

Rogers: Victim recalls him packing vehicle

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tried to choke her with an extension cord but was unable to get it around her neck with the victim thrashing around.

At one point, Rogers reportedly told the victim, "I'm going to break every bone in your body."

The victim either fell asleep or lost consciousness but remembers Rogers packing up a vehicle, the report says. He took a TV, Blu-ray player, DVR and took a ring off the victim's finger, police say.

She called 911 at 6:30 a.m. May 21 and thought Rogers left but was unsure if he was hiding

in the house. She was screaming in pain when officers arrived.

Ringdahl Ambulance treated the victim and took her to Lake Region Hospital.

Rogers allegedly stole a vehicle owned by Minnesota Motor Co., which the victim was using while her car was being worked on. The 2000 Chevy Impala was valued at \$3,000.

Police were at first unable to find Rogers, a warrant was issued and he was later arrested.

He remains in the Otter Tail County Jail. The maximum penalty for the attempted murder charge is 20 years in prison.

Rogers' next court appearance is scheduled for Aug. 21.

Despite fatal crash, road to remain favorite for bike rides

By Kyle Potter
Forum News Service

FARGO — For 30 years, hundreds of students from North Dakota State University and the University of North Dakota have raced bikes north up the county highway where a cyclist was fatally struck by a car on Saturday. It's a weekend go-to for cyclists, amateur and racers alike.

Due to little traffic and a long, flat ride, County Road 81 — once the path of U.S. Highway 81 and also known as Old Highway 81 — is a favorite route for cyclists. And though members of the local biking community mourn the death of avid cyclist David Hawkinson, they

say his death likely won't push riders to another route.

"It is a sobering thought," said Tom Smith, owner of Fargo's Great Northern Bicycle Co. "I don't think that we can blame this type of tragedy on any one thing."

"There is nothing dangerous about that piece of roadway as compared to other roadways in the region," Smith said.

Law enforcement officials in Cass and Trail counties can recall just one other incident involving a cyclist on that stretch of county highway, which runs closely parallel to Interstate 29: a hit-and-run in 2009 that sent a woman flying off her bike. Jennifer Walla was hospitalized with a concussion, a twisted

ankle and a cut on the back of her head.

Statewide, 10 cyclists have been killed in accidents with vehicles since 2003, according to records from the North Dakota Department of Transportation. Ninety-two North Dakota cyclists were injured in crashes in 2012, the most recent year with complete injury statistics.

In Saturday's accident, Hawkinson, 50, was riding his bike south on Trail County Road 81 when Justin Jalbert struck Hawkinson's rear tire with his pickup truck about a mile north of Grandin, throwing Hawkinson off his bike and killing him.

The North Dakota Highway Patrol believes distracted driving was a factor.

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