

FOOTBALL

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The Marion Star

SUNDAY, 09.20.15 || MARION, OHIO || A GANNETT COMPANY || MARIONSTAR.COM

POLICE FIGHT PROSTITUTION

Law enforcement gives new strategies a try

JONA ISON
GANNETT OHIO

“I’m 72 can u do me”
The message sent to a backpage escort ad was short, sweet, to the point and representative of messages from a broad range of men who are willing to pay for sex.

Unknown to the sender, he was responding to an ad posted by the Mansfield police in a joint effort with the Mansfield News Journal and Gannett Ohio to evaluate any changes in demand since a May sting ended in 30 arrests.
The recent two-week ad took in 75 percent fewer responses

MORE INSIDE

Johns are sent to school after arrest.
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than one posted in the spring, but those 36 emails looking for “fun,” as most put it, “still seems like an unusually high number,” according to Mans-

field Police Chief Ken Coontz.
“I think with this ad we posted you can tell there’s way too many men willing to patronize these women,” he said.
As more rural communities see a spike in prostitution, largely driven by heroin addiction and internet ads, small departments are struggling to find the manpower to put together time-intensive reverse stings to push back at demand.

Chillicothe Police Chief Keith Washburn said law enforcement can’t use that as an excuse not to act.
“You have to do enforcement. People pay taxes for a reason and they want things done,” he said.
Sex demand
The demand for prostitution is growing.
See PROSTITUTION, Page 2A

300 WALK TO FIGHT ALZHEIMER’S DISEASE



Amber Wolfe writes notes on the pinwheels she and her family carried on the Marion Walk to End Alzheimer’s at Dayspring Wesleyan Church on Saturday. People came together for the 2-mile walk and to be in the company of those whose lives are affected by Alzheimer’s.

SPENSER HICKEY
THE MARION STAR

MARION —
ed by a lion, 300 people marched outside Dayspring Wesleyan Church Saturday to raise awareness and funds for the fight against Alzheimer’s disease.
The lion mascot was from Kingston Residence, a Marion senior-living facility whose staff made up the largest participating team with over 60 members. They raised more than \$3,400, helping the Alzheimer’s Association Central Ohio chapter beat their goal of \$21,000.
Kingston spokeswoman Tammy Millisor said this was due to the competition between maintenance worker Lorin Williams and nurse practitioner Dan Hollinger, who challenged each other to see who could raise more money, with the loser getting his head shaved.
Event staff said there were 24 teams total, and many members had a personal or professional connection to the disease while some carried the blue pinwheel that showed they have Alzheimer’s.
One of those walking with the blue pinwheel was Jerri ‘Mimi’ Klaus, a retired River Valley High School teacher who was supported by more than a dozen participants in “Team Mimi” t-shirts. The River Valley cheerleading squad also came to rally the walkers and support Klaus.

Supporters raised \$3,400 toward \$21,000 area goal



Hundreds gathered at Dayspring Wesleyan Church for the Marion Walk to End Alzheimer’s on Saturday.

Marion County transit needs explored

League meeting aims to develop plan

JOHN JARVIS
THE MARION STAR

MARION — “Coordinated public transit-human services transportation plan” was the phrase of the day at a recent League of Women Voters meeting.

Attended by a few dozen league members as well as officials for Marion County Job and Family Services, the Ohio Heartland Community Action Commission, the Marion County Council on Aging, Marion Area Transit and Mayor Scott Schertzer, the session consisted primarily of discussion of how to make reliable transportation available to more residents throughout the county.
The focus was on the coordinated transportation plan, of which David Walker, compliance officer for the Ohio Department of Transportation’s Office of Transit, said: “There’s funding that’s untapped, but there’s strings attached.”
Walker said about \$60,000 to \$80,000 in grants is available each year to counties that successfully apply for the grant after creating the coordinated public transit-human services transportation plan. The awarded money is used for the purchase of buses, vans and other vehicles.

Marion Area Transit busy
Jeff Marsh, Marion Area Transit director, told the group that MAT usually is in the top three busiest rural transit systems in Ohio, moving 500 to 750 people per day.
MAT operates a demand service in which riders call for a bus that takes them to MAT’s base on South State Street

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LOCAL
WEATHER

TODAY

HIGH: 70
LOW: 46

Partly sunny

MONDAY

HIGH: 72
LOW: 49

Partly sunny and nice

TUESDAY

HIGH: 75
LOW: 50

Partly sunny, pleasant

WEDNESDAY

HIGH: 78
LOW: 51

Sunny and pleasant

THURSDAY

HIGH: 80
LOW: 53

Mostly sunny, pleasant

ALMANAC

Through 4 p.m. yesterday

TEMPERATURES

High.....74

Low.....67

PRECIPITATION

24 hrs.....0.04"

SUN & MOON

Today's sunrise/sunset:

7:17 a.m./7:34 p.m.

Today's moonrise/moonset:

1:57 p.m./none

First Full Last

Sep 21 Sep 27 Oct 4 Oct 12

NATIONAL EXTREMES

Thermal, CA.....104°

Bodie State Park, CA.....21°

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LOTTERIES

SATURDAY'S NUMBERS

Pick 3 (D): 6-0-5

Pick 4 (D): 4-4-8-8

Pick 5 (D): 0-0-2-0-4

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Those affected by Alzheimer's had the opportunity to walk with others who had been or are in the same situation during Saturday's Marion Walk to End Alzheimer's. About 300 people participated.

Walk

Continued from Page 1A

Klaus said the event gave her hope after her recent diagnosis. "I have a wonderful quality of life because I have a wonderful family," she said. Many of those marching, including one of the event's opening speakers, had helped provide care for loved ones with Alzheimer's. Connie Gallaher, chief operating officer with OhioHealth Home Care, spoke about her father Bill Harrison, who had

Alzheimer's before his death. "I fear one day holding a blue (pinwheel)," Gallaher said. "...I don't know that it (a cure) is going to be there in my twilight." Still, Gallaher was hopeful that future generations, including her 23-year-old son's, would have an available cure for the disease. One member of that generation, 21-year-old Emily Rea, took part by leading a 10-person team to raise \$1,600 for the event. Rea led team "Grandma's Guardians" in memory of her grandmother Mary Coleman, who died last year due to Alzheimer's disease. "I hope in the future we can live without Alzheimer's and not have to live with it or lose a family member to it," Rea said. Vince McGrail, executive director of the Central Ohio Chapter of the Alzheimer's Association, said that around 25,000 people in central Ohio are living with Alzheimer's disease. Nationally, more than 5 million people in the United States have it and that figure is expected to triple by 2050. "It's like a tsunami that's coming and it's going to hit if we don't do something," McGrail said. The national association provides education, support groups,

advice on care and events like the walk to raise awareness and funds. They also seek additional federal funding for a cure. McGrail said they've been able to get additional proposals from the government that could raise research funding to \$900 million per year, but scientists say they need around \$2 billion to make advances. "Our goal in 10 years is to have major research breakthroughs...that help with better diagnosis, better treatment and then prevention," he said. shickey@marionstar.com 740-244-9940 Twitter: @SpenserHickey

Prostitution

Continued from Page 1A

sex is just as difficult to get a handle on as determining the supply. Studies of American men buying sex have varied in their estimations, making claims anywhere from 16 percent to 80 percent of men engage in prostitution, according to a 2011 study from Prostitution Research and Education, a San Francisco-based nonprofit focused on advancing prostitution research. The study, which compared 101 sex buyers and 100 non-sex buyers in Boston, concluded the myth that "any man" might buy sex was not supported. However, the recent leak from Ashley Madison, an online hook-up site for people wanting to have affairs, revealed there were more than 30 million user accounts worldwide. An analysis of those accounts by Trustify show 70 percent were from men, nearly 11 million were in the United States, and 36,230 of them in Ohio.

Coontz mentioned the leak as showing how pervasive demand is for sex outside of a relationship. The ad his officers and others from METRICH, the regional task force, placed in May garnered 144 email responses in two weeks and 153 text messages after they posted a phone number.

The May sting was a more elaborate operation than the recent follow-up ad, which is partly why it drew more interest, Coontz said.

Historically, police focus has been on arresting women. According to a 2012 FBI crime report, 66 percent of prostitution arrests reported to them (not all agencies report data) in 2003 were women and 68 percent of arrests reported in 2012 were women. However, as more officials push law enforcement to target human trafficking, many agencies have begun shifting their approach or at least also targeting those buying.

"If we just go after the prostitutes, they're replaceable," said Nate Young, a police specialist with the Cincinnati police's vice unit. "We have to combat it on both sides ... You can't just ignore one and expect to have a good result."

The Mansfield sting equally targeted both sides — 15 prostitutes were arrested and 15 buyers.

"If you do a sweep, you should have a purpose to it and a goal in mind ... With this, we wanted to impact both sides," Coontz said.

While he hasn't seen quite the impact he'd hoped on the demand side, the sting appears to have

METRICH targeted 15 men and 15 women in a prostitution operation in May, which started with with an Internet ad.

"We have to combat it on both sides ... You can't just ignore one and expect to have a good result."

NATE YOUNG
POLICE SPECIALIST WITH THE CINCINNATI POLICE'S VICE UNIT

stemmed the number of local women placing ads on Backpage. This time around, they only spotted two ads by locals.

The focus with the 15 prostitutes has been to get them treatment and services, Coontz said. Punishment has been the target for the men, who were charged not only with soliciting but also possession of criminal tools — their cars and cell phones.

Few of the men have served jail time, but they were fined, sentenced to serve up to 200 hours of community service and placed on probation for a year. Costs, which include fines, fees and court costs, ranged from \$656 to \$1,163.

Boosting penalties

The men arrested in the Mansfield sting didn't face penalties any stiffer than other third-degree misdemeanor charges. If they reoffend, they'll face those same penalties again unless the city of the offense enacts an ordinance or the state legislature makes a change.

"(Doing stings) is a very taxing and very difficult, which makes it very frustrating when you do one of these and they're just processed out," Coontz said.

That's why he views media as a key component of the efforts, to put the arrests out in the community in hopes it is a deterrent. Young said he thinks an ongoing push to increase penalties of prostitution-related charges for repeat offenders is gaining traction due to interest in battling human trafficking.

While the charges would remain misdemeanors, a repeat soliciting or loitering to solicit charge would increase from a third-degree misdemeanor to a second-degree misdemeanor and include some kind of mandatory penalty, like a driver's license suspension, he added. If a person offends three or more times, the mandatory penalty would be even stiffer.

In July, U.S. Senators Rob Portman and Dianne Feinstein, of California, introduced the Combat Human Trafficking Act that would increase penalties for buyers in federal trafficking cases.

Who buys sex and why?

In Prostitution and Education's interviews with sex buyers, they found on average men made their first sex purchase at 21 and 43 percent of them had been with friends. While the median number of times men said they had bought sex was 18, the range went up to 600, and 48 percent reported they had exchanged drugs for sex.

"People who are frequenting these prostitutes, they're coming from all different classes of life. If people actually knew, they would be shocked, I think," Washburn said.

China Kryss Darrington, of Akron, spent more than a decade prostituting, but now is a recovery coach and public speaker. During human trafficking training in Chillicothe this summer, she shared her experiences, from being molested as a child to winding up raped repeatedly, her back

broken, in a crack house during the height of her addiction.

Darrington also recalled a time when she had a small, regular client list: a judge, a football coach, a lawyer and two business owners.

"I was part counselor to them. I was their secret hideaway person," she said.

For some men, frequenting prostitutes is a compulsion, said Stephanie Billingsley, a sexual addiction therapist in Middletown. Although supportive of consequences, such as arrest, it's also important there is some kind of help offered to the men, too, she said.

And she's not alone. Young, who has spent 12 of his 23 years as an officer in the vice unit, feels courts should order clinical evaluations that could be used to determine treatment needs.

Curbing demand

Figuring out how to tackle prostitution effectively in smaller, more rural police departments is a big question as heroin addiction and the internet has fueled an increase in people, especially women, selling sex.

Although Zanesville has seen at least a 14 percent increase in complaints of prostitution this year, police report issues with resources and manpower have prevented them from doing many stings.

Combating prostitution isn't as simple as sending out a marked cruiser and arresting someone standing on a street corner.

"To just go and snatch her up, you can't do that because of a person's constitutional rights. Anybody has a right to stand on the sidewalk," said Chillicothe's Chief Washburn.

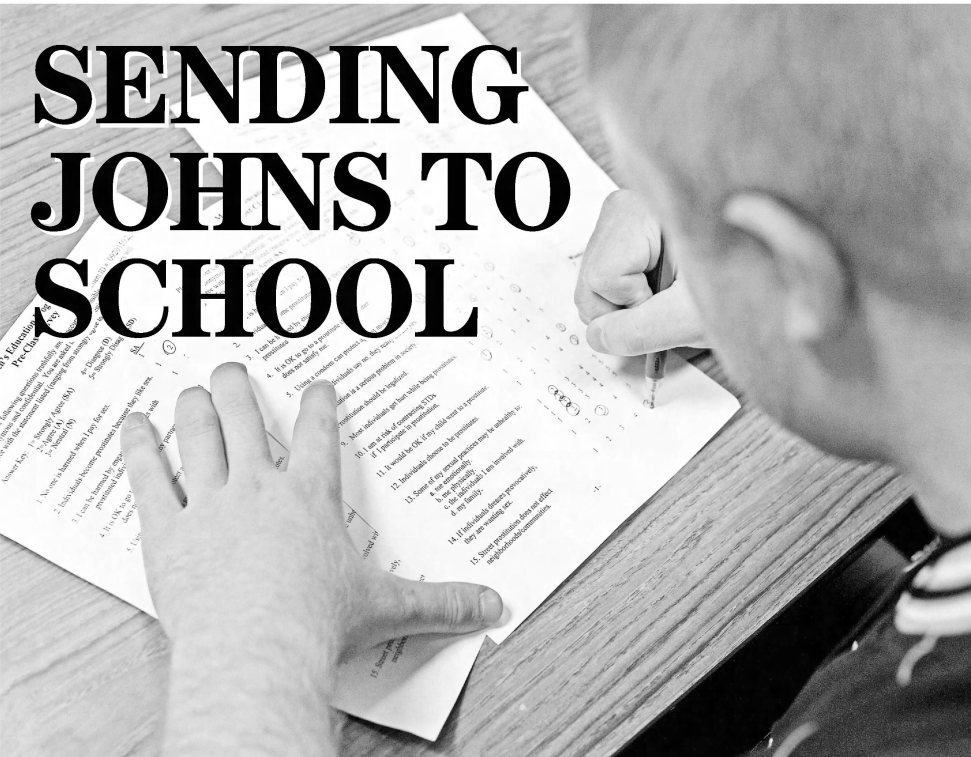
In order to make a solid case, officers need to not only be able to see a transaction take place but also hear it, he added. That's why efforts focus on using undercover officers to pose as either a prostitute or a john. And in small departments, the need for outside help is greater so the undercover officer isn't recognized and to ensure there's enough people to conduct the sting.

That's one way regional and state task forces are advantageous for small departments, said T.J. Hollis, chief deputy at the Ross County Sheriff's Office and commander of a task force investigating missing women cases in Chillicothe.

"You have to do a lot of work to get those resources in place and you're cultivating information from folks that are very distrustful. It takes time," Hollis said.

Reporters Lou Whitmire and Eric Lagatta contributed to this story.

IN DEPTH



The Men's Education Program in Cincinnati conducts surveys before and after the eight-hour class for men caught soliciting a prostitute. The surveys aim to gauge their attitudes about prostitution while a questionnaire gathers demographics, such as ethnicity, relationship status, and age the first time they solicited a prostitute.

Shaming, fining and taking cars among other anti-demand efforts

JONA ISON
GANNETT OHIO

Imagine your mother or the person you think of like a mother. Now picture her on the street, offering sexual services for \$10 at least a half-dozen times a day. What happened that pushed her there?

The scenario was one 21 men were asked to imagine while sitting inside Cincinnati's city hall earlier this month for a class. Every one of the diverse group, which ranged from college students to established businessmen, had been charged for being the one trying to buy such services.

As part of probation or diversion — which involves following certain conditions for criminal charge to be dropped — the men had been ordered to spend eight hours on a Saturday in the Men's Education Program.

The class format, more broadly known as john school, has been gaining popularity across the nation as more communities seek new ways to combat prostitution. An average of four of the programs have started annually since 1997.

The goal of the day was to outline not only the "what ifs," such as being assaulted and robbed, but to impart that many prostituting are forced there by circumstances, whether that's another person, addiction, or mental illness.

"When you engage in this activity, you run the risk of things going wrong more than just. This may be a female officer undercover," program coordinator Terry Cosgrove told them.

Back to school

The Men's Education Class is operated by Cincinnati Union Bethel as an education outreach for men buying sex. The nonprofit also operates Off the Streets, which provides emergency housing, programming and connections to other services, such as addiction treatment, to women prostituting.

Both were developed when a study revealed local jail overcrowding largely stemmed from women being arrested on prostitution-related charges. The information prompted officials to join together to develop alternative approaches to prostitution. The \$500 fee men pay for the class primarily goes to help support Off the Streets.

So far, 168 men have gone through the class with nearly half of them reporting they were not in a relationship. Most often, they report lack of commitment and easy access to sex as reasons for seeking a prostitute.

Why seek a prostitute?

Cincinnati's Men's Education Program surveyed the men who attend its class to learn more about those who seek prostitutes. Current results reflect answers from 168 men. When asked for reasons why, men are allowed to select more than one reason.

Reason	Percent responding "yes"
No commitment	22.6 percent
Easy access to sex	21.4 percent
Likes the thrill of being with a prostitute	14.5 percent
Wants to engage in sex acts traditional partners won't	10.5 percent
Current relationship is not satisfying	8.9 percent
Have difficulties meeting women	8.5 percent
Feels most women find them unattractive	7.3 percent
Enjoys variety	6.5 percent

Nate Young, a police specialist with the Cincinnati police's vice unit, kicked off the class to give men an officer's perspective. He outlines dangers, from being robbed to assaulted to even killed.

"When (prostitutes) get into a car, they're petrified," Young said. "The best that they can hope for is they're going to perform a sex act, they're not going to enjoy it, get some money, get out of there safe, and get to their dope dealer."

And even if everything seems to go fine, police could still come knocking because the woman turned up missing or dead, Young cautioned. Or with human trafficking being a focus nationally, buyers could find themselves in the midst of a federal investigation.

Aside from Young's warnings, the men also hear about possible health impacts, from HIV to public lice, sexual addiction, and the impacts of prostitution on communities.

But the speaker who gets the most response is 62-year-old Carol Thornton-Gamble. Though she does outreach for Off the Streets, she's also been in recovery from prostitution and addiction for two decades. She spent 14 years homeless and on the streets.

Though more and more often she sees women being trafficked, it's harder to convict a trafficker because the victims often aren't willing to talk.

"The dope boys know it's easier and less likely they go to jail if they sell flesh and the girls sell the dope ... The only thing that's going to help it is if the demand goes down," Thornton-Gamble said.

Shame and wallets

In recent years, law enforcement and the public at large have been encouraged to understand what compels people to prostitution, such as human trafficking, and to eliminate the shame attached to it so they seek other solutions.

However, when it comes to patrons, mostly men, the focus has been to shame and fine them into not buying sex again.

Communities such as Mansfield, Chillicothe and Zanesville are on the front end of a prostitution surge in rural Ohio and have yet to implement anti-demand approaches beyond the shame aspect of broadcasting arrests with local media.

But metro areas such as Cincinnati have long been seeking solutions to curb prostitution and have been making the ordeal as uncomfortable as they can. A

first-timer there often can expect to face a bevy of things, including a \$1,000 fine, car impounding, and the \$500 education class in addition to court costs and fees.

And the fines and exposure get under their skin. At the Men's Education Class, the men, who were granted anonymity among each other, were vocal about how much they had to pay, that their cars were impounded and names blasted in the media.

One man's child called him after seeing it on the news, while another's landlord was informed. A third man talked about having a unique name and that the arrest will be available online despite plans to expunge his record.

"We make it unpleasant for them, we make it expensive for them ... so they don't do it," Jennifer Bishop, senior assistant prosecutor, told men in the class.

According to a 2011 study comparing views of sex buyers and non-sex buyers in Boston, men reported that being added to a sex offender registry would be the most effective deterrent for them. Public shaming methods also came in near the top, from being identified in the media and online to letters sent to families.

The least effective methods, they said, were community service and greater monetary fines. The study also determined that educational programs should be implemented subsequent to sentencing and not in lieu of it.

Is attacking demand effective?

In 2008, an assessment of anti-demand approaches by Abt Associates found 826 cities and counties across the nation were using at least one anti-demand tactic.

The tactics include sending letters to a buyer's home, suspending driver's licenses, and restraining orders for certain areas.

The most prevalent anti-demand tactics identified were reverse sting, publicizing identities of those arrested in the media and impounding vehicles.

Though the Abt study found strong evidence that attacking demand is an effective approach, it noted that evaluations thus far are limited, saying "it is too premature to take broad conclusions about the value of most tactics or program models."

The study also noted that the majority of efforts, though, were still targeting supply and distribution.

As for john schools, a separate Abt

study from 2012 identified 58 across the nation, including ones in Columbus and Dayton. It determined that, of the two formal evaluations done of programs, there weren't enough data to support any conclusions about whether they are effective in reducing recidivism.

However, a look at a school in San Francisco indicated that the recidivism rate for johns fell from 8.8 percent to 4.5 percent after the program began operating.

Cincinnati's program hasn't tracked recidivism rates long term, but program director Mary Carol Melton said pre- and post-class surveys indicate that views do shift a bit, at least in the immediate moments after the class.

An ignorance problem?

The most repeated feedback the men give the program, Cosgrove said, is: Why didn't people tell us this before?

Though Cosgrove thinks an arrest for soliciting with all the trappings of media attention and fines is often enough of a deterrent, spreading awareness is what he sees is the value of the class.

"Hopefully, they'll pass this on to their kids or brothers and friends," he said.

Even women who have prostituted or been trafficked often recognize a lack of understanding among the men who pay them, according to an evaluation study by Franklin University of Franklin County's specialty court for women facing prostitution charges.

"The abuser needs to see the effects. Many (court participants) also called for action with the pimps and 'johns' ... who apparently think they are doing nothing wrong," the May report noted.

The women unanimously felt that young girls needed education, too, about human trafficking, signs of abuse, and places to find help.

Ohio, with the creation of a statewide human trafficking task force in 2012, has been working to improve awareness and education throughout the state. Among ongoing work is the development of tools and guidelines to educate youths about human trafficking.

Although a john school remains a rarity, it does appear to be catching on as the criminal justice field continues shifting to address the root of criminal behaviors rather than locking people up. The recent class of 21 was the largest Cosgrove could remember and was the second time it welcomed those charged outside Hamilton County when Columbus' class outlawed its class.

As smaller communities facing recent increases in prostitution look for solutions, demand for Cincinnati's help could grow even more.

Ross County Sheriff's Office Chief Deputy T.J. Hollis, who heads a Chillicothe task force for missing women with a common link of prostitution and addiction, was interested in learning about the school and other efforts, noting that collaborating across jurisdictions is key to putting a dent in prostitution.

And growth is OK by Cosgrove.

"I've never seen a need to put a limit on (classes). Our position is we want to get the word out ... We will adjust to what the demand is," he said.

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