



**March 1**  
**13-Year-Old Student Arrested After Alleged Threat**  
**JEFFERSON COUNTY, OH** - A 13-year-old Jefferson County student is in custody after he allegedly made a threat to "shoot up the school". Sheriff's Deputies say the Buckeye Local Junior High School student made the threat on the school bus. After questioning several other kids and parents, the Sheriff's Department took the boy into custody Wednesday, on a pending charge of inducing panic. According to the deputies, the child was on probation through juvenile court. Deputies say that the boy's mother claimed her son has problems with other students at school, and that they are trying to get him into trouble. The deputies searched the residence and found two pocket knives.

**March 1**  
**Three Arrested After Early Morning Drug Bust**  
**BELMONT COUNTY, OH** - Three people were arrested early Thursday morning on drug charges. The Belmont County Sheriff's Major Crimes Unit were dispatched to a room at the Red Roof in St. Clairsville at approximately 2 a.m. When officers arrived, they discovered James Humphrey, Taylor Izatt, and a 17-year-old, and seized heroin, crack cocaine, cash, and cell phones. Humphrey, 42, of Cleveland, was arrested and is charged with possession of heroin and crack cocaine, trafficking in heroin and crack cocaine, and endangering children. Izatt, 20, of Wheeling, was arrested and charged with complicity to traffic in crack cocaine and heroin. The 17-year-old was arrested and charged with possession of crack cocaine and trafficking. The suspect is now at the Sargus Juvenile Center. Humphrey and Izatt are in the Belmont County Jail.

**March 5**  
**Pa. Man Sentenced After Alcohol-Related Crash That Killed a Wheeling Man**  
**OHIO COUNTY, WV** - A Pennsylvania man charged in a fatal crash learned his sentence Monday. Police said Josh Kraushaar was driving a truck on Memorial Day when he hit two motorcycles on Route 40, killing 22-year-old Brandon Gates of Wheeling, and seriously injuring another man. Kraushaar was sentenced by Judge Sims to 3-15 years in prison for one count of driving under the influence of alcohol causing death, and one count of driving under the influence of alcohol causing injury.

**March 8**  
**Man Shoots Two People, Then Himself in Jefferson County**  
**JEFFERSON COUNTY, OH** - One person is dead and two are injured after police say a man shot two people and then turned the gun on himself inside a home on Penfield Drive just outside of Steubenville on Thursday morning. Jefferson County Sheriff Fred Abdalla has confirmed a man shot a male victim in the leg and a female twice. She is said to be in serious condition. The man then shot himself and is deceased.

**March 9**  
**Bellaire Police Investigating String of Home Break-ins**  
**BELMONT COUNTY, OH** - Bellaire Police are delving into a string of what they're calling "odd" incidents after more than a dozen homes were reported ransacked since the first of the year. There are no tips, or leads. Acting Police Chief Dick Flanagan said the break-ins have all happened in the same area of town - the North side - between Noble and Jefferson. From January to now, Bellaire Police have received 14 calls about homes that were entered by force or were already unlocked. Flanagan said in each case, the residence has been ransacked. "They were just completely trashed," Flanagan said. "Food was drug out of the refrigerator and thrown out all across the house. Furniture was upset, curtains pulled down. Milk, sour cream, cottage cheese poured into the carpets." Police also noted two odd aspects about the cases: "This is one of those cases where you don't get any information at all, nothing from your people, your connections on the street, nobody's hearing anything," Flanagan said. "And the other thing that's really odd about this is that it's happening late in the afternoon or early in the evening - mostly in the daytime." Flanagan said no valuable possessions are being thieved - mostly miscellaneous items. "Dumb stuff. Scissors, hair dryers, a tennis shoe, nothing of extreme value," Flanagan said. "There has been money, jewelry around, none of that has been taken. Nothing of extreme value." A local landlord is offering a \$1,000 reward for the information leading to the arrest and conviction of the person or persons responsible. "When it first started, we thought possibly it was kids looking for a thrill or something but, I've been here 25 years and this is the first time I've ever run across anything like this," Flanagan said.

**March 12**  
**Steubenville Police Officer Indicted on 41 Charges**  
**STEUBENVILLE, OH** - A Steubenville police officer has been indicted on 41 charges, several of which are felonies. Officer Nate Cline was given his summons on Friday. A year and a half ago, city officials were made aware of an investigation into one of their officers. The Ohio Department of Natural Resources told them it pertained to hunting on private property without permission. "We didn't know how in depth it was going, how many people it involved, or how severe the charges would be," Steubenville City Manager Jim Mavromatis said. With ODNR moving forward with its case against Cline, the charges were handed down last week. "You have a grand theft charge, you have unauthorized use of the LEADS system, which is our law enforcement database that's controlled by the state of Ohio, and the actual last count, the 41 count, engaging in a pattern of corrupt activity," Mavromatis said. With the charges now public, and city leaders now aware of the severity, Cline has been tentatively removed from the department and is on administrative leave without pay. "He's human. He may have made mistakes. It's evident based on the number of counts, but again, until he pleads guilty, or he's found guilty, he's still presumed innocent." With more information now at its disposal, the city is doing its own investigation into the alleged criminal activity.

**March 12**  
**Man Arrested for Parole Violation on Attempted Murder Charge**  
**MOUNDSVILLE, WV** - On Sunday, March 11, Christopher Barnes was arrested by the U.S. Marshals Mountain State Fugitive Task Force, State Police, Marshall County Sheriff's Office, and WV DNR. Barnes was wanted on a parole violation. He was originally charged with Attempted Murder and Wanton Endangerment Involving a Firearm. Officials say Barnes had been hiding inside a home near Ridge Run Road in Moundsville. Barnes was arrested and transported to the Northern Regional Jail.

**March 12**  
**Man Sentenced in Overdose Death Case in Hancock County**  
**HANCOCK COUNTY, WV** - It's the first drug case in Hancock County in which prosecutors are charging a man with a felony connected to a fatal overdose. The man charged, Robert Tibbs, was sentenced Monday morning. Tibbs pled guilty to three charges, including a felony charge of delivery of a controlled substance causing death. In compliance with the plea agreement, Judge Jason Cuomo sentenced Tibbs to 15 years in prison for delivery of a controlled substance causing death, as well as 1-to-15 years for both deliveries of a controlled substance and transporting with intent to deliver. The sentences will be served concurrently. Tibbs delivered heroin to a friend who died from an overdose using it. "And I think we do have a situation up here where are going to get a lot of people who are addicts and drug users who are sharing drugs and somebody dies, and they're going to get charged and convicted with delivery resulting in death," Cuomo said. "People are dying every day in our state from drugs and this is one of the responses of our legislature to deal with it." After the enactment of a West Virginia state law in July, the delivery of a controlled substance causing death is now a felony with a minimum sentence of 3 years in prison.

**March 13**  
**Wheeling Man Sentenced to Life for Rape of Child**  
**BELMONT COUNTY, OH** - A Wheeling man was sentenced to life in prison after he was convicted of the rape of a minor in Belmont County on Tuesday. Christianson Hill, 32, was sentenced before Judge Frank Fregiato on Tuesday morning. Many of the details in this case are too graphic to report. The victim, 12-years-old at the time the report was filed, said Hill threatened her family if she confided in anyone about the crimes. Several agencies were involved in the investigation, and the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation matched DNA from Hill with the victim. "This is the rape of a child," Belmont County Prosecutor Dan Fry said. "It had been going on for probably a 2-year period of time, and finally, the victim got enough courage to disclose what had happened." "The victim also advised that Mr. Hill told her that he would kill her and hurt her mother and brother if she ever told," Fregiato said. "We hope and pray for the recovery of the victim through counseling and therapy and that she can recover after being traumatized by the defendant in this horrendous crime," said Mike Kovalyk of the Bellaire Police Department. Hill was sentenced to life in prison with the possibility for parole after 10 years. He is also designated as a Tier 3 sex offender.

**March 13**  
**Assault Charge Leads to Discovery of Human Trafficking Operation in Belmont County**  
**BELMONT COUNTY, OH** - A felonious assault charge has led to the discovery of a human trafficking operation in Belmont County. Maurice Johnson, 25, was convicted of the charge and sentenced this week. Prosecutors say Johnson was called to a motel room by a prostitute for whom he was the pimp. An altercation ensued, and the victim was stabbed by Johnson in the back. "Our investigation indicated that he had connections in California, for instance. So this was not just a small-time operation," Belmont County Prosecutor Dan Fry said. "This guy, I don't know how big his network was, but it obviously extended across state lines." Johnson was sentenced to the maximum of 8 years in prison, which he will serve consecutive to a federal sentence.

**March 14**  
**Three Juveniles in Three Different Local School Districts in Custody for Threats**  
**JEFFERSON COUNTY, OH** - Jefferson County Sheriff Fred Abdalla said his office received a call from Buckeye Local Superintendent Kim Leonard late Tuesday night regarding a threat made by a juvenile in the district. Also, Edison Local Superintendent Bill Beattie called the sheriff's office after he was made aware of a threat by a juvenile in his district. Both students were immediately taken into custody. "The only thing I have to say is parents, and listen to what I'm saying, instruct your children that if they make threats, no matter how minor you think it may be, they're going to be arrested. Period," Abdalla said. Abdalla says charges are pending on both juveniles. Meanwhile, in Belmont County, also on Tuesday night - A Belmont-Harrison Career Center student was arrested after allegedly making threats. Cody Coleman, 18, was arrested for inducing panic. He is lodged in the Belmont County Jail. Sheriff Dave Lucas says law enforcement agencies have a no tolerance policy for threats made in or out of school. Coleman will soon face an arraignment hearing on the charge in a Belmont County courtroom.

**March 14**  
**Multiple Overdoses Reported Between Weirton and Steubenville During the Weekend**  
**JEFFERSON COUNTY, OH** - There were multiple reported overdoses between Weirton and Steubenville last weekend. Jefferson County Sheriff Fred Abdalla said law enforcement was working around the clock. With the large number of overdoses, the pressure was on to find out where this bad batch of drugs was coming from. And they think they did. "It's a powerful potent, and it can kill you," Abdalla said. Abdalla believes a bad batch of fentanyl is the culprit. "Saturday, they were dropping like flies on both sides of the river," Abdalla said. Police and task forces from up and down the Ohio River worked relentlessly to find the source before another overdose. Their investigation led them to a Steubenville home on Garrett Avenue on Tuesday. "We believed that some of the Fentanyl we got was probably the Fentanyl that these people have overdosed on, so we had to get them off the street," Abdalla said. Arrested in that bust were Calvin Bryant and Jesse Birden. Authorities also raided a Ravine Street home in Mingo Junction. There, they seized some marijuana and drug paraphernalia and more than \$900 in cash. Ramone Moore was the suspect arrested in connection with the Mingo Junction bust. Abdalla says charges are pending on all three suspects. Abdalla says it doesn't matter what drug it is, they're going to continue to go after the dealers.

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