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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Nelsonville woman sentenced to nearly five years in prison on drug-related charges**

**ATHENS, Ohio** – Fawn Stevers, 37, of Nelsonville, was sentenced Tuesday in Athens County Common Pleas Court to four years and nine months in prison after pleading guilty to drug-related charges.

Stevens pleaded guilty to possession of heroin, illegal conveyance of drugs onto grounds of a specified government facility and tampering with evidence – all third-degree felonies.

Judge George McCarthy imposed a three-year sentence for possession of heroin, one year for illegal conveyance and nine months for tampering with evidence to run consecutive to each other. A total of \$230 found on Stevens was ordered forfeit.

On Jan. 13, Stevens and co-defendant Joshua Azbell were passengers in a vehicle stopped by deputies with the Athens County Sheriff's Office. A canine officer alerted to the possible presence of narcotics in the vehicle. Stevens and Azbell were arrested and transported to the Southeastern Ohio Regional Jail. They possessed illegal narcotics on their person and concealed additional contraband in body cavities when entering the jail.

According to a police report, a total estimated weight of 74 grams of contraband was documented from the arrests.

Azbell, 44, of Glouster, was indicted on similar charges. His case is pending with a pretrial scheduled for April 6.

