Marion County Sheriff's Office, and the Marion County Prosecutor's Office executed a search warrant in the 680 block of East Church Street after an investigation by detectives from the METRICH-MARMET Drug Task Force.

Detectives seized 61.6 grams of suspected cocaine, 107 suspected Percocet tablets, 11.6 grams of suspected Fentanyl, 3.7 grams of suspected crack cocaine, 226 grams of suspected marijuana, ten guns, and \$5,526 in cash seized.

Marion Police Chief Jay McDonald stated, "The sale of dangerous illegal drugs in our community has taken dozens of lives over the past few years. Marion law enforcement continues to focus on stopping the trafficking of narcotics in our neighborhoods. I am proud of the work of the detectives from MARMET in this case, and I am equally proud of all the officers and deputies in Marion for their commitment to making a difference in our community. "

Marion County Sheriff Matt Bayles said, "we will continue to aggressively pursue drug dealers in Marion to protect our citizens and neighborhoods." Sheriff Bayles also stated, "if you deal drugs in Marion, you'll eventually go to jail. It's as simple as that."

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.

Nathaniel A. Rice and Dante Ford were arrested during the execution of this search warrant.

Both men were arrested and charged with Aggravated Trafficking in Drugs, Possession of Fentanyl related compound, and Weapons Under Disability. This case will be forwarded to Marion County Prosecutor Ray Grogan for the filing of formal charges.

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