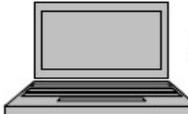


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19-year fugitive Catron apprehended in Thailand

After 19 years as a fugitive, a Hoopeston native may be returning to Vermilion County.

Dennis Gale Catron, 60, was apprehended Wednesday outside his apartment in Nontaburi Province, near Bangkok, Thailand, where officials believe he has spent the past 19 years.

He was arrested by Chonburi immigration police, Thailand police, U.S. Marshals and U.S. Embassy officials, according to reports published in Thailand.

Catron was arrested in June 1991 on allegations that he sexually assaulted a 14-year-old Ludlow boy in 1990-1991.

Catron was acquitted of a second charge, that he fondled a seven-year-old Sibley boy.

In November 1991, Catron failed to appear at trial in Vermilion County Circuit Court on the first sexual assault charge. An arrest warrant was issued. In 1992, he again failed to appear for another trial date and another warrant—this one with a \$200,000 bond—was issued.

In July 1992, Catron turned himself in to authorities and was released on \$5,000 cash bond. It is believed he then fled the country.

In 1994, he was sentenced 36 years in prison for the
 See FUGITIVE on other side

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★

Robert A. Milburn, 30, of Hoopeston, was arrested after a traffic stop at 3:15 p.m. Thursday at Penn and Third St. He was charged with driving while license suspended and re-

Fugitive continued from other side

assault on the 14-year-old boy after being tried and convicted in absentia.

According to published reports in Thailand, Catron worked at a number of universities and other education facilities in Thailand.

Catron was employed by the Hoopeston school district from 1982 until his resignation in April 1990. He was then employed as superintendent of the Ludlow school district.

Catron also served on the Hoopeston City Council, winning his seat in April 1989.

In March, Catron renewed his passport in Thailand. It was then valid to March 30, 2021. Since his arrest, Catron's visa is revoked. He is expected to be extradited to Vermilion County.

County law enforcement officials have continued to work the case over the years. One of those involved in the initial investigation is Hoopeston Police Chief Mark Drollinger, who then worked at the Vermilion County Sheriff's Department.

"Having been involved in the case from the early 1990s, it gives me great pleasure in knowing that Dennis Catron has been caught and will finally face justice that he so cowardly ran from," Drollinger said. "I hope this brings some form of closure to the victim and their family. This is one of the rare occasions when justice delayed is NOT justice denied."

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Police News

leased on a notice to appear.

No tickets or injuries were reported in an accident at 5:55 p.m. Thursday in the 300 block of West Main. Police said Kelly Deline, of Hoopeston, backed a 2000 Chevrolet from a parking spot into a 2010 Pontiac driven by Dakota Prince, of Hoopeston.

Gary W. Johnson, 40, of Hoopeston, was charged with felony disorderly conduct after an incident at 9:38 p.m. Thursday in the 600 block of East Main. According to police reports, Johnson called 911 for an ambulance and medical treatment. When paramedics arrived, Johnson allegedly said he was hungry and wanted food.

He was taken to the Public Safety Building in Danville to await a hearing.

Gail D. Savage, 52, and **Carol A. Hill**, 52, both of Hoop-

eston, were arrested after an incident at 10:11 p.m. Thursday in the 500 block of North Tenth Ave. Each was charged with disobeying a police officer after police arrived to investigate a domestic violence report. Officers allege both became aggressive and argumentative.

Each was released on a notice to appear in Hoopeston court.

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Obituaries

LAZAROV - Peter Ivanov Lazarov, 64, of Milford, died Wednesday, June 29, 2011, at Iroquois Memorial Hospital, Watseka. Memorial service will be at 1 p.m. Wednesday at Milford Christian Church. Visitation will be one hour before service at the church. Memorials are suggested to the church or Iroquois Memorial Hospice. Knapp Funeral Home, Milford, was in charge of arrangements.

Weather



Mostly sunny today. High 88. Tonight, partly cloudy. Low 67. Tomorrow, chance of storms. High 89, low 64.

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

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