

?Pekin man charged with reckless homicide in beating death of roommate

Written by

Wednesday, 10 September 2008 00:00 - Last Updated Wednesday, 10 September 2008 15:01



Investigation Continuing...

Ronald E. Dekeyser, 51, of 522 S. Gobbler Knob Road, Pekin was taken into custody on Saturday, August 30 and charged with reckless homicide in the death of David Paul Gagne, 43, of the same address.

According to the Affidavit for Probable Cause obtained from the Washington County Prosecutor, Dustin Houchin, the Washington County Sheriff's Department received a 911 call informing them of a possibly fatality. Town of Pekin Deputy Marshal, Jeff Miller, and Washington County Sheriff's Deputy, Rick Stewart, arrived first on the scene and discovered Gagne, deceased on the floor in a bedroom. According to the investigating officers, the victim appeared to have been beaten. That assessment was later confirmed by EMTs.

Based on information received from an informant, police learned that Gagne and Dekeyser were involved in a fight early Saturday morning.

After being apprehended in Pekin by Town of Pekin Marshal Jeff Thomas, along with State Police Detective Sean Clemens, Dekeyser stated that he had gotten into a fight with Gagne and struck the victim with a fire extinguisher.

It was determined by officers that Dekeyser was intoxicated and the questioning was stopped at that time. Police

transported Dekeyser to the Washington County Sheriff's Department and booked him.

On Sunday morning, August 31, Indiana State Police Detective Andrew Squire and Washington County Detective

Buck Backherms interviewed Dekeyser at the Salem Police Department where he repeated his story of getting into a

fight with Gagne and striking him in the head with a fire extinguisher.

An autopsy of Gagne, performed on August 31, revealed that the cause of death was blunt force trauma to the head.

When asked why Dekeyser was not charged with a more serious offense than reckless homicide, Houchin stated

that, "At this time, that is the charge (a Class C Felony) supported by the evidence. We are still gathering evidence

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and the charges may be amended depending on the outcome of the investigation.”

Local attorney, Larry Medlock, will act as Dekeyser’s lawyer and said in a telephone interview that his intent, based on the evidence, is to plead self-defense.

“We are confident that we can prove Mr. Dekeyser was only defending himself against Mr. Gagne’s aggressive behavior,” said Medlock.

Dekeyser, is being held at the Washington County Sheriff’s Department on \$25,000 full cash bond. The pre-trial hearing is scheduled for October 30.