

COVERSHEET

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- 3. Jury convicts two Manassas men for their role in ‘Trip’ Bopp’s murder** (Oct. 5, Coy Ferrell)
 - a. BOX: **Sentencing details**



Celebrating women.
See pages 20-23.



FAUQUIER TIMES STAFF PHOTO/COY FERRELL

Rob Moore and EMS Capt. Matt Shields chat at the Orlean Volunteer Fire Department March 11.

Crash victim claims ‘Victory’ over head injury thanks to new advanced EMS interventions

By Coy Ferrell

FAUQUIER TIMES STAFF WRITER

Rob Moore shouldn't be alive.

On the night of April 22, 2021, Moore's 2004 Nissan Maxima careened off Piney Mountain Road near Orlean. Then 23 years old, the young airplane mechanic had bought the car just two weeks earlier, paying \$600 and naming it "Doom Ship," an inside joke among his friends.

That night, he had dinner with his parents and then drove to Warrenton to see some friends. He was driving back to his home near Hume when he crashed. A passerby later saw signs of a crash and called 911. It's hard to determine exactly how much time had elapsed since the crash, but it could have been nearly an hour based on reported power outages due to the power line that came down as the result of the crash.

Fauquier County EMS Capt. Matt Shields and EMT Jennifer Morris were at the paramedic sta-

"This is the first time, at least in my career, that the thing we didn't have any control over — the head injury — we have control over now."

EMS CAPT. MATT SHIELDS

tion in Warrenton; they responded in one of the county's specialized EMS command vehicles. EMS Lt. Will Dunn and EMT Andrew Hulvey responded from the Orlean fire station with an ambulance. They all arrived at the scene about the same time, a few minutes after midnight. Capt. Gordon Mackison and Battalion Chief Fred McEvelly arrived from Orlean soon afterward.

See EMS, page 4

County to purchase Virginia National Bank complex in Old Town Warrenton

By Coy Ferrell

FAUQUIER TIMES STAFF WRITER

Fauquier County supervisors approved an agreement March 10 to purchase the Virginia National Bank complex at Courthouse Square in Old Town Warrenton for \$6.4 million. The complex includes two brick buildings that have been the flagship structures of the bank — until last year called The Fauquier Bank — for decades. The bank was founded in 1902 in Warrenton.

The agreement allows up to 60 days before the parties must finalize the sale, including a 45-day "study period" for the county to inspect the structures. Bank officials have indicated that they will lease from the county the 1972 retail banking building for one year after the sale is finalized, County Administrator Paul McCulla said last week. The bank is expected to lease the 1987 wealth management building, which faces Waterloo Street, for eight months after settlement.

See BANK, page 2



FAUQUIER TIMES STAFF PHOTO/COY FERRELL

The two-story building on the Courthouse Square complex currently houses a Virginia National Bank retail banking branch. Another building, a four-story structure, is home to the bank's wealth management division.

SPORTS: Spring previews for girls lacrosse, girls soccer, softball and Kettle Run baseball. PAGES 25-28



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FAUQUIER TIMES STAFF PHOTOS/COY FERRELL

Left: Lt. Will Dunn (left), Fauquier County Fire Chief Darren Stevens and Capt. Matt Shields talk to Rob Moore March 11 at the Orlean Volunteer Fire Department. **Right:** As her husband, Brian Moore, looks on, Karen Moore speaks with Capt. Matt Shields March 11 at the Orlean Volunteer Fire Department.

Crash victim claims ‘Victory’ over head injury thanks to new advanced EMS interventions

EMS, from page 1

The first responders rushed to locate the car and any potential victims of the crash and saw a downed telephone pole about 100 yards from the road. Their vehicles’ powerful headlights couldn’t illuminate enough of the field to find the vehicle in the darkness, so they got out flashlights and set off through the cow field, expecting to find the worst.

“This is not going to be good,” Dunn remembered thinking.

They found Moore lying in the field about 50 feet away from the wrecked vehicle. Moore hadn’t been wearing a seatbelt, and the violent crash had thrown his body from the car into the field, possibly through the closed sunroof — the car was damaged so severely that it is difficult to reconstruct the incident more precisely.

Though unresponsive, Moore was — somehow — still alive.

“He’s bad. We need to go,” Dunn recalled thinking. Shields assessed Moore and found his condition rated the lowest-possible score on the Glasgow Coma Scale. It’s a score “associated with an extremely high mortality rate, with some researchers suggesting that there is no chance of survival,” according to a 2004 medical paper.

Moore had sustained severe head trauma, causing bleeding around the brain. Seconds count as the pressure around the brain threatens to stop the patient’s breathing at any moment. In these circumstances, permanent brain damage becomes one of the better-case scenarios. Moore was already struggling to breathe.

The paramedics enlisted the help of a sheriff’s patrol deputy, Cpl. Wesley Frost, to carry Moore back to the road on a stretcher. At 12:12 a.m., Hul-

By the numbers

The following “critical care interventions” were completed last year, according to the Fauquier County Department of Fire, Rescue and Emergency Management:

- 43 uses of a ventilator
- 17 uses of a BPAP ventilator machine
- 40 uses of rapid sequence intubation
- 7 uses of hypertonic saline
- 8 uses of whole blood
- 53 uses of ultrasounds

vey fitted Moore with a bag valve mask to help him breathe. Morris started an IV line. Shields then administered paralytic drugs through the IV to make it safe to intubate him.

By 12:16 p.m., Moore was on a ventilator, ensuring his brain would continue to receive oxygen. A minute later, Shields gave Moore a unit of O-positive blood to keep him from going into shock.

Meanwhile, Morris drilled a small hole into the bone just below Moore’s knee. At 12:25 a.m., Shields administered a solution called hypertonic saline — a syrupy saline solution with an extremely high salt content, through the bone. A minute later, Shields administered fentanyl.

Moore’s condition, though still critical, seemed to improve. An ultrasound of his vital organs revealed no internal bleeding.

By 12:50 a.m., Moore was on an Air Care medical transport helicopter en route to the trauma center at Inova Fairfax. Normally, that would have been the last time the paramedics saw their patient.

But last week, nearly a year after the incident, Shields, Dunn and others from Orlean and county paramedic community got to see Moore again. For

Moore, unconscious in the aftermath of the crash, it was his first time meeting the people who saved his life. His parents were there too, overwhelmed with the emotion of meeting the people who had ensured that their son would reach his 24th birthday.

His recovery, as Shields put it, is “unbelievable.” Anyone who didn’t know what Moore had been through wouldn’t suspect the extent of his injuries. Besides occasional neck pain, he suffers no lingering effects from the crash. The paramedics were overjoyed. They had tried to schedule a meeting with the Moore family earlier, but the family had planned a vacation. “It really made my day to hear you were at the beach,” Shields smiled.

After intensive rehabilitation and physical therapy, Moore returned to work less than three months after the incident — his mischievous, sometimes dark sense of humor fully intact. He grinned as he recalled what his coworkers said when he returned to work: “Look, there’s the guy who isn’t supposed to be here.”

Shields couldn’t stop smiling. “I’ve been doing this for 20 years, and I’ve never seen a full recovery on a head injury,” he said.

Moore still hasn’t wrapped his mind around the fact that he survived at all. “It makes no sense ... the fact that I made it out without any severe damage,” he told the paramedics last week. “It’s just stupid. It makes no sense.”

‘It’s the best training I’ve ever had’

The actions that led to such a positive outcome for Moore were no accident, however. And had the young man been thrown into that field a year earlier, the end of the story could have been far more tragic.

See EMS, page 5

LEGAL NOTICES

Notice is hereby given that the Architectural Review Board of the Town of Warrenton will hold a public meeting Thursday, March 24, 2021 at 7:00 PM in the Warrenton Town Hall Council Chambers (First Floor) located at 21 Main Street, Warrenton, Virginia, to discuss a New Guide to Historic Resources with an Update to the Historic District Design Guidelines.

The proposal is a new resource guide for the Town with the inclusion of updates to the current Historic District Design Guidelines last adopted on January 14th, 2014. Per Zoning Ordinance section 3-5.3.3.6, Town Council shall make final adoption of any modification in Historic District regulations, which includes the Historic District Design Guidelines. The Architectural Review Board shall be making a recommendation to Town Council at this meeting.

The Architectural Review Board will be open to the public and persons attending will be expected to adhere to the current legal requirements and guidelines to address the COVID-19 pandemic including wearing face coverings and practicing physical distancing. Seating will be limited in accordance with then current guidelines. The public may also choose to submit written comments through the Town’s website (https://www.warrentonva.gov/government/town_council/submit_comment.php). A complete copy is available for review in Town Hall located at 21 Main Street, Monday through Friday, 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM.

The Town of Warrenton does not discriminate on the basis of handicapped status in admission or access to its programs and activities. Town Hall meeting facilities are fully accessible.

LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE OF INTENT TO APPOINT A MEMBER TO THE PLANNING COMMISSION OF THE TOWN OF WARRENTON

The Council of the Town of Warrenton will consider appointments to fill a vacancy to the Planning Commission. This vacancy will have a term of one (1) year, January 1, 2023 to December 31, 2023, due to the need for staggered terms.

Any Town residents who wish to be considered for appointment may submit an application, cover letter, and resume to staff@warrentonva.gov.

More information can be found on our website at <https://www.warrentonva.gov/329/Apply-to-Serve>. Please contact staff at (540) 347-1101 with any questions.

Crash victim claims ‘Victory’ over head injury thanks to new advanced EMS interventions

EMS, from page 4

In June 2020, the Fauquier County Department of Fire, Rescue and Emergency Management began introducing a series of treatment protocols usually reserved for hospital trauma centers. The new treatments are especially pertinent in a rural area like Fauquier, where the nearest trauma centers are at least a 20-minute helicopter ride away in Fairfax and Winchester.

The idea is that “advanced interventions” usually reserved for emergency departments can save lives when delivered earlier, said Battalion Chief Rich Cluff, who oversees paramedics in the county. The program required additional training for paramedics and the creation of new “standing order protocols” — essentially, a technical flow chart directing treatments — by a physician.

Cluff said that Fauquier County is the first jurisdiction in the area, that he knows of, to implement many of the protocols, though the initial success of the program in Fauquier has generated interest from nearby departments.

In fact, some of the protocols are so new to field applications in the United States that much of the peer-reviewed research comes from Australia, where vast distances and sparse populations can mean paramedics — not hospital trauma centers — may be the only ones available to administer advanced treatments in the first critical hours after an injury. (Australia has roughly the same land area as the contiguous United States, but less than one tenth of the population.)

“This is our attempt to stay ahead of the curve and provide cutting edge care to our citizens and visitors,” Cluff said. “We just wanted to bring that critical-care paramedicine on the road with us.”

Dr. Michael Jenks, director of the emergency department of Fauquier Hospital, stepped in to write the protocols. Shields is one of three specially trained EMS captains — captains Rob Smith and Jess Potter are the others — in the county who must be present to initiate the new protocols. Cluff is also qualified, but his role

is mainly administrative. They meet with Dr. Jenks every quarter to review cases and discuss procedures.

Cluff and the three EMS captains assigned to the field — Shields, Rob Smith and Jess Porter — say that the program has made them feel that, in cases like Moore, they are equipped to be more proactive in acute cases where a patient’s survival is contingent on immediate treatment.

“This is the first time, at least in my career, that the thing we didn’t have any control over — the head injury — we have control over now,” said Shields, who has been with Fauquier County since 2013. “It’s the best training I’ve ever had. We don’t often get to sit down and pick the brain of a physician.”

Supervisor Chris Granger (Center District), a career firefighter in Prince William County, said that — from the board’s perspective — the program comes down to providing the best-possible level of services to residents of the county. “Practically everything that’s in the national scope of practice for a medic, these folks can do,” he said. “Providing that advanced level of EMS training — it’s something we’re really lucky to be able to do. ... The high level of care they can provide is invaluable.”

‘Like clockwork’

Moore’s case is close to a perfect example of several of the new training protocols in action. “This patient is exactly what this program was made for,” Fauquier County Fire Chief Darren Stevens said last week.

After Moore was carried back to the road, Shields began “rapid sequence intubation,” a process that hooks up a patient to a machine that regulates their breathing. It requires the administration of a powerful anesthetic and a paralytic, inducing a coma. This keeps the patient safe during the invasive intubation process but performing the intricate series of protocols requires a high level of training. Consequently, two people trained in the procedure — in this case, Shields and Dunn — must be present to perform it.

See EMS, page 6



FAUQUIER TIMES STAFF PHOTO/COY FERRELL

Fauquier County Battalion Chief Rich Cluff shows ultrasound scans from his phone to Fauquier County EMS Capt. Matt Shields (center) and Stafford County Deputy EMS Chief Brian Frankel.

Fauquier SPCA

The Fauquier SPCA is a private, non-profit organization dedicated to providing a temporary refuge for stray, homeless and abandoned animals, and to placing such animals in a caring, appropriate home whenever possible.

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Crockett

is a male, adult, Hound mix.



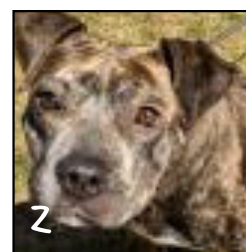
Meredith

is a female, adult, Beagle mix.



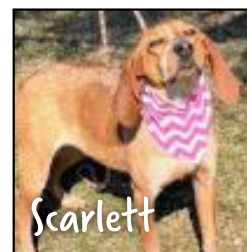
Reese

is a female, adult, Shepherd/Terrier mix.



Z

is a male, adult, Pit-bull Terrier mix.



Scarlett

is a female, adult, Hound mix.

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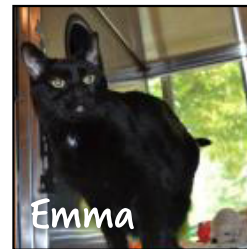
Alma

is a female, adult, DSH mix.



Dutchess

is a female, adult, DSH mix.



Emma

is a female, adult, DSH mix.



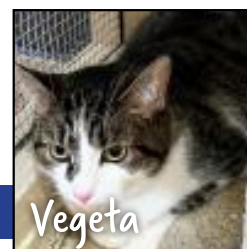
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is an adult, female, DSH mix.



Sneekers

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Vegeta

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Crash victim claims ‘Victory’ over head injury thanks to new advanced EMS interventions

EMS, from page 5

Once intubated, “that’s when we really went to work on your head injury,” Shields told Moore.

The hypertonic saline — true to the medical professions’ sense of humor, paramedics call it “spicy water” — Shields administered to Moore is meant to draw water in the bloodstream away from the brain, reducing the chance of catastrophic herniation around the brain, which can quickly cause breathing to stop.

“We watched your vital signs go pretty much back to normal,” Shields recalled to Moore about his response to the hypertonic saline. “It was really like your body took a breath of fresh air,” Dunn added.

It’s one of the new protocols that makes Fauquier’s paramedics most excited, as it gives them a way to provide immediate, effective treatment in a situation — those involving head trauma — where first responders often feel helpless. “You can see right before your eyes ... you see the vital signs normalize,” Cluff said.

Before 2020, the 23.4% salt solution — nearly four times the concentration of seawater — wouldn’t have been administered until Moore arrived in Fairfax. But because of the new protocols, Moore received it within 15 minutes of paramedics arriving on the scene.

Shields also gave Moore a unit of



COURTESY PHOTO

Rob Moore’s 2004 Nissan Maxima was severely damaged when it careened off Piney Mountain Road last April.

whole blood. That’s also new, thanks to the purchase of specialized portable refrigerators and Fauquier County’s partnership with Inova Blood Donor Services. Before 2020, Fauquier County didn’t carry even blood components, like plasma, with them in the field. Federal funds from the CARES Act paid for the purchase of the high-tech mobile refrigerators necessary to keep the blood at the right temperature.

Field transfusions of whole blood are a relatively recent idea in general, pioneered by militaries in the past two decades to use in combat applications. “Now, all of the research is saying that whole blood is the best,” Cluff explained. They carry O-positive blood because people with any blood type can usually accept it.

Moore was fortunate not to have any internal bleeding. But if he

had, the hospital would have known about it in advance, as the portable ultrasound machines Fauquier paramedics now carry enable them to check for internal injuries and send the images to the hospital directly from a phone.

The treatments administered at the scene were laid out later in a detailed, four-page incident report. But Shields and Dunn remembered that they talked little during those crucial minutes on the side of Piney Mountain Road. Each first responder knew their precise role. “It was just like, ‘Bang, bang, bang, bang,’” Dunn recalled. “It was like clockwork. It came down to the experience of the people on the call.”

For Moore and his parents, time moved much more slowly in the next hours and weeks. When Karen and Brian Moore arrived in Fairfax that night, they weren’t even sure their son was still alive. He remained intubated for four days, responding to simple commands by moving his fingers or toes, but it was unclear then whether he would have permanent brain damage.

Adding to his family’s collective trauma, he tested positive for COVID-19 — fortunately, he was an asymptomatic case — meaning his parents couldn’t join him in the hospital. His mother got the shift schedule for his nurses and called at the start of every shift for an update on

his condition, reaching out to family members with medical backgrounds to better understand the treatments.

When the tube was removed, the nurses set up a video call from the ICU. “We told him that we loved him, and he said, ‘I love you too,’” Karen Moore remembered, still overcome with emotion nearly a year afterward. He was released from in-patient rehab by May 19, 2021.

“We were headed home and I had the radio on, and he was singing the words to every song,” she smiled. Indicators like this gave Karen and Brian Moore reason to let themselves hope for the best. After six weeks of physical therapy, Rob Moore returned to work, practically back to his old self.

“He gets tired of hearing it, but he is our miracle,” she said.

Air Care assigns patients a code name when they transport them. In Moore’s case, it was a series of letters and numbers followed by “Victory.”

The sedan he was driving was obviously totaled, and Moore drives a pickup truck now. He named it “Tory,” a reference to that code name. The paramedics and his parents agreed that it’s a much better name than “Doom Ship.” And now, Moore said, he always wears his seatbelt.

Reach Coy Ferrell at cferrell@fauquier.com

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Man pleads guilty to manslaughter in wife's overdose death

By Coy Ferrell

FAUQUIER TIMES STAFF WRITER

A 28-year-old man pleaded guilty Monday to involuntary manslaughter and another felony after providing his wife with a fatal dose of fentanyl in a Warrenton hotel room where they resided together last year.

It marks a rare occasion when an individual is convicted criminally of causing another person's drug-related death.

Kenneth Olenslager now faces 10 years in prison each for a manslaughter conviction and a felony drug distribution conviction. His wife, Lydia McGarry, 25, died on July 31, 2021,

after overdosing on fentanyl and alprazolam, a generic anti-anxiety medication sold under brand name Xanax, according to a proffer of evidence that Olenslager acknowledged Monday is factual. That evening Olenslager had purchased what he told police he thought was heroin, the proffer said, and provided it to McGarry.

The substance in Olenslager's possession at the hotel, however, was later tested and found to be 5.7 grams of fentanyl, the proffer added. As little as 2 milligrams of fentanyl can be lethal, according to the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration.



Kenneth Olenslager



Lydia McGarry

As part of a plea agreement, prosecutors agreed to withdraw the charge of felony homicide that Warrenton police had originally pursued against Olenslager. A two-hour sentencing hearing is scheduled for Sept. 27. Olenslager's attorney told a judge Monday that he has received evidence "that I believe is mitigating in nature."

McGarry was originally from Philadelphia, according to an obituary, and court records show that McGarry had lived in or around Culpeper County since at least 2014; her obituary listed her address as Amissville. She and Olenslager had been married for two years, the obituary said.

See **OLENSLAGER**, page 7

Storm causes widespread damage but no injuries

Winds exceeded 80 mph during June 22 'downburst'

By Robin Earl and Coy Ferrell

FAUQUIER TIMES STAFF WRITERS

County residents are heaving a sigh of relief as the most severe storm in recent memory fades into the record books. A series of violent thunderstorms focused on north-central Fauquier County brought with it heavy rain and winds exceeding 80 mph Wednesday, June 22, knocking out power to more than half of homes and businesses in the county and more than 110,000 customers in the state. Some major highways in the county, along with many town streets and county back roads, were blocked by downed trees. Power outages persisted in some areas of the county until late Saturday.



FAUQUIER TIMES STAFF PHOTO/ROBIN EARL

Fortunately, no one was home when this tree fell on Waterloo Street.

The storm cell that affected the Warrenton area was the result of a "downburst," the Washington Post's Capital Weather Gang reported. After the cell formed over Purcellville at 4 p.m. June 22, "The track of the storm took the violent core of wind just west of downtown Warrenton," the Post reported. A similar cell affected the Fredericksburg area nearly 2 hours earlier.

See **STORM**, page 10



Renard Carlos is running for mayor against incumbent Carter Nevill. FAUQUIER TIMES FILE PHOTOS

Warrenton mayoral, town council candidates outline priorities

Three vie for two open seats on the town council

By Colleen LaMay

FAUQUIER TIMES STAFF WRITER

In addition to congressional races, town of Warrenton residents will vote for new town council representatives when they go to the polls Nov. 8. Elections will be held for two at-large council seats and for the mayor.

See **TOWN COUNCIL**, page 5

FAUQUIER HIGH GRAD JOE DOMBROWSKI TO RIDE IN TOUR DE FRANCE: Sports, PAGE 17



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Man pleads guilty to manslaughter in wife's overdose death

OLENSLAGER, from page 1

“That smile that lit up the entire vicinity you were in will never be forgotten,” one person wrote about McGarry on a funeral home website. “You were so sweet no matter what life brought [your] way, and I’m so blessed to have been able to call you, my friend.”

Background

The investigation into McGarry’s death provides a rare public window into the lives of those gripped by dependence on opioids and the difficulty of escaping that cycle, especially when one’s closest associates are struggling with the same dependency.

McGarry “had been struggling with drug addiction for approximately five years,” according to an April 27 affidavit written by Olenlager’s attorney, Blair Howard. McGarry had been admitted to an in-patient treatment program in Texas in 2018, the affidavit said. Additionally, she “had experienced several episodes that appeared to be an overdose in the days and months leading up to her death.”

Like many people struggling with addiction, both McGarry and Olenlager had been convicted on misdemeanor drug possession charges.

Details of the case

By July 2021, Olenlager and McGarry had lived together at the Red Roof Inn in Warrenton “for some time,” according to the proffer. Mc-

Garry was taking Xanax at the time to cope with the symptoms of opioid withdrawal, Olenlager told police, according to the proffer of evidence. But Olenlager used “a few points” of heroin each day, the document said.

The events leading to McGarry’s death began when Olenlager’s “usual [heroin] supplier stopped replying to his messages,” according to the proffer. Olenlager “asked his wife if she knew anyone.” McGarry, who “was feeling unwell that day due to withdrawal symptoms,” gave Olenlager the name of a friend who could supply them with heroin, the proffer said. Olenlager then contacted the friend, Amanda Ros, according to the proffer.

At about 6:20 p.m., Olenlager traveled across the road to the Wawa gas station, where he met Ros and paid her \$250 to purchase a drug — a substance he believed was heroin, according to his statements to police as outlined in the proffer. After snorting some of the drugs in the gas station bathroom, Olenlager “returned to the hotel room and divided the heroin with Lydia and they both snorted at the same location,” the proffer said.

Shortly before 9 p.m., a friend of the couple became concerned about McGarry’s welfare and “pushed her way inside” the hotel room where the couple lived, allegedly in spite of Olenlager’s objections. Olenlager “was wearing a backpack when he answered the door,” witnesses allegedly told detectives. There were

also “several bags packed at the foot of the bed, which [the witnesses] found unusual because the couple had been residing in the room for some time,” the proffer said.

The friend found McGarry, “purple in color,” lying on the bed, the proffer said. The friend then called 911 and performed CPR on McGarry, while waiting for paramedics to arrive, according to the proffer, which added that the friend also directed another person nearby to get help from hotel staff.

Although paramedics arrived quickly and administered Narcan and performed CPR, McGarry was pronounced dead at a hospital within an hour, according to a search warrant affidavit filed by a Warrenton detective. An autopsy later found that McGarry had died from an overdose of alprazolam (Xanax) and fentanyl, according to the proffer.

At the scene, Olenlager “made several conflicting statements and statements that would later be determined to be inaccurate,” the proffer said, including that McGarry had bought the drugs and that “there were no drugs in the room besides Lydia’s Xanax.”

A few days later, detectives interviewed Olenlager again and he said that he — not McGarry — met a woman named “Amanda” at the Warrenton Wawa, purchased drugs from her and returned to the hotel, where he provided some of the drugs to McGarry. “Much of the information pro-

vided in this interview was supported by information downloaded in the defendant’s cellphone activity from July 31, 2021,” the proffer said. This account was also confirmed by video surveillance footage from Wawa, according to the proffer. “Ms. McGarry is not present for the transaction,” the document said.

Warrenton detectives charged Olenlager in December 2021, and he was arrested in the Eastern Shore region of Virginia. He has remained in custody since then.

Ros, who according to police records has no fixed address, was charged with felony drug distribution and missed a court hearing in April. She is currently wanted by law enforcement, according to the Warrenton Police Department. She has not been convicted of selling the drugs to Olenlager, that in turn, led to McGarry’s death.

Legal considerations

Drug overdoses, usually involving opioids or their synthetic counterparts, killed an average of 17 Fauquier County residents annually from 2016 to 2020, the most recent year for which data is available from the Virginia Department of Health. Thousands of Virginians died during the same period. Rarely, though, is anyone charged criminally for facilitating those deaths, and convictions are even more rare.

See **OLENSLAGER**, page 8



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Residents gathered June 24 to protest the overturning of Roe v. Wade
FAUQUIER TIMES STAFF PHOTO/ COLLEEN LAMAY

100 gather to protest overturning of landmark Roe v. Wade

ROE V. WADE, from page 2

Those that gathered in Courthouse Square stayed on the grass and remained quiet, holding up a wide range of signs, including, “The Hardest Decision A Woman has to Make IS NOT Yours!” and “THEY WON’T STOP WITH ROE,” written above a depiction of a combined gay and trans pride flag.

Most motorists driving by honked and waved in solidarity. One person drove by and yelled, “Abortion is murder.” Onlookers shouted back, “Then don’t have one.” No counter-protesters were present Friday.

People who came to the protest expressed shock and worry about what the years ahead hold for women’s rights and for other constitutionally protected rights, such as gay marriage and birth control.

Mara Seafrest, who wore a T-shirt proclaiming “Pro Roe,” said she had undergone an abortion in 1969. “It was illegal then, and I couldn’t get

birth control because I wasn’t married.” A doctor performed the abortion in a hotel room with the TV turned way up. Seafrest thought the volume was up in case she made too much noise, alerting others to the doctor’s illegal procedure.

“I grew up always believing that everyone has a choice to their own body, and that goes for a man or a woman,” said Chloe Lawson, who was at the protest with family. “Honestly, I grew up loving America, and now I don’t even want to celebrate the 4th of July.” She held a sign saying, “Keep your policies off my body.”

“It just kind of breaks my heart,” Carley Yates said of the court ruling. “I just hope that coming out here today I can help make a change and get everybody to see that this is an issue that needs to be talked about.”

Many protesters worried that overturning Roe v. Wade could put other constitutionally protected rights in danger under the conservative majority

in the U.S. Supreme Court. That included Kevin Berry, who came to the protest with a sign that read “MY GUN HAS MORE RIGHTS THAN WOMEN?!”

“I’m just here to show my daughters that they need to fight for their rights,” said Chandra Albrittain.

Rina Stapp attended the protest dressed as Wonder Woman, attracting the attention of a 5-year-old, Edith, who guessed Wonder Woman was at the protest to “help people.”

Stapp agreed that overturning Roe v. Wade was a wrong that needs to be made right. “I feel it is a great travesty against women’s rights,” she said. “Many of these justices during their (nomination) hearings said that Roe v. Wade was precedent — implying that they wouldn’t touch it — and then one of the first things they all do together is overturn it,” Stapp said.

Reach Colleen LaMay at clamay@fauquier.com

Man pleads guilty to manslaughter in wife’s overdose death

OLENSLAGER, from page 7

As defined by the Code of Virginia, “The killing of one accidentally, contrary to the intention of the parties, while in the prosecution of some felonious act,” constitutes felony homicide, with a sentence of five to 40 years in prison.

Warrenton Police Chief Mike Kochis said Monday that the relatively narrow constraints in Virginia law make it difficult to prosecute most drug distribution cases as homicide. Federal law, he said, is more expansive in these cases. U.S. Code stipulates the sentence for drug distribution convictions is 20 years to life “if death or serious bodily injury results from the use of such substance.”

Under Virginia law, the victim must take the drug immediately and in the presence of the distrib-

utor for the case to be charged as homicide. “It all has to be one occurrence,” Kochis said, adding that the Olenlager case was a good opportunity to utilize state law. “It is important for people to know — if you’re going to come into town and distribute fentanyl ... we’re going to charge you to the full extent of the law,” Kochis said.

Kochis cautioned that drug cases are often complicated and often intensely personal. “The reality is: Opioid addiction is something you can’t just stop,” he said. “And let’s be honest: There aren’t enough resources for it.”

Fauquier County Commonwealth’s Attorney Scott Hook expressed frustration Tuesday that it is difficult to get a murder conviction in drug-related deaths. In 2019, the Virginia General Assembly passed with overwhelming bipartisan sup-

port a bill that would have made it easier to pursue murder charges in drug distribution cases. But then-Gov. Ralph Northam (D) vetoed the bill, saying the legislation “goes beyond drug dealers and would punish individuals who are themselves struggling with addiction.”

Hook said that the “state legislature tried and failed to give us the tools we need” to mitigate what he called a “devastating cancer on our society.” Distributing opioids “is no different than holding a gun to a person’s head,” he said. But the law as written means that “commonwealth’s attorneys across the state have to be creative.”

Olenlager’s attorney also addressed the case in a phone interview Tuesday. “I don’t believe there was any intent whatsoever for my client to do harm to his wife,” Howard said. “That’s why we reached a

resolution in the matter.”

Howard said that the evidence shows that both Olenlager and McGarry believed that they were ingesting heroin, not the much more potent fentanyl. It’s a national problem. Synthetic opioids now cause by far more deaths than any other drug, and users often don’t know that fentanyl, which is relatively easy and inexpensive to manufacture, has been substituted.

The desperation that comes with addiction clouds one’s judgement, Howard said. “This [case] is a very sad example of the opioid addiction problem that we have in this country, and particularly the poison fentanyl,” Howard said. “Unfortunately, there are consequences when people buy these kinds of drugs off the street. They have no idea of the danger.”

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Jury convicts two Manassas men for their role in 'Trip' Bopp's murder

Davis sentenced to 82 years in prison; 52 years for Pereira

By Coy Ferrell

FAUQUIER TIMES STAFF WRITER

A verdict cannot bring back a son, brother, cousin, nephew or friend. But the family of "Trip" Bopp, murdered at age 24 on a farm near Remington, got some consolation in a Leesburg courtroom last week. After deliberating for hours, a jury found two men guilty on all counts for their involvement in the events that led to Bopp's death.

The two Manassas men — Darren Davis, 37, and José Pereira, 33 — were each convicted of first-degree murder, armed burglary and conspiracy to commit burglary. The same jury sentenced Davis up to 82 years in prison. Pereira got up to 52 years. (See box.)

Along with Martin Martinez, 31, another Manassas resident who pleaded guilty to the murder before the trial, the men traveled to the farm April 22, expecting to steal a safe full of money from someone



Darren Davis



José Pereira

who lived near Bopp. But Jury Guerra, the 30-year-old Woodbridge woman who initiated the plot, had directed them to the wrong house — Bopp's house. (Guerra also pleaded guilty before the trial.) When Bopp returned home, interrupting the men ransacking his house in a vain search for the safe, he was shot and killed.

Who fired the shots that killed the young farmer may never be known for sure. Martinez testified that it was Davis. Pereira said it was Martinez. Investigators never recovered the murder weapon, and the only eyewitnesses to the murder were the conspirators themselves, each with a motive to pin the shooting on someone else.

Under Virginia law, however, who pulled the trigger is largely irrelevant; anyone willingly participating in a burglary that results in a homicide is guilty of first-degree murder. The jury rejected arguments from Pereira that he participated under duress — and from Davis, whose attorney argued that he wasn't even at the scene.

'How can anyone describe the death of a child?'

Over the course of five days of evidence and arguments, Bopp's parents and sister had to endure in silence an excruciating retelling of their son and brother's death. At a sentencing hearing on the afternoon of Wednesday, Sept. 28, they finally got to address the jury.

"How can anyone describe the death of a child?" Sue Bopp, Trip's mother, asked the jury. She showed them a photograph of Trip on the cover of the Sept. 13, 2010, edition of "Country Folks Farm Chronicle." Trip, 13, is holding the reins of his prized Holstein, named Mr. Sam. Her son had always loved farming more than anything else. His email address started with: "liketofarmallday."

In the years before his death, he had matured into a responsible young adult, with plans to own his own dairy farm someday, testified Bopp's mother. Nevertheless, Trip never gave up the childlike quirks and charm that made him an instant friend to everyone he met. Showing family photos to the jury, she laughed that he seemed to

Sentencing details

The jury sentenced Darren Davis, whom co-conspirator Martin Martinez named as the triggerman, to 45 years in prison on the murder conviction, 30 years for armed burglary and seven years for conspiring to commit burglary. His attorney, Mark Williams, did not ask the jury for a lenient sentence; he requested only that the sentence be "fair."

For José Pereira, the sentence broke down to 30 years for murder, 20 years for armed burglary and two years for conspiring to commit burglary. No evidence presented at the trial indicated that Pereira was armed during the incident — only that he acted in concert with others in the events that led to Trip Bopp's death, a fact defense attorney Eric Shamis emphasized to the jury.

Under Virginia law, Circuit Judge James Plowman will decide whether to suspend a portion of any of the jury's sentences. Crucially, he will also decide whether those sentences will run consecutively — one after the other — or concurrently, which would result in much less prison time. He will announce his decision at a court hearing Jan. 26.

While both men technically avoided the life sentences the jury could have imposed, the sentences may amount to that anyway. Davis is 37 years old; if Plowman imposes the jury's sentence with consecutive prison terms, Davis will need to live to age 119 to be released. Pereira, 33, would be 85 years old when released.

The Virginia General Assembly passed a law in the 1990s eliminating the possibility of discretionary parole for anyone convicted of a felony going forward. That means Davis and Pereira will serve whatever active prison terms Plowman orders.

The two co-conspirators, Martinez and Jury Guerra, pleaded guilty before the trial. They both face up to life in prison and will be sentenced by Plowman at a separate hearing Jan. 19.

wear the same dress shirt at every family gathering. "He loved that shirt," she smiled.

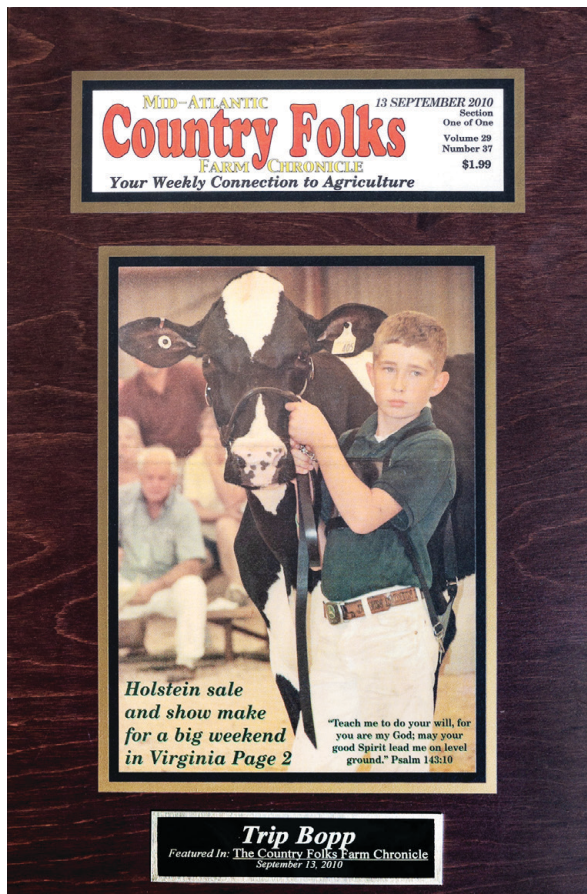
Trip's father, former Fauquier County Sheriff's Office Major Charlie Bopp, sat in the witness box countless times over his decades-long career in law enforcement. But never, he explained to the jury, to testify on behalf of a victim. Charlie Bopp was a law enforcement officer, not a farmer. But after his father retired two years ago, Trip was determined to make him one anyway.

Trip was dyslexic, Charlie Bopp told the jury. School was always hard for him, but he managed to overcome those challenges. "I'm not sure I told him enough how proud I was of him," Charlie Bopp said.

See **BOPP**, page 9

More coverage online

Read detailed coverage from each day of the trial at fauquier.com.



A photo of Trip Bopp, then 13, showing Mr. Sam, his prized Holstein dairy cow, appeared on the Sept. 13, 2010, edition of Country Folks Farm Chronicle.

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Jury convicts two Manassas men for their role in 'Trip' Bopp's murder

BOPP, from page 6

Trip's parents live about 3 miles away from where he lived near Remington; Trip's father was one of the first to arrive on the scene after the murder. When he arrived, Charlie Bopp said that his law enforcement training kicked in. But it was soon overcome by a greater force. "My father instincts brought me straight to him," he remembered. He checked for a pulse; there was none. Kneeling next to Trip, Charlie Bopp prayed quietly until first responders arrived.

Tatiana Bopp, Trip's sister, told the jury that she had lost her best friend. The past year and a half have been "exhausting," she said. "A nightmare." Her relationship with him still gives her strength, she added. "Growing up with Trip, I learned the biggest lesson ever. It was not to give up."

Fauquier County Senior Assistant Commonwealth's Attorney Abigail Romero, who prosecuted the case with help from Commonwealth's Attorney Scott Hook, asked the jury to impose a life sentence for both Davis and Pereira, acknowledging that calculating an appropriate sentence is difficult in such serious crimes. "I don't know how to tell you how to quantify the

"I don't know how to tell you how to quantify the loss of a human being, an innocent 24-year-old who did nothing wrong."

ABIGAIL ROMERO
Fauquier County Senior Assistant Commonwealth's Attorney

loss of a human being, an innocent 24-year-old who did nothing wrong," she told them.

She pointed to the defendants' long criminal histories, which date back to when both men were juveniles. The "natural progression of their lives" had led to Bopp's murder, she said. "Put an end to that progression today. Make sure they don't hurt anyone else."

The prospect of effective life sentences for both Davis and Pereira also emphasized that there are often more innocent bystanders than are immediately obvious. Pereira, the jury heard, has three children. Davis has four. They will likely never see their fathers outside of prison.

Reach Coy Ferrell at cferrell@fauquier.com

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