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Fertilizing

# 12-year-old run-away dies after allegedly crashing vehicles in Hoopeston, rural county

A 12-year-old Danville run-away's odyssey to get home Monday started in Hoopeston and ended in tragedy near Westville.

Travis Messenger, 12, along with three siblings, were removed from their Danville home Monday by the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services. The boy was at Hoopeston Community Memorial Hospital for a medical evaluation when he slipped away. Travis allegedly stole a pickup truck from a driveway in the 700 block of East Chestnut.

That theft was reported to police at 5:49 a.m. Monday. Travis headed south on Route 1. When he turned onto 136, the truck struck the back of a vehicle stopped at the intersection, then continued westbound. He then turned around, heading east until he lost control of the truck and struck a pole and sign.

Witnesses said the only person in the truck, who appeared to be a 12-14-year-old boy, ran into a cornfield.

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Travis allegedly got his second vehicle less than half a mile from the accident scene. A minivan was taken from a garage.

At some time, a 14-year-old friend, Logan Cudney, joined Travis and was with him during the second accident at 8:56 a.m. on County Road 1750 East, southeast of Westville. According to reports, Travis lost control of the minivan when the road changed from pavement to gravel. The van rolled at least once, and both boys were ejected from the vehicle.

Both children were taken to Carle Foundation Hospital, where Travis was pronounced dead at 6 p.m. Logan was listed in critical condition Wednesday.

Guardianship of Travis and three siblings, including a twin brother and two sisters, was given to DCFS on July 6. The boy was placed in an Urbana foster home earlier this month, running away after less than a week. He was then returned to DCFS custody and brought to Hoopes-

### Dan Breeding to be at library

Back by popular demand, Wild Animal Encounters with Dan Breeding will be at Hoopeston Public Library at 1 p.m. Monday, Aug. 1.

The Hoopeston native offers a unique program that entertains and educates the public about a variety of beautiful exotic animals. Come for an unforgettable encounter with wild animals. The performance will be outdoors, weather permitting. For more information, call (217) 283-6711.

#### Obituaries

**LITHGOW** - Marilyn J. "Grandma Lyn" (Matthews) Lithgow, 75, of Hoopeston, died at 12:30 a.m. Tuesday, July 26, 2011, at Hoopeston Community Memorial Hospital. Funeral service will be at 11 a.m. Saturday at Anderson Funeral Home, Hoopeston. Burial will be in Floral Hill Cemetery, Hoopeston. Visitation will be 9-11 a.m. Saturday at the funeral home. Memorials are suggested to Vermilion County Animal Shelter, 14775 Catlin-Tilton Rd.

#### Weather

Chance of thunderstorms today and tonight. High 90, low 69. Tomorrow, mostly sunny. High 91, low 69. Sunday, mostly sunny. High 91, low 70.

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

ton for the medical examination.

According to printed reports, DCFS has been called to investigate the family beginning in 2009. In January 2011, DCFS received another report of abuse and neglect in the home. Services were again offered and, in the course of the case, the court granted guardianship of the four children to DCFS.

Hoopeston VFW Men's Auxliary inner August 6 4-7 p.m. Fourth Ave. & West Orange \$6 per plate. Served with fresh bread 50/50 drawing, Bake Sale

## Classifieds RUMMAGE SALES

HOOPESTON: 815 E. Elm. Fri. 5 p.m.-?, Sat., 8-2. Boys sizes 2T-5 (Old Navy, Gap, Nike) Junior girl sizes 4-9 (AE, Hollister, Aero), shoes, prom dresses, some adult clothes, toys
HOOPESTON: 928 W. Penn. Fri., 4:30-7:30, Sat., 8-3. Lots of good boys clothes, adult clothes, shoes, toys, misc. & much more. No early sales.
HOOPESTON: 404 E. Wyman. Fri. & Sat., 7-? We have cleaned out again!
HOOPESTON: 719 N. Market. Fri. & Sat., 8-1. 3 family sale. Something for everyone! Rain date: following weekend
HOOPESTON: 726 N. Sixth St. (across from Girls Softball Park). Sat., 8-2. 3 family sale, downsizing. Items too numerous to mention

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