

THE CINCINNATI ENQUIRER

CINCINNATI, OH

FRIDAY, AUGUST 9, 2008

FN 50 CENTS

SUMMER OLYMPICS



The Associated Press/Luca Bruno

The 2008 Summer Games opened in Beijing with pageantry and fireworks.

The Olympics are now under way, and The Enquirer's Dustin Dow and Jeff Swinger are in Beijing. Turn to Sports on B2 for coverage. Go to Cincinnati.com for photo galleries, blogs and results. Search: Olympics

'Body rubs' lead to arrests

Sharonville cracking down on prostitution at hotels

By Carrie Whitaker
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SHARONVILLE — Spurred by numerous complaints from hotels in the city, Sharonville police were shocked by what they found when they began a prostitution investigation. In a city of 14,000 residents (37,000 by day when workers are counted), police uncovered a thriving trade on the Internet and in adult entertainment listings, with Sharonville as a prime destination. Now, authorities are pushing back, with some success.

Most of the come-ons are for women selling services such as "body rubs" and "girl friend experiences," which police

say are thinly-veiled references to paid sex. And Sharonville was one of the main places to find them.

"They are so blatant in what they are advertising and so explicit, and they list Sharonville by name or by ZIP code," Detective Jim Nesbit said.

The attack against this sort of illegal activity is a fight for the integrity of the city, said Lt. John Cook, who supervises the detectives working the prostitution detail.

"We are not on this with high morality kick," Cook said. "We've got women walking around the hotels. People know

what they are. It's not good for business."

Sixteen arrests have been made in three raids since July 2007, and police say the investigation is ongoing. This week, another group of women was arraigned in Mayor's Court, arrested during a raid June 30.

"We won't tolerate it here," Cook said. "Stay away from Sharonville."

Last year, Sharonville police received complaints from customers and staff at some of the city's hotels about seeing women — often scantily dressed and sometimes in pairs or in the company of

a bodyguard or a driver — in the hotels.

According to Nesbit, detectives found that those women were linked to Web sites such as ero-xio.com and craigslist.com, as well as publications such as Yellowbook and CityBeat, where they were advertising their services for massages and escort-type services.

"Prostitution has always been around in different ways," Nesbit said. "(Customers) used to have to go to a seedy outlet, like a street corner."

See PROSTITUTION, Page A9

Up Front

Must reads inside today's Enquirer

Bearcats get new quarterback claws

With Ben Mauk determined ineligible for a sixth year, the University of Cincinnati football team is ready for Dustin Grutzka to step forward. SPORTS B1

Deadliest bus crash since 2004

An unlicensed charter bus carrying a religious group crashed early Friday, killing at least 14 people and injuring more than 40. NATION A4

Stocks soar on oil dip, surging dollar

Wall Street rebounded Friday as a surge in the dollar and another plunge in oil prices eased worries. BUSINESS C1

Local levies heavily rejected

After only two local levies passed Tuesday, local government and school leaders across Ohio may not ask voters to raise taxes. LOCAL D1

'We're on one journey now'

Hillary Clinton told an exuberant crowd Friday she wants Barack Obama to win the White House, and she wants her supporters to vote that way, too. NATION & WORLD A2

WEATHER

High 85°
Low 56°
Mostly sunny

COMPLETE FORECAST: D6

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SABU MAKES A BIG RETURN TO THE ZOO

Male elephant joins 3 females after 10 years in Missouri

By Jim Knippenberg
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An old friend is back at the Cincinnati Zoo and Botanical Garden: Sabu, a 20-year-old, 10,000-pound Asian bull elephant who has spent the last 10 years at Dickerson Park Zoo in Springfield, Mo., is home again and will meet his public today. He's the first male in-house since 1998.

Sabu will join hometown females Jati, Schottz and Mai-Thai and, as in the case of zoos worldwide, immediately become a top attraction, ranking up there with the gorillas and giraffes.

He'll also dive headlong into a breeding program built around a two-pronged plan.

Prong one will be Sabu and Jati breeding again. They were successful in 1998 when the couple produced Ganesh, the first elephant conceived and born in Ohio since the Ice Age.

"We're very positive about the chances for success there," said Cecil Jackson Jr., 47, team leader and elephant manager, as well as a 34-year zoo veteran who began his career there at age 14.

"Actually, they already bred about six weeks ago, but we won't know if it took for about 10 more weeks. But we're already monitoring her blood and urine."

If the breeding session is successful, Jati will deliver a 200-300 pound baby after a 22-month gestation.

See SABU, Page A8



The Enquirer/Ernest Coleman

Some visitors get a preview of Sabu, 20, in the newly rehabbed elephant yard Friday at the Cincinnati Zoo. Keepers have already bred him.

If you go: Half-price admission today and Sunday

- What: Debut of Sabu the elephant.
- Cost: \$13; \$8 ages 2-12; \$11 ages 62 and up (all are half-price today and Sunday).
- Where: Cincinnati Zoo and Botanical Garden, 3400 Vine St., Avondale.
- Information: 513-281-4700.
- When: 9 a.m.-6 p.m. daily.

City settles suit for \$500,000

Askew was hit three times by Taser

By Jane Prendergast
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Cincinnati has agreed to pay former Bengal Matthias Askew \$500,000 to settle his federal lawsuit that alleged that he was cut from the team after police used a Taser on him three times during a 2006 arrest.

The Bengals say now that Askew's arrest had nothing to do with his removal from the team, that he was cut because of his on-field performance. He'd played only five games in two seasons. The team also drafted Domata Peko that year, who came in as a rookie and impressed coaches, giving the Bengals other options at defensive tackle.

But with an officer involved having been found to have used excessive force for using his Taser on Askew three times and an economist estimating Askew's loss at \$5.7 million, the city's lawyers decided paying the money was worth it to limit the city's financial risk.

Also, Askew was acquitted of all charges — disorderly conduct, obstruction of official



Askew

business failure to obey a police order and resisting arrest. He was arrested in July and acquitted late the next month but was dismissed from the team in between.

The Bengals say that although the law department was prepared to aggressively defend the city against Mr. Askew's allegations, it was anticipated that the civil suit would have been tried to jury, interim City Solicitor Patricia King wrote in a Wednesday memo to city officials. "...A jury finding in favor of Mr. Askew could have resulted in damages against the city of several million dollars."

Askew is back on the roster of the Washington Redskins, who cut him last year — listed as No. 91, a 6-foot-5, 289-pound defensive tackle.

He's looking forward to renewing his career in Washington, his lawyer, Lisa Meeks, said.

See LAWSUIT, Page A9

Not father of baby, he says

Edwards admits he lied about affair

Former Sen. John Edwards admitted Friday that he had an extramarital affair in 2006 and lied to the public when he was asked about it during his bid for this year's Democratic presidential nomination.

Edwards issued a statement after giving ABC News an interview. In the statement, he says he told his wife, Eliza-



Edwards

beth, about the liaison at the time "and asked her forgiveness."

He denied fathering a child with a woman, 42-year-old Rielle Hunter. NATION & WORLD A2

Russia-Georgia conflict threatens larger war



The Associated Press/Musa Sadulayev
A South Ossetian separatist prepares to fight Friday during an offensive by Georgia to retake the breakaway province.

The Associated Press

DZHAVA, Georgia — Russia dispatched an armored column Friday into the breakaway enclave of South Ossetia after Georgia, a staunch U.S. ally, launched a surprise offensive to crush separatists. Witnesses said hundreds of civilians were killed.

Fighting raged well into the night with Georgia's interior ministry saying early today that warplanes attacked three Georgian military bases and key operations

for shipping oil to the West. Georgia is a nation of about 4.6 million, slightly smaller in area than South Carolina. Russia, with nearly 141 million people, sprawls over an area nearly twice the size of the U.S.

The fighting, which devastated the capital of Tskhinvali, threatened to ignite a wider war between Georgia and Russia. Georgia said it was forced to launch the assault because of rebel attacks; the separatists alleged that Georgia violated a cease-fire.

"I saw bodies lying on the

streets, around ruined buildings, in cars," said Lyudmila Ostayeva, 50, who had fled with her family to Dzhaba, a village near the border with Russia. "It's impossible to count them now. There is hardly a single building left undamaged."

The fighting broke out as much of the world's attention was focused on the start of the Olympics.

The timing suggested that Georgian President Mikhail Saakashvili might have been counting on surprise to fulfill his longtime pledge to wrest back control of

South Ossetia. The rebels seek to unite with North Ossetia, which is part of Russia.

Saakashvili agreed that timing was not coincidental but accused Russia of being the aggressor. "Brilliant moment to attack a small country."

Seeking to prevent an all-out war, diplomats issued a flurry of statements calling on both sides to halt the fighting. The U.N. Security Council had two tense emergency sessions. Officials promised a third council session today.

Bottom LINE
MODEL YEAR-END SALES EVENT

2008 Nissan QUEST 3.5



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N9437 N9599

MSRP \$26,110
FALHABER DISCOUNT.....\$1,898
NISSAN REBATE.....\$3,500

SALE PRICE **\$20,712**

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N7063 N7085

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NISSAN REBATE.....\$1,250

SALE PRICE **\$18,998**

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Prostitution: Hotels complained

From Page A1

"But online, they can do it in their own home, in a protected setting." Police found some women who trade part-time, others do it for a living. Clients contact them by phone - often with prepaid cell phones difficult to trace - and set up an appointment. Nesbit said. Police found a niche language, full of acronyms and code words, for services such as oral sex.

"Some women check into a hotel for a day or a week and then move on to another city," Nesbit said.

First raid last summer

Police targeted the prostitutes in a series of raids beginning last summer. The first, in July 2007, netted three women, but officers ran into a legal loophole. Giving topless or nude massages wasn't illegal. With a little help from Sharonville City Council, a new law was put on the books earlier this year that requires masseuses who operate in the city to have a state license or city permit.

Since then, Sharonville police have arrested 13 women for prostitution or giving massages without a license in two raids this year - such as one that occurred July 30.

Police contacted women in several ads and set up the operation in a hotel, with an undercover officer acting as a client.

Between 4 and 8 p.m., they arrested eight women between the ages of 20 and 33. They were from all over the area - from Fairfield to Taylor Mill.

Three had other jobs, according to arrest reports. At least three had never been convicted of a crime before those charges, and of those with a criminal background, one had previously been convicted of drug trafficking and another for not paying child support.

The women arrested in the last bust, who were found guilty in the Mayor's Court this week of engaging in acts of prostitution or massage without a license, received a \$350 fine and court costs.

"We don't want to ruin their lives or the lives of their families," Cook said. "We just want them to stay away from Sharonville." Maximum penalty for prostitution is \$500 and 60 days in jail.

The new law

Jan. 8, 2008, Sharonville City Council passed an ordinance that made it illegal to give a massage without a state license or a city permit. An unlicensed-massage charge is a first-degree misdemeanor, a prostitution charge is a lesser charge - a third-degree misdemeanor. But based on the judgments at the city's Mayor's Court, women who are found guilty of either unlicensed massage, prostitution or both, generally receive a \$350 fine, plus court costs.

The message court could bring a \$1,000 fine and six months in jail.

Sharonville's not alone

Police in Sharonville say they've been working closely with Blue Ash and Cincinnati police, who have had similar problems in their hotels.

Cincinnati has done sting operations similar to those in Sharonville, Cincinnati Police Lt. Mark Briede said.

So far this year, the department's vice unit has made 12 prostitution-related arrests.

Vice officers target the activity after getting complaints. They watch Internet Web sites and the classified ads of local publications for hints of illegal activity.

"Still, most prostitution arrests are made on the streets, Briede said.

"Targeting prostitution in hotels is a quality-of-life issue, he said. "Hotels don't want that business, and if you're from out of town and staying at a hotel, you don't want that going on in the room next door," Briede said.

Similar ads are at the center of a federal lawsuit. CityBet is suing Citizens for Community Values, a family-values organization, and several Cincinnati city and Hamilton County leaders, after CCV demanded in a letter and news conference that the newspaper stop running veiled sex-for-money ads.

The lawsuit alleges that the campaign infringes on the paper's First Amendment right to free speech, and the paper defends the ads by saying the ads do not implicitly or explicitly solicit illegal acts.

Last month, CityBet officials said the campaign had scared off

advertisers, causing it to lose 25 percent of its ad revenue.

John Fox, co-publisher of CityBet, said that that CityBet in all ways cooperated with police in investigations and suspends advertising privileges of any business found to engage in illegal activities.

CCV vice president David Miller said: "We wanted to address the issue of human trafficking in our community. We brought in a consultant, and the first thing he said was if you have ads in publications saying there is sex for sale, you're leaving the welcome mat out."

Scaring them off

Nesbit said recent Internet postings suggest that their crackdown has curbed the activity.

"Look out girls, the cops are out of the pippen," and "better stay ...the hell away from Sharonville," were two anonymous messages police found online soon after the city's first bust. A good sign, Sharonville's Nesbit said.

Detective Scott Tamm, who is responsible for much of the legwork and research on this issue, says he sees Sharonville mentioned less in these ads now.

"The girls we arrested in March, some of them we never saw on the Internet again," Tamm said. "For some, being arrested is a deterrent. Some are just back online the next day."

Lawsuit: City agrees to pay

From Page A1

"He's thankful to have this episode with Cincinnati's arrest behind him," she said.

The officer, Terry Larkin, was able to put the incident behind him, too. The Citizens Complaint Authority, which investigates uses of force, found that Larkin's three Taser discharges that night constituted excessive force. The CCA investigator's report said the second and third Taser shocks - within one second of each other and each lasting five seconds - didn't give Askew enough time to comply after the first shock.

The CCA investigator said there was insufficient information to determine whether the allegation against Larkin of discourtesy - Askew said the officer blew him a kiss and was laughing during the arrest - had occurred. So that allegation was not sustained. A finding of "not sustained" is different from

exonerations, which means the investigative agency proved an allegation untrue.

The CCA report also says Larkin and Officer Kelvin Lynn failed to notify dispatchers of their location that night and failed to turn on their cruiser's video recording equipment.

City Manager Milton Dohoney agreed with the CCA's finding. Larkin was suspended for seven days, department spokesman Lt. Mark Briede said. But Larkin went to the Fraternal Order of Police and asked the union to file a grievance challenging the discipline. The union did, and won, getting the suspension overturned.

Askew alleged unlawful arrest and excessive force in the suit, which said the former football player cooperated fully with officers that July night when they asked him to move his illegally parked Cadillac Escalade from a Beckman Avenue sidewalk in

South Cumminsville. Larkin used his Taser after officers said they thought he was trying to leave the scene.

Askew said he was getting in the car to move it, as the officers had told him to do. Askew's suit alleged "that this incident caused him to be cut from the Bengals during the 'retention year' of his contract, in which his contract would have been extended and his salary increased had he continued playing," according to King's memo.

Friday, however, Bengals spokesman Jack Brennan said, "His release was not related to his altercation with the police."

The suit, when filed in September 2006, sought \$50 million and a judge's declaration that the department's use-of-force policy is unconstitutional.

Staff writer Mark Carmette contributed.

Hindus, Muslims in Indian Kashmir face off

The Associated Press

NEW DELHI - A dispute over 98 acres high in the Himalayas has ignited protests in Indian-controlled Kashmir for more than a month and pitted Hindu and Muslim populations against each other.

The Indian army has dispatched about 10,000 soldiers to Jammu to prevent the disturbances from inflaming Hindus and Muslims throughout India. An estimated 15 people have died in clashes with security forces. This week, schools and shops

remained closed in both Srinagar, which lies in the Muslim-majority Kashmir Valley, and Jammu, in the Hindu-majority plains. Jammu was under curfew after Hindu nationalists disrupted road and rail traffic and set some Muslim-owned homes and cars afire.

Legal Notice

If you own or owned property adjoining or underlying a former Penn Central railroad right of way in Ohio, a class action lawsuit may affect your rights.

You could be affected by a class action lawsuit involving former Penn Central railroad rights of way in the state of Ohio. The case, in the Franklin County Court of Common Pleas, is called *Maas v. Penn Central Corp.*, No. 99CV723.

The Court decided that this case should be a class action on behalf of a "Class," or group of people that would include you. This notice summarizes your rights. More information is in a detailed notice available at the website or by calling the number below. If you're in the Class, you have choices before the case proceeds further. There is no money available now and no guarantee that there will be.

ARE YOU AFFECTED?

The detailed notice explains exactly who is affected. Generally, the Class includes those who own or owned land adjoining or underlying a Penn Central railroad right-of-way corridor that has not been used for railroad purposes since April 1, 1976.

WHAT IS THIS CASE ABOUT?

The lawsuit is about whether the Penn Central Corporation and American Premier Underwriters, Inc. (collectively "Penn Central") falsely claimed railroad right-of-way land in the state of Ohio that in fact belonged to Class members. The lawsuit seeks damages for trespass, Penn Central unjust enrichment, slander of title, and other relief. Penn Central denies the claims, and says that Class members aren't entitled to compensation.

The Court has not decided who is right. The attorneys for the class will eventually have to prove the claims at trial, which has not yet been scheduled.

WHO REPRESENTS YOU?

The Court appointed Ackerson, Kauffman, Fox of Washington, D.C., Price, Waisakanski & Riley of Indianapolis, IN, and Kooz, McKenney, Johnson, Dahmilitz & Lightfoot of Washington, D.C., to represent you as "Class Counsel." You do not have to pay Class Counsel, or anyone else, to participate. Instead, if they get money for the Class, Class Counsel will ask the Court for

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2009 REDS FANTASY CAMP Presented By INFINITI Of Cincinnati						
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