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TUESDAY, APRIL 28, 2015

## STAFFORD >> MARYLAND MAN FACES FIRST-DEGREE MURDER CHARGE

# FBI OFFICER SHOT TO DEATH



HILARY SWIFT / THE FREE LANCE-STAR

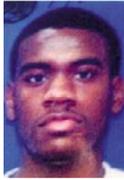
Stafford County authorities investigate a slaying early Monday morning in southern Stafford.

BY KEITH EPPS  
THE FREE LANCE-STAR

A Maryland man has been charged with first-degree murder in connection with the Monday morning slaying of an FBI Police officer in Stafford County.

Jeremy Brown, 29, of 110 Abby Lane in southern Stafford was gunned down as he was leaving his home at 5:01 a.m., Stafford sheriff's spokesman Bill Kennedy said.

Antoine Gray Johnson, 26, of Upper Marlboro, Md., is also



Johnson

charged with using a firearm in the commission of a felony. According to police, Johnson confronted Brown as he came out of his home in uniform on his way to work. Police said they exchanged gunfire in the ensuing confrontation and Brown was killed.

Kennedy said the two men knew each other, but would not

say what the confrontation was about. He said that was part of the ongoing investigation.

Numerous citizens reported hearing multiple shots fired and detectives flooded the area. Police immediately got a description of the vehicle Johnson was driving and a lookout was broadcast.

A King George deputy spotted the vehicle about 20 minutes later in the area of Caledon and Dahlgren roads in King George, and the suspect was taken into custody on

nearby U.S. 301.

A handgun of the same caliber used in the slaying was found in the vehicle, Kennedy said.

Kennedy said detectives are confident that Johnson acted alone and that the attack was an isolated incident.

Shortly after the shooting, police assured residents that the area was safe, but did not confirm that a suspect was in custody until late in the afternoon.

Detectives spent most of the day gathering evidence at the

SEE SLAYING, BACK PAGE



PHOTOS BY HILARY SWIFT / THE FREE LANCE-STAR

Doretha Barbour (center) raises her fists in the air and leads the crowd in a chant of 'We need more money!' Barbour works for GCA Services Group and cleans at Hampton Oaks Elementary in Stafford.

## Janitorial workers strike in Stafford

EMPLOYEES OF GCA SERVICES CLEAN MOST STAFFORD COUNTY SCHOOLS; PROTEST LOW PAY

BY CATHY JETT  
THE FREE LANCE-STAR

Employees of the company providing janitorial services for most of Stafford County's schools plan to continue striking today.

About 50 first showed up at 7 a.m. Monday to wave signs outside GCA Services Group's office in the Stafford County Public Schools Facilities Operations and Maintenance Facility at 25 Wyatt Lane in Stafford.

The signs bore such slogans as



Clayton Howard stands in solidarity with his fellow GCA workers.

"We care about our schools. But GCA doesn't care about us." "We like our job. We hate our pay." And "Strike! Strike! Strike!"

The employees, many of whom have worked for GCA as long as seven years, said they've never gotten a raise to their \$8-an-hour salary. That's 75 cents above minimum wage in Virginia.

"They told a lot of us that after three weeks we'd get a raise, but that never happened," said Clayton Howard, who has worked for GCA for three years. "A lot of folks here work side jobs [to make ends meet]. I cut grass."

GCA is based in Cleveland and has more than 37,000 employees in 46 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico. It serves a variety of

SEE STRIKE, PAGE A7

## Murder suspect called 'sensitive'

MURDER CHARGE SHOCKS THOSE WHO KNEW STEVEN VANDER BRIEL AS FRIEND, TEAMMATE, CO-WORKER

BY AMY FLOWERS UMBLE  
THE FREE LANCE-STAR

More than a week after the slaying of a University of Mary Washington student, her accused killer remains an enigma. Former friends and co-workers describe an introverted, laid-back man with the nickname "Care Bear."

Steven Vander Briel was charged with first-degree murder and abduction after his housemate Grace Mann was found unconscious and bound on April 17.

A computer search of public records across the nation didn't reveal any previous criminal charges against Briel.



Briel

Several people who knew the 30-year-old UMW student described him as "non-threatening." His arrest shocked them.

The crime "is the antithesis of the man I knew," said a former co-worker who started a social media marketing company with Briel five years ago in Seattle.

Briel, a New Jersey native, first attended UMW in 2002, dropping out in 2006 and returning in 2007. He left school again soon after that, two courses short of a political science degree. He returned this January to finish. He was on track to graduate next week, UMW spokeswoman Marty Morrison said.

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## MUSIC >> GET SOME BEER ON ICE

### HANK IS COMING BACK TO 'BURG

BY JONAS BEALS  
THE FREE LANCE-STAR

"If heaven ain't a lot like Dixie," Hank Williams Jr. sang, "I'd just as soon stay home."

It might not be everyone's idea of the promised land, but Celebrate Virginia Live must rate pretty well with the country singer known as Bocephus. On July 31, he will make his second appearance in three years for the summer con-

cert series in Fredericksburg.

Williams won't be staying home, and neither will his throngs of local fans, if his last appearance is any indication. His concert in 2013 drew one of the largest crowds in the history of the series.

"It was definitely a concern to bring back an artist of his stature so quickly," said concert promoter

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FILE / THE FREE LANCE-STAR

Country music legend Hank Williams Jr. rocked Celebrate Virginia Live in 2013. He returns July 31.

## Council to discuss museum bailout

CITY ASKED TO PROVIDE \$750,000 TO HELP FUND RETURN TO FORMER SITE

BY PAMELA GOULD  
THE FREE LANCE-STAR

The Georgian-style bank building, dating to 1927, was viewed as a beautiful place to expand the Fredericksburg Area Museum and Cultural Center.

It offered museum officials the ability to more than double their space for exhibits, storage, offices and a gift shop. And it was located at a busy intersection in the heart of downtown.

And so in 2004, the nonprofit organization bought the building at the corner of Princess Anne and William streets at a 25 percent discount and with a \$200,000

pledge of support from its last occupant, BB&T.

The museum also bought a 19th-century retail shop on the William Street side to provide even greater square footage.

But those plans carried a hefty price tag. As renovation costs exceeded expectations, the tab hit the \$12 million mark. And that

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COMING UP >> MILITARY PARK BOOSTS LOCAL ECONOMY