

[www.hoopestonrockngrading.com](http://www.hoopestonrockngrading.com)

Erie  
Insurance®

Auto • Home • Business • Life  
(217) 283-5031  
www.harrisagency.com

# SPORTS PHYSICAL CLINICS

*Those unable to make the clinics may make appointments for sports physicals as an office appointment. Cost is \$40.*



**Lourdine Florek**  
owner/publisher

**Just the Facts<sup>®</sup>**

Phone/Fax:  
(217) 283-9348  
Email:  
@justthefacts.net

***Monday, July 24, 2006***

Hoopeston's only locally-owned daily news publication

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

***www.justthefacts.net***

## Hoopeston man convicted on four counts of murder

## Jury believed machete, not meningitis, killed man

A Hoopeston man is facing a long prison sentence after being convicted of killing a man with a machete.

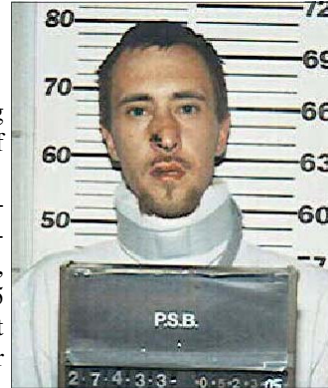
Robert S. "Bobby" Akers, 28, was convicted Friday on four counts of first degree murder and one count of escape, stemming from an incident May 22, 2005 in which Larry Brougher Jr., 26, was hit in the head with a machete. Mr. Brougher died four days later.

Akers will be sentenced at 9:30 a.m. Sept. 14. He faces a sentence of 20-60 years in the Illinois Department of Corrections.

The guilty verdict was read after jurors deliberated for just over an hour and a half Friday, the final day of Akers' trial, which began Wednesday.

According to testimony, both Akers and Mr. Brougher were among those at a party at 321 W. Penn. The group then went to 320 W. Maple, where the two got into a verbal argument about a stolen lawn ornament Mr. Brougher said was taken from his mother's yard. The fight turned physical and, according to testimony, was broken up by a third man when Akers took out a machete and struck Mr. Brougher. Akers left and, according to reports, went to 710 E. Wyman sometime after 10 p.m.

Akers was taken into custody at a Hoopeston apartment and was secured in the back of a squad car while officers processed the scene. Akers escaped through an open window. He was found the next evening in an abandoned car near the former Wellington School by Randall Wallace who, with a friend, put Akers in the back of a pickup truck and



**AKERS**

turned him over to police, still wearing handcuffs.

The verdict hung on whether the predominantly-female jury would believe prosecutors, who contended that Mr. Brougher died as a direct result of the machete blow or Robert McIntire, Akers' public defender who alleged Mr. Brougher died of meningitis.

According to testimony, two doctors - a prosecution witness and one for the defense - testified Thursday that the infection was a direct result of being struck with the machete.

According to autopsy results, Mr. Brougher died of complications of cranial cerebral injuries due to blunt force trauma to the head. The blow caused pieces of skull to break and press into the front of the brain and also ruptured a sinus cavity, which allowed a virus to penetrate the brain, causing swelling of the brain.

The evening of the attack, Mr. Brougher was taken to Hoopeston Community Memorial Hospital, then airlifted to Carle Foundation Hospital, Urbana, 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.

McIntire argued for a second-degree murder conviction based on Mr. Brougher's accusation about the lawn ornament and his attack on Akers.

Mr. Brougher's family attended the trial. They had no comment on the verdict.

Vermilion County State's Attorney Frank Young and Assistant State's Attorney Larry Mills were in charge of prosecuting Akers.

**Looking for a bank that's  
customer friendly and on the go?  
That's Us!** 

*Community Bank*   
 Hoopeston, Illinois   
 Your hometown bank since 1913  Member FDIC  
**221 Bank St. (217) 283-7733Rts. 1&9 283-9723**  
**221 E. Main, Wellington (815) 984-3130**

The City of Hoopeson is accepting applications for the position of police officer. Applicants must successfully pass a written exam, physical agility test, oral interview, thorough background investigation, drug testing and a medical examination.

Applicants must be 21 years old at the time of appointment, U.S. citizen, high school diploma/ GED, good physical condition; no felony arrests or misdemeanor convictions/pleas involving moral turpitude or domestic abuse; a valid driver's license, free of previous terminations from a law enforcement agency, unless exonerated by a judicial or administration review process.

The City of Hoopeson offers a competitive wage and benefit package including family health insurance, vacation, equipment provided, holiday pay. Contract negotiations are currently ongoing for a first-time contract between the officers and the city.

Applications may be picked up 24 hours a day at the Hoopeston Police Department, 301 W. Main Street, Hoopeston or downloaded from our website at [www.hoopestonpolice.org](http://www.hoopestonpolice.org) and click on the EMPLOYMENT PAGE. All applications must be turned in to the Police Station no later than 5:00 p.m. on August 4, 2006.

Applicants will be contacted by the Board of Police Commissioners regarding a testing date.

Board of Police Commissioners:

Thomas Sheridan

Phyllis Freeland

Donna Lithgow



**CADE'S HEATING & AIR**  
 Your Family's Comfort is Our Main Concern!  
**Rickie J. Cade**  
 Owner/Operator  
 616 E. Honeywell Ave., Hoopeston, IL  
 Phone: (217) 283-7762  
 Cell: (217) 304-3289  
 Heating, Air and Geothermal Systems


**Sheila Fix**  
 Outside Sales Consultant  
 Home: (217) 748-6283  
 Cell (217) 497-1753  
**Crown Ford Mercury**  
**Read Chevrolet Pontiac Buick**  
**Hoopeston Star Chrysler**




**Brown's Woodworks**

- Tempco replacement windows
- Entry & storm doors
- Overhead doors & openers
- Kitchen & bathroom remodeling
- Siding
- Garages
- Decks
- Porches
- Drywall
- Millwork

**Over 30 years of carpentry experience**  
 For free estimates, call  
**Scott Brown**  
**(217) 283-7739**

 **A 31-year-old** Hoopeston woman reported July 13 that someone took two bicycles from her property in the 900 block of East Wyman.

**A 43-year-old** Texas man reported July 15 that his wallet was missing while making purchases at Price-Less Foods, 317 S. Market.

**A torque wrench** was found July 15 at Thompson Ave. and Seventh St. The owner may identify and claim it at the police station.

**A 43-year-old** Hoopeston woman reported July 16 that someone broke a window of her 2004 Hyundai while it was parked in the 800 block of West Penn.

**No tickets or injuries** were reported in an accident at 5:09 p.m. July 16.

Police said John W. Rossey of Hoopeston backed a 1979 Dodge from a driveway in the 300 block of East Lincoln into a parked vehicle owned by Shawn R. Lane, also of Hoopeston.

**Briefly**

**Street to be resurfaced**  
 South Seventh St., from Washington to Rt. 9, is expected to begin July 24 and take approximately three weeks to complete.

**Vacation Bible School**  
 First Church of God, 1004 E. Orange, Hoopeston, will hold "Fishers of Men" Vacation Bible School from 6:30-8:30 p.m. Aug. 4-6. Classes are open to children ages 4-11. The school will feature games, music crafts, a Sunday carnival and "lots of Fishy stuff."

**Confused about**   
**Buying or Selling?**  
 Call  
**Jerry Urich, Realtor®**  
**Home Team Century 21**  
**(217) 304-3477**



**Police News**

**Tara S. Hooingarner**, 21, of Hoopeston, was ticketed for failure to yield turning left after an accident at 4:06 p.m. July 17 at South Market and East Orange.

Police said Hooingarner, in a 1991 Honda, was east-bound on Orange when she struck a 2000 Chrysler driven by Loretta Alt of Rankin, causing Alt's vehicle to go over the curb and hit a stop sign.

Both drivers and passengers in each vehicle were taken to Hoopeston Community Memorial Hospital.


**Frankie L. Irvin**, 46, of 810 E. Chestnut was arrested at 1:35 p.m. July 19, charged with two counts of possession of cannabis. He was released on a notice to appear.

**A 16-year-old** Hoopeston girl reported July 19 that her LG cell phone is missing. The phone is silver with blue stripes.


**An 81-year-old** woman reported July 20 that someone scratched her vehicle while it was in the 500 block of North Sixth Ave.

**City to curb illegal dumping**  
 Street and Alley Superintendent Dave Knake is reminding citizens that the city slab is for tree limbs and yard waste only.

If rules are not followed, the slab will have to be closed to the public. Scheduled dates for drop-offs will be posted and will be supervised if rules are not obeyed. Please report illegal dumping with violator's license plate number to city hall or the street and alley department.


**Fire Calls** 

Hoopeston Fire Department and police were called to an illegal trash fire at 11:55 p.m. Friday at 413 E. Thompson.

**Weather** 

Partly cloudy today. High 85. Tonight, mostly clear. Low 65. Tomorrow, mostly sunny. High 89, low 67.

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

 **A 25-year-old** Hoopeston man reported July 21 that someone damaged his home in the 200 block of East Seminary.

**A 29-year-old** Hoopeston woman reported July 23 that someone broke the windshield of her 1993 Ford Ranger. The damage occurred in the 100 block of East Lincoln.

*For all your beverage needs*  
**Ted's Home Beverage**  
 101 W. Main  
 Hoopeston  
**(217) 283-7213**

**Classifieds**

**CHILD CARE**  
 Licensed daycare has openings for full time children ages 2 and up. Please call Megan Ervin-Deck for more information. (217) 283-4405

**FOR RENT**  
 Newer small business complex has 1 unit available with full basement. Great location 260-2546

**HELP WANTED**  
 Part time office manager position. Min. 9 hrs./week. Flexible duties including light office, accounting and event planning duties. Send resume to Camber of Commerce, P.O. Box 346, Hoopeston. Deadline Aug. 2

**HOUSES FOR RENT**  
 Newer 2 BR unit w/garage, dishwasher, all appliances. Nice yard, quiet location, within walking distance to stores. No pets \$550 + deposit. 260-2546

**LOST & FOUND**  
 Lost: 7 year old Yorkie, "Sammy." Last seen Wed. night on East Seminary. If found, call (217) 283-6769 or 283-5700. \$200 reward.

**MISCELLANEOUS FOR SALE**  
 New truck tire. General LT 215/85R16, \$40; Sears Kenmore zigzag sewing machine w/buttonhole attachment, \$50. Call (217) 283-5711.

**PRODUCE**  
 Blackberries for sale. Call (217) 283-7805.

**SERVICES**  
 Pampered Pet Grooming. Lots of TLC. Call anytime for appointment. (217) 339-2340

**Call (217) 283-9348 to place your ad.**