

THE
LEDGER
INDEPENDENT

Friday Photos

The Fountain

PAGE B8



Robert Roe

High school biology class -
and not the good kind

PAGE A7



SUNNY 84 • 62

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Mason Co. man arrested for alleged solicitation of minor

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A Mason County man has been arrested in connection with the alleged solicitation and sending of sexually explicit messages and photos to someone he believed to be a minor.

Bradley E. Thomas, 59, of Mason County was arrested on Wednesday, Aug. 26 at approximately 11:28 a.m. and charged

with procuring or promoting the use of a minor by electronic means.

According to a criminal complaint, the events leading up to Thomas's arrest occurred from Jan. 24 through April 12, 2026.

The criminal complaint alleged that Thomas "sent messages to meet up with the 13 year old girl in Mason County, KY for the purposes of engaging in sexual acts, including

masturbation and sexual intercourse," and that he "engaged with the 13 year old with the intent to entice, coerce, solicit, or induce the minor to engage in sexual conduct."

It further stated that the perceived 13-year-old was actually a fictitious account operated by the Predator Poachers group, which works with law enforcement to

bring offenders to justice. According to its social media, Predator Poachers' investigations have contributed to arrests in all 50 states, convictions in 45 and multiple life-sentence cases.

In the messages, Thomas allegedly stated that he would "teach" the minor things, sending explicit messages and asking her to "send me more sexy pics."

Mason County Sheriff Ryan Swolsky and Deputy Jonathan Wagner investigated these claims, and an arrest was made by Swolsky, Chief Deputy Colten Linville and Deputy John Ferguson.

"I want to personally thank Assistant County Attorney Claire Estill who worked with us for many hours on this and played a major role in securing our arrest warrant," Swolsky



Submitted by the Mason County Detention Center
Bradley Thomas

expressed. "This is still an active investigation with additional charges pending."

MPD reminds residents of new school bus safety law

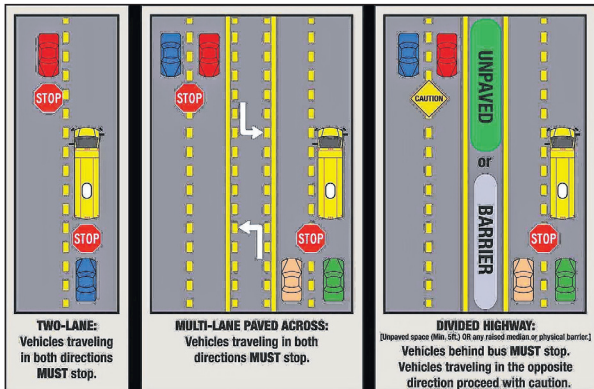
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The Maysville Police Department (MPD) recently reminded the community to remain vigilant of school buses now that school is back in session.

The MPD has announced that it will resume patrolling school zones and neighborhood streets throughout the school year in order to keep students and staff safe. It also reiterated that school bus safety laws have recently changed.

"All lanes of traffic, regardless of the direction of travel, must stop when a school bus activates its lights and displays its stop sign," the MPD instructed. "The only exception is when there is an unpaved median or other physical barrier separating multiple lanes."

The MPD also released



Courtesy of the Maysville Police Department

This graphic explains the new bus law.

a visual aid via social media to give the community a better understanding of the new law.

"Slow down, put the phone away, and watch for children at bus stops and crosswalks," the MPD stated.

MPD Chief Patrick Boggs informed The Ledger Independent that officers will strictly enforce this bus law, as well as school zones and speed limits.

"From time to time we'll be following school buses just to make sure

everything goes safe for loading and unloading," Boggs stated.

He further advised motorists to be aware of their surroundings.

"We ask motorists to be aware of the vehicle in front of them because if they slam on their brakes to stop at one of these, you've got to be prepared to stop behind them as well. It becomes their responsibility," Boggs expressed. "It's every motorist's responsibility to know what's going on in front of them."

Mason Co. Fiscal Court adopts tax rates resolution

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On Tuesday, Aug. 25, the Mason County Fiscal Court passed Resolution 26-18, concerning the levy and adoption of tax rates for Mason County as well as the acceptance and/or acknowledgement of tax rates for other taxing districts and special districts.

These tax rates include real estate, tangible personal, motor vehicles and watercraft, inventory in transit, tobacco in storage, aircraft, health, library and extension.

The following tax rates were adopted for Mason County for the year 2026: 20 cents per \$100 (real estate), 25 cents per \$100 (tangible personal), 16.0 cents per \$100 (motor vehicles and watercraft), 0.0 cents per \$100 (inventory in transit), 1.50 cents per \$100 (tobacco in storage) and 25 cents per \$100 (aircraft).

The real estate tax rate



was also lowered in the resolution, making it 20 mills, down from 22 mills. According to the Mason County Fiscal Court, the newly adopted real estate tax rate is the lowest since 2015.

Additionally, Section Two of Resolution 26-18 describes the acceptance and acknowledgement of tax rates per \$100 of assessed valuation for special districts or other taxing districts. Health was listed as 7.25 cents per \$100 for real estate, 7.25 cents per \$100 for personal and 7.25 cents per \$100 for vehicle.

Library was listed as 6.5 cents per \$100 for real estate, 7.24 cents per \$100 for personal and 4.0 cents per \$100 for vehicle. Extension was listed as 4.0 cents per \$100 for real estate, 4.46 cents per \$100 for personal and 2.0 cents per \$100 for vehicle.

Mason County Commissioner Joe McKay made a motion to adopt Resolution 26-18 with a second made by Commissioner Chris O'Hearn. A roll call vote was taken with four yes votes, passing the motion unanimously.

Maysville Rotary Club introduces member speeches

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On Tuesday, Aug. 25, the Maysville Rotary Club held its regular weekly meeting, led by former Commonwealth's Attorney Stockton Wood.

Wood introduced himself, stating that he is a member of the Rotary membership, orientation and retention commit-

tees. In these committees, it has been discussed that when past Rotary meetings had no program, members would instead introduce themselves through classification vocation talks.

"And the committee started to think back and say, 'You know, we have a lot of outstanding new members, we have a lot of outstanding longtime

members, but we do too much of sitting at the same table with the same people. We don't get to know everybody else,'" Wood expressed. "So, we thought it would be a good idea to have everybody at some point get up and give a classification talk."

He continued, explaining that for the next year or two, he would invite at

least one Rotary member a week to introduce themselves to the group.

This meeting's speakers were Tom Clarke, Amy Roberson-Dudley and Kevin Cartmell.

Clarke was introduced as the club's longest serving member, having joined between 1974-1975. He had graduated



Peyton Dunaway/The Ledger Independent

See ROTARY | 3A Tom Clarke, Amy Roberson-Dudley and Kevin Cartmell.

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