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## Suspect in beating death denied bond

By TRACY BELL  
Media General News Service  
Saturday, July 9, 2005

A Springfield man accused of killing a Woodbridge woman and dumping her body in a Stafford County field was denied bond Friday in Stafford General District Court.

John Joseph Rogers, 35, appeared in court with his defense attorney Chris Leibig, who argued that there has not been enough evidence to hold his client for the past three months.

Leibig's attempts to call a police detective for questioning were objected to by prosecutor Jim Peterson.

"This is not a probable cause hearing. This is a heinous murder," Peterson said as he presented a photo of the 35-year-old victim, Lisa Renee Madaris. Her killer "stomped her face off and tortured" Madaris before dumping her body, he said.

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Judge William J. Cox agreed. "This is a bond hearing, not a trial," he said.

Following statements from Leibig and Peterson, Cox denied bond to Rogers, who has been held at Rappahannock Regional Jail since his arrest in mid-April on first-degree murder and abduction charges.

Peterson detailed Rogers' criminal history, which includes an abduction conviction, three assault convictions and a cocaine distribution charge. Madaris, who lived at 1413 Florida Ave., died of "blunt trauma to the head," according to the autopsy.

Rogers argued with Madaris outside Brittany's Restaurant and Sports Bar in Lake Ridge on April 6, according to Stafford County Sheriff Charles Jett, who said Rogers and Madaris had dated for more than a year, but in the months before the murder the relationship became less intense.

According to a witness, Rogers left Brittany's with Madaris at about 11:30 p.m., physically assaulted her and forced her into the back seat of her car. The witness said that Rogers drove away with Madaris, leaving his own vehicle at Brittany's, Jett stated in April.

The following morning, a construction worker reported the charred remains of a vehicle on Coral Reef Court in the Port Aquia subdivision of North Stafford. Authorities determined that the vehicle belonged to Madaris.

On April 10, a man found Madaris' body in a field on Telegraph Road in North Stafford, about three miles from where the car was discovered.

Through investigation and technology, detectives determined that Madaris had been in the vicinity of the arson in Stafford. They also learned that Rogers is familiar with the area in Stafford where Madaris was found.

Rogers is scheduled for a preliminary hearing Aug. 23 at 1 p.m. in Stafford County General District Court.

*Tracy Bell is a staff writer for the Stafford County Sun.*