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Wednesday, June 1, 2005

Hoopeston's only locally-owned daily news publication

P.O. Box 441, Hoopeston, IL. 60942

www.justthefacts.net

State's Attorney looks at murder charge in machete attack

Vermilion County State's Attorney Frank Young may decide this week whether to file a murder charge against a Hoopeston man.

Robert S. "Bobby" Akers, 26, may face the charge in connection with a May 22 incident in which he allegedly struck Larry Brougher Jr., in the head with a machete.

Mr. Brougher, 26, died at noon Thursday at Carle Foundation Hospital, Urbana.

Akers was arrested after the incident, but escaped and was apprehended the next evening, still in handcuffs, by two citizens in Wellington.

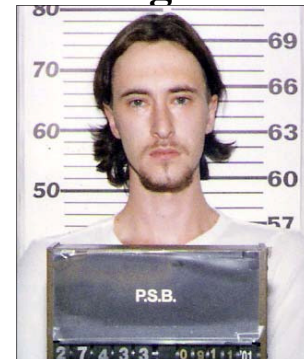
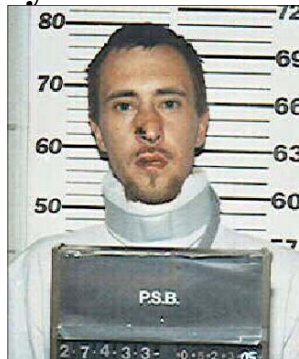
Akers was charged with aggravated battery and escape and is being held in the Public Safety Building on \$500,000 (10%) bond.

What new charges may be filed against Akers will depend on autopsy reports and the exact cause of death, Young said.

Complete results could take as long as four weeks, said a spokesperson from the Champaign County Coroner's office.

Mr. Brougher was airlifted to Carle in fair condition and was placed in intensive care immediately after the incident. He had reportedly been transferred from ICU because his condition had improved prior to his death.

Depending on autopsy results, Akers could face attempted murder or murder charges. "All the options are still open," Young said.



Police mug shots of Robert Akers from 2005, left, and 2001, right.

No matter what charges he faces, Hoopeston Police Chief Mark Drollinger said their information will be ready. The department's role "changed very little" with Mr. Brougher's death. "The case was prepared from the beginning as if it was going to be a potential capital case," he said.

As officials ponder Akers' fate, Iroquois County officials are looking into allegations he has made that he was attacked by at least one of the men who brought him in.

According to Lt. Randy Eimen of the Iroquois County Sheriff's Department, Akers is alleging that he was hit in the face with a board.

Akers' most recent mug shot shows him with a neck brace and swollen nose.

Eimen said he interviewed Akers at the Public Safety Building last week, talked to people in the general area the night Akers was found and collected evidence at the scene. This week, he plans to talk to the citizens who brought Akers in.

The board found at the scene does have blood on it but Eimen said the blood pattern seems to be drops that fell from someone standing or kneeling above it. "It doesn't appear to be from an impact," he said. "That would be a different pattern."

Additionally, Eimen said, one witness at the scene reported that Akers lunged at his captors and that the

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Briefly

Music Booster winners

This week's winners in the Hoopeston Area Music Booster calendar drawing are: June 1, John Smiley; June 2, Karyn Wyss; June 3, Brown's Cash & Carry.

The Music Boosters will meet at 6 p.m. Tuesday, June 7 at the Hodge home, 906 S. Fifth Ave., for a cookout. Meat and beverages will be provided. Those who attend are asked to bring a covered dish or dessert.

Multi Agency van schedule

This week's schedule for the Hoopeston Multi Agency transportation project is: 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..

Winners

This month's winners in the Women Making a Difference drawing are: Jean Lockhart and Dee Mayberry, \$25; Jean Lockhart and Mary Jane Dillon, \$15; and Allen Smith and Maria Garza, \$10.

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.

Coffee fund

This month's Star Lodge coffee donation of \$100 will



Police News



Police are investigating a hit-and-run accident reported at 12:38 a.m. Sunday at the Coffee Cup, 517 S. Dixie Hwy. An unknown vehicle hit a parked 1992 Chevrolet owned by Mary Bolin of Front St.

A **69-year-old** woman reported Sunday that someone took several items from her home in the 900

block of East Young.

An **18-year-old** man reported Sunday that someone took an undisclosed amount of cash from his home in the 300 block of North Ninth Ave.

The **window of** a 1985 GMC truck was reported broken at 4:45 p.m. Monday at 1121 S. Dixie Hwy.



New Books at the Library



Non-Fiction

Weather, a Visual Guide by Bruce Buckley
Snakes: the Smithsonian Answer Book by George R. Zug
The Life Extension Foundation's Disease Preven-

tion and Treatment; Scientific Protocols That Integrate Mainstream and Alternative Medicine (reference)

Parenting Your Asperger Child by Alan T. Sohn

Fire Calls



The Hoopeston Fire Department was called at 4:46 p.m. Monday to a car fire in the 300 block of Euclid. When firemen arrived, the vehicle was fully engulfed. No injuries were reported.

Weather



Mostly sunny today. High 80. Tonight, partly cloudy. Low 56. Tomorrow, partly cloudy. High 81, low 58.

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

go to Hoopeston Community Memorial Nursing Home.

Any non-profit organization interested in being considered as a recipient of the monthly donation should send a request in writing to P.O. Box 253, Hoopeston, IL 60942.

Grocery winner

Winner of the Women Making a Difference Price-Less Grocery Raffle is Bob Page from Albany, grandson of Bill and Roxie Page.

Hydrant flushing

The Hoopeston Water Department will start flushing fire hydrants of Fridays starting May 27. Flushing will continue throughout the summer.

Classifieds

APARTMENTS FOR RENT

Rossville: 1-2 bdrs. Riverview Apartments. Completely refurbished, on-site washers & dryers. 1 bdr. \$310/mo., \$310 deposit; 2 bdr., \$360/mo., \$360 deposit. Call (217) 840-3672.

Nice efficiency apt. Stove, refrigerator furnished. No pets. (217) 283-9507, (217) 249-9507

EVENTS

BOOK SALE! Saturday, June 3, 403 S. Chicago, Rossville. 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Paperbacks, hard covers. Novels, Westerns, History, Civil War, Reader's Digests. No Harlequins. Over 300 to choose from. 25 cents to \$1. Rain date Sunday, June 5.

HOUSES FOR RENT

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S. Market, Hoopeston. 2 bdr., basement. Very nice, fully remodeled. \$426/mo. References. Available June. (217) 304-3477

MISCELLANEOUS FOR SALE

18,000 BTU air conditioner. \$150. Emery Zimmerman, (217) 283-6176

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