

Heroin problem addressed in raids

Ron Shawber doesn't like the heroin numbers he sees in Crawford County.

So, the Crawford County Sheriff's Office is doing something about it. About 30 people will be arraigned Monday in Crawford County Common Pleas Court, the vast majority of them snagged in a heroin sweep.

"We need to put more pressure on heroin traffickers, especially when we are ranked in the top 10 in the state for heroin addiction and deaths," Shawber said. "We should not be in the top 10 at all and need to make a change in those numbers."

Crystal D. Lowe, 520 S. Boston St., Galion, was among those indicted April 9. Lowe was arrested on charges of trafficking in drugs and possession of drugs, both fifth-degree felonies.

She was arrested as part of a probe involving the Crawford County Sheriff's Office in conjunction with officers from Bucyrus and Galion police and the Morrow County Sheriff's Office.

"We are doing everything we can to (combat the problem), but it is also up to the individuals to make changes in their lives," Shawber said.

Israel W. Conklin, Shelby, was indicted on charges of trafficking in drugs, a fifth-degree felony, along with Jamie J. Nye, 5384 Walnut St., North Robinson; Jeffrey E. Newcome, 2589 Ohio 61, Crestline; Norma M. McNeal, 105 Sherman St., Galion; Brandon L.

Johnson, 656 S. Boston St., Galion; Douglas A. Gardner, 1125 E. Walnut St., Galion; Bryan F. Damron, 360 Pine St., Galion; Peggy S. Polley, 3687 Ohio 309, Iberia; Nicholas C. Biederman, 450 Sears St., and Darick W. Hunter, Tiro.

According to Shawber and Prosecutor Stan Flegm, the arrests are part of an effort by the Crawford County branch of METRICH.

Others who face arraignment next week include Jerald Jordan, 62, 1046 S. Thoman St., of Crestline. He was arrested Monday on three felony charges: unlawful sexual conduct with a minor, a third-degree felony, illegal use of a minor in nudity-oriented material, a second-degree felony, and attempted illegal use of a minor in nudity-oriented material, also a third-degree felony.

Jordan is accused of engaging in sexual conduct with a minor and photographing or videotaping the minor for illegal sale of nudity-oriented material.

Rudel J. Chatman, no permanent address, Bucyrus, was arrested on one count of intimidation, a third-degree felony. He is accused of threatening family members of Bucyrus Police Officer Barry Miller while Miller was acting in the line of duty.

Daniel P. Lunsford, 28, of Mansfield, was arrested on one charge of burglary, a second-degree felony. He remains in Crawford County Justice Center.

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