

Man going to jail for pulling gun at party

BY KEITH EPPS / THE FREE LANCE-STAR

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A Fredericksburg man who interrupted a celebration earlier this year by pointing a gun at four people was ordered Thursday to serve a year and a half in prison.

Johnathan Dillon Jurgins, 20, was sentenced in Fredericksburg Circuit Court to a total of 13 years with all but the 18 months suspended.

As part of a plea agreement, he pleaded guilty to possessing a firearm as a felon, obstruction of justice, petty larceny, preventing someone from calling 911 and four counts of brandishing a firearm.

According to police and prosecutor Travis Bird, a celebration was held the afternoon of April 30 in the 700 block of Hanson Avenue in the city for James Edward Coleman, who had just gotten out of jail.

Jurgins showed up at the gathering uninvited and confronted several people outside the house. He pointed a gun at some of them and threatened to shoot.

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After a woman pulled a phone out of her purse to call 911, Jurgins snatched the phone and ran.

Officers later spotted him along the Rappahannock Canal path and finally caught him behind nearby Mary Washington Hospital.

A police dog later helped police find a gun along the route Jurgins had been running.

Bird said it was his understanding that Jurgins and Coleman had a history of bad blood involving a woman.

Coleman is currently facing a Jan. 9 trial in city Circuit Court for a malicious wounding charge involving Jurgins. That incident took place June 7, a little over a month after the brandishing incident at the party.

Police reports say that Coleman attacked Jurgins after coming home and finding Jurgins with Coleman's live-in girlfriend.

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