

A street fight on Monday, June 4, in southeast Scottsburg led to several charges being filed against one of the participants in the fray.

William Craig Phillips, 38, entered a not guilty plea before Judge Roger Duvall of Scott Circuit Court on Wednesday, June 6, to a count of aggravated battery, battery causing serious bodily injury and public intoxication. Aggravated battery is a Class B felony, while the second battery charge is a Class C felony. The public intoxication charge is a Class B misdemeanor.

During an investigation conducted by Scottsburg police officer Sgt. Steven Herald, Phillips allegedly pulled Robert Cross from a garage at a residence on East Jefferson Street and "...beat his face against the quarter panel of a (parked)... truck..." In addition, a woman who said she had called police about the incident stated that she had yelled at Phillips, apparently in an attempt to stop the beating. She said Phillips' response was to drop Cross and kick him.

Cross and another male present at the scene appeared to the officer to be "...extremely intoxicated..." according to the probable cause affidavit. When Sgt. Herald and Deputy Rodney Rudder approached Phillips, they said they could also smell alcohol on his breath. Sgt. Herald said that Phillips admitted to him of having consumed about a pint of vodka. Phillips also stated to the officer that Cross and the other male individual had threatened to kill him. He said he began "...swinging at them..." to get away.

Cross's left eye was swollen shut and he was bleeding from wounds about his head and face, Sgt. Herald related. Cross was treated and then transported by Scott County EMS personnel to Scott Memorial Hospital. From that facility, he was taken to University of Louisville Hospital.

Sgt. Herald stated that he had talked with Louisville hospital staff and was told that Cross will probably lose the sight in his left eye.

After hearing Phillips' not guilty plea, Judge Duvall set the matter for a jury trial on October 9. The defendant's bail was set at \$75,000 corporate surety or full cash, and Phillips has hired an attorney to represent him.

Phillips will also be present at a July 2 court date. On that day, his attorney will argue that his bail be lowered. That hearing will begin at 9 a.m. in Circuit Court.