



FROM THE OFFICE OF
SUMMIT COUNTY PROSECUTOR
SHERRI BEVAN WALSH

A Message From Prosecutor Walsh

The Growing Heroin Epidemic

There is a heroin epidemic in Ohio. Drug overdose deaths in Ohio increased 366% from 2000-2012, culminating in 1,914 unintentional drug overdoses in 2012. There was a significant shift in 2012 from prescription-opioid related deaths to heroin-related deaths and, in that same year, over 600 families were impacted by a heroin-related death.

Medical examiners across Ohio have observed this dramatic increase in heroin use over the last four years. This demonstrates that heroin affects all communities in Ohio and impacts all socioeconomic classes, races, and genders. Every week in Ohio, approximately eleven people die from a heroin overdose. Summit County has been no exception to this trend of increasing heroin-related deaths. Indictments for possession of heroin in the County have more than quadrupled since 2010, up from 157 that year to over 500 in 2014. Unfortunately, we have also seen a significant increase in fentanyl overdoses. Fentanyl is a powerful prescription painkiller that is up to 25 times more potent than heroin.

To combat the heroin epidemic, law enforcement officers are aggressively pursuing heroin dealers. Ohio's Attorney General has created a Heroin Unit consisting of investigators, Assistant Attorney Generals, and drug abuse specialists. Summit

County has created an Opiate Task Force to increase public awareness and to rally doctors, police, social workers and lawmakers to combat



the heroin epidemic. The Ohio Legislature has enacted laws to address drug abuse, as well as a statewide initiative called Project DAWN (Deaths Avoided with Naloxone) which helps make the heroin antidote Naloxone, also known as Narcan, more readily accessible. Naloxone is administered through the nose and reverses the effects of an opiate overdose caused by heroin or pain-prescribed opioids. Naloxone is not addictive and cannot be abused. Naloxone does not reverse overdoses caused by non-opioids.

In the legislature, House Bill 170 was signed into law in 2014 and allows family and friends of opiate-addicted individuals to acquire the life-saving heroin antidote and authorizes law enforcement officers to acquire Naloxone so they can administer it and reverse the effects of opioid-related overdoses. Project

DAWN provides training in recognizing the signs of an overdose, distinguishing the type of overdose, performing rescue breathing, calling emergency medical services, and administering intranasal Naloxone. Summit County plans to open two Project DAWN clinics this year, one at the Edwin Shaw Rehabilitation Institute at Akron General Hospital and one through the Summit County Public Health.

My office has indicted and convicted heroin suppliers of manslaughter in the overdose deaths. We will continue to aggressively prosecute heroin dealers. There is pending legislation, House Bill 508, which if enacted, will allow drug dealers who sell drugs to someone who dies from an overdose to be charged with murder and face a lifetime sentence with parole eligibility after 20 years if the victim was an adult, and parole eligibility of 25 years if the victim was under the age of 18.

Please join me in protecting our community and helping to stop the heroin epidemic by spreading awareness about the dangers of heroin and the availability of Naloxone.

Stay Safe,

Sherrri B. Walsh



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HELP KEEP A SERIAL RAPIST IN PRISON

robberies near Akron City and Akron Children's Hospitals, Lagway stated, "I'm an ex-con and a sinner and a heathen. Do your job. The more I suffer on earth the better it will be for me."

We are asking for the public's help in keeping this dangerous man in prison.

The Summit County Prosecutor's Office is asking for your help to keep Willie Lagway (Criminal Case No. 83-02-0232) in prison. The Ohio Parole Board is considering Lagway's release at a parole board hearing in May.

From February 10-14, 1983, Lagway, then 27, went on a five-day crime spree victimizing six women in Summit County. Willie Lagway kidnapped two friends walking to a car in a parking deck. He also kidnapped another woman from Akron Children's Hospital parking lot, another from Gold Circle in Barberton and one woman from TransOhio Savings Bank in downtown Akron. All the victims were robbed and two were raped. Lagway was armed with a knife and threatened the victims with their lives if they did not comply with his demands. Lagway didn't just commit these crimes and leave. He terrorized these women for hours and before leaving each victim, he copied the information on their driver's licenses, including their addresses. For his crimes, Lagway was sentenced to a minimum sentence of 109 years and a maximum sentence of 375 years.

After his arrest, while being questioned about the abductions and

Please send letters to:

Ohio Parole Board
Attn: Cynthia Mausser, Parole Board Chair
770 West Broad Street
Columbus, Ohio 43222

or send Cynthia Mausser an email at: DRC.Victim.Services@odrc.state.oh.us

Please include Lagway's name and Inmate Number, A173689, on each page of the correspondence.

You can also sign a petition in support of keeping Lagway in prison.

Please note YOU DO NOT HAVE TO DONATE to sign the petition.

<http://www.ipetitions.com/petition/keeplagwayinjail>

GUILTY VERDICTS

Congratulations to the following assistant prosecutors for obtaining convictions at trial in February:

Jon Baumel	Felicia Easter
Nik Buckmeier	Kevin Mayer
Nick Buzzy	Brian Stano
Pete Daly	Ryan Stickel
Joe Dangelo	Jaime Syx

**Great Job
Prosecutors!!!!**

Tough Prosecutions



These defendants will be locked up for a lengthy period of time thanks to our dedicated Assistant Prosecutors:

Travaski Jackson, 24

- Murder
- Attempted Murder
- He was sentenced to life in prison with parole eligibility after 31 years
- THIS IS IN ADDITION TO THE 27 YEARS HE RECEIVED IN JANUARY!

Da'Quan Davis, 21

- In November of 2013, Davis was arrested after ramming an Akron police cruiser. Officers also found drugs on him.
- After failing to appear for the offense, officers spotted Davis in September of 2014. A chase ensued and Davis again rammed a police cruiser. Officers later arrested Davis, also finding drugs on him.
- Davis will spend the next 14 1/2 years behind bars.



Help Us Go Green!

Contact Melanie Hart at hart@prosecutor.summitoh.net to receive this newsletter by e-mail



March Top Cops

**Deputy Jonathan Rimedio, Deputy Ryan Knight, and Deputy Bron Thomas
Summit County Sheriff's Office**

Nominated by: Assistant Prosecutor Jay Cole

On April 13, 2014, Artemus Blanding went looking for revenge. He believed a University of Akron football player had threatened his brother and he wasn't going to take it. Blanding got into his SUV and went after that football player.

Dep. Jonathan Rimedio and Dep. Nathaniel Buckohr were working at an off-duty job at the McDonald's on East Exchange Street when Blanding drove up. Dep. Rimedio was in the parking lot when he saw Blanding driving the SUV and making his way for the McDonald's parking lot. As Blanding sped toward a group of people, Dep. Rimedio pushed a bystander out of the way but couldn't evade the SUV and was hit and sent flying through the air. Blanding also hit bystander Robert Mosby. Luckily both Mr. Mosby and Dep. Rimedio escaped without life-threatening injuries.

Dep. Ryan Knight and Dep. Bron Thomas took over the case and began investigating. They used video footage from McDonald's and began working backwards. They interviewed Mr. Mosby which lead them to develop a list of University of Akron students. Using video of the incident and an interview with Mr. Mosby, the deputies

began to piece together the events which led to the near riot at McDonald's.

The investigation entailed over 15 interviews, and a search warrant in Cuyahoga County where the SUV was eventually found. More than ten people were arrested and charged, with cases within the Akron Municipal Court as well as three courtrooms in the Summit County Court of Common Pleas.

Artemus Blanding pled guilty to Felonious Assault on a Police Officer, a felony of the first degree, and Felonious Assault of Mosby, a felony of the second degree. Blanding was sentenced to four years in prison.

This case would not have been a successful prosecution if Dep. Knight and Dep. Thomas had not uncovered every detail. They left no stone unturned. For their determined investigation, these are two of Sheriff Barry's finest. They are our March Top Cops. In addition, Dep. Rimedio fearlessly looked down an oncoming SUV and pushed another to safety, making him our third Top Cop of the month. That's what we call being a hero.

Way to go Top Cops!



Five Warning Signs That Your Child is Using Drugs

Raising a teenager can be hard, but living with one suffering from drug addiction creates many new challenges. Here are five warning signs to look for if your child is using drugs or alcohol:



- 1. Changes in mood** – One of the very first signs parents will notice when their child is using drugs is that they seem to be a different person. A child who is using drugs can suddenly become withdrawn or act out with anger. This can be a particularly dramatic change if the child was once happy and full of life.
- 2. Changing sleep patterns** — It is not uncommon for drug use to cause a change in a child's sleeping pattern. Is a child sleeping more during the day or sleeping less at night? Does he or she look tired all the time? Those can be signs of the beginning of addiction.
- 3. Lack of honesty** — In order to keep drug use secret, a child will have to lie. Children using drugs will lie to cover up where they have been and what they have been doing. In order to continue to pay for their drugs, teens often resort to stealing money from parents, siblings,

friends, and others close to them. It is important to determine the reason when a child frequently asks for more money or when money has gone missing in a home.

- 4. Loss of weight** — When a child is using drugs on a frequent basis, and particularly if he or she has been using them for some time, parents may notice weight loss taking place.
- 5. Isolation** — When a child is using drugs, parents might find that he or she is becoming more and more isolated. If parents notice a child avoiding social situations or spending a lot of time alone, perhaps shut up in his or her bedroom, they should know that this could be a sign of teen drug use.

Parents, it is important for us to remember that any one of these warning signs can be caused by a number of situations in our child's life, such as bullying. However, if we notice more than one of these warning signs occurring at the same time, then we need to recognize the potential for teen drug abuse.

Meet Our New Employee: James Pollack

Hire Date: March 9, 2015

Title: Director of Communications

Hometown: Brooklyn, New York (I currently live in University Heights)

Education: I obtained a B.A. in Communications with an emphasis in Journalism from the University of Arizona in 1992.

Background: I began my Journalism career in radio in Tucson, Arizona, working as a host, newscaster, producer, and engineer. I even got a chance to cover a Super Bowl! I then transitioned to television, and eventually moved to Cleveland, working at WEWS NewsChannel 5 from 1998 until last November.

Hobbies/Interests: I love watching college basketball and baseball games and spending time with my wife Shari, and our two children, Hannah (13) and Ethan (10).



Agency Spotlight: IBH Addiction Recovery Center

Addiction can be all-consuming. Whether it is drugs, food, or gambling, addiction can overtake and overwhelm a person's life. I highlighted the impact heroin and prescription painkillers can have on a person and their family. But there is something you can do about addiction.

For over 40 years, IBH Addiction Recovery Center has helped over 15,000 people recover from alcohol and drug addiction.

Located in Akron, where Alcoholics Anonymous was founded, IBH offers persons struggling with alcohol and drug addiction the opportunity to restore hope for a lifetime of sobriety.

IBH uses individualized and holistic processes, which include clinical and educational treatment, spiritual

care, sober housing, employment, and training. People who seek help come from all walks of life, cultures, backgrounds and ages.

The agency also addresses the physical, mental, emotional, social and spiritual aspects of recovery.

If you or someone you know needs help overcoming addiction, IBH provides the knowledge, values and skills to manage life appropriately without the use of alcohol or drugs. IBH helps reconnect families and helps addicts develop a life of sobriety.

If you would like more information, please give the IBH Addiction Recovery Center a call at 330.644.4095.

Or visit their website at www.ibh.org

