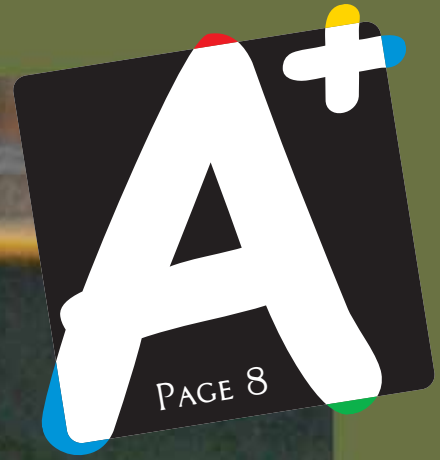


Burke CONNECTION



Torres Pleads Guilty To Involuntary Manslaughter of John Geer

NEWS, PAGE 3

Lake Braddock pitcher Abby Thibodeau, seen earlier this season, helped shut out T.C. Williams on Tuesday. Bruins recorded seventh shutout of the season.

'This is Our 9-1-1 Call'

NEWS, PAGE 4

Lake Braddock Softball Undeclared

SPORTS, PAGE 10

NEWS

Summer STEM Academy at NOVA

High school juniors and seniors are invited to apply for a weeklong summer STEM academy at Northern Virginia Community College. Selected students will unravel a forensics mystery by conducting various STEM experiments in a college setting.

The summer STEM academy will be held at NOVA's Manassas Campus during the week of June 20 and at NOVA's Alexandria, Annandale, Loudoun and Woodbridge campuses during the week of June 27.

The \$30 registration fee covers all activities and lunch each day. Seats are limited and interested candidates must apply by April 30 at <http://kajacomo.wix.com/ncsi-stem-academy>.

Selected candidates will be notified by May 10.

Students who attend the academy will be eligible to apply for two \$500 scholarships to enroll in a college science course during NOVA's spring 2017 semester.

The STEM academy is sponsored by NOVA's College-wide STEM Initiative and funded by a Perkins grant. For more information, contact Academy director Ia Gomez at igomez@nvcc.edu.

FAITH NOTES

Send notes to the Connection at south@connectionnewspapers.com or call 703-778-9416. Deadline is Friday. Dated announcements should be submitted at least two weeks prior to the event.

Jubilee Christian Center of Fairfax is restarting its "Living Free" support groups for the Spring on Wednesdays, starting on Mar. 30, 7:15 p.m. The support groups are free, and will cover "Stepping into Freedom," "Concerned Persons Group" (for family and friends of addicts), "Understanding and Overcoming Depression," "The Image of God in You," and "Handling Loss and Grief." There will also be support groups meeting on Sundays, 10:10 a.m.

4650 Shirley Gate Road, Fairfax. For information or to register, call 703-383-1170, email livingfree@jccag.org or see www.jccag.org.

Fairfax Baptist Temple, at the corner of Fairfax County Parkway and Burke Lake Roads, holds a bible study fellowship at 9 a.m. Sundays followed by a 10 a.m. worship service. Nursery care and children's church also provided. 6401 Missionary Lane, Fairfax Station, 703-323-8100 or www.fbtministries.org.

The Guhyasamaja Buddhist Center, 10875 Main St., Fairfax City provides free classes to both newcomers and advanced practitioners of Tibetan Buddhism. The center emphasizes working with the mind and learning how to understand the workings of the mind, overcoming inner causes of suffering, while cultivating causes of happiness. Under the direction of Lama Zopa Rinpoche, the center is a place of study, contemplation and meditation. Visit <http://www.guhyasamaja.org> for more information.

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, 8304 Old Keene Mill Road, Springfield, offers casual worship services on Saturday evenings at 5:30 p.m. featuring contemporary music. More traditional services take place on Sunday mornings at 8:15 and 11 a.m. Sunday School is from 9:45-10:45 a.m. for children and adults. The church also offers discussion groups for adults. 703-451-5855 or www.poplc.org.

JCCNV Mother's Circle program, for women who are not Jewish but are raising Jewish children. Free education in Jewish rituals, practices and values, while respecting the participant's choice to retain her own religious identity. Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia, 8900 Little River Turnpike in Fairfax. Contact Laurie Albert, 703-537-3064 or LaurieA@jccnv.org HYPERLINK "mailto:LaurieA@jccnv.org" LaurieA@jccnv.org.

RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) is for people interested in becoming Catholic or learning about the Catholic Church. A group meets at 7:30 p.m. on July 6 and 20 at St. Leo the Great Catholic Church, 3700 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax. A group will begin meeting every Wednesday starting September. Sessions are in the Old Parish Hall. All are welcome. Contact Carolyn Smith at 703-273-5369 or carolynsmith.stleos@gmail.com.

SEE FAITH, PAGE 7

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PHOTO COURTESY OF JAHİ CHIKWENDIU OF THE WASHINGTON POST

Former Fairfax County Police Officer Adam Torres (center) enters the courtroom on April 18, 2016 for what was scheduled to be the beginning of his trial for murder of Springfield resident John Geer.



PHOTO COURTESY OF JAHİ CHIKWENDIU OF THE WASHINGTON POST

Commonwealth's Attorney Raymond E. Morrogh (center) reached an agreement with Adam Torres' defense team for a guilty plea to a lesser charge one day before the scheduled beginning of his murder trial for killing John Geer.

Torres Pleads Guilty to Involuntary Manslaughter of John Geer

Former Fairfax County Police officer faced murder charges for 2013 shooting.

BY TIM PETERSON
THE CONNECTION

It was over before it began. Neither prosecution nor defense gave opening statements in former Fairfax County Police Officer Adam Torres' trial for the August 2013 murder of Springfield resident John Geer. Instead on Monday, April 18, Torres pleaded guilty to felony involuntary manslaughter for the August 2013 incident.

Police had responded to a call that day from Geer's live-in girlfriend Maura Harrington that he was throwing her belongings out of the house. Torres and another officer talked with Geer for 40 minutes before Torres fired, hitting him in the chest.

Torres claimed Geer suddenly lowered his hands, making him think Geer was reaching for a gun.

Harrington and Geer lived together for more than 20 years and had two teenage daughters. Harrington had told Geer that she was moving out.

The Sunday before the trial was set to begin, Commonwealth's Attorney Raymond E. Morrogh said Torres' attorneys contacted him with the plea offer. Morrogh then spoke with Harrington, the family's attorney Michael Lieberman and Geer's parents.

With the deal, Torres would serve 12 months in jail, getting credit for the eight months already served. Being a convicted felon would prevent him from owning a firearm or becoming a police officer again, a priority for Harrington and her daughters, Morrogh said.

Geer's mother was "vehemently opposed



John Geer was standing in his doorway unarmed for 40 minutes before he was shot by Fairfax County Police officer Adam Torres.

to any agreement," Morrogh said, adding that she "wants a life sentence."

The sentencing is set for June 24, at which point the judge may accept or amend the length of Torres' sentence, or reject the plea altogether. If that happens, Morrogh said, the case would go to trial with a different judge. Torres is the first Fairfax County Police Officer in the history of the department to be charged in a shooting death.

"It's certainly not an ideal or perfect situation," Morrogh said during a press conference following the hearing, outside the Fairfax Courthouse. "My role is to get as much justice as I can, for victims and family."

Morrogh said Harrington was concerned about defense plans to call Geer's 19-year-old daughter — who was at a neighbor's house at the time of the shooting — to testify about her father's past actions and character.

Morrogh also said the defense had an

expert lined up to argue that Torres acted reasonably given the situation. "I thought we had real good evidence on where his hands were," Morrogh said, but "those are the kinds of things that can muddy the waters," for a jury.

"I weighed it all, this is my decision and I stand by it," Morrogh said.

IN A PHONE INTERVIEW, Lieberman said he was pleased Morrogh went with the plea deal. He said many prosecutors turn them down, but it can be difficult to get a felony conviction in cases like this with a police officer involved.

Lieberman said the family was also thinking of Torres' wife and children in accepting the plea. He supplied a statement from Geer's daughters in which they say, "Whatever his faults, Torres' wife and children did not murder our father, and it would be wrong to hurt them just to allay our own anger and pain. Robbing other children of



John Geer

time with their father would only make us complicit in another wrong."

The daughters cite the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors and Police Department, bodies which withheld details of their father's shooting from them for 17 months. That included personnel files and accounts of Torres having a history of outbursts and marital stress.

Until a \$12 million wrongful death case brought by the Geer family forcing the release of information, Fairfax County Police stood by policy they said kept them from releasing Torres' name or many other details of the shooting while investigations into the incident were ongoing.

"As for the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors and the Fairfax County Police Department, we remain appalled by their actions in covering up the truth and putting Torres in the position to decide life and death given what they knew about his background," the daughters' statement continues. "Until such time that the ad hoc [commission's] recommendations are adopted and the policies of the FCPD are changed, we fear that these tragic events can occur again with different victims and different officers."

FAIRFAX COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS Chairman Sharon Bulova and Chief of Police Edwin Roessler sent out statements following the guilty plea that offered sympathy to Geer's family and friends. Though each have previously acknowledged the case wasn't handled as well as it could have been, their statements stopped short of admitting wrongdoing. They focused more on forging ahead.

"The death of John Geer and events that followed have sparked a number of changes

SEE TORRES, PAGE 12



PHOTO BY TIM PETERSON/THE CONNECTION

Nicole Mittendorff, a firefighter-paramedic based at Station 32 in Fairfax Station, has been missing since Wednesday April 13.



PHOTO COURTESY OF VIRGINIA STATE POLICE

Virginia State Police reported Nicole Mittendorff's 2009 Mini Cooper was located, abandoned, by a U.S. Park Ranger on April 16 in the Shenandoah National Park Whiteoak Canyon trail entrance parking lot.

'This is Our 9-1-1 Call'

BY TIM PETERSON
THE CONNECTION

With Virginia State Police heading up the investigation and search for missing Fairfax County firefighter-paramedic Nicole Mittendorff of Woodbridge, Fire and Rescue Chief Richard Bowers said even though they want to lend resources and help, Fairfax first responders are largely in a holding pattern.

"We're used to fixing problems and taking care of things," Bowers said at a press conference on April 19. "This is our 9-1-1 call to the public and the media."

Bowers confirmed Mittendorff, 31, last made contact on Wednesday, April 13. Virginia State Police reported her 2009 Mini Cooper was located, abandoned, by a U.S. Park Ranger on April 16 in the Shenandoah National Park Whiteoak Canyon trail entrance parking lot.

"There is still no evidence to indicate anything suspicious about Mittendorff's disappearance," an April 18 release from Virginia State Police said.

Monday April 18, 100 members of volunteers, Virginia State Police Search and Recovery and Appalachian Search and Rescue Teams spent the day scouring steep terrain on several miles of federal park land around the trail. Searching began Saturday evening when the car was found and is scheduled to continue.

The April 19 conference took place at Fire Station 32, Mittendorff's base station located at 5600 Burke Centre Parkway. She was a three-year veteran of the department, Bowers said.

"If you've seen, heard or know something about the untimely disappearance of Nicole, contact Virginia State Police immediately,"

Bowers said. "Nicole, if you can hear us, get a message to us."

Bowers described the blonde-haired, green-eyed Mittendorff as a "motivated, dedicated firefighter-paramedic."

"She was always happy, she fit right in, she loved this job," Bowers continued, adding that he saw her come up as a high-performing recruit. He called her a "great shift member, she still is, of Fire Station 32. She always put someone else first."

Mittendorff's husband Steven, himself an employee of Virginia State Police, choked back tears to thank those searching for his wife, and everyone on Facebook who have liked or shared the page created to bring awareness to her plight.

"Sweetheart, I love you, I'm praying for you, I'm not sure where you are," Steven said to the cameras and reporters gathered, his wife's sister Jennifer

Chalmers standing at his side. "We're all looking for you... forward to your safe return."

John Niemiec, President of the Professional Firefighters and Paramedics IAFF Local 2068, announced a prayer vigil for Mittendorff was scheduled for Wednesday, April 20 at 7:30 at Fire Station 32.

"We remain strong, positive, hopeful," Niemiec said. "We're hopeful Nicole will be found."

Anyone with information on Mittendorff's whereabouts or who may have seen her in the National Park is asked to call Virginia State Police at 703-803-0026, #77 on a cell phone or 9-1-1 or email questions@vsp.virginia.gov.



VIRGINIA STATE POLICE

Nicole Mittendorff

Fire Chief Bowers and family plead for help finding missing firefighter Nicole Mittendorff.



PHOTO BY TIM PETERSON/THE CONNECTION

(Center) Steven Mittendorff of Woodbridge, husband of missing Fairfax County firefighter-paramedic Nicole, speaks to the media on April 19 at his wife's Station 32 in Fairfax Station.



The Appalachian Search & Rescue Team spent Monday April 18 searching for Nicole Mittendorff around Shenandoah National Park's Whiteoak Canyon Trail entrance in Madison County.

PHOTO COURTESY OF VIRGINIA STATE POLICE



Gov. McAuliffe signs Del. Filler-Corn's House Bill 1102.



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

Del. Eileen Filler-Corn (D-41) speaks about her Bill HB 1102 at the governor's bill signing ceremony in Richmond last week.

Gov. McAuliffe Signs Del. Filler-Corn's Legislation Into Law

On Thursday, April 14, Gov. Terry McAuliffe signed several bills into law relating to sexual assault, including legislation related to the storage and testing of physical evidence recovery kits (PERKs), as well as legislation that enables a minor to consent to an evidence recovery examination over the objections of a parent or guardian and Del. Eileen Filler-Corn's (D-41) bill, HB 1102, which promotes collaboration between state agencies and campus law enforcement in the development of trauma-informed training to ensure that survivors of sexual assault receive the support and evidence-based treatment they need.

"From day one, the health and safety of Virginia's women has been a chief priority of our administration.

That is why I created and enabled a group of leaders and advocates to offer solutions to enhance the services and protections this Commonwealth offers to survivors of sexual violence," said McAuliffe.

"The survivors of these malicious crimes are trusting in us to provide a full accounting of these cases and to bring perpetrators to justice. To ensure their safety, it is vital that we have all areas of law enforcement, government, and private organizations working together. The measures...provide a permanent and coherent solution for that process," he said.

"I'm so proud to have sponsored a bill that will reduce the trauma of survivors by developing training for law enforcement," Filler-Corn said.

"The Department of Criminal Justice services and SCHEV working together will greatly improve the lives of survivors of sexual assault." The Delegate from Springfield was also pleased to serve as a co-patron on HB 1160, which establishes procedures for handling evidence kits in sexual assaults, after having introduced a similar bill this past session herself.

All legislation signed by the governor will take effect July 1, 2016.

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OPINION

On the Guilty Plea of Adam Torres

Geer's death exposed "obfuscation ... and a lack of public accountability."

Adam Torres, charged with murder in the death of Springfield resident John Geer, was the first Fairfax County Police officer in the history of the department to be charged in such a death. Monday, Torres entered a guilty plea to involuntary manslaughter, with a likely sentence of 12 months, most of that already served. He has been in jail for eight months.

Geer was a Springfield resident, a remodeling contractor and an involved father, always on the sidelines of his daughters' sports games. He was unarmed, standing in the doorway of his own home with his hands raised at the time he was killed.

The police and Fairfax County refused to release any information on the case for more than a year, and only then after repeated court orders. Public outrage over Geer's death was compounded by obfuscation and silence, the failure to communicate, and a lack of public accountability. Change is in the works, but there is much work to do.

There is still much to say about the death of John Geer and its aftermath.

But today, the wisdom of his two teenage

daughters is well worth reading and sharing:

APRIL 18, 2016 STATEMENT BY THE DAUGHTERS OF JOHN GEER

"Justice is rarely a simple matter, and it would be easy to vent our anger, our outrage, our sorrow, and voice opposition to the plea bargain struck between Adam Torres and the Commonwealth. Nobody would question the rawness of our emotions and our response to it; we have lost a father, and there can be no substitute, no future moment of affection, no further opportunities to be close the man who should be present as our greatest supporter. Torres took that away from us, the Fairfax Board of Supervisors and Fairfax County Police Department hid the truth of what happened to our dad for over a year, and there is no going back. ...

"Much like Dad's murder has repercussions for his family and the community, locking Torres in a cell will have an effect on others. Whatever his faults, Torres' wife and children did not murder our father, and it would be wrong to hurt them just to allay our own anger and pain. Robbing other children of time with their father would only make us complicit in another wrong. ...

"Where Torres failed to show prudence and mercy, we will show him and his family both.

"As for the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors and the Fairfax County Police Department, we remain appalled by their actions in covering up the truth and putting Torres in the posi-

tion to decide life and death given what they knew about his background. Until such time that the ad hoc committee's recommendations are adopted and the policies of the FCPD are changed, we fear that these tragic events can occur again with different victims and different officers. We call upon the Board to immediately adopt and implement the Committee's recommendations without delay for the good of the FCPD and the citizens of Fairfax County.

"No family should have to suffer the loss of a mother, a father, or a loved one under circumstances like ours."

Send in Mother's Day Photos

Mother's Day is May 8 this year and every year at this time this newspaper calls for submissions to our Mother's Day photo gallery.

Send photos of mothers, grandmothers, great-grandmothers, with children or without children in the photos. Please name everyone in the photo, ages of children, the approximate date, describe what is happening in the photo and include your name, address, email address and phone number. (We will not print your contact information, just names and town of residence.) You can upload photos and information directly to www.connectionnewspapers.com/mothersday/ or email to south@connectionnewspapers.com.

A Bipartisan Compromise To Unclog the Region

BY JIM CORCORAN,
PRESIDENT AND CEO,
NORTHERN VIRGINIA CHAMBER OF
COMMERCE

COMMENTARY

Northern Virginia's transportation crisis maintains a stranglehold on our regional economy and quality of life. It costs our region \$4.5 billion annually due to the countless hours we waste sitting in traffic, and has earned our region the dubious distinction as one of the most congested areas in the country. The Northern Virginia Chamber of Commerce has long believed that unclogging our region's transportation grid requires a strategic, regional approach. We cannot expect to retain and attract business without implementing a 21st Century transportation infrastructure.

Thankfully, however, a significant compromise struck during the 2016 Virginia General Assembly Session has the potential to address the most serious choke point in our region: I-66 inside the Beltway. Improving travel along this important economic corridor is critical to maintaining our economic competitiveness and getting our region moving again.

The bipartisan compromise plan is the result of collaboration between the Commonwealth and localities that takes into account various jurisdictional transportation interests, creating a regionally balanced solution. Combined with the existing express lane network on I-495 and I-95 and in conjunction with new improvements to I-66 outside the Beltway, this project will provide reliable, enhanced travel options throughout the region by car, carpool, and transit. Each of these modes of travel will play a critical part in moving goods, services, and people to and from our region's key assets.

For those traveling along I-66 from points west of I-495, the scheduled improvements will contain enhancements and options including additional lanes, new bus service, and new commuter lots. Key to the plan is the ability of single-occupant drivers to use I-66 inside the Beltway during peak times for the first time in the road's history.

For those who reside inside of the Capital Beltway, this project will provide enhanced bus service, enhancements on parallel roads to

better protect neighborhoods, pedestrian access, and Metro station access improvements all geared toward providing more transportation options for residents and businesses along I-66.

Addressing much needed congestion relief on I-66 by adding an additional eastbound lane has been a priority for the Northern Virginia Chamber and the Northern Virginia business community for decades. The Northern Virginia Chamber of Commerce congratulates Governor McAuliffe and lead-

ers in the General Assembly for working across party lines to achieve this historic victory for the residents of the Commonwealth.

We will continue to advocate for dynamic, regional projects like this as the business community looks to maintain our status as the economic engine of the Commonwealth and a cradle of innovation in the United States. We look forward to more bipartisan successes in the years to come as we work together to enhance our regional transportation network.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Inappropriate Use of FEMA Relief Funds

To the Editor

Your recent article "Fairfax County Schools to Apply for FEMA Relief Funds" is another example of attempting to exploit the American taxpayers.

I visualize the typical American taxpayer as a middle class couple living in the heartland of our country. They have two children. They go to church every week. They don't smoke, don't use illegal drugs, and use alcohol in moderation. Their children go to school each school day. They vote in ev-

ery election. They must struggle financially even when the economy is strong, but they pay their bills, and they pay their taxes. They pay for their children's education, and they save for their retirement.

I don't feel that it is appropriate for the Federal government, which consists of millions of such middle class families, to pay for the removal of snow at Fairfax County Public Schools.

Dave Elmore
Great Falls

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NEWS DEPARTMENT:
burke@connectionnewspapers.com

Kemal Kurspahic

Editor ♦ 703-778-9414

kemal@connectionnewspapers.com

Abigail Constantino

Editorial Assistant

703-778-9410 ext.427

aconstantino@connectionnewspapers.com

Tim Peterson

Community Reporter

703-314-0789

tpeterson@connectionnewspapers.com

Jon Roetman

Sports Editor ♦ 703-752-4013

jroetman@connectionnewspapers.com

@jonroetman

ADVERTISING:

For advertising information

e-mail:

sales@connectionnewspapers.com

703-778-9431

Steve Hogan

Display Advertising, 703-778-9418

shogan@connectionnewspapers.com

Andrea Smith

Classified Advertising, 703-778-9411

classified@connectionnewspapers.com

Debbie Funk

National Sales

703-778-9444

debfunk@connectionnewspapers.com

David Griffin

Marketing Assistant

703-778-9431

dgriffin@connectionnewspapers.com

Editor & Publisher

Mary Kimm

mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com

@MaryKimm

Executive Vice President

Jerry Vernon

jvernon@connectionnewspapers.com

Editor in Chief

Steven Mauren

Managing Editor

Kemal Kurspahic

Photography:

Deb Cobb, Craig Sterbutzel

Art/Design:

Laurence Foong, John Heinly

Production Manager:

Geovani Flores

Special Assistant to the Publisher

Jeanne Theismann

jtheismann@connectionnewspapers.com

@TheismannMedia

CIRCULATION: 703-778-9426

Circulation Manager:

Ann Oliver

circulation@connectionnewspapers.com



NEWS

Fourth Fragile X Walk Scheduled for April 24

Since their first fundraising walk, the Northern Virginia Fragile X Family group has raised more than \$130,000 for research into Fragile X, an inherited genetic mutation that can cause mental impairment ranging from moderate to severe learning disabilities and linked to Autism Spectrum Disorder.

In 2015, there were more than 210 participants in the May 17 walk that helped raise more than \$51,000.

"The money raised has been used for many great things," said one of the walk organizers Buffy Grande of Fairfax Station in an email, "but we are excited that our group fully funded the founding of the first national Molecular Biomarker Project. The project is a partnership between the National Fragile X Foundation and several Fragile X clinics across the country." According to the Fragile X Families of Northern Virginia, around one in every 3,600 males and one in every 4,000 to 6,000 females are affected by the mutation. The fourth Fragile X Family Fun Walk is scheduled for Sunday April 24 at Burke Lake Park, located at 7315 Ox Road in Fairfax Station. Registration opens at 8 a.m. and the walk (less than one mile) begins at 8:30. Train rides, music, balloons and face-painting will be part of a post-walk celebration. For more information, visit www.crowdrise.com/fxsnova2016 and www.fragilexnorthernvirginia.com.

—TIM PETERSON

FAITH NOTES

FROM PAGE 2

The Jewish Social Services Agency (JSSA) offers a wide variety of support groups for those with emotional, social, and physical challenges. www.jssa.org/growth-learning.

Metropolitan Community Church of Northern Virginia, 10383 Democracy Lane in Fairfax, presents worship services on Sundays at 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. and choir practice (open to all) on Tuesdays at 7:15 p.m. www.mccnova.com or 703-691-0930.

Church of the Nativity offers a free general bereavement support group open to all adults on the first and third Thursday of each month 7:30-9 p.m. The church is located at 6400 Nativity Lane, Burke. Call 703-455-2400, ext. 17.

Arabic Bible Baptist Church is located at 6428 Ox Road in Fairfax Station. Services are on Saturdays at 6:30 p.m. and Sundays at 1 p.m. Pastor: Wissam Jamil. Call 703-273-5599.

5K Fundraiser to Honor Robinson Grad RJ Hess

First Lt. Robert Joseph "R.J." Hess of Fairfax graduated from Robinson Secondary School in 2005 and Old Dominion University and the University of Virginia's Army ROTC program in 2010. He was killed in Pul-E-Alam, Afghanistan on April 23, 2013.

To honor Hess, the UVA ROTC program set up the 1st Lt. Hess Leadership Award and Scholarship. The program is

sponsoring a 5K race and walk on campus on the anniversary of his death, Saturday April 23, 2016, to raise money for the scholarship.

"Hess was respected as a genuine leader by his peers," Army Cadet Sarah Koch, an organizer of the event, said in a statement. "The scholarship will be presented annually to a fourth-year cadet who embodies the attributes of moral courage, integrity and selfless service."

Hess' father Ret. U.S. Army Col.

Robert T. Hess Sr, and Lt. Col. Mark Houston, commander of the UVA ROTC unit, will say a few words before the start of the race at 10 a.m. Registration on the day is between 9 and 10 a.m. at 530 McCormick Road in Charlottesville.

At Robinson, Hess played football and lacrosse, and was one of the swim team captains. He attended Basic Officer Leaders Course and flight school in 2011 after being selected for Army avia-

tion.

Hess' awards and accolades in the U.S. Army include the Purple Heart, the Bronze Star, the NATO Medal, the Afghanistan Campaign Medal, the Combat Action Badge, the Army Achievement Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, the Army Service Ribbon and the Army Aviator Badge.

—TIM PETERSON

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Removing a Barrier to Pomp and Circumstance

Gowns for Grads program at George Mason provides regalia for needy graduates.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

When Muntaha Choudhary walks across the stage during George Mason University's graduation ceremony this May she will celebrate not only her bachelor's degree, which has been eight years in the making, but also the fact that she is the first person in her family to graduate from college.

Her financial circumstances could have put a damper on her graduation plans, however. She was not sure that she could afford the cost of purchasing a cap and gown, a requirement to participate in the graduation ceremony.

"Some people might say, '\$67, that's not a big deal,' but it is in my family," said Choudhary. "We're always on edge when it comes to money. My dad is a four-time heart attack survivor, and any money that my family saves goes to medical bills or something. That's why it has taken me so long to graduate. I've had to pay my own tuition and help my family pay bills."

Choudhary and many other George Mason University graduates in need will have one less barrier to their graduation ceremony thanks to a new program at the university called Gowns for Grads.

Through the program, recent Mason alumni donate caps and gowns to students who can't afford the \$60-\$120 price tag for graduation regalia. The program was founded by Amanda Myers, a Mason alumna and an academic adviser in the College of Humanities and Social Sciences.

The idea for the program was sparked when Myers was counseling a student who was nearing graduation, and had tapped out all of her financial resources to buy textbooks to complete her last semester. In fact, says Myers, the student's situation was so dire that she was on the brink of homelessness, and wasn't planning to participate in the graduation ceremony be-



PHOTO COURTESY OF GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY

Amanda Myers started a program to provide donated caps and gowns to George Mason graduates who cannot afford them.

cause she didn't have money to spend on the required clothing for graduation.

"I waited until the student left my office, and then I started crying," said Myers. "It was heartbreaking that something like not being able to afford a cap and gown would stand in the way of her graduation. When students have worked so hard to graduate, they deserve to be cut a break."

Since the program's inception in February, Myers has been able to meet the cap and gown needs of nearly 150 students through the generosity of Mason alumni from Northern Virginia but as far away as North Carolina and New Jersey.

Jumana Kamal graduated last year with a master's degree in Middle East and Islamic Studies. She chose

to donate her graduation wear to the Gowns for Grads program.

"I very simply wanted to make it easier for at least one person who worked really hard to get to this one day," said Kamal. "If you're wondering about sentimental value, making someone else's day is much more rewarding to me than holding on to something for a keepsake."

After receiving her master's degree in Emergency Management and Homeland Security in 2013, Regina Yun kept her cap and gown and looked for a way to donate it, but didn't find one until she learned about Gowns for Grads. "I'm saving the environment by recycling and reusing and helping out a fellow student," said Yun. "I had my cap and gown packed up and ready to go. I hope a few students can get a few uses out of it."

Students who want to be considered for a cap and gown donation must complete an application and describe their financial constraints.

"Their stories are compelling," said Myers. "One student wrote, 'Eventually I became the first person in the family to earn a college degree; however, I have

never been able to participate in any of the graduation ceremonies for the various levels of my academic journey due to financial constraints. I would humbly like to impress on your good offices to grant me the opportunity to rent a cap and gown to enable me to finally participate in my first ever graduation ceremony.'

"Another student stated, 'I have had to pay for school out of my own pocket for years. Graduating will be the happiest day of my life, not only because I will no longer have to pay an arm and a leg, but also because I will be able to devote more time and money to helping my parents.'"

Myers designed the program to make it as easy as possible for alumni to donate. "All they have to do is send it to me and I can take care of the rest," she said. "I

de-wrinkle them and use a cleaning spray to get them ready to be worn."

Mason alumni who are interested in donating and graduating students who would like to borrow a cap and gown are encouraged to send an email to Gowns4grad@gmail.com or visit: Facebook.com/GMUcapandgown.

"It was heartbreaking that something like not being able to afford a cap and gown would stand in the way of her graduation. When students have worked so hard to graduate, they deserve to be cut a break."

— Amanda Myers, Gowns for Grads

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SCHOOL NOTES

Send notes to the Connection at south@connectionnewspapers.com or call 703-778-9416. Deadline is noon on Friday. Dated announcements should be submitted at least two weeks prior to the event.

Twins **Brian** and **Kevin Zamfino**, West Springfield High School Class of 2015, graduated from U.S. Air Force Basic Military Training in March 2016. They are the sons of Joe and Joanne Zamfino.

James Lau, of Springfield, was inducted into Omicron Delta Kappa, the national leadership honor society for college men and women at Hampden-Sydney College in Farmville, Va.

Kayla Zellmer of Fairfax has been named to the Dean's List for the fall 2015 semester at St. Mary's College in Indiana.

Reilly Brown, a sophomore English major at Dickinson College in Carlisle, Pa., has been named to the dean's list for the fall 2015 semester. She is a graduate of West Springfield High School, she is the daughter of Patrick Shaw and Nicole

Brown of Springfield.

John Hollinger, of Fairfax, was awarded Dean's list at Canisius College in Buffalo, N.Y.

Sarah Boyle from Marshall High School, Razan Elbaba from Oakton High School, and Rosy Molina from Fairfax High School on Feb. 24, 2016 were recognized at the annual Scholastic Art Awards ceremony with a 2016 Uphoff Scholarship from the Arts Council of Fairfax County. Each student received a \$1,000 prize and their work is on public display at the Ernst Community Cultural Center from Feb. 21 through March 3. To find out more about the Arts Council's Uphoff Scholarships program, visit http://artsfairfax.org/grants/programs/uphoffscholarship.

Jessica M. Ochoa, Helene J. Decosse, Alexis J. Fahrney, of Fairfax, **Samantha E. Kinde**, of Springfield, and **Zoe L. Kempres**, of Fairfax Station, are on the Dean's List at Boston University for the fall 2015 semester.

Brian P. Bosse graduated with a degree of master of arts in International Relations from Boston University.

Hannah Emily Sandler, of Fairfax Station, has been named to the president's list at James Madison University for the fall 2015 semester. Students who earn president's list honors must carry at least 12 graded credit hours and earn a GPA of 3.900 or above. Sandler is scheduled to graduate in 2019 and is majoring in health services administration.

Hannah Emily Sandler, of Fairfax Station, has been named to the president's list at James Madison University for the fall 2015 semester. Students who earn president's list honors must carry at least 12 graded credit hours and earn a GPA of 3.900 or above. Sandler is scheduled to graduate in 2019 and is majoring in health services administration.

Caroline Dickson, of Fairfax, has been named to the Dean's list at the University of Maine for the fall 2015 semester.

For more information

Contact Gowns4grad@gmail.com or visit: Facebook.com/GMUcapandgown.

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SPORTS

Undefeated Lake Braddock Softball Blanks T.C. Williams

Bruins record seventh shutout of the season.

BY JORDAN SMALL
FOR THE CONNECTION

The undefeated season continues for Lake Braddock's softball team, as the team beat T.C. Williams 10-0 in five innings Tuesday night.

The Bruins were able to get the scoring started in the first inning on an RBI single by senior catcher Caroline Jones. Lake Braddock doubled its lead in the second inning off a home run from senior first baseman Ciara Johnson. T.C. was unable to recover from the early runs allowed, and would ultimately fall in five innings.

"I've been working on being more aggressive lately, and I just hit the pitch and it was right down the middle," Johnson said. "[Games like these] help us to watch the ball. It makes sure we are making the basic plays."

TC was unable to muster any offense against Lake Braddock senior pitcher Abby Thibodeau. With just two base runners allowed, Thibodeau was able to power the Bruins to another win. Since coming over from Paul VI, the Syracuse commit has fit right in as part of a line of great pitchers.

"She's been real important," Lake Braddock head coach George Rumore said. "She's a big plus for us. We had Amanda



PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

The Lake Braddock softball team, seen earlier this season, improved to 10-0 with a win over T.C. Williams on Tuesday.

Hendrix last year, Ashley Flesch the year before that. This is a team that over the last six years has, like, 120 wins and, like, 10 losses and most of those are playoffs."

While the story of the game was the hitting of Lake Braddock, T.C. Williams was able to rattle off a hit in the first inning, a great feat against the Lake Braddock pitching staff. Junior second baseman Kayla Shelley hit a chopper to the Lake Braddock

second baseman, and was able to beat out the throw to first. However, that would be the only hit of the game for the Titans, and one of only two base runners for the game.

"We needed our defense," T.C. Williams head coach Jen Ushe said. "We knew [Thibodeau] was going to be a tough pitcher, so we wanted to keep them to as few runs as possible. Unfortunately, we made some errors, but that was our goal

"[Abby Thibodeau has] been real important," Lake Braddock head coach George Rumore said. "She's a big plus for us. We had Amanda Hendrix last year, Ashley Flesch the year before that. This is a team that over the last six years has, like, 120 wins and, like, 10 losses and most of those are playoffs."

— Lake Braddock softball coach George Rumore

this week."

Next up for the Titans will be West Potomac on Thursday. T.C. will face off against the Wolverines at West Potomac. The game is scheduled to start at 6:30 p.m. The Bruins will travel to Woodson for their next matchup. The game will also be on Thursday at 6:30 p.m.

SPORTS ROUNDUPS

Robinson Girls' Lax Improves to 11-0

After playing in its two most tightly-contested contests of the season, the Robinson girls' lacrosse team experienced a more familiar result on Tuesday.

The Rams defeated Oakton 21-6 on April 19, improving their record to 11-0 overall and 3-0 in Conference 5.

Robinson defeated each of its first eight opponents by at least 10 goals. The Rams finally faced a challenge on April 12, when they held off Westfield, 14-13. Three days later, Robinson beat Woodson 18-13.

After Tuesday's 15-goal victory over Oakton, Robinson is outscoring opponents 204-59.

The defending state champion Rams have won 26 games in a row and haven't lost to a public school opponent since 2014.

Robinson will host Herndon at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, April 26.



PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

Katie Checkosky, seen earlier this season, and the Robinson girls' lacrosse team improved to 11-0 with a win over Oakton on Tuesday.

Rams improved to 10-1 overall and 3-0 in Conference 5.

Robinson will host Centreville at 7:15 p.m. on Thursday, April 21.

Robinson Boys' Lax Wins Eighth Straight

The Robinson boys' lacrosse team extended its winning streak to eight games with a 13-9 victory over Oakton on Tuesday.

The two-time defending state champion

Potomac

The West Springfield baseball team improved to 12-2 overall and 7-1 in Conference 7 with a 6-5 road win over West Potomac on Tuesday.

The win came four days after the Spartans beat Lake Braddock 3-2.

West Springfield improved to 4-1 in one-

West Springfield Baseball Beats West

run games.

The Spartans will host Annandale at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, April 21.

Lake Braddock Baseball Beats TC

The Lake Braddock baseball team bounced back from its first Conference 7 loss with a 6-0 win over T.C. Williams on Tuesday.

The Bruins had won 10 straight games and were undefeated in the conference before losing to West Springfield 3-2 on Friday. After beating TC, Lake Braddock is 11-2 overall and 7-1 in the conference.

The Bruins will travel to face Woodson at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, April 21.

SoCo Softball Returns to the Win Column

After suffering back-to-back losses, the South County softball team improved to 10-3 overall and 6-2 in Conference 7 with a 16-0 win over Annandale on Tuesday.

The Stallions lost to Lake Braddock 4-1 on April 12 and fell to West Potomac 8-4 on April 15.

South County will host Mount Vernon at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, April 21.

CALENDAR

ONGOING

"Disembodied." 5 p.m.-midnight. April 16-June 11. Epicure Cafe, 11104 Lee Highway, Fairfax. Epicure's spring exhibit invites artists to explore the concept of disembodiment. epicurecafe.org/.

"After the Holocaust." April 5-May 19. Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia, 8900 Little River Turnpike, Fairfax. Exhibit. 703-323-0880. jccnv.org.

Adventures in Learning. Mondays. 8:30 a.m.-2:45 p.m. April 4-May 9. Lord of Life Lutheran Church, 5114 Twinbrook Road, Fairfax. Starts with exercise, followed by speakers. Afternoon of break-out activities. Bring a brown bag lunch. \$30. Register at 703-426-2824 or scfbva.org.

Carolina Shag. Wednesdays. 6:30-10 p.m. Arlington/Fairfax Elks Lodge, 8421 Arlington Blvd., Fairfax. Free lessons at 7:30 p.m. No partners needed. Dinner menu. \$8. Under 21 free. nvshag.org.

Adventures in Learning. Mondays. 8:30 a.m.-2:45 p.m. April 4-May 9. Lord of Life Lutheran Church, 5114 Twinbrook Road, Fairfax. community, personal development, finance, and more. Afternoon breakouts are book club, bridge, and canasta. Bring a brown bag lunch. \$30. www.scfbva.org. 703-426-2824.

Cafe Ivrit (Hebrew Cafe). Wednesdays. 8:15-9:15 a.m. Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia, 8900 Little River Turnpike, Fairfax. Shalom (Hello)! Did you always want to converse in Hebrew? Join Na'ama each week for conversational Hebrew. You will learn and practice Hebrew in a fun and interactive way while learning more about Israel! Free (we ask that you try to attend regularly). RSVP Naama.Gold@jccnv.org.

Smoke Free Bingo (with breaks for smoking friends). 7 p.m. Every Friday. Fairfax Volunteer Fire Department, 4081 University Drive, Fairfax. Free coffee, entertaining callers, \$1,000 jackpot. www.fairfaxvd.com. 703-273-3638.

After the Holocaust. April 5-May 19. The Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia, 8900 Little River Turnpike, Fairfax. The Bodzin Art Gallery presents an art exhibit observing the 70th anniversary of the conclusion of the Nuremberg Trials. Watercolors by Alexandra Rozenman, a political refugee from Moscow, and sculptures by Paula Stern. Free. www.jccnv.org. 703-537-3000.

Celebrating our Children's Creativity. May 19-June 20. The Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia, 8900 Little River Turnpike, Fairfax. The J's Early Childhood Learning Center presents "A Reggio Exhibit," which showcases the philosophy of teaching art under the guidance of Sarah Vejvoda. Free. www.jccnv.org. 703-537-3000.

Send notes to the Connection at south@connectionnewspapers.com or call 703-778-9416. The deadline is the Friday prior to the next paper's publication at noon. Dated announcements should be submitted at least two weeks prior to the event.

Spotlight on the Arts Festival. April 15-May 9. Various locations. Celebrates three decades of arts in the City of Fairfax. fairfaxspotlight.org.

"Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf." April 22-May 8. Old Town Hall, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. Edward Albee's "Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf" won the 1963 Tony Award for Best Play and is considered one of the masterworks of American drama, with its dazzling language and unforgettable characters. fairfaxcitytheatre.org.

Skating Equipment Collection. Mondays, 7-9 p.m. Through May 9. Fairfax Ice Arena, 3779 Pickett Road, Fairfax. Gently used skating equipment needed for Kids on Ice. For information, contact dondes@cox.net.

THURSDAY/APRIL 21

Fairfax Antique Arts Association. 10 a.m. Green Acres Senior Center, 4401 Sideburn Road, Fairfax. Carolyn Kiggins from the Treasure Shop of McLean will give a talk on The Culture of Consigning. Non-members welcome. Free. 703-273-6090.

Reading and Lecture by Pulitzer Prize Winning Poet Jorie Graham. 7:30-9:30 p.m. Center for the Arts, George Mason University, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. folklore.gmu.edu.

FRIDAY/APRIL 22

Plazapalooza Music Festival. 2-7 p.m. North Plaza and South Plaza George Mason University, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Thirteen George Mason University student acts play on two stages. Free. <https://www.facebook.com/MusicProductionsGMU>.

FRIDAY-SATURDAY/APRIL 22-23

"Shrek the Musical JR." Check for times. Burke Community Church, 9900 Old Keene Mill Road, Burke. Come see this talented group of young actors ages 8-18 as they travel Far Far Away with everyone's favorite ogre, a wise-cracking donkey, and a cast of fairy tale misfits. \$14. www.nvplayers.com.

SATURDAY/APRIL 23

Rock Creek Singers. 6-8 p.m. Accotink Unitarian Universalist Church, 10125 Lakehaven Court, Burke. From the Gay Men's Chorus of Washington. Proceeds to benefit GEN OUT - the D.C. Metro LGBT Youth Choir. \$15-\$40. www.accotinkuuc.org. 703-503-4579.

SATURDAY-SUNDAY/APRIL 23-24

Fairfax Corner Art Festival. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. 4100 Monument Corner Drive, Fairfax. The event will showcase the original artwork of 100 local and national leading artists and will feature a wide array of artistic media including paintings, sculptures, photography, ceramics, glass, wood, handmade jewelry, collage, mixed media and much more. ArtFestival.com. 561-746-6615.

FRIDAY/APRIL 29

"Healing Voices." 7 p.m. City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North St., Fairfax. Documentary that explores real-life stories of individuals working to overcome the extreme effects of their illness and integrate their experiences into their lives in meaningful ways. 703-324-7006.

FRIDAY-SATURDAY/APRIL 29-30

"Shrek the Musical JR." Check for times. Burke Community Church, 9900 Old Keene Mill Road, Burke. Come see this talented group of young actors ages 8-18 as they travel Far Far Away with everyone's favorite ogre, a wise-cracking donkey, and a cast of fairy tale misfits. \$14. www.nvplayers.com.

SATURDAY/APRIL 30

Model Classic 2016. 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Fairfax High School, 3501 Rebel Run, Fairfax. Scale model exhibit. Also, doll houses, Lego, HO and N scale model railways. Lectures. Free, \$8, \$10. www.novaiipms.org. 703-680-9354.

Fairfax Civil War Day. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Historic Blenheim, 3610 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax. Living history programs, infantry and cannon firings, scholarly talks, military drills, cricket games, historic house tours, Civil War era music, wagon rides, youth activities, barbecue and more. \$5/adults; \$3/youth 3-12; Free/2 and under. 703-591-0560 or 703-385-8414.

Fairfax Library Foundation Fundraiser. 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Barnes and Noble in Fair Lakes, 12193 Fair Lakes Promenade Drive, Fairfax. Barnes and Noble will donate 10% of all purchases made by library supporters that day. info@fairfaxlibraryfoundation.org.

"Sword and Verse." 2 p.m. Barnes and Noble in Fair Lakes, 12193 Fair Lakes Promenade Drive, Fairfax. Discussion and signing with author Kathy Macmillan. 703-278-8527.

Classical Ballet Theatre Children's Series. 2 p.m. 4 p.m. Ernst Theater, Northern Virginia Community College, 8333 Little River Turnpike, Annandale. "Day on the Ranch" and "Les Jeunes Filles" will be performed. \$10. <http://www.cbtmva.org/>



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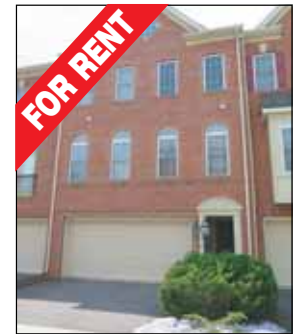
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By Order of The Circuit Court of Fairfax County, Virginia, at the direction of the Special Commissioners, the following described real estate will be offered to the highest bidder at **PUBLIC AUCTION...**

Parcel 1: (American Realty) 148,561 +/- Sq. Ft.; 5600 Backlick Road, Springfield; Braddock District; Tax Map #0802-01-0016; Acct. #407620309

Parcel 2: (Bengal) 8000 +/- Sq.Ft.; Lantana Trail; Gunston Manor, Lots 50-53, Block 24, Sec. B; Mt. Vernon District; Tax Map #1194-02240050; Acct. #408079493

Parcel 3: (Berkebile) 1.7783 +/- Ac.; Caisson Road; Sunrise Green; Legato; Springfield District; Tax Map #0563-01-0036; Acct. #407895000

Parcel 4: (Haight) 3.939 +/- Ac. Near Fairfax County Parkway & Hope Park Road; Springfield District; Tax Map #0671-01-0084; Acct. #407569254

Parcel 5 (Improved): (JFM) 8608 Rocky Gap Court, Lorton, VA 22079; Green Ridge Condos Addition; Lot 26; Mt. Vernon Dist.; Tax Map #0983-15-0026; Acct. #408045740

Parcel 6: (Jones) 2.6732 +/- Ac.; 11815 Braddock Road, Fairfax, VA 22030; Lincoln Park, Lot 30; Tax Map #0671-04-0030; Acct. #407569308

Parcel 7 (Improved): (Kenney) 2547 Five Oaks Road, Vienna, VA 22181; Acredale, Lot 30; Providence District; Tax Map #0383-03-0030; Acct. #407812118

Parcel 8: (Pennsbury) 1.149 +/- Ac.; Carleigh Parkway; Cardinal Forest, Parcel 11, Section 3; Springfield District; Tax Map #0793-01-0009; Acct. #407975430

Parcel 9: (Second Carr) 2.65 +/- Ac.; Southern Oaks Place; Hooes Road; Newington Commons, Parcel B, Section 1; Mt. Vernon District; Tax Map #0983-14-B, Acct. #407685462

Parcel 10 (Improved): (Uwazie) 9325 Maybrook Court, Alexandria, VA 22309; Mt. Vernon Grove, Lot 499; Mt. Vernon District; Tax Map #1104-02-0499, Acct. #407715885



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'Godspell' at Sovereign Grace

Community theatre group presents a musical based upon the gospel according to St. Matthew.

Fairfax community's newest theatre group, Popes Head Players, presents "Godspell" on April 22-24 and April 28-30. The cast of twelve not only includes students from Sovereign Grace Church Youth Drama Club (which has been performing for eight seasons), but includes a multigenerational mixture of teens and adults from the local community.

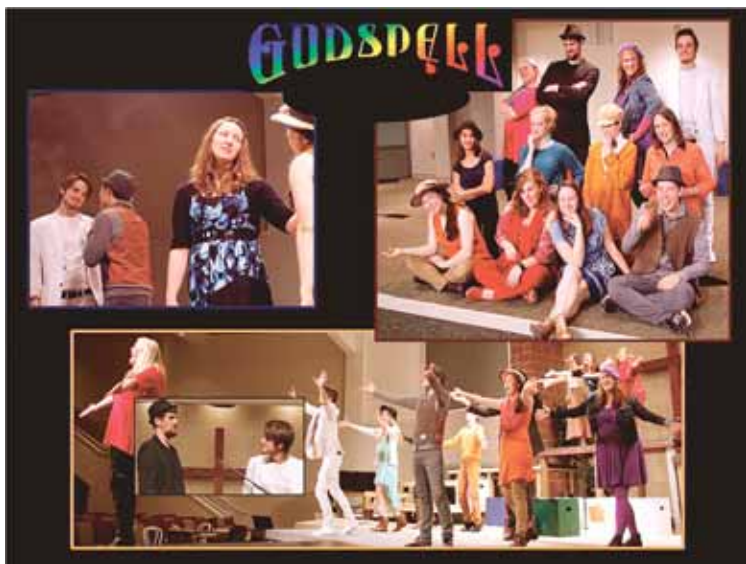
The group has been rehearsing since February. Cast member Nancy McGovern said, "The rehearsal process has been exactly what 'Godspell' is all about, an extremely eclectic group of people coming together to form a community guided by Jesus." "Godspell" brings the parables of the Bible to life in a fun and whimsical way.

The history behind "Godspell": "Godspell" began as a student master's thesis project at Carnegie Mellon University in 1970. The original production was a collection of improvised scenes based on the Gospel according to St. Matthew and music based on traditional hymns created and directed by John-Michael Tebelak. The show transferred for a ten week run to New York City's La Mama Experimental Theatre Club in 1971. Producers interested in opening the show Off-Broadway approached composer Stephen Schwartz about writing new music and lyrics. With a new score, "Godspell" became one of the longest-running Off-Broadway musicals, before moving to Broadway in June 1976. It ended its run in September 1977 with a total run of more than 2,600 performances.

This production of "Godspell," produced by the Popes Head Players, begins with beatnik philosophers set in a 1950s coffee shop who quarrel over their personal beliefs on knowledge, reality, and existence. They then hear a trumpet sound from a traditional Hebrew shofar and heed the words of John the Baptist, played by Anthony Weaver, to "Prepare ye the way of the Lord." The cast then converts from a group of beatnik "know-it-alls" to a community of baptized

Where and When

Performances will be held at the main auditorium of Sovereign Grace Church (5200 Ox Road) on April 22, 23, 28, 29 at 7 p.m., April 24 at 3 p.m. and April 30 at 2 p.m. Tickets will be on sale each night at rates of \$15 general admission and \$12 for students/seniors. For more information and ticket discounts, visit www.popesheadplayers.com To reserve tickets, email tickets@popesheadplayers.com.



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

Top left: The Prodigal and brother reconcile (Patrick Moresco, Jared Okada, Julie Judd, Anna Briggs). Top right: Godspell Cast, from left, first row: Anna Briggs, Nancy McGovern, Julie Judd, Jared Okada; second row: Jemimah Rajack, Amanda Holsinger, Joseph Briggs, Kate Anderson, third row: Carol Mills, Anthony Weaver, Gioia Albi, Patrick Moresco. Bottom Picture: Cast Sings "God Save the People" inset Judas and Jesus (Anthony Weaver and Patrick Moresco).

followers of Christ who still need to learn how to be followers. Each character has a personal transformation as Jesus shares stories and parables taken from the book of Matthew to help his new followers understand who Jesus is and why he came to Earth.

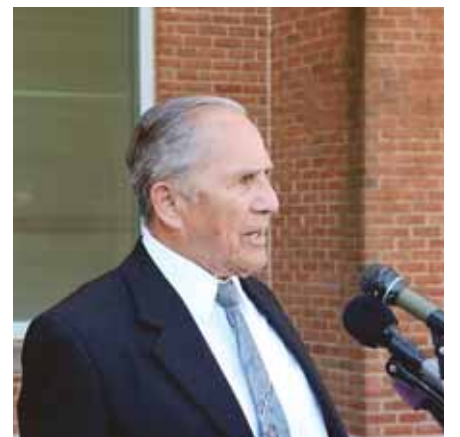
Patrick Maresco plays Jesus, a part not new to him as he portrays this main character for the second time. "Saying the words of Jesus taught me about the character of Jesus and how much he really cares about me as an individual...His words speak directly into my life. That is something that didn't really hit me until I did Godspell. Each time I go to rehearsal and do the play it is a great reminder of that," Maresco said.

This is John Newman's fourth time directing Godspell which illustrates how much this production is a favorite of his.

There will be concession sales and a special raffle with all proceeds going toward a charity called No Ordinary Love, one of the few organizations currently working closely with the government of Ethiopia to take in children who have been rescued from human trafficking. See: <http://noordinarylove.org/>



Jeff Stewart, John Geer's best friend, said Geer was "exercising his Constitutional right to stand in his home," and "admittedly a little stubborn that day."



John Geer's father Don Geer said he had "mixed emotions" following Adam Torres' involuntary manslaughter guilty plea on April 18, 2016.

PHOTOS BY
TIM PETERSON/THE CONNECTION

Torres Enters Guilty Plea, Sentencing Set for June 24

FROM PAGE 3

in our Police Department to include a transformation in the way officers are trained to respond to critical incidents," Bulova said in her statement. "The Board of Supervisors is moving forward with recommendations made by the Ad Hoc Police Practices Review Commission, demonstrating Fairfax County's commitment to maintaining the public trust and making our Police Department a national model moving forward."

The county recently posted a progress report online for the implementation of the commission's 142 recommended policy changes. (<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/policecommission/progressreport.htm>).

In a statement, Supervisor Pat Herrity (R-Springfield) said, "The process to resolve this sad chapter in Fairfax County history has been lengthy and frustrating, much to our own doing."

Though some policies have been changed or updated, including a Diversion First program to direct nonviolent offenders with mental illness to receive treatment services rather than jail time, Fairfax County has yet to adopt or implement an independent auditor or citizen oversight board — two of the recommendations receiving considerable attention.

Roessler's statement added, "The men and women of the Fairfax County Police Department have fully cooperated with all authorities during this investigation. The action of one former employee is not reflective of the honorable work done day-in and day-out by all members of our Department."

Geer's best friend Jeff Stewart, who witnessed the 2013 shooting and went on to serve on the Fairfax County Ad Hoc Police Practices Review Commission, re-

sponded critically to Roessler's words.

"They weren't compliant," Stewart said in a phone interview, "otherwise we wouldn't have had to involve the federal Justice Department and [U.S.] senators."

Morrogh handed his initial investigation of the incident to the U.S. Attorney Dana Boente, later explaining that Fairfax County Police were withholding information from him. And U.S. Sen. Charles Grassley (R-Iowa), ranking member of the Senate Judiciary Committee, got involved in November 2014 when he sent formal inquiries to Roessler and Boente about the stagnant case.

AT THE PRESS CONFERENCE following Monday's hearing, Morrogh commented on the Fairfax County attorneys who advised the Board of Supervisors to go along with not releasing the information, saying, "I've never seen anyone act like that. I hope it never happens again, it was dead wrong."

"Because of that, we were left with nothing for 17 months," said Stewart, "which in itself is a crime."

What's important now is keeping pressure on the supervisors to make sure a review panel is enacted and they develop some timeline policy for handling these situations."

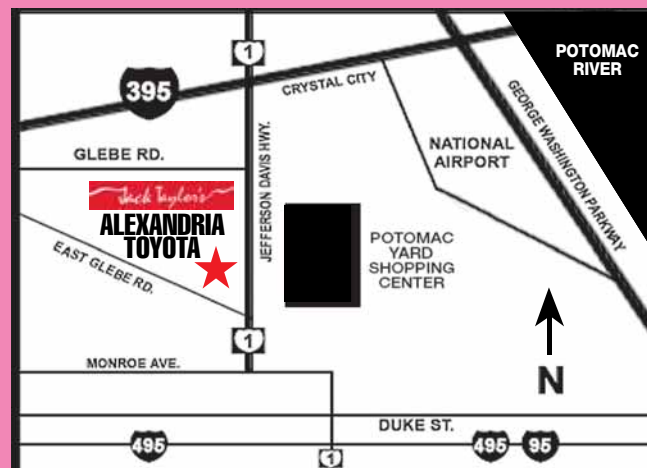
Near the conclusion of the hearing, Torres said he was "truly sorry for my actions" and "heartbroken" for Geer's children. "No words I can say today ... adequately express my remorse."

Geer's father Don said he didn't hear the apology in the courtroom, and that it was the first one he'd heard from Torres.

"A little late in coming," he said. "Nothing on this has been done in a timely manner."

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NOTE: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 days from the publishing date of the first of two required newspaper legal notices. Objections should be registered at www.abc.virginia.gov or 800-552-3200.

21 Announcements

ABC NOTICE
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I believe the future is only the past again, entered through another gate.
-Arthur Wing Pinero

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SATURDAY/APRIL 23

Home Buying Seminar. 1-2 p.m. Weichert Burke Office, 9299 Old Keene Mill Road, Burke. Free home buying seminar on Saturday. Guests will receive a personal consultation with mortgage and real estate specialists, and also have the chance to win a cash prize. For more information, visit www.tinyurl.com/WeichertHomeBuyers.

Western Fairfax Teen Job Fair and Resume Building Workshop. 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Chantilly High School Cafeteria, 4201 Stringfellow Road, Chantilly. This event is open to all teens in Fairfax County looking for employment and is a great opportunity in a low pressure environment for teens to speak with potential employers, build their resume, and seek and hopefully find a job. <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/springfield/teenjobfair.htm>.

TUESDAY/APRIL 26

Virginia Colorectal Cancer Roundtable. 9 a.m.-3:15 p.m. Inova Center for Personalized Health, 3225 Gallows Road, Fairfax. Discussion on the nationwide initiative to reach an 80 percent colorectal cancer screening rate by 2018. Free. Advanced registration required, <http://tinyurl.com/vacrct>.

Learn More About Becoming a Foster Parent. 6-7 p.m. Fairfax County Public Library, 10360 North St., Fairfax. Learn about Treatment Foster Care, the children, the process of becoming a foster parent and the support provided. Guest Speaker Nathan Crew from McLean Bible Church. Free. 540-613-5120.

THURSDAY/APRIL 28

Access to Capital Conference. 8 a.m.-1 p.m. Fairview Park Marriott, 3111 Fairview Park Drive, Falls Church. Small businesses and entrepreneurs can connect with funders. Find out more or register at <http://www.atc2016.com/>.

FRIDAY/APRIL 29

Annual Spring Event: Luncheon & Silent Auction. 11 a.m.-2 p.m. International Country Club, 13200 Lee Jackson Memorial Highway, Fairfax. Hosted by Assistance League of Northern Virginia to benefit its Operation School Bell programs. Event will feature a presentation on Identity Theft and Personal Safety. \$65, \$30 is tax deductible. lindamshilts@gmail.com or 703-424-6652.

www.northernvirginia.assistanceleague.org.

Understanding Mood Dysregulation in Students with Autism Spectrum Disorder. 10 a.m.-noon. Dunn Loring Center for Parent Services, Entrance 1, Room 100, 2334 Gallows Road, Dunn Loring. Dr. Sajjad Khan, an experienced clinician and researcher at NeuroScience Inc., will cover assessment, and treatment of mood dysregulation in students with Autism Spectrum Disorder. Register at 703-204-3941 or <http://www.fcps.edu/dss/osp/prc/resources/events/documents/UnderstandingMoodDysregulationinASD.pdf>.

ONGOING

Burke Rotary Club Meeting. Tuesdays from 7:15-8:30 a.m. Anita's Restaurant, 9278 Old Keene Mill Road, Burke. Meetings with breakfast and program. www.burkerotary.org.

Burke Lake Seniors Golf League seeks members. Interested golfers are invited to join the Burke Lake Seniors Golf League. Must be 55 and older, enjoy playing golf, meeting new people and having an all-around good time. Reserved tee times on Tuesday and Thursday mornings at the Par 3 Burke Lake Golf Course on Ox Road. Annual dues for the season – April 1 through October 31 – are \$20 plus green fees. For more information, call Charlie Ryan 703-690-4227.

The **Northern Virginia Long Term Care Ombudsman Program** needs volunteer advocates for residents in nursing homes and assisted living facilities. Contact Lisa Callahan at 703-324-5861, TTY 711 or email Lisa.Callahan@fairfaxcounty.gov. Also visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/olderadultservices/ltombudsman/.



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Clifton \$695,000
Victorian Farmhouse nestled on 1.25 acres features hardwoods, crisp moldings, open kitchen, screened porch & deck. Close to Historic Town of Clifton.
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Tucked away on private drive on 0.5 acres, spacious 4 BR, 3.5 BAs, fenced back yard. Granite chef's kitchen & sunroom. Walk to school & pool!
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Burke \$360,000
Welcome to this immaculate, bright and spacious brick front town house. Elegant open floor-plan with plenty of room to entertain. 3 bedrooms, 2 1/2 bathroom and fully finished rec room complete this fabulous home. Excellent schools, convenience and commuting. Welcome Home.
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Fairfax Station \$629,900
Remodeled 4 Bedroom Home on Private & Secluded 3.8 Acre Lot. 3 Completely Updated Full Baths. Home Has Stainless Appls., Granite CTops, Hardwood & Ceramic Tile Floors, High End Kitchen Cabs, Newer Lighting Fix, Oversized 2 Car Garage w/new auto door, Gorgeous Rear Deck, Crown Molding & Chair Rail, Separate Laundry Room, & More.
David Levent 703-338-1388



McLean \$1,199,900
Updated Beauty. 2 stop lights to DC! \$100,000 in new upgrades. 4BR, 3FBA, 2HBA, Gourmet Kitchen w/ Island, Family room off Kitchen, 3 gas Fireplaces, refin hdwds & new carpet, Den, Living, Din, Rec, Workshop, Storage, f/lid W&D, private gated Yard, Patio, 2 car Garage, Gas Genrtr. Close to Tysons Corner, Giant, & McLean Schools.
Amanda Scott 703-772-9190



Lorton \$939,800
Gorgeous newer-built (2013) pristine custom home on 1/2 acre lot! Open floor plan w/ 2-story family room & stone fireplace. High-end kitchen cabinetry, counters, appls, lighting. Expansive master BR w/ sitting area, luxury BA. BR #2 has own BA & WIC, BR #3 & #4 share Jack & Jill BA. Fully finished lower level with den/BR #5 & full BA#4. Private neighborhood. No HOA.
John & Jennifer Boyce 703-425-5646



Woodbridge Belmont Bay \$574,500
Luxury 3 story Brownstone-style end unit town-home, spacious deck with water view. Gorgeous throughout!
Carol Hermandorfer 703-216-4949



Fairfax \$729,900
Beautiful "Lindsay Park" Colonial beauty. Nestled in a richly wooded lot on small cul-de-sac. Gourmet Kitchen. Hardwood floors main LV, except FR. 4 BRs, 3.5 Baths. Open & flowing Floor Plan. Deck. Huge finished LL w/wet bar, walk out, huge den/office.
Sheila Adams 703-503-1895



Fairfax Station \$929,900
Gorgeous 5 acre setting with extensive landscaping/hardscaping, brick/slate walkways & patios with accent lighting & three stall barn. Incredible Chef's kitchen with huge island opens to beautiful sunny 2 story family room with walls of windows.
Carol Hermandorfer 703-216-4949



Fairfax \$292,000
Contemporary Condo. 2 BR, 2 BA condo with open floorplan. Wood floors, gas fireplace, Corian counters. Includes 1 Garage space. Terrific community amenities. Close to I66, Rte. 50, Fair Oaks.
Barbara Nowak 703-473-1803
Gerry Staudte 703-309-8948



Springfield \$499,900
Can't beat this North Springfield location inside Beltway! Lovingly maintained 4 BR, 3 BA split level on corner lot. LR w/gas fireplace. Nice-sized DR w/doors to screened porch & deck overlooking fenced yard. Modern kitchen w/new appls, cabinets galore & ceramic floor. Lower level boasts large rec room, 4th BR & full bath. Gorgeous hdwds. Replacement windows. 3 yr. old roof. Hop/skip to major routes, transportation.
Ki Hatch 571-214-1870



Fairfax Station \$985,000
Wonderful custom rambler in Redlac Forest. Renovated, open floor plan & filled with light. Main level master. 5000+ SqFt w/lower level completely finished, includes potential 5th bdrm for in-law/au-pair suite, full bath, office, workshop, storage. 4 stall barn & storage w/4 fenced fields. Must see to believe!
Claudia Callis 703-620-2790
Dana-Jean LaFever 703-609-3479



Fairfax \$638,000
Rise and Shine! Enjoy your morning cup in the sun room addition of this wonderful colonial sitting pretty on a cul de sac that NEVER SELLS & backing to parkland! Enjoy the huge living room, banquet sized dining room, 4 large bedrooms, an updated kitchen w/ granite counters & an engaging family room w/ a brick hearth fireplace. Walkout basement comes too! Impeccably maintained!
Catie, Steve & Associates 703-278-9313



Fairfax \$949,000
Fabulous 4 BR/3.5 BA, 2-car garage townhome with rooftop terrace in sought-after Mosaic District.
Carol Hermandorfer 703-216-4949



Centreville \$600,000
Delightfully updated. 4 BR with 2-car garage in sought after Centre Ridge. 3.5 full baths updated. HW floor on main and upper level. Fenced lot backs to trees.
Barbara Nowak 703-473-1803
Gerry Staudte 703-309-8948



Ashburn \$814,900
Spectacular Sunset views from large deck overlooking the 9th Fairway of Belmont Country Club. Hard to find first floor Master Suite plus second master bedroom on upper level. 4 BR, 4 1/2 BA, fully finished walk-out lower level. A perfect "10."
Ann Grainger 703-819-5300



Lake Anna \$1,199,000
Outstanding waterfront property with Panoramic Views. Approx. 5,800 sq. ft. of finished living space. Perfect for entertaining, entire first floor is dedicated to comfortable, sophisticated living area, main-floor master, a light filled 3-story great room looking over Lake Anna. 3-4-5 car garages, workshop & more.
Liz Wilson 540-226-6475



Manassas \$474,900
Meadowbrook Woods Beauty! Premium 1/2 acre cul-de-sac lot backs to wooded privacy! 9' ceilings, home office, generous bedroom sizes. Family room with gas fireplace. Eat-in kitchen with center island & SS appliances. Walkout basement.
David Billups 703-967-8700



Spotsylvania \$389,900
New Price! 3 BR, 3.5 BA custom home w/Lake views front & back! Home features large kitchen, energy efficient SS appliances & HVAC system, hardwood flooring, basement w/wet bar, wired for theatre system, Owens Corning wall system, path leads to lake. Boat slip leased for 2016 at new launch "The Cove."
Liz Wilson 540-226-6475



Fairfax \$475,000
Fabulous 4 BR, 3.5 BA four level townhouse. Recent updates include new kitchen, fresh paint & renovated bathrooms. Spacious deck overlooks brick patio & fully fenced rear yard backing to common area & trees for added privacy.
Carol Hermandorfer 703-216-4949

Access the Realtors' Multiple Listing Service: www.searchvirginia.listingbook.com