

The PIT STOP at EAST LANES

Wednesday: Rib Eye Steak Sandwiches
 Thursday: Swiss Steak
 Friday: Cod & Ribeye Steaks
 Saturday: Prime Rib & Ribeye 4:30-8:30

Now open Sundays for lunch!

This week's Sunday Special:
 Swiss steak, mashed potatoes, green beans
 Serving 11 a.m.-2 p.m.

Friday Night Mixed Doubles League
 needs 2 four-person teams!

Open Bowling Saturday 1-6 p.m.

Monday Night Ladies League
 needs 1 four-woman team. Call Fast
 Lanes or Karen Porth. Starts at 6:30 p.m.

Sunday: Seniors Tournament at 9 & 12

Email:

publish@justthefacts.net

Just the Facts[©]

Phone/Fax (217) 283-9348
 Lourdine Florek, owner

Wednesday, September 22, 2010

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www.justthefacts.net

Local man in federal court on child exploitation charges

URBANA—A Rossville man who formerly worked as a youth pastor made his initial appearance in federal court Monday afternoon on charges of sexual exploitation of children.

Andrew I. Thomas, 46, was charged in a five-count indictment returned by a grand jury last week but sealed pending his appearance in court, announced U.S. Attorney James A. Lewis, Central District of Illinois.

Thomas appeared before U.S. Magistrate Judge David G. Bernthal and was ordered to remain in the custody of the U.S. Marshals Service pending trial, which is scheduled on Nov. 29, before Chief U.S. District Judge Michael P. McCuskey.

Each count of the indictment alleges that Thomas, a former youth minister at First Church of Christ in Rossville, enticed minors to engage in sexually explicit conduct to produce images of the conduct.

According to the indictment, Thomas is also known as: "Stephanie Danielson," "Kayla Wilson," "Jennifer Martinez," Jessica Gonzalez," "Justin Danielson" and, "Justin Williams," and used the email addresses: justjock89@aim.com, Kaylaw21to@aol.com, Foryouhopeulike@aol.com, Luknrmystudboy2@aim.com, Stephaniedanielson89@hotmail.com, and stephaniedanielson1989@yahoo.com."

During Monday's court appearance, the government requested that Thomas be detained in federal law enforcement custody pending trial. According to court documents filed by the government, Thomas allegedly perpetrated a scheme to disguise himself as a female identified as "Stephanie," "Jenn," "Jessica," or "Kayla" through social networking sites, e-mail accounts and text messages using a Trac phone to make contact with minor-age boys. Thomas then allegedly covertly enticed the minors, by sending them pornographic images of his female personae, to solicit pornographic images of the

minor boys. The indictment alleges the time of the alleged conduct as follows: count one - from February to March 2010; count two - January to March 2010; count three - January 2007 to January 2010; count four - December 2009 to March 2010; and, count five - January to March 2010.

Anyone with questions or information regarding this ongoing investigation is urged to contact the Vermilion County Sheriff's Department, Investigator Todd Damilano, at 217-442-4080 or U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Office of Homeland Security Investigation. See EXPLOITATION on other side

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**Invites you to come
 and see our
 new changes.**

**Sunday, October 3, 2010
 2-4 P.M.**

Hosts: Bob & Debbie Alkire
 Refreshments will be served.

Rossville officials raise nuisance fees; woman requests reimbursement of \$176 towing, storage fee after charge dismissed

ROSSVILLE—Minutes after the village board approved raising the fee for nuisance fee violations, an Iroquois County woman requested a refund for a towing and storage charge from such a violation.

Trustees on Monday approved increasing the fee from \$300 to \$500 for nuisance violations. The amendment to the ordinance, approved by the health and safety committee, passed by a 4-2 vote, with trustees Tia Petersen and Dennis Barragree voting against.

Shortly after that action, Sherry Decker requested a refund of \$176 for towing and storage she paid on behalf of a young acquaintance who was ticketed for loud music.

Decker told the board the man was ticketed on a state charge, to which he pleaded guilty, but an accompanying village ordinance violation was dismissed after the com-

plaining witness failed to appear in court.

Decker was reimbursed for the \$300 fee but not the towing and storage charge that resulted from it.

Trustee Nancy Null said the “righteous ticket” was issued but the witness was unable to appear but Decker maintained that after the young man apologized to the witness, the woman did not want him to face the fees associated with the violation.

Admitting the young man made a bad choice, Decker said everyone has made bad choices. “It’s like you’re trying to add to the village coffers. I think that’s a problem. If you want to sit and discuss it later, that’s fine but I think you owe me \$176.”

Mayor Terry Prillaman thanked Decker for her comments but the board took no action on her request.

In unrelated business, Prillaman responded to newspaper reports of a Rossville-Alvin School Board meeting in which members discussed moving the grade school into the high school building and either giving or selling the grade school building to the village for \$1.

Prillaman said the village receives \$19,750 from property taxes and wondered how far that would go in maintaining the grade school building.

He added that the story said school officials expect “a lot of new students coming in, so if that’s the case, maybe the ought to consider reactivating the high school.”

Rossville-Alvin deactivated its high school several years ago, sending students to Hoopeston Area or Bismarck-Henning high schools.

In other business, trustees:

Approved the salary ordinance for officials who will be elected in April. The rate will remain at \$600 per year.

•Named John Martin, of Meachum & Martin in Danville, as new village attorney. He replaces Karen Wall who was named an associate circuit judge.

•Approved the final plat for the Rossville Clinic, which will be located north of the fire station on Route 1.

•Approved engineering fees to extend an 8” water main from East Attica to Stewart at a cost of \$14,250. Donahue and Associates of Champaign. Trustee Scott Sprague voted against the matter.

•Heard from Fire Chief Lloyd Smith that the village maintained its ISO rating of 5, while the rural area went from a 5-7 to a nine, resulting in higher premiums for some homeowners.

Exploitation continued from other side

tigations, Resident Agent in Charge Mike Mitchell, of Springfield, at 217-585-9869, ext 221.

If convicted, each count of sexual exploitation of a child

carries a mandatory minimum statutory penalty of 15 years to 30 years in prison. Following imprisonment, the defendant may be ordered to remain on supervised release for up to life.

The charges are the result of an ongoing investigation by the Vermilion County Sheriff’s Department and the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Office of Homeland Security Investigations. The Decatur Police Department also assisted in the investigation as a member of the working group. The case is being prosecuted in cooperation with the Vermilion County State’s Attorney’s Office.

The public are reminded that an indictment is merely an accusation; the defendant is presumed innocent unless proven guilty.

This case was brought as part of Project Safe Childhood, a nationwide initiative to combat the growing epidemic of child sexual exploitation and abuse launched in May 2006 by the Department of Justice. Led by United States Attorneys’ Offices and the Criminal Division’s Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section (CEOS), Project Safe Childhood marshals federal, state and local resources to better locate, apprehend and prosecute individuals who exploit children via the Internet, as well as to identify and rescue victims.

For more information about Project Safe Childhood, please visit www.projectsafechildhood.gov

Golfing, auction to help agencies

United Community Fund of Grant Township will hold its annual fundraising golf outing Saturday, with proceeds going to help local social service and youth sports organizations. Slots are still available for the event, which has a 1 p.m. flight time.

Prior to the outing, the agency will auction off several sporting events tickets. Bids may be placed at Hubbard Trail Country Club, where the golf outing will be held, or simultaneously on WHPO radio. Tickets to be sold and the dates of the events include:

- 4 Cubs vs. Cardinals, September 26
- 2 Bears vs. Packers, September 27
- 4 White Sox vs. Indians, October 1
- 4 White Sox vs. Indians, October 2
- 4 White Sox vs. Indians, October 3
- 2 Black Haws vs. Blues, October 3
- 2 Bears vs. Redskins, October 24
- 2 Colts vs. Bengals, November 14
- 2 Pacers vs. Bulls, January 14, 2011.

Weather



Chance of thunderstorms today. High 84. Tonight, partly cloudy. Low 66. Tomorrow, breezy, chance of thunderstorms late. High 91, low 68.

For current weather conditions, call Hoopeston Weather Service, (217) 283-6221.

Classifieds

CHILD CARE

Needed immediately: 2nd shift babysitter for 2 children in my home. Send letter of interest and references to 804 East Maple St., Hoopeston.

HELP WANTED

Part time position available. Must be able to work weekends. Looking for a person who is dependable, self motivated, and able to multi-task. Apply in person at Hoopeston Coin Laundry, 209 S. 1st Ave. No phone calls please.

LOST & FOUND

White cat missing from the 600 block of West Elm. Has blue eyes, is neutered & declawed. Gone for 1 week. If found contact 217-283-6089.

MISCELLANEOUS FOR SALE

White Whirlpool 36" gas cooktop with exhaust hood. (4 burner) Like new. Asking \$400; Murray 12 horsepower 38" riding lawn mower. New battery. Asking \$350. Phone (217) 283-7272

Cannonball Model AA-L Alto Sax purchased Oct 2009. Used Geminhardt Flute in excellent condition. Please call 217-304-5835

VEHICLES FOR SALE

2002 PT Cruiser LTD, heated power seats/sunroof, leather, 68K, well maintained. \$5,700. 217-249-6323 or (217) 283-4405

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