

KNOX COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

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SHERIFF DAVID L. CLAGUE

PRESS RELEASE

January 15, 2014
4:20 PM
(3rd press release)

Today, investigators with the Knox County Sheriff's Department have conducted interviews, located the alleged driver of the vehicle and received information from an autopsy of Shannon R. Porter.

On Saturday, January 11, 2014 at approx. 4:26 AM, Knox County Deputies were dispatched to 1850 Knox Road 500E for a single vehicle rollover accident. Due to the potential severity of the crash, Galesburg Police, Henderson Fire Department, Galesburg Fire and Galesburg Ambulance Service responded. On the arrival of law enforcement the vehicle was found, partially submerged in water and a lone occupant was found inside the vehicle (vehicle on its top) pinned but conscious. The occupant identified himself as Randy Knotts of Galesburg. Knotts stated he was not the driver of the vehicle, that the driver was an individual by the name of "Shane". Responders checked the immediate area for a second person but no one was located nor was there any tracks noted in the area. Knotts was extricated from the vehicle and taken by ambulance to a local hospital. Knotts was eventually transferred to St. Francis Hospital, Peoria, Illinois for injuries sustained in the accident.

On Tuesday, January 14, 2014 the Sheriff's Department responded to a call of a DOA located in a field at 1850 Knox Road 500E (see first press release). The body was approx. 577' east of the road and sight of the traffic accident. The body was identified as Shannon Porter (see second press release on today's date).

Investigators learned that Knotts had been discharged from the hospital on Sunday, January 12, 2014. Knotts was located by investigators today and arrested on a Knox County warrant for Failure to Appear, issued on December 23, 2013.



Knotts was interviewed and still maintained he was not driving at the time of the accident. Knotts stated after the accident, he was pinned under the dashboard and water was inside the passenger compartment. Knotts recalls hearing Porter, who is outside of the vehicle, asking Knotts if he was OK. Knotts recalls seeing Porter get into the water and enter the vehicle, attempting to get Knotts out from the dash. After a very short time, Porter said to Knotts he had to go. Porter left the same way as when he entered the vehicle. It should be noted that a house is within close proximity to where the vehicle is at. Knotts is presently incarcerated awaiting bond. KNOTTS, Randy K, W/M/DOB 04/12/1959 of Galesburg, Illinois.

At the conclusion of the today's autopsy it was determined Porter did **not** have any injuries that could have caused his death. The cause of death is due to exposure with the results of the toxicology report to be completed later.

The investigation is continuing.