



Jefferson City Post-Tribune

EXCESS IRON HEALTH RISK

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JEFFERSON CITY, MISSOURI

TUESDAY, JULY 12, 2005

50 CENTS

'I think they should die.'

Trials set for two in near-fatal beating of pizza deliveryman

By RYAN SMITH
News Tribune

Minutes after sitting in the same room with the two suspects charged with the brutal beating of her son, Connie McCullough was unapologetic about the way she felt about the pair.

"I think they should die," McCullough said. "They are walking and talking and my son is in a hospital right now."

Ronald Edward Bell Jr., 25, and Patrick Michael Middaugh, 17, both were in court Monday afternoon for their scheduled preliminary hearings in front of Judge Thomas Sodegren. Middaugh was bound over to face trial in Division I and is scheduled to be arraigned July 18 at 9 a.m. Bell waived his preliminary hearing and was bound over to Division II for a July 25 arraignment.

Both have been charged with assault, robbery and



Patrick Middaugh



Ronald Bell Jr.

"I think they should die. They are walking and talking and my son is in a hospital right now."

Connie McCullough, victim's mother

armed criminal action for the June 9 incident involving 35-year-old Domino's driver, Alan McCullough, who was attacked as he attempted to deliver an order in the 1200 block of St. Mary's Boulevard.

Police investigator Carla Kilgore testified Monday the two suspects placed a call for the pizza from a pay phone at a Break Time Convenience Store on Missouri Boulevard. See TRIALS, page 5

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vard. She said they had the pizza delivered to an unoccupied house at 1219 St. Mary's Blvd.

Middaugh allegedly sat on the front step of the house, holding a wooden stick, while Bell walked around a nearby sidewalk and carried a metal pipe. When McCullough approached the residence to deliver the pizza, Bell reportedly struck him from behind on the back of the head twice with the pipe.

McCullough fell to the ground and was struck again on the head and twice on his body.

Bell and Middaugh then allegedly stole the pizza, chicken wings and the small amount of

cash McCullough carried and fled.

JCPD officer Andrew Lenart testified that when he found McCullough in the yard of the residence several minutes later, he was bleeding heavily from the back of his head.

McCullough was taken to the University of Missouri-Columbia Hospital, where he stayed in critical care for over a week.

"He was very close to death," said Connie. "We were very scared."

According to his family, Alan McCullough received heavy damage to the right side of his brain; they do not know if he ever will recover fully.

He currently is receiving treat-

ment at Columbia's Rusk Rehabilitation Center, where doctors are trying to help him rebuild his life.

"The things he took for granted he can't do any of it anymore and it's real hard. He's just not strong like he used to be," Connie said.

Connie noted that McCullough must wear a helmet and spends much of his time in a wheelchair.

"We're trying to get him to walk. He can stand with help, but he's having a real hard time with walking," she said.

McCullough's speech also is very soft and slurred.

He cannot remember the night of the attack.

"He cries a lot and asks 'What happened to me?' and 'Why am I

not normal?'" Connie said.

A surgery to replace part of McCullough's skull is scheduled this fall.

It should aid in the recovery, but in the meantime, his family says they are taking it "one day at a time."

McCullough's family says they are also appreciative of the community support. Several local businesses — including the Domino's Pizza where McCullough was employed for 15 years — have set up donation boxes for him.

"Most of all, we are just asking for people just to say a little prayer for him," said Connie.

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