

News

New Advanced Academic Program at Poplar Tree?

School Board seeks more community feedback before taking action.

By Tim Peterson
The Connection

reenbriar West Elementary School is far from the only Fairfax County Public School with an overcrowding problem. Though with its student body of over 1,100 running 265 over capacity, the school is in danger of not being able to taken on any new students for its Advanced Academic Program (AAP) Center.

Greenbriar West in Fairfax is one of 27 elementary schools in the county that offer full-time gifted and talented centers, with a more complex and difficult curriculum for students in grades 3-6 that are specially selected based on high academic performance. According to FCPS, the school has 600 students currently enrolled in its center

As a solution to allow students to continue to be added to the center, FCPS recommended creating a new center at Poplar Tree Elementary School in Chantilly, effective beginning in September of this year.

Dr. Sloan Presidio, assistant superintendent with the FCPS Instructional Services Department, presented the recommendation to the school board at their regular



Christopher Ferragamo, parent of a Poplar Tree Elementary School student, speaks to the FCPS School Board Feb. 19.

meeting on Thursday night on Feb. 19.

"The rationale is pretty straightforward," said Presidio. "Clearly capacity exists at Poplar Tree: They're currently at 96 students under capacity."

Under the proposed plan, eligible students from Poplar Tree, Brookfield and Cub Run elementary schools could attend the Poplar Tree center, the Greenbriar West Center would serve students from Greenbriar West, Greenbriar East and Colin Powell elementary schools, and the Bull Run Center would serve Bull Run, Virginia Run, Deer Park, London Towne and Centre Ridge elementary school students.

Currently most Poplar Tree students and

Greenbriar West students living within the school's base boundary (not those attending the center from other areas) feed into Rocky Run Middle School and Chantilly High School.

Though the center covers grades 3-6, Presidio said it would be difficult to implement the new center in all three immediately. One of the challenges would be ensuring staff readiness for each grade.

So for the last two months, Presidio and FCPS staff conducted a survey of parents that they believe could be affected by the change. Specifically, the asked which grade or grades a new center (if created) should start with.

The survey went out to 2,549 parents, of which 589 responded. Of those, over 60 percent were positive towards creating the center. When asked to choose between opening with just third grade, just third and fourth grade, or all three grades, 36 percent of the 589 answered they would prefer all three. Eighteen percent said only third grade, 13 percent said third and fourth.

Based on the survey and other community outreach, Presidio said the staff recommendation was to start in September with

SEE ADDING PROGRAM, PAGE 11







Stalled Labor Market Slows County Budget

Proposed budget calls for no real estate tax rate increase, but average homeowner would pay \$184 more.

By Ken Moore
The Connection

upervisor Jeff McKay pointed out the irony in County Executive Ed Long's proposed \$3.8 billion budget. Three planning positions would be eliminated from the budget even though Long suggested the county needs more efforts to raise revenue from commercial and industrial venues.

"A timely planning process in revitalization is important in economic development," said McKay after Long's 30-minute presentation to the Board of Supervisors on Tuesday, Feb. 17. "The planner piece is not going in the same direction as the economic development question."

McKay pointed to redevelopment along the Route 1 corridor as a source of economic growth that would require extra input from planning. Long agreed that the county urgently needs to expand the nonresidential tax base in the county.

Commercial assessments dropped 0.6 percent, while residential assessments increased 3.4 percent. Commercial vacancy rates are higher than they have been since 1991. Although the U.S. economy grew at an estimated rate of 2.6 percent during the fourth quarter of 2014, "we are clearly underperforming the national economy," Long told the Supervisors, mostly due to the sequester and reductions in federal spending and contracting.

"Our economy is very dependent on people buying cars, buying houses and shopping," Long said.

Long forecasts no significant improvements in the short term future. "We cannot fund all our priorities and investments." Most departments, aside from public safety, will see some expenditure reduction.

Just 5,100 jobs were created in Northern Virginia in 2014, less than half of the 11,900 jobs created in 2013, which is half the number of jobs (25,250) created on average in 2011 and 2012.

"It is a bit sobering," said Hunter Mill Supervisor Catherine Hudgins.

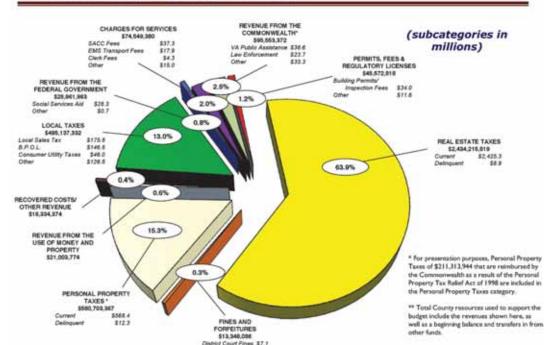
Budget Schedule

March 3: Board advertises FY 2016 tax rate April 7-9: Public hearings April 21: Budget markup

April 28: Budget adoption

To sign up to speak at one of the public hearings, call the Clerk to the Board's Office at 703-324-3151 or 703-324-2391 (TTY 711) or to access the form to sign up to speak, go to https://wwww.fairfaxcounty.gov/bosclerk/speaker_bos.htm The public can send written testimony or communicate with the Clerk's Office by email at: clerktothebos@fairfaxcounty.gov

FY 2016 Advertised Budget Plan: "Where it Comes From"



FY 2016 GENERAL FUND RECEIPTS** = \$3,807,380,285 **

Fairfax County, Virginia: FY 2016 Advertised Budget Plan (Includes Multi-Year Budget: FY 2016 - FY 2017)

Courtesy of Fairfax County Government

This pie chart shows sources of county revenue, with 64 percent coming from real estate taxes.

Budget Town Hall Meetings

Providence District Budget Meeting Providence Community Center, 3001 Vaden Drive, Fairfax - Multi-Purpose Room 2 Wednesday, March 11, 7 p.m.

Braddock District Budget Meeting Braddock Government Center, 9002 Burke Lake Road, Burke - Braddock Hall

Wednesday, March 11, 7:30 p.m.

Chairman Bulova's Community
Dialogue on the Budget, South
South County Center, 8350 Richmond
Highway, Alexandria - Room 221
Saturday, March 14, 10 a.m.

Chairman Bulova's Community
Dialogue on the Budget
Fairfax County Government Center,
12000 Government Center
Parkway, Fairfax - Conference
Room 9/10
Saturday, March 14, 2:30 p.m.

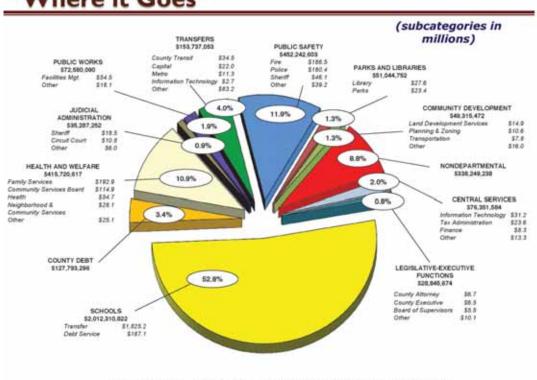
Braddock District Budget Meeting Frost Middle School, 4101 Pickett Road, Fairfax Tuesday, March 17, 7:30 p.m.

Springfield District Budget Meeting West Springfield Government Center, 6140 Rolling Road, Springfield, Community Room Wednesday, March 18, 7 p.m.

Mason District Budget Meeting Mason District Government Center, 6507 Columbia Pike, Annandale -Main Community Room Thursday, March 19, 7 p.m.

Lee District Budget Meeting Franconia Government Center - 6121 Franconia Road, Alexandria Wednesday, March 25, 7 p.m.

FY 2016 Advertised Budget Plan: "Where it Goes"



FY 2016 GENERAL FUND DISBURSEMENTS = \$3,813,478,453

Fairfax County, Virginia: FY 2016 Advertised Budget Plan (Includes Multi-Year Budget: FY 2016 - FY 2017)

Courtesy of Fairfax County Government

This pie chart shows county expenditures, with 52.8 percent going to Fairfax County Public Schools, and 12 percent to public safety.

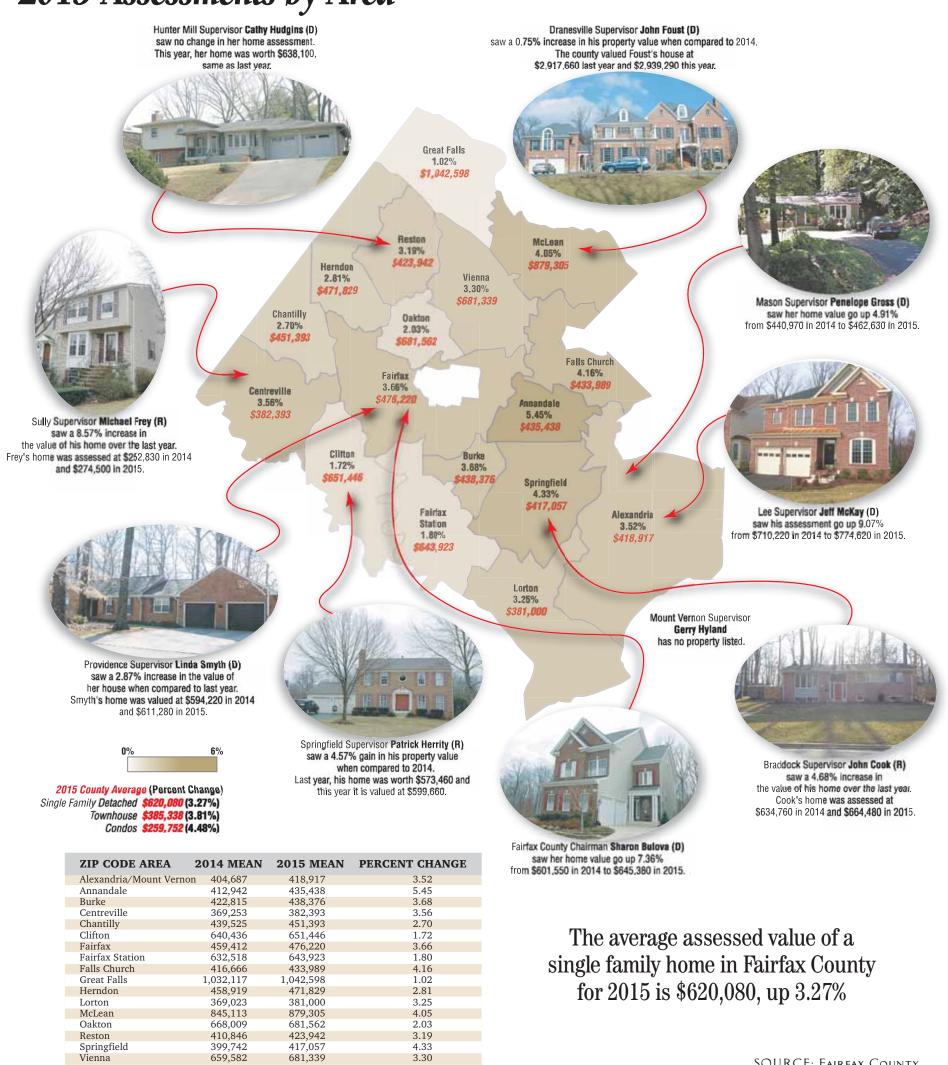
5 Things to Know about the Budget

♦ One penny change in the real estate tax rate, currently \$1.09, is worth \$22.6 million.

- ❖ The average 2014 home selling price, \$517,000, has still not reached its previous peak value of \$543,271 achieved in 2005.
- ♦ Direct office vacancy rate was 15.2 percent as of mid-year 2014, the highest office vacancy rate since 1991.
- ❖ Fairfax County Public Schools request \$14 million more than is in the current proposed budget. Schools ask for a 3.99 percent increase; the current county budget proposal includes 3.43 percent increase over last year.
- School Age Child Care (SACC) fees restructured to generate revenue and to better reflect income levels and affordability for participating families. Full paying families will see an increase of 8 percent.

Fairfax County REAL ESTATE

2015 Assessments by Area



417,057

681.339

for single family, townhouses and condominiums

3.30

Springfield

Vienna

SOURCE: FAIRFAX COUNTY

'A Force to Be Reckoned With' PFC Virgil Swartz Is Sully District Station's Officer of the Year.

By Bonnie Hobbs The Connection

FC Virgil Swartz received the honor of being named Sully District Station's Officer of the Year for his second time. He was the police station's recipient in 2011 and is now, again, for his outstanding police work in 2014. During the station's Citizens Advisory Committee's Feb. 11 meeting, his achievements were recognized in front of his family and fellow officers.

"He's a crime fighter and a force to be reckoned with," said Capt. Bob Blakley, the station commander. He then explained why Swartz, standing next to him, was dressed in a business suit, instead of his uniform.

"He's currently recovering from an injury sustained while capturing a would-be bank robber," said Blakley. "While driving down [Centreville's] Stone Road to the bank, he saw a man who looked sweaty and out-ofplace walking down the road. He confronted the man and the man fought him, and Virgil sustained a broken hand. And that's just one day's worth of a year's amazing work."

Blakley said Swartz also discovered a meth lab in the woods near the Fairfax/ Prince William county line. It turned out to be in Prince William but, said Blakley, "It's



Police Capt. Bob Blakley (left) congratulates PFC Virgil Swartz on becoming the Sully **District Station's** Officer of the Year.

> Рното ву Bonnie Hobbs THE CONNECTION

another example of an outstanding cop. And even while healing, he's been working in our Criminal Investigations Section, helping the other detectives solve crimes."

The letter officially nominating Swartz for Officer of the year was written by his supervisor, 2nd Lt. Matt Doyle. In it, he wrote that, "Throughout the year, PFC Virgil R. Swartz has exemplified what it is to be an outstanding patrol officer and leader among his peers. He goes well above any supervisor's expectation of work ethic and

performance, while ensuring the safety and well-being of the community he serves every day."

Swartz is assigned to patrol, and Doyle said he arrives at every shift, ready and willing, and "eagerly exits morning roll call and begins his quest to seek out the criminal element that lurks among us, preying on innocent people."

"He has an uncanny sense for spotting a vehicle or person and knowing criminal activity is afoot — which has statistically placed him as a leader in criminal arrests among his peers on the squad," continued Doyle. "In 2014, he made the highest number of self-initiated field contacts on his assigned squad."

Furthermore, wrote Doyle, "An extraordinary example of his remarkable ability to locate and identify the criminal element came on Sept. 26, 2014." Doyle then presented additional details about the attempted bank robbery. He said several police units responded after a 911 call came in about it.

Swartz was among them, driving with his lights and siren on, when he noticed that a man he passed paid him no attention. "Immediately, his instincts were alerted," wrote Doyle. "A subsequent subject stop quickly turned into an all-out fight between Swartz and the suspect."

The man was eventually apprehended and handcuffed, and a search revealed he was concealing a large, hunting-style knife and other illegal contraband. Further investigation allegedly linked the suspect to the attempted bank robbery, and police charged him with several felony and misdemeanor offenses.

Doyle also wrote that "Swartz's passion for enforcing the traffic laws goes much further than ensuring the motoring public

SEE SULLY STATION, PAGE 11





OPINION

Managing Mental Illness in Jails

Natasha McKenna's death provides window on national concern.

national report released on Feb. 11 highlighted the prevalence of people with mental illness incarcerated in local jails.

"Serious mental illness, which includes bipolar disorder, schizophrenia, and major depression, affects an estimated 14.5 percent of men and 31 percent of women EDITORIAL in jails — rates that are four to six times higher than in the general population.

... While most people with serious mental illness in jails, both men and women, enter jail charged with minor, nonviolent crimes, they end up staying in jail for longer periods of time." See vera.org.

Natasha McKenna, a woman with a long history of severe mental illness, died on Feb. 8, five days after being repeatedly shocked with a taser, restrained, hooded and forcibly removed from her cell by six deputy sheriffs "pursuant to its protocols for managing combative inmates.

McKenna, a small woman according to press

reports, had been held in the Fairfax County Detention Center since Jan. 26, on a warrant from the City of Alexandria. Fairfax deputies were forcibly extracting her from her cell so she could be transported to the Alexandria jail.

Here is part of the police release on the inci-

"During the struggle to restrain McKenna, a member of the Sheriff's Emergency Response Team deployed a conducted energy weapon (Taser) on McKenna. While being restrained, deputies placed a spit net (which is designed to restrict and prevent spitting) on McKenna.

> A nurse from the ADC medical staff was present at that time to check on her prior to transport and cleared her for transport. Deputies attempted to

put her in a medical transport chair, but McKenna continued to be combative and was moved to a restraint chair for transport."

To understand a little of what was happening, search for images of "spit net" and "prisoner restraint chair."

When the emergency response team was getting ready to load McKenna into a vehicle, "medical personnel from the Fairfax County Sheriff's Office checked McKenna and determined she was experiencing a medical emergency."

McKenna never regained consciousness.

The incident was recorded on video, but "the video is currently retained as evidence by detectives from the Fairfax County Police Department and will not be released at this time."

Less than two weeks after McKenna's death, the public knows a lot more about the details of this incident than previous cases involving the Fairfax County Police, but questions of what happened, how and why, greatly outnumber

It is standard operating procedure in the United States to warehouse disruptive people with mental illness in jails. A 2006 Special Report by the Bureau of Justice Statistics estimated that 705,600 mentally ill adults were incarcerated in state prisons, 78,800 in Federal prisons and 479,900 in local jails, according to the National Institute for Corrections.

We have to ask what constitutes humane, effective treatment for people with mental illness, and often substance use disorders, who end up in jails. Are the brutal images of Natasha McKenna's handling a common experience for people with severe mental illness in jails? While deaths resulting from such incidents are rare, they do occur. What can be done to provide treatment?

- Mary Kimm

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

Roundups

Garza's Listening Tour

Students, parents, staff, and community members are inited to join Superintendent Karen Garza at the Region 5 Listening Tour Meeting on Tuesday, March 3 at 6:30 p.m. at Chantilly High School cafeteria, 4201 Stringfellow Road, Chantilly.

Those planning to attend the meeting are asked to register at www.surveymonkey.com/ s/listeningtour2014-15 and indicate if an interpreter is needed.

Free Carseat Inspections

Certified technicians from the Sully District Police Station will perform free, child safety carseat inspections Thursday, Feb. 26, from 5 p.m. to 8:30 p.m, at the station, 4900 Stonecroft Blvd. in Chantilly. No appointment is necessary. But residents should install the child safety seats themselves so technicians

may properly inspect and adjust them, as

Because of time constraints, only the first 35 vehicles arriving on each date will be inspected. That way, inspectors may have enough time to properly instruct the caregiver on the correct use of the child seat. (The inspection may be cancelled in the event of inclement weather). Call 703-814-7000, ext. 5140, to confirm dates and times.

Learn about Police Department

Throughout the year, the Fairfax County Police Department will host a series of lectures as part of its 75th anniversary.

❖ March 18 - FCPD Narcotics - Investigations, Trends, and Public Awareness, 1 p.m. at the Sully District community Room

https://www.eventbrite.com/e/fcpd-narcotics-investigations-trends-and-public-awareness-tickets-15373711184

❖ April 20 – Public Safety Communications - Call taking, Dispatching, and Technology, 2 p.m. at MPSTOC community room

https://www.eventbrite.com/e/publicsafety-communications-call-taking-dispatching-and-technology-tickets-15373766349

- ❖ May 22 The Police Canine (K-9) Team, 1 p.m. at OSB https://www.eventbrite.com/e/ the-fcpd-canine-k-9-team-tickets-
- ❖ May 25 The Development of the FCPD Badge, noon at the Massey Building A Level small conference room www.eventbrite.com/e/the-development-ofthe-fcpd-badge-tickets-15373875676



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— Engagement –

Pierson, Aiken Engaged

Steven and Aimee Pierson of Centreville announce the engagement of their daughter, Kelly Nicole, to Danny Aiken, son of Doug and Vicki Aiken of Roanoke, Va.

Ms. Pierson, a 2008 graduate of Centreville High School in Clifton, studied architecture at University of Virginia and graduated in 2012. She is the creative assistant director and a studio instructor for The Paint Bar in Boston, Ma.

Mr. Aiken, a 2011 graduate of University of Virginia, is the long snapper for Super Bowl XLIX Champions, the New England Patriots in Foxboro, Ma.

Other locally residing family members include: the bride's grandparents, Bill and Helen Teachout of Oak Hill; the bride's aunt and uncle, Libby and Emmett York of Clifton; the bride's aunt and uncle, Kathryn and Ryan Richardson of Fairfax and the



Kelly Nicole Pierson and Danny Aiken

groom's brother, Matt Aiken, a Naval officer currently stationed in Virginia Beach.

A July wedding is planned.

Per Connection



This is Yukilele von Coconut, "Yuki" for short. She is a 2-year-old German Shepherd Dog. Yuki has all kinds of personality and all kinds of energy. She also has all kinds of smarts and just received her Canine Good Companion certificate. This week, she will start her training to become a Therapy Dog. Yuki is pictured here with Sonny Madsen, the owner of Sit Means Sit dog obedience, where she goes for training.



Bella, the puppy of Gina Brewer, owner of Virginia's Decor (Decorating Den), takes a break from helping renovate her condo.



This is Ted the dog of the Katzman family. He is eight years old and lives in Fair Lakes/Chantilly.



My dogs Fern and Otter were both adopted from the Fairfax County Animal Shelter. They love to come to work with me at the shelter. They enjoy greeting visitors and just hanging out. When they're not "working," they love playing with each other and taking me on long hikes. Proof that shelter dogs come in all shapes and sizes, with and without spots.

Kristen Auerbach,
 Director of Communication and Outreach,
 Fairfax County Animal Shelter

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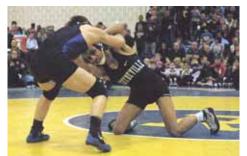
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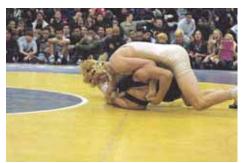
SPORTS



Centreville senior Tyler Love repeated as 6A 195-pound state champion during the state wrestling meet Feb. 20 at Robinson Secondary School.



Centreville's Victor Echeverria won the 113-pound state title on Feb. 20.



Westfield's Justin Yorkdale, top, won his second consecutive state championship on Feb. 20.



Westfield's Austin Knies, top, defeated Stafford's Sebastian Silva to win the 285-pound state title on Feb. 20.

Centreville Wrestler Love Repeats as 195-Pound State Champ

Wildcats place second in team standings, Westfield produces two champs.

By Jon Roetman
The Connection

fter eliminating the final obstacle in his path to a second state wres tling championship, Centreville senior Tyler Love eliminated the source of the ribbing he had received in recent weeks.

Love repeated as the 6A 195-pound champion, pinning Colonial Forge's Cameron Houston in the finals during the VHSL state wrestling tournament on Feb. 20 at Robinson Secondary School. After posing for pictures on the medal stand, Love used the electric razor he brought to rid himself of the lip fuzz he sported during the postseason.

Along with a state title, Love won Conference 5 and 6A North region championships with the 'stache. But did he still receive a hard time for the facial hair?

"Absolutely," Love said. "All the time. I couldn't go anywhere without catching crap for it."

All jokes aside, Love's performance Friday put the finishing touch on a spectacu-

lar high school career. Along with two wrestling state titles, Love was a standout linebacker for the Centreville football team and helped the Wildcats reach the state final during his junior and senior seasons. Centreville won it all in 2013, finishing an undefeated season with a victory over nationally-ranked Oscar Smith in the championship game. In 2014, Centreville lost in overtime to Ocean Lakes in the state final.

"It's pretty ... good," Love said of his high school career. "Obviously, four rings would have been nicer."

Love will continue his wrestling career at the University of Virginia — one of the reasons Love said he was motivated to continue working after winning his first wrestling title.

"It wasn't hard at all," Love said about finding motivation. "I know I'm moving to the collegiate level and I have to always keep on getting better."

Did the second state title feel any different than the first?

"It feels better," Love said, "because it's hard to repeat anything, as we saw in football."

Love was part of a Centreville trio that earned enough points to finish second in the team standings. Victor Echeverria won the 113-pound title, beating Battlefield's Matthew Asper via 8-4 decision, and Michael Vu finished runner-up in the 132-pound bracket.

Colonial Forge dominated the competition, producing a winning score of 147. Centreville finished runner-up (57.5), followed by Robinson (51), Westfield (48) and Battlefield (47).

"It's amazing," Love said of Centreville placing second. "I'm so proud of Vu and Vic."

Westfield and Robinson each produced two individual state champions, as well.

Westfield's Justin Yorkdale pinned Vu to win the 132-pound title — Yorkdale's second state championship.

Yorkdale said it wasn't easy to get back to work after winning his first title.

"The first one is definitely ... so fulfilling," he said. "... [A]fter I won my first one, the offseason, that was really hard. You're coming off a big win — that's your main goal in high school, to win a state title —

and now what do I do? ... It's definitely tough to push yourself."

Westfield senior Austin Knies defeated Stafford's Sebastian Silva via 1-0 decision to win the 285-pound title. Knies missed the 2014 postseason after dislocating his right kneecap prior to the conference meet, making Friday's victory that much sweeter.

"I got injured and I started to lose faith if I would ever get there," Knies said. "...The lowest point was actually watching states [in 2014]. I watched where I would have been. As it progressed, I was like, 'Oh I could have beaten him, I could have done better there.' It was really hard for me to watch the state tournament. I felt like I had wasted the golden egg that I had been given where I had a really good chance of doing well at states."

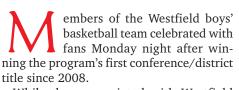
Robinson's Austin Riggs won the 145pound championship and 195-pounder Cole DePasquale won his second state title.

Due to inclement weather concerns, the VHSL condensed the two-day state tournament into a one-day tournament. The competition lasted until after midnight.

Westfield Boys' Wins Conference Championship

Bulldogs beat Herndon for title.

By Jon Roetman The Connection



While those associated with Westfield enjoyed the moment, the Bulldogs have their sights set on much more.

Westfield defeated Herndon 66-54 in the Conference 5 championship game Feb. 23 at Chantilly High School. The Bulldogs led the entire second half after briefly trailing in the second quarter.

"It feels real good," Westfield guard Blake Francis said. "It's good for our school, our program because we haven't won it in quite a while. It's good to win this and bring it back to the school."

The victory improved Westfield's record to 22-1 and extended its win streak to 20

games. The Bulldogs haven't lost since falling to Lake Braddock, 65-52, on Dec. 9. While the win was sweet, the Bulldogs are focused on greater accomplishments. Next up would be winning the program's first region title since 2012.

"It's a good start," Conference 5 Player of the Year Tyler Scanlon said. "Hopefully we'll [win even] more this year."

Westfield jumped out to a 12-2 lead, but Herndon came roaring back, tying the score at 12 at the end of the first quarter and taking a 24-20 lead midway through the sec-

"Herndon punched us dead in the face, that's what they did, to be honest with you," said Westfield head coach Doug Ewell, the Conference 5 Coach of the Year. "They punched us dead in the face and we just had to settle down. ... The key for us is always getting [defensive] stops."

The Bulldogs settled down, and took the lead for good when Michael Scruggs bur-

ied a 3-pointer with less than 2 minutes remaining in the opening half.

Francis sent Westfield to the locker room with momentum, burying a 3-pointer at the halftime buzzer, giving the Bulldogs a 31-25 lead.

"I think it [had] a big impact because that put the lead up to six," Francis said. "We came out of halftime with a pretty decent lead, so that put us over the hump a little bit"

Francis finished with a game-high 20 points and Scanlon finished with 17. Scruggs scored 10 points, Zach Sheahan finished with eight and Patrick Lawless added seven.

Francis received first-team all-conference honors, and senior guard Jacob Williams was named to the second team.

Francis and Lawless were members of the first-team all-conference defense.

"It's just weight off your shoulders," Ewell said about winning the conference. "We're a pretty good basketball team and this was something they wanted to do before the season started."



Conference Tournament

Sophomore guard Mary Clougherty and the Chantilly girls' basketball team finished runner-up in the Conference 5 tournament, losing the championship to Oakton, 64-51.

News

Vorbau Is Officer of Month

By Bonnie Hobbs The Connection

ased on his exemplary performance of his duties, MPO Denny Vorbau was selected as the Sully District Station's Citizens Advisory Committee's Officer of the Month for January. And he was honored during the group's Feb. 11 meeting.

"It takes officers who care, like Denny, to step up and fill the voids," said Capt. Bob Blakley, the station commander. "He's the senior officer on his squad and the station training coordinator for the officers." Noting a recent safe, vehicle pursuit and apprehension Vorbau made, Blakley said, "It's because of guys like him, putting their lives on the line, that we can go home at night and be safe."

Vorbau has been with the Fairfax County Police Department for 26 years and, for the past eight years, he's been assigned to the Sully District Station. And in his nominating letter, his supervisor, Lt. Mike Reser, detailed why Vorbau deserved this recognition.

"MPO Dennis Vorbau has consistently volunteered his time and considerable experience to help his fellow officers become better at their jobs," wrote Reser. "Denny spent the last six months putting together practice study tests to encourage everyone at the station to do well on the Master Police Officer test."

Reser said Vorbau coordinates and presents station training, even coming in on his days off to conduct it. And, he added, Vorbau is "constantly track-



Capt. Bob Blakley (left) presents MPO Denny Vorbau with the Officer of the Month award for January.

ing down guest presenters to do roll-call training on pertinent topics to keep the station up-to-date on new changes and trends."

Describing Vorbau as an "invaluable asset" to his squad and supervisors, as well, Reser wrote that he "handles scenes with little to no intervention needed by supervisors and never misses an opportunity to train junior officers when circumstances allow. He is reliable and competent in his day-to-day job performance, and he goes way beyond the norm in order to ensure a safe and educated police force is on the job at the Sully District Station. MPO Vorbau is a dedicated employee and most deserving of this recognition."

Officer Litchfield Honored

Police PFC Matt Litchfield was honored as the Sully District Station's Citizens Advisory Committee Officer of the Month for December 2014. His supervisor, Lt. Fred Quiles, explained why in his write-up.

"PFC Litchfield has been with the Sully District Station for three years, all serving on midnights," wrote Quiles. "He routinely performs all of his duties in an exemplary manner. His DWI enforcement efforts for this particular month were outstanding."

In addition to conducting his duties as a patrol officer, Litchfield has led his station in DWI arrests and is also one of the top producers for Fairfax County as a whole. On the squad level, he often volunteers to work DWI checkpoints and patrols throughout the county, and other officers on the squad seek his advice on finding and arresting drunk drivers.

But, wrote Quiles, "His interest in DWI enforcement does not stop there, as Litchfield has actively sought to take on a bigger role outside of just the

patrol aspect. He recently volunteered to sit on the Unified Prevention Council for the station and has been innovative and engaged with station command on overall DWI strategy."

Litchfield even asked to become his station's DWI coordinator and, as a result of his efforts, that's what Litchfield happened. But that's not all.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

"He understands that DWI education and enforcement play a key role in keeping the residents of Fairfax County safe," wrote Quiles. "His performance is indicative of the quality of officers working in the Fairfax County Police Department. PFC Litchfield is very deserving of this special recognition."

- Bonnie Hobbs

2ND ANNUAL Boys & Girls Club Fairfax Casino Night

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SPECIAL CONNECTIONS CALENDAR

Advertising Deadlines are the previous Thursday unless noted.

MARCH

3/11/2015.....HomeLifeStyle Real Estate Pullout 3/18/2015......A+ Camps & Schools 3/25/2015...Spring Fun, Food, Arts & Entertainment FCPS Spring Break 3/30-4/3

APRIL

4/1/2015.....Wellbeing – Senior Living Pullout Easter Sunday is April 5 4/8/2015.....HomeLifeStyle 4/15/2015......A+ Camps & Schools 4/22/2015.....Real Estate Pullout – New Homes 4/29/2015......A+ Camps & Schools Pullout 4/29/2015 Mother's Day Celebrations, Dining & Gifts I

5/6/2015......McLean Day Pullout 5/6/2015......Mother's Day Dining & Gifts II 5/6/2015......Wellbeing Mother's Day is May 10

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Not So Late This Time

By KENNETH B. LOURIE

But real-time once again: February 20, 11 hours, approximately, after our regularly-scheduled, post-scan meeting with the oncologist at 10:00 this morning. The news could have been better, and realistically assessing, it could have been worse. But since it wasn't better, it was definitely worse. Something "fluffy" (my oncologist's description) has appeared and begun to take some kind of shape in my left lung. It's not exactly a nodule or a tumor yet, but it's something that wasn't there previously. Oddly enough, all the other tumors that we've been monitoring didn't grow, nor were there any fluid issues to consider. Nevertheless, something new seems to be forming.

In discussing its appearance with my oncologist, he said if the mass was smaller, he wouldn't be too concerned and if it was larger he'd be more concerned. But its size is in the middle. Compounding his level of concern – and complicating his medical opinion, is that I remain relatively asymptomatic, giving him no clues and/or indications to corroborate a malignancy or even a possible pneumonia. Consequently, this appointment became a serious discussion about varying options to determine a prudent course of action treating forward; the kind of appointment which we haven't had for over 18 months, since I was last hospitalized in August, 2013.

To say we've been living on easy street, accordingly, this past year and a half is a bit of an oversimplification. To say we've occasionally taken for granted my amazing good fortune is likewise a bit of a presumption. We have, however, gotten accustomed to an ebb and flow, focusing more on the good and less on the bad. But since an updated determination concerning this growth can't be made for two months, until my next CT Scan (advanced by one month due to these new circumstances), waiting, wondering and worrying will be the inescapable order of the day, week and months ahead; a bit of a different mindset than we've been used to of late. Over this interval, my treatment will continue on as usual: chemotherapy every three weeks with Alimta, so long as my kidney function allows it. In the short-term interim, I have been prescribed five days of antibiotics in case this growth is pneumonia, not cancer. Regardless, we still won't know anything for a few months, unless, of course, I develop some new symptoms.

I can't deny that receiving this news earlier today was discouraging. I'll probably need some time to assimilate it, rationalize it, understand it and ultimately deal with it. But "it" is definitely now top of mind once again, not where I want it and certainly not where I need it.

Still, life goes on, as I often say, and it's a life I've been extremely fortunate to have had, given the "13-month to twoyear" prognosis I received back in late February, 2009. (I always put the "prognosis" in quotes because that's what my oncologist told Team Lourie.) In fact, next Friday is February 27th, my six-year anniversary of surviving a terminal diagnosis, I'm proud to point out. And even though I've been there and done that years longer than anticipated, doing this doesn't get any easier.

Kenny Lourie is an Advertising Representative for The Potomac Almanac & The Connection Newspapers

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21 Announcements

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News

Adding Program at Poplar Tree?

From Page 2

third grade only and allow for fourth grade pupil transfer. The two grades would stay at their current centers.

The recommendation drew concern from parents in the audience: 7 out of the 10 citizen speakers at the meeting addressed the proposal.

"We support the recommendation that Poplar Tree become an AAP center," said Christopher Ferragamo, the father of a Poplar Tree student, "but disagree that the placement should be given to third grade only."

Some parents with children in different grades raised the logistic difficulties of driving students to different schools with different start times. Others were frustrated about losing the ability for siblings at the same school but in different grades to challenge each other.

Former school board member Tina Hone used the topic to address what she sees as an achievement gap between Caucasian and Asian students and African American and Latino students in FCPS.

"We have no quarrel with creating a new center to relieve overcrowding," said Hone, who has been chair of the student-parent interest organization Coalition of the Silence. "But what troubles us is the lack of strategy to end the separate and unequal sub-school system comprised of largely segregated level 4 GT centers."

After Presidio's presentation, which FCPS superintendent Dr. Karen Garza reminded board members was new business rather than an action item up for voting, there was discussion as to the extent of the data collected in the public survey.

"I understand the measure behind why you start the AAP center with a slow roll out," said Springfield representative Elizabeth Schulz, "building the program, knowledge of administration, building a staff." And as for starting with just third or just third and fourth grades, "the conversation has to continue to develop," she said. "I'm not sure we're there."

"The hardest part in all of this is you have all different communities with different wants," said Sully representative Kathy Smith. "I'm hoping to hear from more of the community as soon as possible."

At-Large board member Ilryong Moon questioned whether the survey responses gave a strong enough reflection of parents by grade level that would be affected.

Presidio acknowledged the grade breakdown was an additional step the study did not have, but offered at one point that, "No matter what we do, if board were to adopt the staff recommendation, we have to query our families."

"This is not up for action tonight," Garza reiterated. "We want to make a recommendation that is strongly supported by our parents.'

The board's next meeting will be held March 5 at Luther Jackson Middle School, 3020 Gallows Road in Falls Church, beginning at 7 p.m. Citizens can mail comments to the School Board Office, 8115 Gatehouse Road, Suite 5400, Falls Church, VA 22042,

fairfaxcountyschoolboard@fcps.edu.

Sully Station Honors Swartz

is safe. He has issued an above-average amount of traffic summonses, which placed him in the top half of the entire station."

Moreover, said Doyle, "Swartz is an officer who looks beyond the traffic stop to seek out more serious criminal activity. His investigative instincts have resulted in him making countless narcotics cases, which ranks him tops among his peers in narcotic arrests. These arrests have led to cases involving thefts from vehicles, burglaries and other property crimes."

Praising Swartz's "effective, interpersonal communication skills," Doyle said he has the ability to establish rapport to obtain information from people involved in serious criminal activity. This skill, he wrote,

has greatly helped Swartz's fellow officers and detectives successfully identify people to solve countless crimes.

Doyle stressed that, during the past year, Swartz received numerous commendations from citizens, supervisors and commanders for his "hard work and dedication to service. He exudes professionalism and is respectful to the public, his peers and super-

Basically, wrote Doyle, Swartz "maintains a positive attitude at all times and the willingness to do what it takes to make a difference. His work ethic is highly commendable and his dedication to public service is second to none. A committee of his peers selected Virgil as Sully's 2014 Officer of the

BULLETIN BOARD

Email announcements to centreview@connection newspapers.com. Include date, time, location, description and contact for event: phone, email and/ or website. Due at least two weeks before event.

THURSDAY/FEB. 26

Registration Open House. 9:30-11:30 a.m. at Clifton Children's Academy, 14315 Compton Road, Centreville. Clifton Children's Academy will hold a Fall 2015/16 registration open house for morning, afternoon and full-day preschool classes. Tour the school with prospective students. Call 703-968-8455 to RSVP. Visit www.childrensacademy.com for more.

SATURDAY/FEB. 28

Neighborhood "Worship Watch." 8 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at the Fairfax County Government Center, Room 102 C, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax. Fairfax County Police are Neighborhood Watch, that aims to help keep houses of worship safe. Workshop attendees will receive crime prevention training, facility security assessments, information on how to receive crime alerts and community information. and other prevention tools. Open to all. RSVP to Katy.Defoe@Fairfaxcounty.gov or 703-478-

Entertainment

Email announcements to chantilly@ connectionnewspapers.com. Include date, time, location, description and contact for event: phone, email and/or website. Photos and artwork welcome. Deadline is Thursday at noon, at least two weeks before event.

ONGOING

The Airbus IMAX Theater at **National Air and Space** Museum Udvar-Hazy Center,

14390 Air & Space Museum Parkway, is showing movies including "Interstellar", "D-Day: Normandy 1944", "Hubble," "Fighter Pilot" and "Hidden Universe". Visit airandspace.si.edu/udvarhazy or call 703-572-4118 for the movie schedule or to schedule an IMAX On Demand show for groups of 50 or more.

Jamie Netschert, Featured Artist of the Month Exhibit. Through Saturday, Feb. 28; Monday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-9 p.m.; Sundays, 10 a.m.-8 p.m. at Clifton Wine Shop, 7145 Main St, Clifton. The Art Guild of Clifton presents a local wildlife photographer. Following a life-long passionate journey, he cares for the natural world through veterinary medicine and photography. See www.artguildofclifton.org or www.thecliftonwineshop.com. **Sully Historic Site.** 3650 Historic

Sully Way, Chantilly. Enjoy guided tours of the 1794 home of Northern Virginia's first Congressman, Richard Bland Lee. \$7/adult: \$6/student: \$5/ senior and child. Hours are 11 a.m.-4 p.m. 703-437-1794.

Singing. 7:30 p.m. at Lord of Life Lutheran Church, 13421 Twin Lakes Drive, Clifton, The Fairfax Jubil-Aires rehearse every Wednesday which includes training by an awardwinning director. Visit www.fairfaxjubilaires.org for more.

CAMPS, CLASSES & WORKSHOPS TUESDAY/MARCH 3 2015 Summer Programs.

Registration is now open for the following Fairfax County Public Schools summer camps. Students should register for programs based on the grade they are in during the current 2014-15 school year. Visit www.fcps.edu/is/summer/ index.shtml for more.

FRIDAY/FEB. 27-MARCH 1 2015 Capital Remodel and Garden

Show. Friday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-9 p.m.; Sunday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. at the Dulles Expo Center, 4320 Chantilly Shopping Center, Chantilly. More than 375 companies will be on hand to showcase the latest products and services in remodeling, home improvement, gardening, landscaping and home décor. Special guests include Jeff Devlin, host of HGTV's I Hate My Bath and DIY's Good, Better ...Best; Chris Lambton, host of DIY's Yard Crashers and Going Yard; and Mike McGrath, WTOP'S garden editor. Adults, \$6-\$10; children 6-12, \$3; children 5 and younger, free. Visit www.CapitalRemodelandGarden.com.

SATURDAY/FEB. 28

Pruning Made Easy. 10 a.m. at Merrifield Garden Center, 12101 Lee Highway, Fairfax. Understanding just a few techniques and principles will take pruning from a confusing chore to an enjoyable pastime. Bundle up and get ready to go outside (weather permitting) for a hands-on demonstration. Visit

www.merrifieldgardencenter.com or call 703-968-9600.

National Pancake Day. Participating local IHOPs celebrate by giving away one free short stack of pancakes with the hopes that patrons will make a donation to The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society's National Capital Area Chapter in lieu of payment for pancakes. Visit www.ihop.com for

WEDNESDAY/MARCH 4

Civil War Forum. 7 p.m. at Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax Station, Civil War historians, John McAnaw and John Murphy will present the Civil War Forum, "Engagement at Sangster's Station." The Sangster's Station battle was one of the largest clashes in the Fairfax Station-Clifton area between the federal and confederate forces. In addition that evening, local resident Lee Hubbard will present to the Station's Officers, four long-lost plaques from a 1903 commemorative monument to the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum. Free, open to the public. Visit www.fairfax-station.org, or call 703-

SATURDAY/MARCH 7

Grass Roots Initiative. 10 a.m. at Merrifield Garden Center, 12101 Lee Highway, Fairfax. The U.S. National Arboretum has studied the love affair that Americans have with their lawns. Learn their findings about the role of turfgrass in the environment and see how you can have a beautiful lawn and protect the environment at

- Pets

ADOPTIONS

Adopt a Dog. Fridays, 6:30-8:30 p.m. and Saturdays, 1-4 p.m. at PetSmart, 12971 Fair Lakes Center, Fairfax. Adopt a puppy or dog. Visit www.lostdogrescue.org for more.

Adopt a Dog. Saturdays, 12-3 p.m. at Petco, 13053 Lee Jackson Highway. Visit hart90.org for more.

Adopt a Dog. Sundays, 1-4 p.m. at Petco, 13053 Lee Jackson Memorial Hwy. Adopt a puppy or dog. Visit aforeverhome.org for more.

Fun Dog Show. March 7, 11 a.m., Market Square, 301 King St., Alexandria. Register your dogs to win the contests ranging from Best Tail Wag to Best Irish Costume. The show starts at 11:15 a.m., and afterwards all dogs are welcome to walk in the annual Old Town Alexandria St. Patrick's Day Parade. Register at www.ballyshaners.org/parade/ ParadeInfo dogshow.htm.

Super Pet Expo. Friday-Sunday, March 27-29, Dulles Expo Center, Chantilly. The Super Pet Expo is the largest, most amazing event for animal lovers in the DC Metro. Learn, shop and be entertained with hundreds of vendors and fun activities. Before the expo on Saturday morning, join us and hundreds of other dogs and the people who love them to attempt to set a doggie-kissing record in the Dulles Expo Center parking lot, 9 a.m. Visit www.superpetexpo.com for more.

City Walks. Four-week session begins Saturday, March 28 at Villages of Shirlington. This class is for the dog that responds really well to basic obedience cues at home or in the classroom but could use more practice around everyday distractions. This class is also great way to continue socializing your dog to new surroundings and helping them to feel comfortable with a variety of visual stimuli and sounds. It is a class that is well worth repeating to perfect good manners in public settings. Four-week session, \$165. Visit www.furgetmenot.com.

the same time. Visit www.merrifieldgardencenter.com or call 703-968-9600.

Wine Release and Living History. 1

or 3 p.m. in the Barrel Room at the Winery at Bull Run, 15950 Lee Highway, Centreville. This Winery at Bull Run red wine blend, termed "Reconciliation," is a tribute to all the soldiers who honorably served in both blue and gray. In conjunction

with the unveiling of the new Reconciliation Wine, the Benson/Rice story will be presented at 1 p.m. for wine club members and at 3 p.m. for the general public. Visit www.wineryatbullrun.com for more.

SUNDAY/MARCH 8

Concert Series. 4 p.m. at Fairfax Presbyterian Church, 10723 Main St., Fairfax. Fairfax Presbyterian Chruch Abendmusik Concert Series presents Sanghwa Lee on the organ, featuring works by Bach, Mendelssohn, Vierne and more. Visit fairfaxpresbyterian.org for more.

SATURDAY/MARCH 14

Gardening for Year Round

Interest. 10 a.m. at Merrifield Garden Center, 12101 Lee Highway, Fairfax. With planning and patience, you can have a beautiful garden in all four seasons. Peggy will show you how to combine trees, shrubs perennials and annuals to make your landscape special. Visit www.merrifieldgardencenter.com or call 703-968-9600.

Casino Night. 7 p.m., at Temple Beth Torah, 4212-C Technology Court, Chantilly. Enjoy a night of craps, blackjack and roulette. Professional instructional dealers and raffle prizes provided. Cash bar and assorted desserts. Live art auction. Open to adults over 21. \$36 per individual; \$54 per couple. Call Jennifer Harding 703-217-8938 or visit www.BethTorah.net.

SUNDAY/MARCH 15

Model Trains Running. 1-4 p.m., at Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax Station. Museum members and children 4 and under, free; children 5-15, \$2; adults 16 and over, \$4. Visit www.fairfax-station.org or call 703-425-9225

SATURDAY/MARCH 21

a.m. at Merrifield Garden Center, 12101 Lee Highway, Fairfax, There is a perennial that is just right for every garden. Learn about new varieties and some time-honored favorites to consider adding this spring. Visit www.merrifieldgardencenter.com or call 703-968-9600.

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