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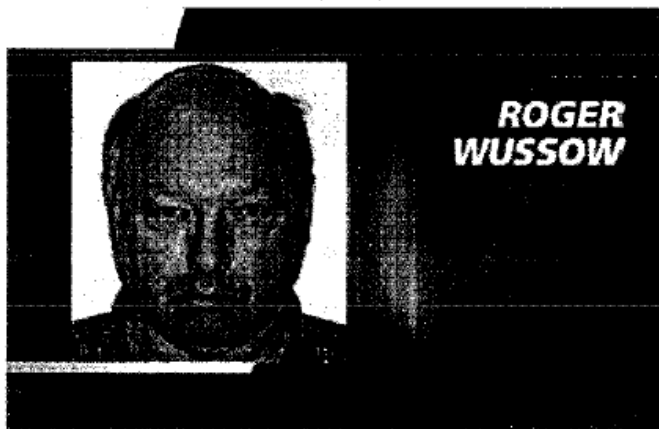
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By: Thor Tripp

Pedestrian Hit By Car In Alexandria

An Alexandria pedestrian was hit by a vehicle. Around 6 p.m. on Wednesday, authorities in Alexandria responded to a call near Baker's Tire & Auto on the corner of Broadway and 3rd Avenue, where a pedestrian had been struck by a vehicle.



The victim, a 72 year old male, suffered severe injuries and was rushed by North Memorial Ambulance to Douglas County Hospital and then was taken to St. Cloud Hospital.

According to two witnesses, the vehicle - reportedly a black Toyota truck - sustained damage to the passenger side. The driver was identified as Roger Wussow of Alexandria. He was arrested several hours after the incident on charges of leaving the scene of a personal injury accident.

Anyone who has any information about the incident is asked to call the Alexandria Police Department at 320-763-6631.

Alexandria, VA

ECHO PRESS

Suspect arrested in pedestrian hit-and-run
Alexandria Echo Press - 08/30/2007

A 64-year-old Garfield man was arrested Wednesday after he allegedly struck a pedestrian with his vehicle near the intersection of Broadway and 3rd Avenue in Alexandria and then fled the scene.

Roger Edwin Wussow, who is being held in the Douglas County Jail, was charged with leaving the scene of a personal injury accident. More charges may be pending, according to the Alexandria Police Department.

The pedestrian, who was not walking in the crosswalk, was identified as Burdette Lyle Olson, 72, of Alexandria.

When police officers arrived on scene, they found Olson about 100 feet west of Broadway on 3rd Avenue. He was first transported to the Douglas County Hospital, but later transported to the St. Cloud Hospital. As of Thursday morning, he was listed in critical condition.

During the investigation, police officers learned that the vehicle involved in the crash was a 2003 black Toyota Tundra and belonged to Wussow. The vehicle was recovered from a private parking lot in Alexandria.

The Alexandria Police Department is still investigating the pedestrian hit-and-run crash, which happened around 5:45 p.m.

Anyone who has information or witnessed the crash, should call the Alexandria Police Department at (320) 763-6631.

Alexandria, MN

ECHO PRESS

Pedestrian injured in hit-and-run dies
Alexandria Echo Press - 09/03/2007

A 72-year-old Alexandria man who was seriously injured in a pedestrian hit-and-run last Wednesday has died.

Burdette "Bud" Olson died on Sunday at the St. Cloud Hospital.

Roger Edwin Wussow, 64, of Garfield has been arrested in connection with the crash that happened west of the intersection of Broadway and 3rd Avenue in Alexandria at about 5:45 p.m. on August 29.

According to the Alexandria Police Department, Wussow was driving a 2003 black Toyota that struck Olson. He was charged with leaving the scene of a personal injury accident. Authorities have not stated whether Olson's death will lead to additional charges.

When officers arrived on the scene, they found Olson about 100 feet west of the intersection. He was reportedly not walking in the crosswalk when he was struck.

Olson was first transported to the Douglas County Hospital, but later transferred to the St. Cloud Hospital.

The Alexandria Police Department is continuing to investigate the crash. Anyone who has information should call the police department at (320) 763-6631.

Funeral services for Olson are scheduled for this Friday at First Lutheran Church in Alexandria at 1 p.m. Burial will be at Sunset Cemetery.

Friends may call on Thursday, from 4 to 7 p.m., at Anderson Funeral Home and one hour prior to the funeral at the church. Arrangements are with the Anderson Funeral Home.

Driver sentenced for leaving fatal crash

By Al Edenloff, Editor and Celeste Beam, Staff Reporter, Alexandria Echo Press

Published Friday, May 16, 2008

Roger Edwin Wussow, the driver in a pedestrian hit-and-run accident that resulted in the death of 72-year-old Burdette "Bud" Olson of Alexandria last August, was sentenced Tuesday.



Wussow, 65, of Garfield, was sentenced for leaving the scene of a personal injury accident – a felony level offense.



Roger Wussow, Sentenced

Judge Lisa Borgen sentenced Wussow to three years of probation with conditions. The conditions are that Wussow will:

- Serve six months in the Douglas County Jail.
- Pay \$2,082 in fines.
- Undergo a chemical use assessment and follow the recommendations of that assessment.

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- Abstain from the use of alcohol during his probationary period.
- Pay \$7,395 in restitution to Olson's family.

On March 31, Wussow pleaded guilty to illegally leaving the scene of a fatal accident, which was one of the charges filed against him.

The most serious charge in the case – criminal vehicular homicide

– was dismissed because the prosecution didn't think it could prove Wussow "caused" the accident.

In an e-mailed statement to the newspaper Thursday morning, Douglas County Attorney Chris Karpan said that after the investigation was complete, "additional evidence came to light that cast serious doubt not only on the state's ability to prove the charge of criminal vehicular homicide, but on the appropriateness of that charge altogether."

Karpan said there was no evidence that Wussow's driving behavior caused the accident, which the state must prove in order to convict him of criminal vehicular operation.

"It appears that Mr. Olson stepped out into the 3rd Avenue traffic and was struck," Karpan said. "There is no crosswalk or shoulder on that portion of 3rd Avenue. The only witnesses at the scene said that Mr. Wussow's vehicle was traveling at normal speeds in the right turn lane prior to the accident and there is no evidence that his vehicle was on the curb."

These facts, Karpan added, in no way relieve Wussow from what he did do, which was to continue to travel to his store after hitting a pedestrian who later died.

"The law requires that he stop and he did not do that. For this conduct, he has pleaded guilty to, and been sentenced for, a felony level crime. While his conduct in leaving the scene of the accident was reprehensible, it accomplishes nothing to insist that his driving conduct caused the accident when the evidence now shows otherwise.

"As a prosecutor, the oath I swore to uphold prohibits me from proceeding to trial against defendants unless I am absolutely certain that they did what the charges against them say they did. After the completion of the investigation, I was certain that Mr. Wussow knew he hit Mr. Olson and intentionally left the scene of the accident. The other charges I was no longer certain of at all and believe they were appropriately dismissed."

Wussow's attorney reacts

Kent Marshall, Wussow's attorney, acknowledged that the public might have a difficult time accepting the outcome of the case because it only saw the initial criminal complaint and the original charges.

"The bottom line is that when both investigations were complete – the investigation by the county and the investigation by the defense – it was very clear that not all of those charges could be proved nor were they true," Marshall said in a telephone statement to the newspaper.

"The public doesn't see the evidence that's generated by the defense and the public doesn't see the evidence that eventually comes into the county attorney's office," he added.

According to results of an autopsy, Olson's blood alcohol level was 0.19, more than twice the legal limit.

The accident happened after Olson stepped out into a lane of traffic, Marshall said.



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"Does that mean we want to blame the victim? Absolutely not," Marshall said. "Roger and his family are devastated by this; they're devastated to know that they had any part in causing this man's death. They understand [the Olsons] are good family people and they understand how devastated this family is."

Marshall said there was no evidence to support the claim that Wussow had been drinking before the crash.

Witnesses, Marshall said, made it clear that Wussow was driving "perfectly fine." He wasn't speeding, he was driving within his own lane and he signaled his right-hand-turn before the collision.

"There is nothing here to indicate that Roger Wussow committed any offense other than that what he's pleaded guilty to," Marshall said.

Wussow knew he had "thumped" something – he said it felt like running over a two-by-four – but he didn't know it was a person, Marshall said. He added that most of the impact came from the sideview mirror.

After looking in his rear view mirror and not seeing anything wrong, Wussow kept driving.

"Should he have stopped?" Marshall asked. "Absolutely... and that's why he's pleading guilty. But did he know that he had hit a human being? Absolutely not. Does anyone who knows that they have just run over a human being drive right straight down main street of Alexandria, stopping at every stop light, signaling every turn, pull up in front of your business and park your vehicle there for God and everyone to inspect? That doesn't happen if you're trying to cover something up."

Marshall said the county attorney's office and local law enforcement deserve credit for realizing that their original assumptions about the case were unfounded.

"The evidence was simply not there," he said.

Marshall said it's unfair for the public to try to blame Wussow for a crime he didn't commit.

"He is owning up to what he did," Marshall said. "He is owning up in a very big way because he is saying, 'I should have stopped now that I think back on it.' At the time he absolutely did not realize he had hit a person... He's a good person and he's facing, for the first time in his life, being convicted of anything and he's going to jail."