



January 1

Woman Arrested for Allegedly Kicking Officer in the Face

WHEELING, WV - A Winterville woman is behind bars after allegedly kicking a Wheeling police officer in the face. According to Wheeling Police, officers were dispatched to Generations Restaurant Sunday evening for reports of a fight. The fight reportedly involved several people, and had moved outside to the parking lot when officers arrived. As officers were trying to break up the fight, Mara Elizabeth Brown, 26, allegedly kicked an officer in the face. Brown is now facing a felony charge of battery on an officer. The officer is reportedly fine.

January 2

Two Moundsville Men Arrested After Allegedly Kidnapping a Woman at Knifepoint

MOUNDSVILLE, WV - Two men are behind bars after allegedly kidnapping a Moundsville woman and holding her at knifepoint inside of a house on Ruby Street. The victim told police that at first, she heard a bang at her back door, which is when she reportedly found that 33-year-old Thomas Blake, a man she previously had a relationship with, had broken down her door to get inside her house. The victim said Blake reportedly drew a knife on her, knocked her to the ground, and told her he was going to kill her. She said Blake then allegedly dragged her out of her house by her hair and told her not to make a noise or he'd hit her. Moundsville Police officers said Thomas Blake took her to a car and his brother, 18-year-old Bryan Blake, was inside. The Blake brothers allegedly drove the victim to a house on Ruby Street, where they held her against her will. Reportedly, the brothers told everyone inside the house to attack the victim if she attempted to escape. The victim said she was able to run out the door after Bryan Blake left the room, before being chased down and attacked again this time on Pearl Street. The victim's friend reportedly helped her inside her house until police arrived on scene. She did have some injuries on her face and neck. Both men are charged with felony kidnapping, and are being held in the Northern Regional Jail awaiting arraignment. Thomas is also facing nighttime burglary, brandishing, and domestic battery charges.

January 3

Officials Continue to Investigate Belmont County Murder-Suicide

BELMONT COUNTY, OH - On Wednesday, law enforcement released details of a murder-suicide on New Year's Day outside of St. Clairsville. It turns out, authorities had paid a visit to the home just weeks before the fatalities. Police responded to a home on Garrett Hill Road on around 4:30 p.m. on Jan. 1. Chief Deputy James Zusack of the Belmont County Sheriff's Office says 53-year-old Barry Killeen called his daughter to say he had just shot his wife -- and her mother -- and 46-year-old Stephanie Killeen. Killeen's daughter called 911, activating the sheriff's office special operations branch. Authorities had just arrived at the house when they heard a single shot and discovered the bodies. Zusack says an earlier call to the home weeks prior ended without incident. "We were there about a month ago," Zusack said. "He was there by himself in the residence, making threats and to us -- law enforcement -- but eventually we did make contact with him and it ended peacefully. This was a tragic situation something that we have to deal with. Our hearts go out to the family members." Zusack says all weapons were removed from the home the first time law enforcement was called there. The incident remains under investigation.

January 5

Wanted Fugitive

West Virginia State Police are searching for a sex offender wanted on multiple felony counts of failure-to-register. This is 29-year-old Joshua Robert Chambers. He is six feet tall, approximately 175 pounds with blue eyes and brown hair. Police warn the public, do not approach Chambers if you see him, you are asked to call state police or the U.S. Marshals service.

January 7

Robbery Leads to Tri-State Chase

JEFFERSON COUNTY, OH - What started out as a robbery turned into a police chase crossing multiple state lines Sunday. According to the Jefferson County Sheriff's Office, a male suspect walked into the Special Way convenient store on State Route 213 Sunday evening demanding cash. He claimed to have a firearm, but did not show one. He did get away with an undisclosed amount of cash. Police were notified after the alleged robbery took place. A member of the Ohio State Highway Patrol spotted a car matching the description of the suspect's vehicle, and began to follow it, which is when the chase began. According to OSHP, the chase began on U.S. Route 22 near Lover's Lane in Steubenville, and ended near the Bavington Exit on U.S. 22 in Pennsylvania. Two suspects are now in custody with charges pending. No one was hurt.

January 8

Man Arrested for Armed Robbery in New Martinsville

NEW MARTINSVILLE, WV - A Wetzel County man is behind bars after he allegedly robbed a person in the New Martinsville Walmart parking lot with an air soft gun. Officials say Daniel Kessler, 19, took a child's cell phone and some money before being caught and arrested by Sheriff's deputies.

They say Kessler is known to law enforcement and was previously arrested for busting a screen at Bayer Heritage Federal Credit Union. Kessler is in the Northern Regional Jail on armed robbery charges.

January 9

Police Investigate Alleged Armed Robbery

WHEELING, WV - Just months after a vicious stabbing, a man is claiming he was ambushed in the same area of Wheeling. The victim told police that he was robbed and attacked by two white men, who he says he did not know while walking near the Dominoes in the Bridge Street Plaza early Tuesday morning. The victim told police that the incident happened at about 2:30 a.m., and described the attackers as two white men, about 5-foot 8-inches tall, wearing all black. According to officers, the victim said the two men pulled some kind of weapon on him and punched him in the head before stealing \$200 from him.

January 9

Man Arrested on Nighttime Burglary Charges

WHEELING, WV - One man was arrested after Wheeling Police responded to a report of a suspicious person sitting on a porch. According to officials, Joseph Coleman II, 37, of Moundsville is now facing nighttime burglary charges. Officers responded to Shenck Street after neighbors and the homeowners of the residence called police reporting that a man was sitting on their porch who should not be there. The homeowners were not home at the time. Officers say Coleman allegedly entered the house through the living room window, and allegedly went through some drawers and other belongings before being caught and arrested inside of the house around 1 a.m. Tuesday. He is currently in the Northern Regional Jail.

January 9

Grand Jury Hands Down Indictments to 16 People

OHIO COUNTY, WV - The Ohio County Circuit Court Grand Jury met Monday and handed down indictments against 16 people. Names of those facing allegations - from grand larceny, to malicious assault, to other offenses - have been released by Ohio County Prosecuting Attorney Scott Smith.


Among them, 41-year-old Robert James Leonard of Wheeling, was charged with arson in the first degree and arson in the third degree. Both were in connection with the August 22 fire on South Huron Street. Also indicted, Daniel Lee Wilson of Martins Ferry. He was charged with robbery in the first degree and malicious assault, after an attempted robbery and stabbing in Elm Grove Nov. 5.

41-year-old Robert Bertrand of Wheeling was charged with two counts of robbery in the first degree, after he was wanted for an armed robbery at a Dollar General store in Wheeling. For robbery in the second degree, 24-year-old Dwayne Edward Conaway Jr. of Wheeling was charged after police said he robbed the Smith oil station in Warwood. He was apprehended after he fled police and jumped into the Ohio River. Twelve names have been released so far. The remaining names of those indicted will be released upon their arrest.

January 10

Doctors and Business Partner Indicted on Numerous Charges

OHIO COUNTY, WV - Two doctors operating offices in West Virginia, along with a business partner, have been indicted on charges of illegally distributing controlled substances. Dr. Felix Brizuela Jr., 61, is facing 21 counts of distribution outside of a medical practice, one count of conspiracy, and 15 counts of receiving payments in violation of a federal statute. Dr. George Naum, 58, of Wheeling is facing one count of conspiracy to distribute outside of a medical practice and ten counts of aiding and abetting. Eric Drake, 47, of Weirton was indicted on one count of conspiracy to distribute outside a medical practice, along with 10 counts of aiding and abetting, and one count of distribution of a controlled substance, along with maintaining a drug-involved premises. The alleged crimes reportedly happened at Advance Healthcare in Weirton from 2008 to 2016. All three men are facing jail time and fines.



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2. The plan is backed by THP Insurance Co. with "reinsurance protection" including protection for groups and participants in the event the plan's trust should not have adequate funding to cover benefits.
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