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Phone/Fax:
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Email:
publish@justthefacts.net

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Hoopeston police seek help in finding local battery suspect

The Hoopeston Police Department is asking for the public's assistance in locating Robert S. (Bobby) Akers in connection with an incident at 8:50 p.m. Sunday.

Akers is wanted on charged of aggravated battery and escape after he allegedly struck an unidentified 26-year-old Hoopeston man in the head with a machete. Akers was taken into custody and escaped while handcuffed.

The victim was airlifted to Carle Foundation

Hospital, Urbana, and was listed in fair condition Monday morning, said Hoopeston Police Chief Mark Drollinger.

Drollinger said the men allegedly had an argument at a residence in the 300 block of West Maple and, after the incident, Akers left the scene and was later arrested, then escaped. Several people have called the department with information and police are following all leads, he said.

Akers is described as 6' , 160 lbs., with brown

Hoopeston Fire Department welcomes new vehicle to fleet

A much-anticipated fire truck was delivered to the Hoopeston Fire Department Saturday.

The 1994-95 Darley rescue pumper truck was purchased last year, along with a tanker. The department received the tanker but had to wait on the pumper until original owners, the Bourbonnais Fire Department, received its replacement.

The newest addition to the fire department fleet includes a 500-gallon water storage tank, 30-gallon foam tank and will carry the department's extrication and air tank refilling systems. "If we go to a wreck, we can do it all (with one truck)," said fireman Ross Johnson.

An on-board generator runs the truck's hydraulics and four telescoping lights, each 300 watts, will help light night fire scenes.

The city paid \$150,000 for the used trucks, significantly less than one new truck would cost, said Fire Chief Greg Shipman.

Shipman said the department priced a new rescue truck at more than \$200,000 without



Hoopeston Fire Chief Greg Shipman, right, looks at the control panel of a new fire truck Saturday with Gary Moore, center, as Jon Rayls, left, removes old lettering from the truck.

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Just the Facts

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Monday for the
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holiday. Publication
will resume Tuesday.



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Letters to the Editor

Editor's note: The following was written by Beth Peterson-Kuntz regarding the recently-discussed rules at Floral Hill Cemetery.

Please Consider the Gift You Hold
I beg of you
Please reconsider
What it is you are asking

No it is not a great sin
Worthy of a crucifixion
As you say
I will allow you that

The depth of the emotions
That flow through
The words of the protesters
Come from a brokenness
It is apparent you are blessed not to know

For those of us who cling
We have been asked to
Give up so much all ready
From a source greater than you

We have succumbed
Our hopes, our joys,

Our loves, and for some of us even our essence
To the hill

For a moment
Consider the gift
You hold

I gave my daughter her
First Easter basket in the breeze on that hill
Her first Christmas gift, a rocking horse that had been my own.
And her first birthday party
Was quieter than any child's should be on that hill.

I do not expect you to understand
Or even to feel anything
My loss is my own

But I shudder at the emptiness
Had I not been given one last gift

Briefly

Music Booster winners

This week's winners in the Hoopeston Area Music Booster calendar drawing are: May 23, Jimmy and Vickie Means; May 24, Matthew Reed; May 25, Kathy and Dennis Stevens; May 25, Mike Long; May 27, Mae Glenn.

Last Tuesday's \$100 concert drawing winner

hair and green eyes. He was last seen wearing a blue t-shirt with white graphics on the front, and blue jeans.

Akers is considered armed, dangerous and possibly

See SUSPECT on other side

Suspect continued from other side

still in handcuffs. Anyone making contact with him should not confront him but should call police immediately at 9-1-1 or 283-5196.

Drollinger said he will ask for a reward from the Vermilion County Crimestoppers board. Anyone wanting to call Crimestoppers may do so at (217) 446-TIPS (8477).

This is not Akers' first run-in with the legal system. In 1996, he pleaded guilty to one county of aggravated battery and was sentenced to 30 months' probation. Probation was later revoked and he was sentenced to four years in the Illinois Department of Corrections.

In 1997, Akers was charged with two

was Anna M. Clouse

Multi Agency van schedule

This week's schedule for the Hoopeston Multi Agency transportation project is: Monday, Hoopeston/Rossville shuttle; Wednesday, Danville; Thursday, Hoopeston shuttle; Friday, Danville. To arrange a ride, call 283-5544.

Community center activities include: Monday-Friday, cards, noon; Thursday, men's coffee 9 a.m..

Change in all-town cleanup

Due to a scheduling conflict, the Rossville All Town Cleanup will be held May 28. Anyone wishing to get rid of appliances must have them out for pickup May 25, 26. The \$10-per-appliance fee is due by May 24.

Drivin' the Dixie sales

Rossville will hold community-wide garage sales on June 18 in connection with Drivin' the Dixie Days." To get on the list, call Pam Bell, 748-6395. To have a sale at the Village Mini Parks on South Chicago St., there is a \$10 fee. The event is sponsored by the Rossville Community Committee.

Weather



Partly cloudy today, tonight and tomorrow. High today 72, low 50. Tomorrow, high 72, low 52. For current weather conditions, call Hoopeston Weather Service, (217) 283-6221.

Classifieds

APARTMENTS FOR RENT

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