



April 3

Bethesda Police Chief Put on Paid Administrative Leave

BELMONT COUNTY, OH - Bethesda's police chief has been placed on paid administrative leave. Eric Smith was told at Tuesday night's council meeting to turn in his badge, gun and cruiser. Residents in the village have expressed concerns for the actions and conduct of Smith. Council will decide his fate permanently April 26.

April 3

Wintersville Auxiliary Police Officer Resigns Following OVI Arrest

JEFFERSON COUNTY, OH - A Wintersville auxiliary police officer has resigned following an OVI arrest. Brad Leas was pulled over in Toronto last Friday just before 3 a.m. He was arrested and charged with driving under the influence of alcohol. Leas resigned from his auxiliary post almost immediately after the incident. "As soon as I was notified of the incident, the officer came to me and resigned," said Wintersville Police Chief Art Fowler. "He is no longer an auxiliary officer for the Wintersville Police Department."

April 4

Alleged 'Hammer Striker' Facing Charges in West Virginia

WHEELING, WV - A man accused of attempted murder has been extradited to West Virginia.

Shane Parr, 30, is now in the NRJ on an attempted murder charge. Wheeling police say Parr was returned from Allegheny County in Pennsylvania. He was in a Pittsburgh hospital recovering from injuries. Parr is accused of striking another man in the head and back multiple times with a hammer in January. The victim has been out of the hospital. There is no word on their condition.

April 4

Mistrial Declared in a Hancock County Sex Abuse Case

HANCOCK COUNTY, WV - A mistrial was declared Wednesday in a Hancock County sex abuse case. Ethan Strobe was on trial for charges including sex assault and sex abuse. They relate to an incident involving a young victim in November 2016 in Weirton. The trial was expected to resume Wednesday morning after a full day of testimony on Tuesday. Instead, Judge Jason Cuomo had this to say to the jury: "I have ultimately determined this is a mistrial. This case will not be proceeding, at least with you. Certain things have occurred, which in my view and in my rule and order, have tainted the trial to the point where the defendant cannot receive a fair trial." The judge stressed the mistrial is not the fault of the attorneys. **April 5**

Wetzel County Man Behind Bars After Baby Found Blue, Barely Breathing

WETZEL COUNTY, WV - A Wetzel county man is behind bars this morning after New Martinsville Police believe the man caused trauma to his 3-month-old premature son. 36-year old Joshua Lyons is in the Northern Regional Jail on child abuse and neglect charges. According to Chief Tim Cecil, a 911 call came in from Lyons about the baby. When Patrolman Utt, Patrolman Chichick, and Chief Cecil got on scene, they found baby boy blue and barely breathing. Chief Cecil says he was able to get a pulse back on the baby, and immediately took the baby in his cruiser, with the help of Patrolman Utt and Patrolman Chichick to the Wetzel County Hospital. The doctor on duty Wednesday night did CAT scans and decided to send the baby boy to UPMC. After an investigation with Detective Harris, New Martinsville Police arrested Lyons on child abuse and neglect charges. There is no update on the baby's condition.

April 5

Ohio Man Arrested on Drug Distribution Charges

MARSHALL COUNTY, WV - The Marshall County Drug Task Force arrested a Cleveland man on Monday for drug charges. Anthony Walter Rogers, 27, was arrested on Monday after officials discovered crack cocaine in his possession. The task force had been following him through controlled buys for awhile in a large investigation. Rogers was in possession of 120 grams of crack cocaine with a street value of \$12,000. He has been charged with four counts of felony distribution of a controlled substance. He is currently in the Northern Regional Jail on a \$50,000 cash only bond.

April 5

Police Search for Man Who Allegedly Threw Microwave, Punches at Teacher

WHEELING, WV - Police are searching for a Wheeling man after they said he hit a teacher in the face on the campus of West Virginia Northern Community College. Wheeling Police have issued a warrant for the arrest of Melvin Shaw for malicious assault. Shaw reportedly hit the teacher in the face and threw a microwave towards that teacher inside a welding classroom. Officers said when they got on scene, Shaw was reportedly gone. Safety of our campus community is our top priority and actions were taken immediately to ensure the safety of our students and employees. The student is no longer permitted on campus. The teacher is reportedly okay.

April 6

Two in Custody After Drugs Found in Ohio County Motel

OHIO COUNTY, WV - A domestic violence call led deputies to a drug bust in Ohio County earlier this week. On Friday, the two women involved are in custody. Michelle Harvey and Loretta Minor were staying at the Econo Lodge near The Highlands when deputies arrived with a search warrant. Inside the room, they collected a significant amount of marijuana, along with crystal meth and heroin. Ohio County Sheriff Tom Howard says he believes they had the intent to sell. "The officers went in and got a search warrant for the hotel room, went in and found a couple people in the room and obtained almost three pounds of marijuana, 26 grams of crystal meth and some pipes and bags for distribution. Also and they also had a little bit of heroin," Howard said. Howard said because they believe the women had the intent to sell, they plan to push that charge through in the case.

April 6

3 Arrested in Drug Bust

BROOKE COUNTY, WV - A drug bust Thursday night in Follansbee resulted in the arrests of three people. Lloyd Hayes was arrested on two counts of delivering heroin. Deanna Godwin was arrested on charges of possessing and intending to deliver marijuana, cocaine and heroin, and Joseph Lawrence was arrested on a charge of delivering heroin. They were taken into custody after the Brooke-Hancock Drug Task Force and Brooke Sheriff's deputies converged on the 700 block of Virginia Avenue. They're now in Northern Regional Jail awaiting arraignment.

April 9

Police Investigating Robbery of 7-Eleven in Downtown Wheeling

WHEELING, WV - Wheeling police are investigating an early morning robbery at the 7-Eleven on 14th and Market Street in downtown Wheeling. It happened around 3:30 a.m. Police say a man walked into the store and started taking money out of the register. Officers say they don't believe the man had a weapon. They are reviewing surveillance video to help them with the investigation. The robber description is vague. He is described as a black man with short hair and a beard. He was wearing a black hooded sweatshirt, tan pants and boots at the time of the crime.

April 9

Law Catches Up to Woman Who Skipped Out on Sentencing in Steubenville

JEFFERSON COUNTY, OH - Police arrested Linsey Siudak on Saturday. She smuggled heroin into jail, was convicted, then skipped out on her sentencing. But now, the law caught up to Linsey Siudak. Police arrested her Saturday, when an officer patrolling North Street in Steubenville, noticed a woman trying to conceal her face. After a foot chase, that woman turned out to be Siudak, who had a warrant out for her arrest. A crack-pipe was also allegedly found in her purse. Siudak entered a not guilty plea in Steubenville Municipal Court on Monday morning for obstructing official business and drug paraphernalia. The judge set her bond at \$100,000, and is due back in court on April 25.

April 9

Preliminary Hearing Continues for Man in Marshall County Sex Abuse Case

MARSHALL COUNTY, WV - A Pittsburgh man was arrested for sexually abusing two young girls in Marshall County. According to a criminal complaint, 47-year-old Edward Luppe abused the girls repeatedly. The Marshall County Sheriff's Department said the girl's mother began sleeping in the same room with the two girls to keep Luppe away from them. The alleged abuse happened in December. Luppe is in the Northern Regional Jail on a \$60,000 bond.

April 9

Fifth and Final Suspect Implicated in Bellaire Homicide Pleads Guilty

BELMONT COUNTY, OH - The fifth and final suspect implicated in a Bellaire homicide pleaded guilty on Monday. Thomas Grubba, 34, admitted guilt to a single count of involuntary manslaughter before Judge Frank Fregiato. Grubba's remaining three charges were dismissed as a result of the plea. He had previously been ruled incompetent to stand trial due to a lack of understanding of the court system and was remanded to a Columbus-based forensic unit for further education. The charges stem from an incident last May, where 34-year-old Joshua Gorayeb, of Wheeling, allegedly conspired with four others to invade a home at 4157 Noble Street to steal narcotics. The occupants of the residence were armed and Gorayeb was shot. He died at the scene. Grubba, meanwhile, was wounded. "I wish I would have used my head instead of drugs and alcohol and none of this would have ever taken place," Grubba said. Grubba's co-defendants, including Diane Kuri, Michael Posey, James McMasters and Lola Eden have all been sentenced to prison in the case. Grubba will be sentenced on April 23. He will face up to 11 years in prison.

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