

very warm w low humidity.

Low: 60 Details: A2

June 30, 2009



Rafting, tubing outfitters report uptick in business with swollen rivers. B1



## Police to examine phones in slayings

21/2 years after cariack killings, detective seeks OK to look at 11 devices

BY JAMIE SATTERFIELD

For more than two years, 11 cell phones seized in the days following the torture slaying of a Knox County couple sat in a police evidence room gathering dust.

That changed on June 17 when

Knoxville Police Department Investigator Todd Childress quietly sought and won judicial approval to go fishing in-side the devices ON KNOX NEWS.COM

Christian-Newsom slayi Videos, audic of defendant statements, legal for information he contends could provide authorities with a key time line in the fatal carjacking of Channon Christian and

Christopher Newsom.
The affidavit supporting Childress' request — inked by Knox
County General Sessions Judge
Chuck Cerny — appears to contain
on information gleaned since January 2007 after the couple was slain. ary 2007 after the couple was stain.

It relies heavily on statements taken from witnesses and the four slaying suspects themselves shortly after Christian's body was discovered inside a trash can in alleged ringleader Lemaricus Davidson's Chipman. er Lemaricus Davidson's Chipman Street home and Newsom's body

See PHONES on A11

### Group to file ouster beef against Lockett

BY REBECCA FERRAR

A half-dozen people said Mon-day they'll begin working to file an Lockett responded to the disciplinary petition filed against him with

that governs at-

MORE

A lawsuit filed by Herbert S. Moncier claims Knox County improperly paid former Law Director

NEWS.COM

that governormeys.

The state Supreme Court's
Board of Professional Responsibility's disciplinary counsel filed ary counsel filed a petition June 9 outlining alle-gations against Lockett, who admitted to the Richard Beeler \$100,000+. All ON KNOX admitted to the county pension board that he

B POFs:
Disciplinary petition against Knox Courly Law Director Bill Lockett and Lockett's and Locket

See LOCKETT on A11

# controls its cities

U.S. forces hand over control of Baghdad, other urban areas

BY KIM GAMEL AND PATRICK QUINN

**BACHDAD** — Iraqi forces assumed formal control of Baghdad and other cities today after American troops handed over security in urban areas in a defining step toward ending the U.S. combat role

in the country.

A countdown clock broadcast on Iraqi TV ticked to zero as the midnight deadline passed for U.S. combat troops to finish their pullback to bases outside cities.

"The withdrawal of American troops is completed now from all cities after everything they sacrifeed for the sake of security," said Sadig al-Rikabi, a senior adviser to Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki. "We are now celebrating the restoration of sovereignty."

The Pentagon did not offer any comment to mark the passing of the deadline.

the deadline. Fireworks, not bombings, colored the Baghdad skyline late Monday, and thousands attended a party in a park where singers performed patriotic songs. Loudspeakers at police stations and military checkpoints played recordings of similar tunes throughout the day, as Iraqi military even hicles decorated with flowers and national flags patrolled the

capital.
"All of us are happy — Shiites,
Sunnis and Kurds on this day,"
Waleed al-Bahadili said as he celebrated at the park. "The Americans harmed and insulted us too

much."
Al-Maliki declared a public holiday and proclaimed June 30 as "National Sovereignty Day."
Midnight's handover to Iraqi forces filled many citizens with

See IRAQ on A8

THIRD IN A THREE-PART SERIES

# ned & dangerous

Infected and untreated, prostitutes behind Knox County syphilis outbreak



Knox County Health Department representative Gary Messer, left, hands information about syphilis prevention to Adnan Naseer at the Fuell City gas station on Baxter Avenue on May 5. Messer said Knoxville made the list of the top 30 U.S. cities for syphilis in 2001.

BY J.J. STAMBAUGH

ozens of Knoxville's

ozens of Knoxville's street-level prostitutes are infected with syphilis or HIV and many of them don't even know it, according to the Knox County Health Department. Even when prostitutes do know that they're potentially spreading a lethal disease and might face astiff prison term for it, many continue plying their trade from the sidewalks of North and East Knoxville with little concern or the innocent who might end up infected, said Gary Messer, who does public outreach for the Health Department.

"It hasn't stopped some of these women from continuing the process out there," Messer said. "Right now there are around 10 prostitutes who are HIV-positive.
"Those of one case in particular and the said of the s

"I know of one case in particu-lar where we've not been able to even get to this girl to notify her.

We've left information for her to call us back, but she's running away from our attention to her."

#### A syphilis upswing

A syphilis upswing

Right now, he said, the biggest problem facing local health officials is trying to stem an outbreak of syphilis that's been ravaging prostitutes and their customers for the past three years.

"Last year, Knoxville made the list of the top 30 U.S. cities for syphilis," he said. "Typically, all your problems are farther west in the state, but there are now things we've got tog et out and do in this community to clean this up." Health officials are confident the primary reason for the upsurge is street prostitution.

They first noticed a sharp increase in new syphilis infections in 2006, Messer explained, and the numbers have climbed nearly 30 percent since then.

See SYPHILIS on A6

#### HOOKED: SEX FOR SALE IN EAST

Sunday: Among Tennessee cities, Knoxville has a higher arrest rate for streetwalkers, driven by drugs and the thrill of the trick

Monday: Anonymous and prosperous: Why thrive in East

■ Today: Area sex trade workers pose serious syphilis and HIV threats to population at large.

#### **HIV-positive** woman a walking felony

BY J.J. STAMBAUGH

stambaugheinonews.com
whost hookers spend only a few
hours or days behind bars when they're
busted. Twenty-eight-year-old Tiffany
Ann Moore of Knoxville may end up
spending the next three to 15 years in a
state prison cell for the crime of selling
her own body.
Moore differs from most of the 525
other known prostitutes arrested in
Knox County over the past five years
in one significant way: she is HIVpositive.

Moore's medical condition means that when she turns tricks for a living she's committing a felony called ag-gravated prostitution. Women without HIV face misdemeanor prostitution

See MOORE on A6

NEWS.COM

■ Video: Battling the syphilis outbreak; what is syphilis?; the effects of prostitution on meighborhoods and businesses; confronting the escort trade; on the front lines of a KPD prostitution sing, riding the streets with KPD officer Scott Noe

Railery: Gary Messer of the Knox County Health Department makes the rounds warning of sexually transmitted health threats; top prostitution offenders in Knox County; Knoxville prostitution sting

Searchable databases: Records showing people arrested on prostitution, patronizing prostitution charges in Knox County from 1999-2009



La L

# SYPHILIS FACTS ILIS CASES, KNOX 146 (Approximately ases per 100,000 0 (Approximat approximate per 100.000 **007:** 38 (12.1 ca: 00,000 people; **008:** 32 (10.2 ca COUNTY: 7: 206 (35.4 cases ne No data available

SSA.



ADAMBRMBEA/NEWS SENTINEL

Rita Raichura, manager of the Deluxe Inn on Magnolia Avenue, hangs syphilis prevention information on the front door after receiving a visit from Knox County Health Department representative Gary Messer. Syphilis cases in Knoxville are traced to streetwalkers about 75 percent of the time.

#### **SYPHILIS**

from A1

cases of syphilis in Knox County last year. Messer said approximately year. Messer said approximately ercent could be traced to street alkers and their customers

"It's definitely the major player," he said. "The bulk of it is coming from people being arrested for prostitution."

titution."
Knoxville is unique among Ten-nessee's major cities, according to statistics from the health depart-ments that cover Chattanooga and

Hamilton County has far le syphilis infection rates while Knox's rate is generally comparable to that of Davidson's, which is far larger and more urban, statistics show. But authorities in both counties agree that prostitution doesn't appear to be driving syphilis rates in their communiti

communities County, the major-ity of new syphilis cases are found in men who have sex with men or men who have sex with men and women," said Hamilton County Communicable Disease Program Manager Nettie Gerstle. "New cases of syphilis have not been specifically linked to prostitution in Hamilton County."

linked to prossissand.

County."

In Nashville, being a prostitute doesn't appear to be any more of a risk factor for catching syphilis than other types of high-risk behavior, according to Brad Beasley, director of the STD/HIV program for the Metro Davidson County Health Department.

Department.
"Prostitution is not driving it,"

#### Infecting the innocent

Syphilis, which can be crippling or fatal if it's not treated in time, is spread through anal, oral or vaginal

sex and doesn't require an exchange of bodily fluids to cause an infection. of bodily fluids to cause an intection. Its highly contagious nature means that johns often end up spreading the illness to innocent third parties before they realize they have anything more serious than a sore or rash, Messer said.

"We've had males, normally in

"We've had males, normally in their 30s, who are married or have a steady partner, who have been en-gaging with prostitutes and getting infected," he said. "They then infect their wife or girlfriend, and we've been seeing some of these women going to the emergency room with secondary rashes."

reatment is readily available and free at the Health Department, but Messer said that officials often have

Messer said that officials often have a hard time getting people to come in for testing and medication. Part of the problem is ignorance, which Messer hopes can be cured by passing out information and by word of mouth in the hardest-bit communities. Some people, how ever, are afraid to come to the Healt Department because they falsely believe they'll end up in legal trou-

ble, he said.

"We're disease investigators," he said. "We deal with the disease aspect, and the Police Department deals with crime."

as san. We tea with the discassing sapect, and the Police Department deals with crime."

To the prostitutes themselves, catching a disease is only one of many threats they face on a daily basis and not necessarily the most urgent one, according to defense attorney Jamie Niland of the Knox County District Public Defender's Office, who has represented many of Knoxville's streetwalkers.

"It's a really, really dangerous thing," Niland said. "They take huge risks for low amounts of money... I understand these women are a muisance, but it really makes a difference when you sit down and learn their backgrounds. It's really sad."

Even though medical treatment

See SYPHILIS on A7

#### MOORE BOOKING MUG SHOTS OF TIFFANY MOORE from A1

charges that often add up to no more than probation and a

no more than probation associate.

Moore is a repeat offender, having been convicted twice of being an HIV-infected prostitute before she was arrested at hird time early this year, records show. Despite the fact that she's never been accused of any type of sexual assault, her criminal history already means she must register as a sex offender.









gravated prostitution, according to Tennessee Bureau of Investigation spokeswoman Kristin Helm. She is one of only two women in Knox County to have actually been convicted thus far of the charge, although the Knox County Health Department says at least 10 HIV-infected local women are known prostitutes. fected local women are known prostitutes.

Moore's attorney, Vanessa L. Lemons, declined to arrange an interview or issue a statement on behalf of her client, who is in jail pending trial on her most recent charges. Moore's family didn't respond to requests for comment, one relative told The News Sentinel they no longer haveany conact with her.

The state law that classifies women such as Moore assexual predators is — in the eyes of one defense attorney who has represented several women charged with the crime — just another

must register as a sex offend-er under state law and follow

many of the same restrictions as rapists and child molesters.

Moore is one of 39 women in

Tennessee who are on the state's Sex Offender Registry because they have been convicted of ag-gravated prostitution, according

gravated to Tenne

See MOORE on A7

## Prostitution a nuisance to businesses, neighborhoods

"Target the johns. Make it brutal on them. A lot of them are married. and they come from the west side of

Knoxville." Tracie Hellwinckel

nt of Parkridg

When Richard Cameron took over a popular gay bar on Central Street, he quickly instituted a new policy: no hookers, no hustlers and no homeless people.

street, he quickly instituted a new policy: no hookers, no hustlers and no homeless people. Since that day, Cameron says Club XYZhas thrived, but he's still aghast a how intractable prostitution in his neighborhood seems to be.
"I've lived in the neighborhood going on six years and I took over the business three years ago, and it's always been anissue," he said. "This area is notorious for it, like Magnolia Avenue."

According to the Vernamia

According to the Knoxville Police According to the Knoxylle Police
Department, prostitution is one of
the five most common complaints
fielded by city police. Both residents
and business owners are unhappy
with the status quo, which seems
to do little but clog up the jail and drive hookers from neighborhood to neighborhood in North and East

Anoxville.

Both male prostitutes, known as hustlers, and female streetwalkers once frequented Club XYZ, but Cameron found after taking it over that a zero tolerance policy was enforceable.

"Idid lose some business, but just a couple of customers," he said. "I lost the johns, which was fine by me.... When we recognize someone is hustling for drinks or sex we just get them out of the club. The ladies, though, they get arrested, get out of jail, and come right back."

Cameron says he knows many other Knoxville business owners who are sick of the problem. He and his employees have to patrol the parking lot, and they regularly must chase away the hookers who congregate around the intersection of Central and Broadway.

He'd like to see more of a police presence in the area. He'd also like the city to install "no cruising" signs on Central Street but has been told the area isn't eligible.

"How do youeradicate it?" he said. "I don't even know how effective signs are. It gets annoying."

Tracie Hellwinckel and her family live in the Parkridge community live in the Parkridge consquences of streetwalking firsthand.

She's become used to finding used condoms behind their house,

She's become used to finding used condoms behind their house, to seeing hookers walking along their street in broad daylight, and

. .

to watching the endless procession of johns searching for sex on her block.

block.
What Hellwinckel, who shares a
house with her husband Chad and
their 6-year-old son, has never gotten used to is the idea that nothing
can be done other than continuing
to lock upmany.

can be done other than continuing to lock women up.

"I have a lot of empathy for the girls, for anyone caught in that kind of cycle of addiction to drugs or other issues," she said. "It's not so much the prostitutes that offend me as the johns."

Hellwinckel, who moved to Fas Hellwinckel, who moved to East Knoxville in 1996 from Florida and has worked as a domestic violence victims' advocate and as a writer, said the best solution to the problem is to legalize prostitution to protect the women from violence and dis-

ease. "Iknow that's not going to happen in the Bible Belt, but a lot of these Christians are coming through my neighborhood looking for hookers," she said. "Prostitution is a business, and we are acapitalistic society. Why do we punish people for living their lives the only way they know hov?" Failing that, she wants the full weight of the law to fall not on prosti-

"Target the johns," she said.
"Make it brutal on them. A lot of
them are married, and they come
from the west side of Knoxville."
Josh Horr, who lives nearby on
Woodbine Avenue with his sister
and her two young children, said
prostitutes are a constant nuisance.
"They come up to your door, they
ask you for money, they steal stuff."
he said. "We call the police sometimes and tell them. That still didnhelp. They always come back."
John Roberts, owner of Scruggs
Bar-B-Que, Little John's Liquor and
Suds & Bubbles Laundrymat on
Magnolia Avenue, said many prostitutes buy alcohol from him regularly
and are generally respectful as long
as they're treated politely.
"They all patronize me," he said.
"It yo keep them off the corner.
Lidon't cuss' em or scream. These
folks are not bad people; they've got
problems.
"That's the oldest profession

problems.

"That's the oldest profession known to man. These women need money, and they're going to get mon-

J.J. Stambaugh may be reached at 865-342-6307.

#### **SYPHILIS**

from A6

is available through the Health Department, many prostitutes suffer from severe drug addictions or mental problems that prevent them from seeking help or even recognizing the kinds of dangers they face, she said. Even if they want to change, quality psychological treatment is hard to come by for those with little money and no health insurance.

"They don't have very good self-preservation in-stincts, so when anyone ap-proaches them they just say, 'Do you want a date?'"

#### **Immediate testing**

Immediate testing

Since the syphilis outbreak was discovered,
Messer and his co-workers
have made themselves familiar sights in the neighborhoods around Magnolia
Avenue and Central Street
by handing out packets of
information to streetwalkers and business owners.
"It's our job to find these
people and treat them,"
Messer said. "Abstinence is
the best thing, lt think
also a key component is for
the general community to
understand how it's transmitted, the nature of the infection and what symptoms
to look for."

Authorities try their best

to look tor."
Authorities try their best to track the diseases carried by prostitutes, but there are many ways in which those who are infected can slip through the cracks, he said.
Whenever someone is



ADAMBRIMER/NEWS SENTIN

Gary Messer, who conducts public outreach with th

Knox County Health Department, returns to his car after

delivering syphilis outbreak prevention information the King's Market in Western Heights on May 5.

busted for prostitution, state law requires them to underge and HV test, Messer said. Testing for other STDs isn't mandatory, but the Knox County Detention Facility tries to screen all inmates for syphilis, tuberculosis and HIV once they't been incarcerated for 48 hours. "We're trying to get people who are just processed into the jail tested — even if they are immediately released on bond — but that's probably a ways down the road due to staffing issues," he said. "We've also talked about getting chlamydia and gonorrhea added to those tests, but it just hasn't gotten approved."

Knox County Sheriif's Coffice spokeswoman Martha Dooley said that jail employees try to screen prisoners as quickly as possible. Up to 36,000 immates are booked into the facility each year, however, and it can take as long as five days after booking to get individual immates tested.

"If they get in and out before they are tested, or if they make bond, then their name is sent to the Health Department," she said.
Once a prostitute tests positive for HIV, he or she can be charged with the felony of aggravated prostitution if they re aught selling their bodies again. There are no similar laws covering other STDs, according to Messer.
The good present and output and the self-get and the self-ge

to Messer.
The good news is tha with the exception of syph lis, STD rates have remaine steady in recent years, h

said.
"Historically, in Knox-ville and Knox County, you're going to typically have about 1,400 cases of chlamydia and 800 cases of gonorrhea," Messers aid. Thi 2008, we only had 37 cases of HIV. When you compare it to some other cities in the country, we don't have a lot of HIV."

J.J. Stambaugh may be ached at 865-342-6307.

#### MOORE

from A6

HOOKED: SEX FOR SALE IN EAST TENNESSEE

way of hurting the true vic-tims of abuse.
"I understand there is a public policy to control the spread of HIV, but I'm not sure that accelerating prosting." that accelerating prostitution to a felony charge and meting to a felony charge and meting out more severe punishment is the way to deal with the crisis; "said fulie Auer Gautreau of the Knox County District Public Defender's Office." It think it's inherently unfair to treat sick people, mentally ill people and drug addicts as criminals who are intent on endangering the public, because that's not what they're trying to do.

endangering the public, be-cause that's not what they're trying to do.

"It may be that they, in ef-fect, present a kind of pub-lic danger, but in the case of every prostitute! Twe ever represented, you are dealing withsomebod whois deeply troubled, who has suffered for years, and whose addic-tion... is the result of some kind of abuse or mental ill-ness or addiction." Knoxville Police Depart-ment 5gt. Chris Baldwin said the aggravated prostitution law is a necessary tool for protecting public health.
"If you are aware that you have a disease or condi-tion that could endanger the health of others, it's no less in my opinion than pointing a weapon at somebody." Bald-win said. "When a cutsomer is exposed, then everybody he comes into contact with —including innocent third parties like his family — are at risk at well.
"What you're doing is putparties like his tau..., at risk at well. "What you're doing is put-ting another human being in danger, not just their moral

but their physical well-be-

Baldwin agrees that many prostitutes are in dire need of drug treatment or psychological help, but stressed that the risks to public health are urgent when a hooker becomes infected with HIV.

As a sex offender, Moore can't take nor the service of the service o

As a sex offender, Moore can't take part in some resi-dential drug treatment pro-grams available to other ad-dicts because she's not al-lowed to live at any place that also houses juveniles, records

"Ideally, our position is that prostitutes would be ar-rested and go to some kind of treatment or rehabilitation, but that very rarely happens,"

treatment or rehabilitation, but that very rarely happens; he said. "We have to focus on it from the law enforcement perspective. That's what we're tasked with." Although Moore couldn't be reached for an interview, her life can be traced through court records that show how a troubled child eventually found herself bound for prison.

ly found herself bound for prison.

Moore was born in Texas in 1981 to an unwed tenager mother, according to a presentence report filed in connection with 2006 case. Her mother married a member of the U.S. military when she was a baby, and because of her stepfather's work the family moved to Germany in the early 1990's before eventually settling in Knoxville when Moore was 14 years old. Moore's mother and stepfather divorced a year later, records show, and Moore ended up dropping out of Bearden High School after the ninth grade when she developed a cocaine habit. Moore had several arrests as a juvenile but her first ar-

nile but her first ar-

rest for prostitution came when she was 19, according to the report. Her first arrest for aggravated prostitution came on March 19, 2002, which also marked the seventh time shed been busted for hooking.

Moore stayed at the Tennessee Prison for Women in Nashville until March 2005 but was arrested again for aggravated prostitution seven months after her release. She ultimately pleaded guilty to both aggravated prostitution and failing to register as a sex offender, but this time she didn't end up back in prison until her probation was revoked in August 2006, according to Tennessee Department of Correction spokeswoman Dorinda Carter.

She was discharged from prison the second time last November. Her most recent arrest for aggravated prostitution came April 10, when she was picked up on Magnolia Avenue during an undercover sting that netted eight other streetwalkers and their customers.

customers.
She has since been held at the Knox County Detention Facility, unable to make her \$15,000 bond, jail records show.

show.

In addition to a history of homelessness, she has also been diagnosed with a neurological disorder and mental problems that include "flashbacks of being raped while working the streets," according to her pre-sentence report.

Moore's son, age unavail-able, lives with a relative, re-cords show.

J.J. Stambaugh may be ached at 865-342-6307.

## Bond officials benefited from deals, probe finds

Seivers paid for consulting work

Tennessean reveals

NASHVILLE — A newspaper investigation has found that top officials at the Tennessee Municipal Bond Fund benefited from "sponsorship" deals with vendors.

The Tennessean news-aper also revealed that the paper also revealed that the fund's president and chief executive officer, Charles "Bones" Seivers, was paid undisclosed amounts for

undisclosed amounts for consulting work. After the paper previ-ously reported that the fund charged \$400,000 in hidden fees to cities around the state during the first four months of year, the bond fund said it would refund some of the money.

money.
State Comptroller Justin
Wilson has launched a review of the municipal lending system, and has said
local officials don't understand what fees are being

charged.
"I think they should know what fees they are paying," Wilson said. "I have told Mr. Seivers very clearly I be-

lieve in the disclosure of the

Seivers, who refused in terview requests from the newspaper, said in a writ-ten statement that reports had made inaccurate characterizations about the bond

fund.
"The allegations of over-charging, hidden fees and pay to play are pejorative terms that suggest improp-er or illegal conduct," said George Barrett, the fund's ar-torney "There's no evidence torney. "There's no evidence of that."

of that."
According to minutes of fund meetings, Bank of American in 1997 agreed to pay an annual "sponsorship fee" that directed \$500,000 in bonuses to employees of the nonprofit fund. But after several years the bank be-gan raising concerns about whether the bonuses were

"The bank thinks the sponsorship fee might be considered a kickback for (the bond fund) doing business with the bank," minutes from a February 2004 meeting reported Seivers as saving.

saying.

Later that year Seivers told the board that the bank had ceased the payments

V ...

ecause of legal concerns, ut in March 2007 he said but in March 2007 he said he had received a letter from

he had received a letter from the Internal Revenue Service "completely clearing us." The newspaper asked for a copy of the IRS letter, but wasn't provided one before the story went to print. Pobert Brooks: a business

Robert Brooks, a business professor and municipal fi-nance expert at the Univer-sity of Alabama, called the ponsorship arrangement a horrible breach of public

The municipal finance

"The municipal finance industry desperately needs to rewrite their rules of engagement," he said.
Seivers has said he earns between \$150,000 and \$175,000 per year from the bond fund.
Board minutes say he also

SI75,000 per year from the bond fund.
Board minutes say he also gets all percent commission on I percent of all loans made by the fund, or about \$52,000 for every \$20 million lent from its pools. Seivers also received \$168,690 for consulting work for Bank of America in 2003, at the same time he was directing business to the bank through the bond fund.

The Tennessean also found the bond fund's financial adviser James To-





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