

Ky. police hope raids make a dent in drugs

Street-level dealers and transactions near schools a big problem in Boyd

By **LYNNE AUSTIN**
The Herald-Dispatch
laustin@tdonline.com

ASHLAND — Thirty-eight people facing felony and misdemeanor drug charges are to appear in Boyd County Circuit Court this morning after being arrested in one of the county's largest roundups.

After a 13-month cooperative investigation, 32 law enforcement officials with the Kentucky State Police and Ashland Police Department teamed up early Thursday morning to begin serving warrants on 62 individuals charged with various drug charges. Deputies from the Boyd County Sheriff's Department also assisted with the arrests.

Officials hope to put a dent in the street-level dealers, which they said is Boyd County's key problem, and keep drug deals away from local schools.

APD Patrolman Rodney Bowling, an undercover narcotics agent through most of the investigation, said the effort led to purchases of crack and powder cocaine, heroine, morphine, marijuana, LSD and prescription painkillers by undercover police and their informants. Many of the deals took place in residential neighborhoods and around local schools, he said.

"You name it and we've bought it if it's a controlled substance," he said. "The drug problem here is worse than the average citizen realizes."

Eleven arrests resulted from trafficking a controlled substance within 1,000 yards of a

school, a class D felony in Kentucky which carries a 1- to 5-year prison term. Other charges from Thursday's raid include class A misdemeanors, which carry up to a year in the county jail, and class C felonies, carrying five to 10 years in prison.

Commonwealth Attorney J. Stewart Schneider said even as crime rates decrease nationally, he's seen an increase in local drug activity and in law enforcement efforts to battle the problem.

"People say crime is down but obviously the local numbers don't show that," he said. "I've been with this office since 1977 and have never seen more

than 130 (drug-related) indictments. This year I've seen 216 and December isn't over yet."

Schneider said he is impressed and encouraged by the agencies' organization and their ability to work together.

"We've worked very closely with the Kentucky State Police and the Ashland Police Department to move this quickly into Circuit Court," he said.

Sealed indictments were returned by a Boyd County grand jury last month and warrants were issued for suspects' arrests. A total of 74 people were named in the criminal indictments and in arrest warrants on drug charges.

But police held off on arrests while they secretly organized the raid and located suspects. Twelve warrants still could not be served because police had no addresses for the suspects.

Eleven teams consisting of two officers each began searching for suspects at 6 a.m. Thursday. Suspects were taken to the Ashland City Building's commission chambers, where they were fingerprinted and photographed before taken by city bus to the Boyd County Detention Center.

The additional 38 people has pushed the jail beyond its capacity.



Melissa Moore/The Herald-Dispatch

Ashland patrolman Keith Parsons, right, and detective Tom Lynch escort, from left, Maria Marino, Greg Payton, Steve Boggs and James Gardner, who were arrested Thursday on drug charges. They were among 38 people arrested in the sting operation in Boyd County.

Please see **DRUGS/2A**

Drugs

■ Continued from 1A

ity, but that's a common problem in Kentucky's jails, said Jailer Bob Stevens.

"We've got 121 people (as of Thursday afternoon)," he said. "But we've got 93 bed spaces."

Even with the increased number of inmates, Stevens said the preparations helped things run smoothly.

"To say we've been busy is an understatement," he said. "We've been busy but there's been no glitches in the system."

Now, police will continue looking for suspects who weren't arrested during the roundup Thursday and enter their names in the National Crime Information Center, said KSP Trooper Gary Kistner, public affairs officer for the Ashland post.

"We feel it was very successful with more than 50 percent of them arrested," he said.

During Thursday's drug roundup, police arrested:

Ishmel "Ibby" Barber, 19, of Catlettsburg, Ky., on one count of first-degree trafficking a controlled substance, a class C felony.

Brenda Clifton Belford, age unavailable, of Ashland, on one count of trafficking a controlled substance within 1,000 yards of a school, a class D felony.

Steven Boggs, 32, of Ashland, on two counts of first-degree trafficking a controlled substance, class C felonies.

Bonita Butler, 35, of Ashland, on five counts of first-degree trafficking a controlled substance, class C felonies.

Gina Cannoy, 22, of Ashland, on one count of second-degree trafficking a controlled substance, a class D felony.

Kim Click, a.k.a. Kim Click Hale, 40, of Westwood, Ky., on one count of trafficking a controlled substance within 1,000 yards of a school, a class D felony.

Diane Coleman, age unavailable, of Ashland, on one count of trafficking a controlled substance within 1,000 yards of a school, a class D felony.

Dave Criswell, 45, of Catlettsburg, Ky., on four counts of first-degree trafficking a controlled substance, class C felonies, and one count of second-degree trafficking a controlled substance, a class D felony.

Joy Crowe, 45, of Flatwoods, Ky., on one count of obtaining a controlled substance by fraud, a class D felony.

Larry Deskins, 33, of Ashland, on one count of first-degree trafficking a controlled substance, a class C felony.

Mark Farrow, 31, of Ashland, on three counts of first-degree trafficking a controlled substance, class C felonies, and one count of trafficking a simulated substance, a class A misdemeanor.

Dennis Gamble, 39, of Ashland, on one count of trafficking a controlled substance within 1,000 yards of a school, a class D felony.

Tony Gardner, 41, of Ashland, on nine counts first-degree trafficking a controlled substance, class C felonies, and one count of trafficking in marijuana, second offense, a class D felony.

Missy Hall, 28, of Grayson, Ky., on three counts of first-degree trafficking a controlled substance, class C felonies; one count of second-degree trafficking a controlled substance, a class D felony; and two counts of trafficking a controlled substance within 1,000 yards of a school, class D felonies.

Pearl Booth Howell, 50, of Ashland, on one count of first-degree trafficking a controlled substance, class C felonies, and two counts of third-degree trafficking a controlled substance, class A misdemeanors.

Adrian "Tojo" Johnson, 21, of Ashland, on three counts of first-degree trafficking a controlled substance, class C felonies.

Steve Johnson, age unavailable, of Ashland, on two counts of trafficking a controlled substance within 1,000 yards of a school, class D felonies.

Nancy Lucas, 49, of Ashland, on three counts of first-degree trafficking a controlled substance, class C felonies, and one count of trafficking a controlled substance within 1,000 yards of school, a class D felony.

Maria Martino, 23, of Ashland, on one count of second-degree trafficking a controlled substance, a class D felony.

Andrew Massey, 22, of Ashland, on seven counts of first-degree trafficking a controlled substance, class C felonies.

William Moore, 67, of Ashland, on two counts of second-degree trafficking a controlled substance, class D felonies, and one count of third-degree trafficking a controlled substance, a class A misdemeanor.

Gregory D. Payton, 44, of Ashland, on one count of cultivating marijuana over five plants, a class D felony.

Randall Peters, 49, of Ashland, on three counts of first-degree trafficking a controlled substance, class C felonies.

John "Rock" Pinkney Jr., 30, of Ashland, on one count of first-degree trafficking a controlled substance, a class C felony, and one count of first-

degree persistent felony offender, which carries a minimum 10-year prison sentence.

Janet Prater, 35, of Ashland, on three counts of first-degree trafficking a controlled substance, class C felonies.

Barbara Raimondo, 26, of Ashland, on two counts of trafficking a controlled substance within 1,000 yards of a school, class D felonies.

Armondo Rodrigues, 25, of Ashland, on one count of second-degree trafficking a controlled substance, a class-D felony.

Donna Rowe, 42, of Ashland, on two counts of first-degree trafficking a controlled substance, class C felonies.

Benjamin Sullivan, 39, of Ashland, on two counts of first-degree trafficking a controlled substance, class C felonies.

Leron Taylor, 20, of Ashland, on two counts of first-degree trafficking a controlled substance, class C felonies.

Lewis Taylor, 26, of Ashland, on four counts of first-degree trafficking a controlled substance, class C felonies.

Dave Thomas, age unavailable, of Ashland, on one count of trafficking a controlled substance within 1,000 yards of a school, a class D felony.

Laurel Vaughn, 23, of Ashland, on three counts of first-degree trafficking a controlled substance, class C felonies.

Bruce Verdun, 23, of Ashland, on two counts of first-degree trafficking a controlled substance, class C felonies; and one count of trafficking a controlled substance within 1,000 yards of a school, a class D felony.

Rodney Watts, 39, of Ashland, on one count of trafficking a controlled substance within 1,000 yards of a school, a class D felony.

Tiffany Williams, 22, of Ashland, on six counts of first-degree trafficking a controlled substance, class C felonies; and one count of second-degree trafficking a controlled substance, a class D felony.

Two other people were arrested on misdemeanor charges of trafficking in marijuana.

In Kentucky, a class C felony carries 5 to 10 years in prison, a class D felony carries 1 to 5 years in prison and a class A misdemeanor carries up to one year in the county jail, Kentucky State Police said.

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