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PARTLY CLOUDY THURSDAY, LOWER 80S Page 2

ENTERTAINMENT Page 18

JEFFERSON CITY, MISSOURI

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 15, 2005

50 CENTS

Familiar, friendly face still in critical condition

By KRIS HILGEDICK
News Tribune

After delivering pizzas for 15 years in Jefferson City, Alan McCullough knew hundreds, if not thousands, of people in the community. And they knew him.

When he ran errands around town, people would recognize Alan, wave and say hello, said his brother, Charles McCullough.

"He was a friendly person," Charles McCullough said. "He would stop and talk to people."

Alan remains in critical condition at the University of Missouri-

Columbia Hospital's surgical intensive care unit, after he was brutally attacked Thursday night while delivering pizzas in the 1200 block of St. Marys Boulevard.

Two men have been arrested for the crime and remain in the Cole County Jail.

Alan, 35, of Jefferson City, is the father of two young girls, Alex, 7, and Bethany, 4.

Charles said his brother is a quiet man who loves his two

See McCULLOUGH, page 6



Alan McCullough with daughters Alex and Bethany

Delivery policies reviewed after Domino's assault

By BOB WATSON
News Tribune

For Domino's Pizza, a new request for getting home deliveries is, "Please leave your light on," said Missouri Boulevard store manager Jonathan Rideout.

"At our sister store across town," Rideout said, "Ross (already) is enforcing that. If you don't have some kind porch light on, his drivers not going to stop. ..."

"Especially at night, and even during the day, we would like it greatly if our customers have some kind of outside light on."

It's a policy change in the wake of last week's beating of Domino's driver Alan McCullough, who was attacked as he attempted to deliver an order in the 1200 block of St. Mary's Boulevard.

Two men — Ronald Edward Bell Jr., 25, and Patrick Michael Middaugh, 17 — were to be arraigned Wednesday afternoon on robbery, assault and armed criminal action charges.

Both men are being held in the Cole County Jail, with bonds of

See POLICIES, page 6

★ McCullough

From page one

daughters and enjoys tinkering with cars. He made his living working for Domino's Pizza as a delivery driver, taking mowing jobs on the side.

Divorced about four years ago, Alan took custody of the two girls every other weekend, said Charles.

"We had a big family barbecue around June 1," said Charles. "He adores his girls. He was just doing his job. Trying to make money to pay his bills."

Charles said the two brothers and their mother became particularly close-knit when the boys' father left the family years ago.

The family moved to Mid-Missouri shortly after the boys graduated from high school in Hannibal.

Eventually, their mother took a job with the Missouri Department of Corrections, where Charles' wife also works.

Charles is employed as a die cast operator, pouring molten

metal at Jefferson City Manufacturing on Industrial Drive. He was working the graveyard shift when his wife called him with the news and has taken a personal leave to stay with Alan at the hospital.

"Family is really important," said Charles. "He loved his nephews to death. My youngest boy is named 'Ryan Alan Paul McCullough' after Alan."

Charles seems reserved and quiet, and said Alan is like him. Both brothers build model cars and trucks.

Alan likes tinkering with the big ones, too — spending his free time customizing a favorite Honda Civic.

"He liked working on his cars. He was always working," he said. "He souped up the motor, tricked out the interior and lowered it down. He won a trophy, a first place prize, for the car."

Charles said his brother was a flirt, too. "He was always flirting with the ladies," he said. "He'll be

flirting with the nurses soon." Neither men considered delivering pizzas a dangerous job until now.

"Everything is a risky job," Charles said. "You never expect it to happen to your family. When it does, it really hurts. I don't think he felt in danger."

Both Charles' employer and Domino's Pizza have been supportive of the family during the crisis.

"He's a really good guy," said Domino's Manager Jonathan Rideout. "He was always helping other people. He worked inside for

me. He drove. He pretty much worked any shift I needed him to.

"He was just really cooperative, a really good guy." Alan's condition remains critical and his life hangs in the balance.

Charles said it was a cruel crime, one that has hit him hard.

"I'm an emotional wreck. They are not (very) human if they had to do this for \$26 and two pizzas," Charles said. "I'm glad they (police) caught them as quickly as they did. If they took his car, the police never would have found them."

★ Policies

From page one

\$500,000 each. Jefferson City Police Capt. Michael Smith said the two men apparently "called (in the order) from a pay phone that was several blocks away and set it up to a house that was vacant."

Police said in a probable cause statement that Middaugh waited on the porch of 1219 St. Mary's Blvd. with a wooden stick. When McCullough arrived with the order, Bell hit McCullough with a steel pipe.

Smith said, as a police officer, he can't tell a food business not to take calls from pay phones.

But Matt Heet, manager for Imo's Pizza, 706-D Missouri Blvd., said that already is his company's rule.

"Don't call from pay phones, because we'll tell you no," Heet said. "And we try not to take orders from cell phones that aren't local — it's hard to tie someone down with an address like you used to be able to."

Heet said he's waiting to see if the June 9 assault on McCullough has "further repercussions."

At Pizza Hut, 1431 Christy Lane, manager Juan Warren said officials are assessing their current policies.

Meanwhile, he said, delivery drivers have been cautioned to

"just to be careful with how you do things."

Smith noted several food delivery companies already "routinely advertise that the drivers carry very little money, so you're getting very little money — and a pizza — from a robbery."

In the McCullough case, the robbers got \$26, two pizzas, some barbecue chicken wings and the delivery bag, Smith said.

He credited alert neighbors both for finding McCullough quickly and for information leading to the arrests of the two suspects, who both are from the Kansas City area.

"They didn't see the assault, but they saw the delivery and, when they looked out later and saw this individual was down on the ground, they called us," Smith said. "There was no hesitation — they called the police, like they should."

Then, as police investigated the assault, area residents "piqued our interest a little bit" about the men living at 1100-B St. Mary's Blvd., Smith said. And when a police officer went to that address, "He immediately noted the description that had been given to us — how much they resembled that — then and he noticed a pizza box right inside the door."

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