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 Lourdine Florek, owner
Just the Facts
Tuesday, June 28, 2011
 Hoopeston's only locally-owned daily news publication
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Rossville man sentenced to 30 years in federal prison

A Rossville man has been sentenced to 30 years in federal prison after pleading guilty to five counts of sexual exploitation of children.



Andrew L. Thomas, 47, was sentenced Friday after he pleaded guilty to posing as a female to get pornographic pictures through text messages and emails, of several underage boys.

Thomas was sentenced by U.S. Magistrate Michael P. McCuskey to 30 years on each of the five counts. The sentences will run concurrently, with a

THOMAS

15-year sentence Thomas received in May in Vermilion County Circuit Court after he pleaded guilty to one count of criminal sexual assault-a position of trust. Thomas entered his plea to the Class 1 felony in April.

A former youth minister and track coach, Thomas was arrested in March 2010, after a 15-year-old boy accused Thomas of touching him in an inappropriate manner. County law enforcement officials seized Thomas' computer and requested assistance from the federal Im-
See PRISON on other side

Community Picnic IN THE PARK
July 3
Noon - 6 pm
 Inflatable entertainment, food & activities for the whole family.
McFerren Park • Hoopeston
 Followed by the biggest fireworks display within 100 miles at dusk
Hoopeston Area Youth Soccer Complex
Sign up for activities at the Chamber offices by calling 283-7873.

Inflatable entertainment sponsored by HRHC, Anthem Chevrolet, Russell Leigh & Assoc., City of Hoopeston, Hoopeston Family Medicine, MainSource Bank and Community Bank

Free snow cones, cotton candy, popcorn and free Pony Rides sponsored by Olympic Hardware, Frontier Communications, Birkey's, Silgan, McMurray Insurance, Harris Insurance, Ervin Construction and Brown-Alkire Funeral Home

Business Expo

Softball Tournament
 Golf Cart parade and challenge
 Fishing Derby by the Northfork Conservation Club
 Rotary Club Ice Cream
 Lion's Club Food Stand
 Main Street Fitness Challenges
 \$1 Miniature Golf provided by Fun For All Miniature Golf
 Bags Tournament sponsored by Country Financial Insurance

SPONSORED BY THE HOOPESTON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND YOUR LOCAL BUSINESSES.

Police News ★

Police are investigating a hit-and-run accident at 1:33 p.m. Thursday in the 500 block of East Main. An unknown vehicle hit a parked 2006 Jeep owned by Kami Wessels, of Hoopeston.

Two 15-year-old boys and a 14-year-old boy were charged in connection with a report of criminal damage to property at 4:50 p.m. Thursday in the 800 block of East Lincoln.

Juvenile petitions will be filed on the boys.

William Cunningham, 41, of Alvin, was arrested after a traffic stop at 10:46 p.m. Thursday in the 400 block of South Market.

He was charged with operating an uninsured vehicle and no valid driver's license and was released on a notice to appear.

Timothy A. Burke, 43, of Hoopeston, was arrested at 2:32 p.m. Friday in the 700 block of North Seventh St. Wanted on a Vermilion County traffic warrant for failure to appear/no valid driver's license, he was released on \$175 bond.

See POLICE on other side

Wash It Wednesday
 Wednesday, June 29 10 a.m.-5 p.m.
\$1 off \$6 & \$7 Automatic Washes
Hoopeston Car Wash
 Rt. 9 next to Casey's
Tokens do not apply

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 Call Carolyn for more info 217-283-7406 Get a group together & get \$10 for ea.NEW person(must never gone with us before) off the price of your trip. Could get yours cheaper or even free if you get enough.

Gold buying event Friday noon-5pm
 Dig out the old, broken, scrap gold, pocket watches, sterling, old coins, costume jewelry.
Top dollar paid in Global Fashions
Friday noon-5pm
 Evening appointments available
Call Shannon 217 841-3991
No collection to big or small!



Court Dispositions



May 5

Robert Clayburn, Hoopeston, new status hearing June 2.

Oran Probasco, Hoopeston, new status hearing June 2.

Wayne Propes, Hoopeston, new status hearing June 2.

Vicki Ford, Hoopeston, new status hearing June 2.

Rory Kempen Jr., Hoopeston, fined \$180 at sentencing, converted to 22 hours public service; status hearing July 7.

Virginia Hale, Hoopeston, fined \$180 at sentencing; status hearing July 7.

Octavius Stangle, Hoopeston, restraint of dogs by owner or keeper dismissed.

Prison continued from other side

migration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agency, after pictures of minors were found on the computer.

Thomas was indicted by a federal grand jury last September on the sexual exploitation of children charges. According to the indictment, between January 2007 and March 2010, Thomas adopted several female personas, then used social networking sites, texting on pay-as-you-go cell phones and email accounts to solicit pornographic images of teen boys.

Thomas must serve 85 percent of his sentence and when he is released, must register as a sex offender for the remainder of his life. He may not have contact with anyone under 18 without adult supervision.

Additionally, he must receive sex offender and psychiatric treatment as deemed necessary, random drug testing and DNA collection.

Also, his computer must be installed with software blocking inappropriate websites and his internet use and other electronic devices will be monitored.

Police continued from other side

Filiberto Altamirano, 27, of Hoopeston, was arrested after a traffic stop at 11:54 p.m. Friday in the 300 block of West Main. Wanted on a no-bond Champaign County warrant for unlawful use of a weapon/vehicle, he was also ticketed for operating an uninsured vehicle, driving while license suspended and illegal transportation of alcohol.

He was taken to the Public Safety Building in Danville.

Donald Witty, 43, of Hoopeston, was arrested at 11:45 p.m. Friday at Blue Moon Saloon, 306 E. Main. Charged with probation violation, he was taken to the Public Safety Building in Danville.

A **47-year-old** Hoopeston woman reported at 2:15 p.m. Sunday that someone broke into the VFW, 428 W. Orange.



Larry and Caroline Ridl in 1961 and today

Children set 50th anniversary open house for Larry, Caroline Ridl

The children of Larry and Caroline Ridl are hosting a 50th wedding anniversary celebration for their parents on Saturday, July 9, 2011 at the Hubbard Trail Country Club in rural Hoopeston.

The open house portion of the celebration is open to friends and family and will begin at 6 p.m. Commencing at 6:30 p.m. will be a renewal of vows ceremony officiated by Bruce McQuigg. The omission of gifts is requested by the family, who note the presence of friends and family is the best gift.

Larry Ridl of Renville, Minn., and Caroline Ervin of Rossville, met while Larry was stationed in Hoopeston at the U.S. Army radar site. The couple was married on Saturday, July 8, 1961 at Saint Anthony Catholic Church in Hoopeston. Larry's brother Kenny was his best man and Caroline's sister-in-law Freddie was her maid of honor. Larry & Caroline have two children, Mark & Paula Ridl of Hoopeston, and Larry and Deb Ridl of Potomac. They also have one grandchild, Jesse Gillette of Milford.

Larry is retired from General Motors, and Caroline is a

homemaker. The couple has lived their entire married life in Rossville, Illinois.

If you are unable to attend but wish to send your congratulations, cards or letters may be addressed to Larry and Caroline Ridl, 405 Benton, Rossville, Illinois 60973.

Weather



Sunny today. High 82. Tonight, clear. Low 59. Tomorrow, sunny. High 84, low 62.

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

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Classifieds

LOST & FOUND

Lost: female declawed dark orange cat, Kiki. Wearing turquoise collar w/bell. Last seen last weekend at 716 E. McCracken. If found, please call 283-4250

MISCELLANEOUS FOR SALE

4 Michelin 245-65R-17 tires, fits Silverado or Blazer, \$100 OBO; Sears car top cargo box \$100; vinyl topper & forest green hardshell topper, both for extended cab trucks, \$50 each. Call (217) 283-7388 between 10 a.m.-6 p.m.

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Pampered Pet Grooming, Lots of TLC, Pets are people, too. (217) 339-2340.

VEHICLES FOR SALE

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