SPREADING SOME BRIEF WORDS

BRIAN TROMPETER
Staff Writer

The COVID-19 pandemic has affected every person and segment of society, but especially has devastated the restaurant and hotel industries.

According to recent figures from the National Restaurant Association, more than 100,000 U.S. restaurants have closed permanently, said Barry Biggar, president and CEO of Visit Fairfax (the Fairfax County Convention & Visitors Corp.).

More than 3 million restaurant employees still are out of work and the industry, which is the nation’s second-largest employer, is on track to lose $240 billion in sales by year’s end, he added.

Fast-food restaurants have had an easier time surviving the pandemic because 85 to 90 percent of their business involves takeout orders, said Gary Cohen, executive vice president of Glory Days Grill and legislative-affairs chairman for the Virginia Restaurant Lodging & Travel Association.

Full-service eateries, by contrast, do far less takeout business (although they have made significant strides during the pandemic) have been hampered by government-imposed seating limitations, he said.

Restaurants operating at full capacity typically have profit margins of between 5 and 8 percent and begin teetering if sales drop off by 5 percent, “so you can imagine what our [profit-and-loss statement] looks like when we are down 80 percent in sales,” Cohen said.

Restaurants are safe for diners, given the rigorous safety protocols they have implemented, but the public still is put off from dining out because the virus has not been controlled yet and the media and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention have tended

Continued on Page 19

REACHING TOWARD THE HEAVENS IN TYSONS

The Board of Supervisors on Sept. 29 approved plans by jsr@tysons LLC to construct a 270-foot-tall mixed-use building with 244 residential units in central Tysons. The high-rise will replace J.R.’s Stockyards Inn, a local landmark for decades. See full coverage on Page 8.

Jobless Rate Improves, But Still Has a Way to Go
Fairfax County’s unemployment rate in new data is showing continued improvement from the depths of the COVID crisis, but there is still a long way to go to return to pre-COVID levels. See full coverage inside on Page 11.

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2 October 8, 2020 sungazette.news
Town Leaders Reclassify Parcel to Government Use

It will be months — maybe years — before Vienna officials decide exactly how the town will use the former Faith Baptist Church property, but the Vienna Town Council on Oct. 5 took a first step toward the site’s future.

Council members unanimously agreed to modify the town’s comprehensive plan and reclassify the site from its current institutional use to one for governmental purposes.

The Council on Aug. 31 agreed to pay $5.5 million for the 3-acre site, which since the mid-1950s had been home to the church. The church transferred the property’s title to the town Sept. 18, but will continue leasing the site at least through the end of January 2021.

The Vienna Police Department temporarily will occupy part of the church building during the site at least through the end of January 2021. The former Faith Baptist Church property (shown outlined by red line) sits adjacent to the Vienna Police Headquarters. The town government purchased the parcel from the church in August for $5.5 million.

One possibility that has been floated early on is that the property could be used for recreational space.

The site is located next to the Vienna Police Department and Bowman House and close to Vienna Town Hall, Waters Field, the Vienna Volunteer Fire Department, Vienna Community Center and Vienna Elementary School.

Council members on Aug. 31 said the purchase of the Faith Baptist Church property was a “once-in-a-lifetime opportunity” and said it was akin to when the town bought commercial property at Maple Avenue, E., and Mill Street, N.E., which eventually was turned into the Vienna Town Green.

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MATTHEW RYAN, MA, LPC, NCC
ADD/ADHD, Anxiety, Depression & Sports Performance
Matthew holds a B.A. in Psychology from George Washington University, a M.A. in Clinical Psychology, and is a graduate of Georgetown Preparatory High School. Matthew is also a Clinical Supervisor for residents in counseling.

PATRICK RYAN, MA, LPC
ADD/ADHD, Depression, Anxiety & Grief, Substance Abuse
Patrick holds B.A. in Psychology from George Mason University, a M.A. in Clinical Psychology, and is a graduate of Gonzaga College High School and is also a cancer survivor.

KATHARINE ROSENBAUM, MA, LPC
Adolescent Girls, ADD/ADHD, PTSD & Trauma
Katharine holds B.A. in Psychology from Marymount University, a M.A. in Clinical Psychology, and is a graduate of Stone Ridge School of the Sacred Heart.

WE ARE SEEING PATIENTS IN OFFICE! We are still offering teletherapy as well.

Committed to the Safety of Our Patients

Things to look for as we go through COVID-19 Pandemic:
- Increased irritability
- Decreased motivation
- General performance anxiety
- Loneliness
- Decreased job/school attendance or avoidance
- Sleep disturbances
- Social withdrawal
- Lack of organization

What Our Patients Are Saying

“We have been using Duffy Counseling Center now for the last 2 months. My son is such a perfectionist that it was causing him undue stress in his life. The counselor has a very down to earth way of discussing situations without seeming condescending. He is a great listener and when my son walks out from his appointment he always has a smile on his face. They have a way of making a tough situation not seem like its the end of the world. I can see the counselor being ideal for high school and college kids.”

- M.S., Great Falls, VA

Angie's list
With the 2020 spring high-school sports seasons canceled because of the COVID-19 outbreak, many of the schools in the Sun Gazette's coverage areas honored senior athletes with profiles. From top left: McLean High girls lacrosse player Rose Maestri had been expected to be a top contributor. Oakton High baseball player Mike Michallas was being counted on heavily. Marshall High girls soccer player Alex Taylor was a top returning scorer. Langley High girls lacrosse player Jennifer Canfield will continue to play the sport in college. Potomac School's Sofie Stitt was being counted on for the Panthers this spring. Marshall High School baseball player Andrew Milhorn would have been a top hitter for the Statesmen this spring. Visit the particular schools' athletic Twitter sites to see the full display of senior profiles.

Photos from local schools
Have we met?

When it comes to buying or selling, I believe there is nothing more important than finding a realtor you can trust who has intimate knowledge of your community. I live and work in Vienna and have a vested interest in its success. Whether you are looking to buy or sell, I have the Vienna market insight and the tech-driven resources to guide you through the real estate process even during this unique environment - I am your neighbor after all!

Lex Lianos By The Numbers

100+
Homes Sold in Vienna

99.1%
List to Sales Price Ratio in Vienna

Lex Lianos
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Our View: What Happened to ‘Judge Not …’?

As we knew they would, and with the requisite amount of hokum expected from low-level politicians attempting to wrap themselves in sanctimony, Democrats on the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors have ordered the removal of Confederate monuments on government property. Not to be left out, officials in Arlington, Falls Church and, presumably, other local jurisdictions will be tripping all over themselves in coming months to root out and eradicate any reference to events or people from the past that their current sensibilities find disagreeable.

Whatever. We take no position on all this virtue-signaling foolishness because we are not going to waste our time with it. But for those elected officials across the region headed down this road, we do wish to pose a question. Let’s say those of you who embark on this behavior are dug out of the ground and brought back to life 150 years from now. Do you believe the views of society in the year 2170 will comport with yours of 2020?

Only a fool would expect that; we are all inherently imperfect people, (hopefully) aspiring to the better angels of our nature but finding ourselves falling short or led astray. And you never know what positions that are seen by some as forward-thinking today might be seen as abominations by those who come later. (We’ve got a few guesses.)

The best any of us can hope for is that we will be judged by succeeding generations based on the times and circumstances in which we lived, and we can only pray that said judgment will be made with humanity and empathy — two concepts quite foreign to many of politicians today.

At least those in local elected office circa 2020 need not fear that any monuments celebrating their own achievements will ever face the prospect of removal by later generations. Because nobody, but nobody, will be erecting statues to this self-satisfied, parochial gaggle. And for the record, this all applies to those on the right as well as those on the left. It’s just that, nowadays, those on the left have become, by far, the more myopic and judgmental.

As John Lennon put it: “Strange days, indeed.”

Redistricting Amendment Not Perfect, But Will Start to Put Citizens in Charge of Process

GREG DELAWIE
For the Sun Gazette

Sometimes, politicians get a bad rap for working across party lines. I get it — our political climate is as polarized as ever before, and it’s tempting to hold the barricades to the last person. But compromise is essential to a functioning democracy. And this fall, Virginia voters can cast a vote to encourage compromise by endorsing a state constitutional amendment that would incentivize bipartisanship and dispense with partisan gamesmanship in drawing political districts.

As a diplomat, I know a lot about compromise: when I was working on a NATO arms-control agreement, I negotiated with 27 other member states, each with its own views on every important topic. A “my way or the highway” approach would have guaranteed failure. A diplomat knows that the right compromise can achieve many goals, and that failing to make one can get you nothing.

Under Virginia law, the General Assembly can draw political districts for elected officials in secret, primarily to benefit a political party or particular politicians. The last gerrymandering round resulted in a 100-percent re-election rate in 2015, according to the Princeton Gerrymandering Project. Gerrymandered districts give incumbents little incentive to actually represent their voters, because a general election win is almost guaranteed. Nor will these incumbents risk working with politicians across the aisle on compromise solutions, because this might expose them to a challenger from the extreme wing of their party, as happened in Virginia in 2012 when populist candidate Dave Brat defeated House Majority Leader Eric Cantor in the Republican congressional primary.

The constitutional amendment, if approved, would set up a citizen-led redistricting commission, provide complete transparency and incentives to compromise, and write minority voting rights protections into our constitution for the first time. Some politicians, including some who voted for the draft amendment in 2019, are now opposing it, citing issues real and imagined; they say they want something better, with no politicians on the commission.

The problem is that if we do not pass this amendment, the General Assembly will be able to use the 200-year-old status quo in which delegates and senators make decisions in secret to benefit themselves; also, that “something better,” if passed, could not take effect until the 2031 (not a typo!) redistricting.

No law can tie the General Assembly’s hands and prohibit gerrymandering; we have to amend the constitution to end it. The measure on the table presents a vast improvement over the status quo.

Compromise is an essential element of the diplomat’s toolkit. It is also built into our American DNA; the “Great Compromise” of 1787 established the federal government’s Senate and House, giving each the right to block a compromise solution if 17 other members (out of 27 total) were opposed. Because nobody, but nobody, will be erecting monuments to this self-satisfied, parochial gaggle. At least those in local elected office circa 2020 need not fear that any monuments celebrating their own achievements will ever face the prospect of removal by later generations. Because nobody, but nobody, will be erecting statues to this self-satisfied, parochial gaggle.

And for the record, this all applies to those on the right as well as those on the left. It’s just that, nowadays, those on the left have become, by far, the more myopic and judgmental.

As John Lennon put it: “Strange days, indeed.”
County’s On-Time-Graduation Rates Sees a Boost

On-time-graduation rates for students in Fairfax County Public Schools’ Class of 2020 recorded modest but largely across-the-board increases from a year before, according to new data from the Virginia Department of Education.

Rates rose among both genders and in major racial/ethnic groups compared to the Class of 2019, while the school system’s dropout rate showed improvement, declining from 7.4 percent in 2019 to 6.2 percent in 2020.

The percentage of students earning advanced diplomas in 2020 – 61.2 percent – was effectively unchanged from a year before.

Among various sub-groups of students, news at the county level was positive:

- 91.3% of male students graduated on time, up from 89.4% a year before.
- 94.9% of female students graduated, up from 93.4%.
- 95.9% of black students graduated, up from 93.5%.
- 82.7% of Hispanic students graduated, up from 81.4%.
- 79.9% of English-language-learners graduated, up from 74.6%.
- 98.3% of Asian students graduated, up from 97.8%.
- 97.9% of students with disabilities graduated, up from 97.7%.
- 95.9% of black students graduated, up from 93.5%.
- 82.7% of Hispanic students graduated, up from 81.4%.
- 79.9% of English-language-learners graduated, up from 74.6%.
- 98.3% of Asian students graduated, up from 97.8%.

The dropout rate also improved, declining from 5.6 percent to 5.1 percent.

“My first priority after schools closed [due to the COVID-19 pandemic] was to make sure that every student in the Class of 2020 who was on track to earn a diploma was able to graduate on time,” Superintendent of Public Instruction James Lane said.

Due to the pandemic, state education officials issued a number of waivers, including allowing students to graduate without taking required Standards of Learning tests and, in some cases, without completing courses that otherwise would be deemed required.

Statewide among various groups:
- 98.1% of Asian students graduated and 1.2% dropped out.
- 91.3% of black students graduated and 5% dropped out.
- 81.9% of Hispanic students graduated and 15.8% dropped out.
- 95.2% of white students graduated and 2.5% dropped out.
- 90.4% of students with disabilities graduated and 7.6% dropped out.
- 89% of economically disadvantaged students graduated and 6.8% dropped out.
- 73% of English learners graduated and 25.5% dropped out.

Since 2011, high schools in Virginia have had to meet an annual benchmark for graduation and completion to earn state accreditation. Schools receive full credit for students who earn diplomas and partial credit for students who remain enrolled, earn GEDs or otherwise complete high school.

In addition, revisions to the accreditation standards adopted by the state Board of Education in 2017 include benchmarks for reducing dropout rates and chronic absenteeism.

For full data at the state, division and school levels, see the Website at https://bit.ly/2Sf80yB.

8th District Contenders Split Slightly on Getting Kids Back to Class

SCOTT MCCAFFREY
Staff Writer

Should Northern Virginia public-school students be back in class, rather than trying their best to learn “virtually”?

The two candidates for the 8th District U.S. House of Representatives are in agreement on generalities, but seem to differ on the emphasis they place on a return to in-person instruction.

Long-shot Republican challenger Jeff Jordan used a Sept. 23 debate sponsored by the League of Women Voters of the Fairfax Area to press for a return to school, citing a host of reasons.

“Our children are suffering academically, socially, intellectually across the nation. In a recent op-ed, the Fairfax school system’s generally positive news was mirrored at the state level, where 92.3 percent of nearly 99,000 potential graduates in the Class of 2020 earned diplomas on time, up from 91.5 percent a year before. The dropout rate also improved, declining from 5.6 percent to 5.1 percent.

“My first priority after schools closed [due to the COVID-19 pandemic] was to make sure that every student in the Class of 2020 who was on track to earn a diploma was able to graduate on time,” Superintendent of Public Instruction James Lane said.

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8th District Contenders Split Slightly on Getting Kids Back to Class

Incumbent U.S. Rep. Don Beyer (D-8th) was in agreement with the principle of students’ returning, but he was more cautious.

“We all want our kids back in class, but we want them back in school safely,” said Beyer, pushing for federal funds to provide masks, testing and cleaning supplies.

Shortly after the Trump administration in June pressed school districts across the nation to open schools with in-person learning this fall, all the public-school divisions in the 8th District (Fairfax, Alexandria, Arlington and Falls Church) opted to start the 2020-21 school year with all-online classes. Some districts are beginning to rethink that plan, with tentative steps to begin some in-person learning in coming weeks and months.

Jordan, who in May defeated Mark Ellmore to win the Republican nomination, said getting students back in class was a precursor to a full economic revival.

“We need our communities healthy and vibrant, and getting teachers and students back into schools is the best way to do that,” he said, pointing to the need of parents to have some regularity back in their lives.

“People have to work and they need to be able to go to work,” he said. “Opening the schools is huge.”

Beyer said the best way to deal with economic recovery is to pass federal legislation providing assistance to governments, businesses and those affected by the downturn. He acknowledged that impact of the situation on local small businesses, “many of which have already failed, many of which are going to fail in the next couple of months.”

Beyer and Jordan have taken part in a series of debates over the past month, although given the political leanings of the district, the incumbent – who in 2014 was elected to succeed Jim Moran – is likely to win a new two-year term relatively easily.

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**Supervisors OK Tysons High-Rise on Site of Acclaimed Steakhouse**

**BRIAN TROMPETER  
Staff Writer**

Goodbye windmill, hello skyscraper on a tiny triangle of land in central Tysons.

The Fairfax County Board of Supervisors on Sept. 29 unanimously approved a proposal by jrs@tysons LLC to raze the existing J.R.’s Stockyards Inn at 8130 Watson St. and erect a 270-foot-tall, 26-story, mixed-use building with 244 residential units, a small amount of ground-floor retail and underground parking.

The 1.1-acre site, located between International Drive and Watson Street in central Tysons, has been occupied by the steakhouse since the late 1970s. Owned by Jim and Karen Wordsworth, the restaurant has an iconic windmill that several supervisors said they were sorry to see go.

“I look forward to seeing this project built,” she said. “I’ll miss the windmill [but] it will be an exciting addition to Tysons that will further our goals of making it a livable, workable and enjoyable, transit-oriented urban center,” said Supervisor Dalia Palchik (D-Dulles). All of the site is within one-third of a mile of the Tysons Corner Metro Station and 74 percent of it is within a quarter-mile of the station, which under the Tysons Comprehensive Plan allows it to have unlimited development density.

The applicant’s plan will have a maximum 301,314 square feet of gross floor area and a floor-area ratio (which contrasts a parcel’s size with its gross square footage) of 6.28. That’s hefty but not enormous; the Empire State Building, for instance, has a floor-area ratio of 25.0.

The applicant did reach out to other adjacent property owners in the 7.92-acre triangle of land bounded by Route 123, International Drive and Watson Street, but could not make any headway, McGranahan said.

The applicant wants to advance Tysons’ transformation and hopes that development of this small piece of land will spur other builders to submit their own redevelopment proposals, he said.

“We saw this as sort of the first piece of a puzzle that could be developed over time as those other properties decided to come forward,” McGranahan said.

In addition to a required $288,375 contribution to the Tysons Grid of Streets Fund, the applicant will pay $350,000 toward a proposed, but not yet finalized, street that would be built on the property’s western edge. That future roadway would be located across International Drive from the entrance road to Tysons Corner Center.

Supervisors were supportive of the applicant’s proposal.

“This is a really interesting step in Tysons, in terms of how, at least potentially, smaller parcels can come forward and help achieve the broader goals without coming in with very large [land] consolidations,” said Supervisor Walter Alcorn (D-Hunter Mill).

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Call 703-651-1767 or FosterRemodeling.com

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If you are a crossword fan, if so, the Sun Gazette has you covered – we have a fresh crossword each week, and even print the same week’s solution on that very page. But no peeking!
Virginia’s home-sales market in August continued to brush aside COVID and the resulting economic downturn, with total sales volume for the month up more than 25 percent on a year-over-year basis.

“Home sales were up strongly in nearly all markets across the commonwealth,” said Lisa Sturtevant, chief economist for the Virginia Realtors’ trade group, in an analysis of monthly sales figures.

“August was a very strong month for sales activity, continuing the rebound that began in June,” Sturtevant said.

The data back up her assessment: Home sales statewide totaled 13,745 in August, which while down from July (as usually is the case) was up 12.2 percent from the 12,245 transactions that occurred in August 2019.

Some of that increase is attributable to ongoing, pent-up demand that has lingered since the spring buying season was derailed by COVID. But there also are indications that the statewide (and national) homes market has momentum of its own.

“Home-sales activity that was paused this spring was unleashed over the summer,” Sturtevant said. “Buyers returned in force.”

(But where they have returned is interesting – the Virginia market has seen stronger sales activities in rural and exurban corridors than in close-in suburbs and urban areas. “The ability to work from home, coupled with concerns about COVID-19 in dense areas, may be pushing home-buyers to seek out smaller communities,” Sturtevant said.)

Year-over-year sales were up in each of the eight geographic reporting regions of the commonwealth with the exception of Southside Virginia, where sales were effectively flat. Double-digit increase were reported in a number of areas, including Northern Virginia, which saw a 17.4-percent boost to 4,925 transactions.

The median sales price of all homes that went to closing during the month statewide was $330,000, up 10.6 percent from a year before and by far the largest year-over-year jump for the month in recent years.

Median sales prices were up in all eight corridors of the commonwealth – by double digits in five of them – and ranged from a $140,000 in Southside Virginia to an even $500,000 in Northern Virginia.

That rate of growth is hurting affordability, with just 18.4 percent of properties that sold for the month going for less than $200,000. A year ago, 24.7 percent of homes sold in that price range.

On the other side of the coin, 3.1 percent of properties across the state went to closing for more than $1 million, up from 2.2 percent a year before.

Add up the sales and prices, and sales volume for the month stood at $5.5 billion, up 25.5 percent from the $4.4 billion of a year before.

One of the reasons for rising prices is the ongoing dearth of inventory.

While more sellers brought their homes to market in August than a year before, the spike in sales meant inventory at the end of the month (22,780 homes) was down more than 41 percent from a year before.

Where might the market be headed? With pending sales in August up about 11 percent from a year before, the market seems poised to continue to roll through as summer segue to fall.

If so, the Virginia market will be able to catch up to 2019’s total sales, as the January-to-August total of 86,471 is down just 498 properties, or 0.6 percent, from a year before – despite loss of much of the spring buying season.

While sales are down slightly, year-to-date sales volume of $33.1 billion over the first eight months of the year is up 5.4 percent from the same period in 2019. The median sales price for all homes that sold statewide during the first eight months of the year stood at $314,900, up 5.3 percent from a year before.

For information, see www.virginiarealtors.org.


“NCB is not just our bank – NCB is our partner in business. Responsiveness, accountability, accessibility and the feeling that our business objectives matter are just a few of the things that set NCB apart.”

Nick Orrison
Chief Financial Officer, OTJ

OTJ is an award-winning architecture firm with thirteen studios throughout North America. Fueled by a focus on people, design and an entrepreneurial spirit, OTJ has witnessed over thirty years of uninterrupted growth.

When the pandemic arrived, OTJ turned to National Capital Bank to help them navigate the complex PPP funding process quickly and efficiently, preventing any disruption to their day-to-day business or ability to service their clients.

Not only was OTJ able to maintain their operation levels, but due to the fast action of NCB, they were able to expand their line of business to address challenges specifically related to coronavirus – meeting new standards of health and safety as well as promoting the long-term wellness of building occupants.

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October 8, 2020
The McLean Community Center last week underwent a thorough sanitization in an effort to keep its customers and employees safe from viral and bacterial transmissions and infections.

Center officials paid McLean-based bio-purification company Puri/f_i LLC $9,852 to treat all 54,000 square feet of indoor space at the facility, located at 1234 Ingleside Ave.

Officials on Oct. 1 ordered the center to be vacated by 3 p.m. so the company could spend the next seven hours disinfecting the facility with a fine chemical mist.

Workers applied two coats of chlorine dioxide, a disinfectant, then added a protective coating of the antimicrobial chemical organosilane. Both chemicals are registered with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and workers applied them electrostatically, meaning that their sprayers added a positive charge to the mist, allowing it to coat surfaces more aggressively, evenly and efficiently.

“We are taking these additional steps to limit the risk of virus transmission from contact surfaces in our facility as a protective measure to our staff and our patrons entering our facility,” said George Sachs, the center’s executive director.

The mist did not pose a threat to electronics, computer equipment, artwork or other sensitive items, Sachs said. The only special precaution staff members took was to remove plants, he said.

According to center officials, the spray will continue to kill 99.9 percent of bacteria and viruses (including COVID-19) on surfaces for 30 to 60 days. The treatment is safe for humans and animals, does not leave a residue and leaves surfaces safe to touch after 20 minutes. The coating also is durable and remains active on heavily touched and frequently cleaned surfaces such as counter tops, tables, desks, chairs and door handles.

Center staff who reported for work the morning of Oct. 2 said the facility “had a sense of freshness and cleanliness,” Sachs said. “Those were their initial reactions, but there were no noticeable differences physically.”

Ex-Dranesville Supervisor Ernest Berger Dies at 88

Republican Championed Fiscal Restraint by County

Ernest Berger, a Republican who represented Dranesville District for one term on the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors in the early 1990s, died Sept. 25 at his home in Seabrook Island, S.C. He was 88.

Berger was dedicated to Dranesville District residents and served with distinction and honor, said one of his then-colleagues, former Supervisor Robert DIX (R-Hunter Mill).

Berger “was a champion for limited government and leveraging the power and innovation of the private sector,” DIX said. “He had a unique sense of humor and was a thoughtful colleague as the Board confronted and navigated through one of the most significant times of financial challenge in the history of Fairfax County.”

Berger’s death came three days after his fellow single-term predecessor, Lilla Richards, died Sept. 22 at age 81.

Ernest Joseph Berger was born March 19, 1932, in Charleston, W.Va., to parents Robert and Flora Berger. He was raised in Clarksburg, W.Va., where he attended St. Mary’s School for 12 years. He earned a bachelor’s degree in business management from West Virginia University in 1954. Following his college graduation, he received a commission in the U.S. Army infantry and during the Korean War served at Fort Benning, Ga., and Fort Jackson, S.C.

After his Army service, Berger worked for C&P Telephone Co. of West Virginia, part of AT&T and the nationwide Bell System. He did stints in West Virginia, Maryland, Virginia and Washington, D.C., then was transferred to AT&T national headquarters in New York City.

The company subsequently transferred him back to Washington, D.C., so he and his family lived in McLean.

After 37 years with the telephone company, he worked with the Executive Master’s in Business Administration program at George Mason University and helped raise money for the school.

Berger was elected to the Board of Supervisors in 1991, swept into office in a pro-growth wave that swept out Richards, board chairman Audrey Moore and venerable Vienna-based supervisor Martha V. Pennino. Four years later, he opted not to seek re-election, and the seat was picked up by Democrat Stuart Mendelson.

Berger held a top-secret clearance and worked within the Pentagon for many years, his family said. He was an avid gardener, world traveler and a devout Catholic who made many trips around the world to visit holy sites.

“He was a wonderful guy, very social, busy and active in the community,” said Gregory Berger, one of his sons “He just lived life to the fullest.”

Berger led the fund-raising project for the Holy Spirit Catholic Church in South Carolina, where he was buried Oct. 2. Online condolences may be offered at www.CharltonFunerals.com.

He is survived by a daughter, Courtney Powell, of Salem, Va.; sons Gregory Berger of London, England, Christopher Berger of Farmington, Minn., and Joseph Berger of Waterbury, Conn.; and seven grandchildren: Austin and Trevor Rakes; Cecelia, Preston and Seth Berger; and Kendall and Kaydin Ruiz.

Donations can be made to Holy Spirit Catholic Church, 3871 Betsy Kerrison Blvd., Johns Island, S.C. 29455.

McLean Community Center ‘Deep Clean’

McLean Community Center Undergoes ‘Deep Clean’

Sachs said he was unaware if any other county agencies were considering the use of such disinfectant methods, but added a vendor’s representative had said those EPA-registered chemicals were being used widely across the country and recently had been authorized for use in Fairfax County Public Schools.

Puri took readings of the center’s surfaces before undertaking the cleaning and will take comparative readings weekly, with results posts at www.puriservices.com.

Another treatment likely won’t be ordered for 45 to 60 days, possibly longer, depending on bacterial and viral data collected in the weeks following the initial spraying, Sachs said.

The center also has enhanced its cleaning protocols, in line with guidelines from the Fairfax County Health Department and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Sachs said. Center officials ask everyone entering the facility to wear face masks, practice social-distancing, wash and sanitize their hands, and screen themselves for COVID-19 symptoms before coming to the center.

*Offer valid only while supplies last. Limit one per household. Must be first time purchase. Minimum spend amount applies. Financing subject to third party credit approval.

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County’s Jobless Rate Continues to Battle Back

Fairfax County in late summer continued to rebound, jobwise, from the depths of the COVID shutdown, but still has a significant way to go before getting anywhere close to where the county had been.

With 592,698 residents in the civilian workforce and 37,676 looking for jobs, Fairfax’s unemployment rate stood at 6.3 percent, down from 7.7 percent in August, according to figures reported Sept. 30 by the Virginia Employment Commission.

The good news? That’s down more than a full percentage point from the rate of 7.5 percent seen in July. The bad news? Prior to the pandemic, Fairfax’s jobless rate was hovering at just over 2 percent.

The month-over-month decline in Fairfax County was generally mirrored across Northern Virginia, where rates from July to August fell from 7.3 percent to 5.8 percent, representing 1.55 million in the civilian workforce and just under 96,000 looking for jobs.

About 30,000 more Northern Virginians were working in August than in July, a figure totaling about 45 percent of the statewide employment increase of 68,000. However, there were 80,500 fewer Northern Virginians with jobs in August compared to a year before, and 212,600 fewer statewide.

Across the commonwealth in August, there were about 4 million residents in the civilian workforce, 275,000 looking for jobs. The resulting 6.3-percent jobless rate was down from 8 percent a month before but up from 2.9 percent a year ago.

Month-over-month employment statewide rose in eight of 11 major industry sectors statewide, led by government (largely due to local governments recalling employees that had been furloughed). Federal-government employment, which kept growing in Virginia even at the depths of the economic calamity in the late spring and early summer, rose by 5,700 jobs.

Leisure and hospitality, the industry most negatively impacted by the downturn, saw a return of 6,300 jobs (to 324,900) in August. Construction, the industry that rolled through the pandemic largely unscathed, was up 1,400 jobs for the month to 735,900 statewide, and at the end of August had 4,400 more workers than a year before.

Among Virginia’s 134 jurisdictions, the highest rates were found in Prince William (8.5 percent), followed by Martinsville (11.6 percent) and Martinsville (11.6 percent).

Nationally, the non-seasonally-adjusted jobless rate of 5.8 percent in August was down from 7.3 percent a month before, with declines reported in 41 states. Two states recorded higher rates, and seven states plus the District of Columbia saw no change.

Among the 50 states, the lowest jobless rates were reported in Nevada (4.0 percent), Utah (4.1 percent) and Idaho (4.2 percent). The highest rates were found in Nevada (13.2 percent), Rhode Island (12.8 percent) and Hawaii and New York (12.5 percent each).

Ten states reported rates higher than 10 percent for the month.

The Washington region was among 387 of the nation’s 389 metropolitan areas to see higher year-over-year jobless rates, although most of those areas are seeing improvement from the depths of the COVID crisis in late spring and early summer.

Nationally, the lowest jobless rate was 8.5 percent in August. Figures were reported Sept. 30 by the federal Bureau of Labor Statistics.

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Modern Farmhouse Stands Tall

Custom Property Features Exceptionality and a Superb Location

Superb styling and top-of-the-line amenities are the calling cards of this week’s featured property, a new home not far from Balls Hill Road in McLean.

The creative team at Creekstone Custom Builders has provided its unique take on the Modern Farmhouse movement, with a home that exudes elegance around every turn with an open floor plan and a location that is perfect for commuters but also well-provided to accommodate stay-at-home days.

The new property currently is on the market, listed at $2,549,000 by James Nelson of Long & Foster Real Estate.

A total of 7,400 square feet of space opens up for our exploration following a warm welcome on the covered porch. And as we are ushered into the main level, notice the soaring ceilings and the pitch-perfect traffic flow.

Looking at the three-month moving averages for regional HMI scores, the Northeast increased 11 points to 76, the Midwest increased nine points to 72, the South rose eight points to 79 and the West increased seven points to 85.

What is leading builders — whose confidence levels were in the dumps at the start of the COVID crisis — to be so upbeat?

“Historic traffic numbers have builders seeing positive market conditions,” said NAHB chairman Chuck Fowke, a custom home builder from Tampa, although he voiced concerns about the cost of lumber, now up 170 percent since spring and adding more than $16,000 to the price of a typical new single-family home.

Helping to spur buyers to consider new homes is the current interest-rate environment, and a shift toward suburban and rural areas away from city centers due to both the current public-health situation and civil unrest.

Some of our favorite spaces include:

- The garden room on the main level is a fresh take on 21st-century living, and it overlooks the expansive rear yard.
- The kitchen is designed to meet the needs and exceed the expectations of their serious chefs among us. There’s both a breakfast nook and a butler’s pantry.
- The main-level home office is perfect for transacting business in a safe and secure environment.
- Upstairs, the master retreat is a testament to elegance and refinement, with a sitting area, fireplace and spa-inspired bath.
- Four additional bedrooms are found on the second level, each ensuite, and there is an open second-level lounge area, perfect for students.
- The fully-finished, light-filled lower level is home to a recreation room, theater, game area, exercise room and the home’s final bedroom with full bath and separate entrance.

Facts for buyers

Address: 7207 Elizabeth Drive, McLean (22101).
Listed at: $2,549,000 by James Nelson, Long & Foster Real Estate (703) 861-8675.
Schools: Churchill Road Elementary, Cooper Middle, Langley High School.
Vienna/Oakton Notes

TOWN COUNCIL MAKES APPOINTMENTS: The Vienna Town Council recently made the following appointments to advisory bodies:

Holly Aglio and Midge Biles were appointed to the Vienna Public Art Commission. Karen Baum and Andrew Meren were appointed to the Planning Commission. Julie Kyllo was appointed to the Woodbridge Heights Board of Review.

Keith Amone, Peter Hartogs and Charlie Strunk were appointed to the Transportation Safety Commission. John O’Keefe was appointed to the Pedestrian Advisory Committee. Craig Burns and Sonali Chandrasekhar were appointed to the Conservation and Sustainability Commission.

TOWN ISSUES BUSINESS LICENSES: The following local businesses recently received licenses from the Vienna town government:

Avid Impact (consulting), 313 Broadleaf Drive, N.E.; Behind Your Every Day (dog walking/administrative assistance); Crumbi Cookies (bakery/carryout), 203 Maple Ave., E.; Gut Logic (computer-software development), 501 Orchard St., N.W.; Janet E. Hoffman (consultant), 616 Hillcrest Drive, S.W.; and Just Smiley Kids and Family Dental (dentist), 410 Pine St., S.E.

VIENNA GOVERNMENT SALUTES MILESTONE ANNIVERSARIES: The Vienna Town Council recently recognized the following milestone business anniversaries:

40 Years: Cuppett Performing Arts Center.
25 Years: Allen S. Garai; The Italian Gourmet; Oscar’s Improvements; Post.
20 Years: Advanced Pediatrics.
15 Years: Cynthia Pearson; The Personal Edge.
10 Years: Assal Bakery International; Bikes@Vienna; Culinaria Cooking School; Debby Rubenfield; Massage On Us; Vienna Periodontics.

A FAN OF ORAL HISTORY? HISTORIC VIENNA HAS OPENINGS: The oral-history committee of Historic Vienna Inc. is expanding, and is seeking individuals to assist in conducting interviews and transcribing materials.

For information, or to suggest a person to be interviewed, e-mail hvioralhistory@gmail.com

TOWN CHANGES APPROACH ON CLEAN-UP DAY FOR 2020: The Vienna town government is taking a different approach to its fall clean-up day this year, and COVID is the reason.

The Vienna Parks and Recreation Department has opted against selecting a single day to clean up parks and other areas of town, but is asking those individuals and groups interested in assisting to pick a day and time that is convenient, with the town then supplying the location and supplies.

For information, call (703) 255-6357 or e-mail ahendrix@viennava.gov.

FREEMAN STORE REOPENING IN LIMITED CAPACITY: Historic Vienna Inc. on Oct. 10 will reopen the Freeman Store and Museum for the first time since the onset of the COVID crisis.

The location will be open Saturdays from noon to 3 p.m., with a maximum of five people inside at a time and a limit per visitor of 20 minutes if there is a queue.

For full details and restrictions, see the Website at www.historicvienna.org.

TOWN MANAGER TO TACKLE POLICE STATION, VOTING: The next “On Deck with Mercury” forum with Vienna Town Manager Mercury Payton will feature several topics on Tuesday, Oct. 13 at 6 p.m. at Town Hall.

The program will look at the proposed new town police station, as well as a conversation with Fairfax County Registrar Gary Scott about voting options this year.

The public is invited; the event will be recorded for later broadcast on the town’s channels.

HISTORICAL GROUP TO LOOK AT AFRICAN-AMERICAN HISTORY: Historic Vienna Inc. will host its fall membership meeting “virtually” on Tuesday, Oct. 20 at 7:30 p.m.

At the meeting, longtime residents Gloria Runyon and Sylvia Taylor will present highlights of the town's African-American history.

In addition, there will be a business meeting and presentation of the organization’s Volunteer of the Year Award.

For information, see the Website at www.historicvienna.org.

FALL THEATER PERFORMANCE TO BE BOTH LIVE, VIRTUAL: The Vienna Theatre Company and Vienna Department of Parks and Recreation will present “In Living Sound,” featuring episodes from three classic American radio series, from Oct. 23-31, in both live and “virtual” environments.

Performances will include the “Chester’s Dilemma” episode of “Gunsmoke” (originally aired Jan. 31, 1960); the “Mars Is Heaven” episode of “X Minus One” (May 8, 1955); and “The Blood Money Caper” episode of “Sam Spade” (Sept. 29, 1946).

Live performances will be offered on Fridays, Oct. 23 and 30, at 7 p.m., and Saturdays, Oct. 24 and 31, at 2 p.m., with social-distancing requirements limiting in-person seating to 21 people.

Performances also will be held online via Zoom on Saturdays, Oct. 24 and 31, at 7 p.m.

Admission is free, but donations are invited. For information, see the Website at www.viennatheatrecompany.org.

VIENNA COMMUNITY BAND PREPPING FOR ‘POP-UP’ PERFORMANCES: The Vienna Community Band is organizing small musical groups to present “pop-up” performances.

Continued on Page 15
**McLean/G.Falls Notes**

**GREAT FALLS GROUP TO SELL HOLIDAY ORNAMENTS:** Great Falls Friends and Neighbors again this year will sell the White House Historical Association’s annual ornament as a fund-raiser.

The 2020 ornament features John F. Kennedy. It can be purchased at select Great Falls retailers, including Great Dogs, Studio Hair, Toka Salon and Vintage Marketplace at Krop’s Crops, as well as at Burke Jewelers in Reston.

Great Falls Friends and Neighbors is a women’s club focused on social, cultural, civic and philanthropic endeavors. The organization kicked off its 2020-21 season with an event at River Bend Country Club. For information, see the Website at https://glfna.org.

**ALDEN THEATRE PREPS LAST ‘DRIVE-THRU DRAMA’ OF SEASON:** The Alden Theatre of the McLean Community Center’s “drive-thru drama” series will conclude for 2020 with “Objects in the Mirror May Be Spookier Than They Appear.”

The world-premiere show will be presented over three weekends – Oct. 16-18, Oct. 23-25 and Oct. 30-Nov. 1 – from 6 to 8:15 p.m. in the center’s parking lot.

The presentation is a comedy-mystery with a Halloween theme. Audience members will stay in their cars and drive the_rotations to actor.

After two previous productions conducted this way, “we made it our goal to push the boundaries of this format,” said Danielle Van Hook, producer of the series. The center partnered with New York-based Recent Cutbacks to create the show.

Tickets are $15 per carload for McLean residents, $20 per carload for others. For information and tickets, call (703) 790-0123 or see the Website at www.aldentheatre.org.

**FORUM TO FOCUS ON HUMAN TRAFFICKING:** Great Falls Senior Center will host an online forum on “Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking” on Friday, Oct. 9 at 1 p.m.

The guest speaker is April Russo, an Assistant U.S. Attorney in the Federal Major Crimes Unit in D.C. She will discuss the prevalence of human trafficking, describe some of the warning signs, discuss cases she has worked on.

For information and a link to the presentation, e-mail Mary Jo Fox at mjwfx1491@gmail.com.

**DISCUSSION TO LOOK AT HISTORY OF PEACE CORPS:** Great Falls Senior Center will feature Randolph Adams discussing “60 Years of the Peace Corps” in an online event on Tuesday, Oct. 20 at 11 a.m.

The community is invited. For information and a link, e-mail mfox@fzcom.com by Oct. 15.
Vienna/Oakton Notes

Continued from Page 13

concerts across Vienna. Rehearsals and performances of the main band have been canceled through December due to the public-health situation, but new musicians are being sought in all sections. Particularly in need are players of flutes, clarinets, bassoons, oboes, tubas and euphoniums.

For information, see the Website at www.viennacommunityband.org.

SHEPHERD’S CENTER OFFERS CAREGIVER-SUPPORT GROUP: The Shepherd’s Center of Oakton-Vienna-Reston-Herndon will offer an online caregivers’ support group for those dealing with adult family members with dementia on Tuesday, Oct. 20 at 10 a.m.

For information, see the Website at www.scov.org/announcements or email Juan.vazquez@viennava.gov or (703) 255-7845.

VIENNA POLICE TO PARTICIPATE IN DRUG TAKE-BACK EFFORT: In conjunction with the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) and state and local law-enforcement agencies, the Vienna Police Department will again participate in a one-day initiative to remove potentially dangerous controlled substances from area homes.

Vienna police on Oct. 24 between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. will offer a collection site for old, expired, unused or unwanted medications at Vienna Police Headquarters, 215 Center St., S. Area residents anonymously can turn in prescription medications, controlled or non-controlled substances and intravenous solutions, injectables and syringes will not be accepted due to associated hazards. Commercial businesses, pharmacies or other medical facilities may not use this event as a means to discard expired medications or medical waste.

For additional information, contact Master Police Officer Juan Vazquez at Juan.vazquez@viennava.gov or (703) 255-7845.

Public-Safety Notes

COUNTY FIREFIGHTER CHARGED AFTER ALLEGEDLY ASSAULTING MAN IN AMBULANCE: Authorities on Sept. 28 charged a Fairfax County with one count of misdemeanor assault after a Sept. 14 incident that occurred while a patient was being transported to a local hospital. Firefighter Andrew Cruikshank and the patient on a medic unit at approximately 6 a.m.

The victim was in the custody of the Fairfax County Police Department and the altercation was captured on an officer’s body-worn camera. County police investigated the incident and authorities subsequently charged Cruikshank, who has been with Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department for two years.

Fire and Rescue Department officials had placed Cruikshank on administrative leave after an internal investigation initiated by Fire Chief John Butler.

MAN ASSAULTS JUVENILE, TRIES TO STEAL ITEMS ALONG BIKE TRAIL IN VIENNA: A man on Sept. 26 at 7 p.m. approached a group of juveniles on the Washington & Old Dominion Regional Trail seen the Vienna Community Center and Vienna Elementary School, Vienna police said.

The man began verbally harassing the juveniles and attempted to steal a Bluetooth speaker from one of the juveniles’ bicycles.

When the juvenile with the Bluetooth speaker attempted to stop him, the man allegedly pushed him to the ground, tried to take another juvenile’s skateboard and allegedly pushed him to the ground, tried and police observed a substantial amount of water on the floor of the kitchen and foyer.

Police notified the builder about the incident, which investigators think was a criminal act, authorities said.

THERMOSTAT SPLIT LEADS VIENNA ROOMMATES TO TRADE ASSAULT ALLEGATIONS: A resident living in the 200 block of Locust Street, S.E., told Vienna police on Sept. 28 at 10:29 p.m. that her roommate allegedly had assaulted her and broken the apartment’s thermostat.

The roommate told police she had removed the batteries from the thermostat. The resident became angry and allegedly assaulted her, the roommate said.

The roommates agreed to fix the thermostat. Police advised both women of the warrant process should they wish to pursue charges.

VIENNA MAN CHARGED AFTER ALLEGEDLY ASSAULTING FATHER: A resident living on Patrick Street, S.E., told Vienna police on Sept. 28 at 2:22 a.m. that his father had assaulted him. But according to responding officers, it was the son who allegedly assaulted his father.

Police arrested the 18-year-old Vienna man and transported him to the Fairfax County Adult Detention Center, where authorities charged him with domestic assault and issued an emergency protective order against him.

VIENNA POLICE NOTIFY BUILDER AFTER SOMEONE FLOODS HOME WITH HOSE IN WINDOW: Vienna police dispatched an officer to a newly built, vacant home in the 500 block of Kibler Circle, S.W., on Sept. 27 at 3:30 p.m. after receiving a report that a large amount of water was running from the house.

The doors to the home were secure. A hose was running to one of the windows and police observed a substantial amount of water on the floor of the kitchen and foyer.

Police notified the builder about the incident, which investigators think was a criminal act, authorities said.

Lake Living in the Shenandoah Valley

Trilogy at Lake Frederick blends beauty and lifestyle. Just one visit and you’ll see for yourself why so many choose to begin their next life chapter in this amazing community. Trilogy is located 20 miles from charming Winchester on the shores of the 117-acre Lake Frederick, in the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains.

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Trilogy at Lake Frederick is a gorgeous, serene setting—just 90 minutes from Washington D.C.—and has beautiful homes, but we’re best known for its fun, vibrant lifestyle. At the epicenter of the community is the 14,000-square-foot Shenandoah Lodge & Athletic Club, which is home to Region’s 117, our award-winning restaurant. The Lodge also has a fully equipped fitness center, cafe, culinary studio, sports area, indoor pool, 10-lane bowling alley, game room, and even a Studio 6 movie theater. The Lodge is the place to be, and an extension of every Trilogy Member’s home!

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Oakton Standout Productive in WNBA Playoffs

A Staff Report

Oakton High School graduate Jasmine Thomas was the third leading scorer for the Connecticut Sun in the team’s seven games of the recent WNBA playoffs.

The 5-foot-9 guard averaged 14.7 points per game and led the squad in assists with 4.4 per contest. She led the team in three-pointers with 13, including two in the final game against Las Vegas. She played on two other teams, including this season’s, that lost in the semifinal playoff round. The Sun reached the playoffs with Thomas in 2017 and 2018. Overall, Thomas has scored 3,087 regular-season points in her WNBA career. She has 1,177 assists and 909 rebounds in 323 games.

At Oakton, Thomas scored 2,594 career points and is the fourth all-time-leading scorer for girls basketball in Virginia High School League history.

After high school, Thomas played four seasons at Duke, graduating in 2011 and scoring 1,704 points. Thomas is being inducted into the VHSL’s Sports Hall of Fame this month. She is the first athlete from Oakton High to earn such an induction. The lone VHSL inductee from Oakton is he school’s former athletic director Dave Morgan.

Jasmine Thomas averaged 14.7 points in the WNBA playoffs. FROM THE SUN

Former Langley High School pitching standout Jake McSteen had a successful summer season playing in an independent league for the Joliet Slammers in Joliet, Ill. FROM NEBRASKA ATHLETICS

Jake McSteen is healthy with a sound arm and the hard-throwing left-hander wants everyone to know he is pitching again and throwing well.

This summer in a month-long, four-team independent professional baseball league, the 2014 Langley High School graduate compiled a 7-0 record in eight starts, had a 2.70 earned run average and had two saves for the Joliet Slammers. In 50 innings, he struck out 52 and walked 10 to help the Joliet, Ill., team (21-5) win the league title.

McSteen believes his performance shows his arm is healthy again after suffering two significant injuries that required surgery to his pitching arm as a member of the University of Nebraska baseball team, starting in 2015. His fastball is back up to the 93-94-mph range.

McSteen hopes his summer effort has put him in position to draw serious interest again from a Major League baseball team, starting in 2015. His fastball is back up to the 93-94-mph range.

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MARSHALL GRAD EARNS NSVL AWARD:
Marshall High School graduate Madeline Ice recently received her plaque from the Northern Virginia Swimming League for being one of the organization’s five scholarship award winners for the 2020 summer season.

She was selected as the Sportsmanship Scholarship recipient.

The league considers team commitment and leadership, school and community involvement, and a submitted essay as criteria for selection.

Ice has been a 15-year swimmer for the Lee Graham Dolphins team during the summer. She competed in multiple all-star meets and twice was awarded Lee Graham’s Coaches’ Award for her overall contribution to the team.

Ice has coached the team’s winter program and sang the National Anthem at meets.

At Marshall, Ice captained the swim team and was chosen the team’s Most Valuable Player in her senior year, and was a varsity track athlete, as well as at the school. She received Marshall’s Tri-Varsity Award.

As a swimmer for Marshall during the 2019-20 senior season, Ice placed second in the backstroke and sixth in the 100 freestyle at the National District championships.

For Lee Graham at the 2019 Divisional 5 championships, Ice finished third in the girls age 15-18 backstroke and sixth in the 15-18 butterfly. (The 2020 NVSL season was not held because of the COVID-19 pandemic.) Ice is a member of the National Honor Society and the Tri-Music Honor Society.

Ice is attending the University of Mary Washington, where she will swim for the women’s varsity team.

MARSHALL’S DIRKSE HEADED TO PLAY AT CALVIN UNIVERSITY:
Marshall High School senior forward Valerie Dirkse has committed to play college basketball at Division III Calvin University in Grand Rapids, Mich.

Dirkse was a starter on last season’s Marshall team that won National District and 6D North Region tournaments, finishing with a 22-7 overall record and losing in the first round of the Virginia High School League’s Class 6 state tournament to the eventual co-champion Edison Eagles.

Dirkse was one of the team’s leading rebounders and shot blockers, and scored often down low in the lane. She had two blocks, four points and eight rebounds in the region-championship game against the Madison Warhawks, yanking five rebounds in the see-saw fourth quarter.

For her performance last season, Dirkse was an all-Sun Gazette honorable mention selection.

She also was a starter as a sophomore on Marshall’s region championship team in 2018.

Marshall senior sisters and returning starters Mary and Christina Trivisonno recently committed to play college basketball at Washington University in St. Louis.

In addition, Zoe Soule and Caroline Catterton, both key players for the Marshall team last season, are now enrolled in college to play women’s basketball close by at Division III Johns Hopkins and Marymount universities, respectively.

McLEAN BASEBALL PLAYER TO CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY:
McLean High School senior baseball player Jake Lynes has committed to play at Catholic University.

Lynes, a pitcher/infielder with a strong arm, is the seventh McLean player from the 2020 team roster who will play in college.

“He had a great start to his sophomore year, but hurt his non-throwing shoulder and ended up needing surgery, which ended his year,” McLean coach John Dowling said.

Lynes hit a home run in a victory over Chantilly during that sophomore season. He did not play during his junior season because the campaign was canceled as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

McLean graduates from that 2020 team on college rosters as freshmen are Drew Stieg (George Mason University), Anthony Farmakides (Randolph-Macon College), Alex Pavlowski (Marymount University), Teddy Merritt (High Point University) and Noah Hersh (Hood College).

Drew has committed to play at Virginia Tech.

Randy Shepherd was a member of the 2020 McLean baseball team. He will play college basketball at Dickinson College.

LANGLEY SPRING SPORTS PROGRAM:
Even though there were no high-school sports this past spring season, the Langley High School Athletic Boosters still published its spring athletic program, dedicating it to the school’s 2020 senior class.

Each Langley spring athlete received a copy of the program as a gift from the boosters.

Any graduated Langley seniors or anyone interested in obtaining the program will need to contact Becky Zeller at bsreiller@verizon.net.

HALL OF FAME CEREMONY POSTPONED:
The Virginia High School League’s 2020 Hall of Fame induction ceremony has been postponed until Wednesday, Oct. 14 at the DoubleTree Hotel in Charlottesville. Fourteen athletes, coaches, and contributors make up the Class of 2020.

That class includes Oakton High School graduate and girls basketball standout Jasmine Thomas, one of the top scorers in VHSL history and the all-time leading scorers for boys and girls at Oakton.

Thomas has scored more than 3,000 career points during her WNBA career, where she plays for the Connecticut Sun.

MEET THE COACHES:
Whether or not any public-school sports are played during the 2020-21 school year, varsity teams in the Sun Gazette’s coverage areas are still holding meet-the-coaches-nights. Those coaches events will be held “virtually.”

For information, visit the high-schools’ athletic web sites and Twitter sites.

Langley

Continued From Page 16

ball organizations. He’d had previous contact from multiple teams and threw in some pro camps this past January. But now, with the COVID-19 pandemic situation resulting in the cancellation of all Major League-affiliated minor league play this year, that will delay any contact from such a team.

“I had about a month to execute my

pitches with the Slammers, and all of them were sharp,” McSteen said. “I was pretty nervous to start. I tried to show as much as I could. If nothing works out, I plan to keep working out and pitch in independent ball again next summer.”

That amount of pitching in a short period was the most for McSteen in many months.

“My arm felt great,” he said. “I wish we’d had more games.”

Originally, McSteen had hoped to pitch in a higher level of independent ball this summer, or in Europe. Those leagues were shut down because of the pandemic. So playing for the Slammers was his only opportunity, and in doing so, McSteen hoped and wanted to make the best of that situation.

“We all that was going on, it worked out well,” McSteen said.

McSteen did pitch a good bit for Nebraska, despite the injuries. In 44 games and 102 2/3 innings, he compiled a 7-4 career record, had a 3.96 earned run average and struck out 65. McSteen made nine starts, won various team awards and was a Big Ten distinguished scholar in 2016. He had a 4-0 record and 2.04 ERA in 2017.

In his senior season at Langley under then-head coach Kevin Healy, McSteen was one of the area’s most dominant pitchers. He had an 8-1 record with two saves, a 0.65 ERA and fanned 90 in 64 innings.

“That was one of the best seasons I’ve seen from a high-school pitcher,” said Healy, now the head coach at Washington-Liberty High School. “Jake’s great summer performance should definitely give him some opportunities.”
Sports Briefs

TALLENT INDUCTED INTO GOLF HALL OF FAME: Vienna resident Pat Tallent recently was inducted into the Middle Atlantic Golf Association’s Hall of Fame.

For years, Tallent has been one of the region’s most accomplished amateur players, winning or placing high in countless tournaments in the local area and around the country and world. Two of his titles came in Middle Atlantic events.

Tallent played in the U.S. Senior Amateur each summer from 2009 through 2017, winning in 2014 and taking second in 2010. In addition, Tallent competed in the U.S. Amateur nine times, was the Virginia Amateur champion in 2007, the Maryland Amateur winner in 2000, the Maryland Senior Amateur champ in 2008, was a member of a Belle Haven Four Ball winning team, and played in the U.S. Senior Open on multiple occasions, earning low amateur in 2004.

Internationally, Tallent finished second in the Canadian Senior Amateur in 2008, won the 2015 British Senior Amateur and played in the British Senior Open.

A full list of Tallent’s golf accomplishments can be found on the Middle Atlantic Golf Association’s Website.

Trent G. Scott /.png

Southern University graduate Alex Echazarreta had a 2-2 pitching record and a 2.25 earned run average in three innings with 12 strikeouts in 2008.

In future years, the league is planning to hold a home-run derby in addition to the hit-a-thon.

TALLENT RECOGNIZED: The Northern Virginia Softball Umpires Association is seeking individuals interested in becoming certified umpires for high school and recreational fast pitch softball in the area. Training is provided.

For more information contact uic@nsvsa.org or visit www.nsvsa.org.

STUDENT ATHLETE ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS: The Virginia Sports Hall of Fame is accepting applications for its annual Student Athlete Achievement Awards. The hall’s foundation is looking for rising-high school juniors and seniors, who excel in the classroom and their communities.

Applications must be submitted through the online process, found at www.vashports.com.

SENIOR SOFTBALL: Join Northern Virginia Senior Softball to play slow-pitch softball, with the average age of 66, and no tryouts, just an assessment to place players on teams in three skill-level conferences. Visit www.nvsssa.com.

College Roundup

ALEX ECHEZARRETA: Madison High School graduate Alex Echazarreta had a 2-2 pitching record and a 2.25 earned run average in five appearances for the women’s softball team at Purdue University this spring.

The sophomore righty had one complete game in four starts, and in 18 2/3 innings had 12 strikeouts.

As a freshman in 2019, Echazarreta had a 4-1 record, and with the bat, had a homer, a double and two RBI.

SLADE DUMAS: Great Falls resident Slade Dumas finished his tennis career for the men’s team at Goucher College by helping the Gophers win three straight Landmark Conference Tournament Championships.

In his career, Dumas made second-team all-conference for singles and doubles and was named the conference tournament Most Valuable Player. He also was named the conference Men’s Tennis Athlete of the Week three times, and finished with 59 singles wins to rank fourth in program history.

O’KELLY MCWILLIAMS: Flint Hill School graduate O’Kelly McWilliams had a 1-0 record and a 1.80 earn run average in 13 innings pitched this spring for the Wofford College baseball team.

The freshman had 18 strikeouts and four walks in four appearances during the shortened spring season.

DANIEL ALBRITTAIN: Potomac School graduate Daniel Albrittain had a 3.00 earned run average in three innings pitched this spring for the baseball team at Elon University. Albrittain made four appearances and had four strikeouts.

In his career at Elon, he has made 15 appearances, worked 13 2/3 innings with 12 strikeouts and has a 1-1 record.

DANE CAMPHAUSEN: McLean resident Dane Camphausen batted .400 in six games as a freshman first baseman this spring for the baseball team at the College of Wooster. The Landon School graduate had one double, a home run and five RBI. His fielding percentage was 1.000.

TREVOR LALANDE: Oakton High School graduate Trevor Lalance was a junior midfielder this spring for the Virginia Wesleyan College men’s lacrosse team.

Through five games, he scored three goals and had two assists, gathering three ground balls.

PAIGE GALIANI: Langley High School graduate Paige Galiani scored 47 points in 22 games during the winter season for the Lehigh University women’s basketball team. She blocked three shots as a senior.

During her four-year career, the senior guard played in 75 games for Lehigh and scored 113 points.

CHARLOTTE DONNELLAN: Marshall High School graduate Charlotte Donnellan enjoyed a strong winter season for the women’s basketball team at Northern Virginia Community College.

The 5-foot-7 freshman guard played in 22 games with 21 starts. She averaged 8.2 points and 6.2 rebounds per game and made 13 three-pointers. Donnellan had 43 assists and 25 steals with seven blocks. Donnellan was a member of the 2017-18 region champion Marshall High girls teams.

SARA PARK: Potomac School graduate Sara Park played in 16 games as a freshman guard for the women’s basketball team during the winter at Harvard University. She scored 24 points and made six three-pointers. Park had four assists and two steals.
Economy

Continued from Page 1

to “scare people with false information,” he said.
The government should take two steps right now to help dining establishments survive, Cohen said. First, it should implement a second round of Paycheck Protection Program loans, without which many more restaurants will not survive the winter months, he predicted.

Secondly, the government needs to boost restaurants’ indoor capacity by allowing installation of Plexiglas dividers between tables, Cohen said.

“Opening up to 75- or even 100-per cent occupancy simply does not help us when our tables need to be 6 feet apart,” he said. “Even at 100-per cent occupancy, we can only use 50 percent of our tables, and I am not sure anyone realizes this.”

The restaurateurs have recovered some of their business through outdoor dining and takeout services and Visit Fairfax has been exploring ways to help them continue to do so even in the colder months ahead.

For example, they could install heaters to continue serving dinners at outdoor tables.

“Being from Canada originally, winter has never stopped me from going out and having fun,” Biggar said.

Fairfax County has helped restaurants during the public-health crisis by allowing one-lining patios to erect tents on parking lots and sidewalks in order to facilitate outdoor dining.

Biggar said his organization hopes the county will continue that trend and that state officials will do likewise with emergency rules permitting takeout cocktails.

Restaurants are “phenomenal community partners” that support organizations and sports teams and employ many people, including many entering the workforce for the first time, he said.

In addition to the restaurant industry’s woes, about 40 percent of hotel employees are furloughed, laid off or will not return to work, Biggar said.

Fairfax County’s hotel-occupancy rate in August 2019 was 74 percent; a year later, it had fallen to 38 percent, Biggar said. According to traditional estimates, hotels need about 50 percent occupancy to be able to cover their expenses and stay in business, he said.

“It’s difficult, devastating and really sad, because this industry in 2019 contributed $3.4 billion to our economy in Fairfax County,” Biggar said. “I’m hoping that we’re even going to break $2 billion in 2020.”

Only three Fairfax County hotels have closed during the pandemic, and just one of those will be shuttered permanently, he said.

By comparison, about 55 or 60 District of Columbia hotels have shut down.

“With restaurants, we can do a lot to help people get them,” Biggar said. “Hotels are an entirely different story, because the general public and consumers are not willing to travel. It’s tough to fill those rooms.”

The Vienna Town Council at the time consisted of Mayor Guy Wilson and members Gerald Cowden, Thomas Ctitenden, John Ford, Alvin Norcross, Henry Pellegrino and L. Dean Wallace.

Town Manager was retired U.S. Marine Corps Maj. Gen. L.B. Cresswell. By contrast, the October 2020 issue of the Vienna Voice newsletter is 12 pages long, has color photos and graphics, lists upcoming events and milestone anniversaries for businesses, summarizes recent Town Council actions and has a column written by Council member Steve Potter.

Articles in the most recent newsletter cover the town’s recent purchase of the Faith Baptist Church property at 301 Center St., S.; suggested Halloween activities in a COVID environment; tips on how to a healthy tea canny; and books written by two local authors.

Jobs

Continued from Page 11

rates for the month were turned in by Idaho Falls (Idaho) and Logan (Utah) at 2.7 percent each. The highest rates were found in El Centro (Calif.) at 22.9 percent and Kahului (Hawaii) at 20.7 percent.

Among the nation’s 51 metro areas with populations of more than 1 million, the lowest jobless rate for the month was found in Salt Lake City, at 4.7 percent, with the highest found in Las Vegas (15.5 percent) and Los Angeles (15 percent).

In Virginia, August’s jobless rate of 6.3 percent was down from 8 percent a month before but up from 2.9 percent in August 2019.

The most recent rate represents 4.35 million in the civilian workforce and 275,000 looking for jobs statewide.

Across the commonwealth, unemployment rates for the month ranged from 4.9 percent (in Winchester, Staunton-Waynesboro and in Harrisonburg) to 7.4 percent (Newport News).
Vienna Police Sergeant Is Lauded on Her Retirement

BRIAN TROMPETTER  
Staff Writer

The Vienna Police Department on Sept. 22 honored retiring Sgt. Pamela Juelharte for her 20 years of service during a ceremony at the Vienna Community Center.

Juelharte started her Vienna police career on Sept. 21, 2000. After graduating from the 38th Session of the Fairfax County Criminal Justice Academy, Vienna police assigned her to the department’s Patrol Division.

The department in 2006 promoted Juelharte to the rank of sergeant, where she gained respect as a leader and mentor, officials said. Vienna police in 2015 assigned Juelharte as the Criminal Investigations Section sergeant and she concluded her career by returning to the Patrol Division, where she has supervised a midnight patrol squad from 2018 through 2020.

She also served as a firearms instructor and a member of the Town of Vienna Honor Guard.

Council OKs Emergency Sewer Repairs for Wolftrap Interceptor Line: Some repairs can wait, while others must be rushed the head of the line. Sewer-line breaches are in the latter category.

Vienna Town Council members on Oct. 5 approved a $400,000 contract with Tri-State Utilities to conduct emergency sewer repairs on the Wolftrap Creek interceptor line.

The Council on Jan. 6 approved an agreement with Fairfax County to inspect and potentially repair Piney Branch-Difficult Run trunk sewers. The 21-inch-diameter Wolftrap Creek interceptor, a gravity sewer that serves Vienna and surrounding portions of the county, including the Tysons business district, is included within that sewer system.

The county has been performing that work and in late March informed the Vienna Department of Public Works that three line sections of the Wolftrap Creek interceptor and totaling 700 linear feet, were in danger of collapsing and required emergency repairs.

Hydrogen-sulfide corrosion has caused voids in parts of the pipe wall, roots have penetrated other sections and a large rock now is protruding through one area, town official said.

The affected area is located within the Wolf Trap National Park for the Performing Arts’ property and town public-works officials have been working with the National Park Service to get the necessary permits and waivers for the repair work.

The Vienna Department of Public Works on an emergency basis was able to get the contractor mobilized Sept. 21.

Vienna owns the sewers, but is responsible for just 36.8 percent of their costs; Fairfax County covers the remaining 63.2 percent, in accordance with agreements made in 1963 and 2020. Based on those agreements, Vienna’s share of the up-to-$400,000 repair cost for this project should not exceed $147,240.

“We need the full amount for the contractor and will be reimbursed by the county,” Vienna Public Works Director Michael Gallagher told Town Council members.

Sgt. Pamela Juelharte, who is retiring after 20 years’ service with the Vienna Police Department, receives a commemorative shadow box with her insignia and badges from Police Chief James Morris during a Sept. 22 ceremony at the Vienna Community Center.

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Oct. 8, 1936:
The Sun's editor has praised Fairfax County's new health officer.

Fairfax principals have proposed several ways to address the problem of chronic truancy.

The Vienna Town Council has voted to rebuild sidewalks on Church Street, which date to 1906.

Virginia's judges are debating the merits of bringing back whipping posts to deal with incorrigible offenders.

Oct. 8-9, 1957:
M.T. Broyhill & Sons Corp. announced plans to build a 260-home development on 94 acres in McLean, to be known as Broyhill Estates.

Queen Elizabeth is expected to travel on her way to Middleburg.

Oct. 8, 1965:
The Northern Virginia Transportation Commission has announced that only your community reporting and businesses and support the trusted, locally owned, locally focused reporting and businesses that only your community newspaper can provide.

The Safe Community Coalition of McLean will open its 2020-21 season with a free webinar – “Setting the Tone: Habits for a Smooth Virtual-Learning Experience” – on Thursday, Oct. 15 at noon.

Speaker Ana Homayoun will examine how setting students up socially, emotionally and academically in the midst of the COVID pandemic is key to long-term well-being and engagement.

Registration for the program is available at www.mcleanscc.org.

Starting in October, a series of short videos will be made available, featuring conversations among the psychologists, psychiatrists and social workers of the organization’s mental-health committee.

Videos will be released over the course of the year.

“We’re excited about launching our new initiatives and connecting with the McLean community in different ways,” Safe Community Coalition president Elizabeth Hale said. “While we wish we could have in-person events, our volunteers have worked over the summer to think creatively about new ways we can help students and families.”

Local history
Items taken from the archives of the Northern Virginia Sun.

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Schools & Military

Megan Long of Great Falls has been named to the dean’s list for the spring semester at Ohio Wesleyan University.

Great Falls Friends and Neighbors recently announced the recipients of scholarships to support the work of women over the age of 25 furthering their education to support themselves and their families.

The scholarship recipients are expected to be honored at the organization’s spring tea, to be held in early 2021.

Scholarship recipients are:
- Carolina Medrano, currently studying for a master’s degree in education with a concentration in school counseling at George Mason University, with an expected graduation date of May 2021.
- Jennifer Vasquez, currently studying for a master’s degree in social work at George Mason University, with an expected graduation date of May 2021.
- Sarah Haskell, currently studying for a master’s degree in social work at George Mason University, with an expected graduation date of May 2021.
- Cathy Yoo, currently studying for a master’s degree in accounting at George Mason University, with an expected graduation date of May 2021.

For more information on the scholarship fund, see the Website at www.gffnsf.org.

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NEW CONSTRUCTION HIGHLIGHTS

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1241 Kurtz Road, McLean
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6922 River Oaks Dr, McLean
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1437 & 1439 Cedar Ave, McLean
$2,588,000

1500 Pathfinder Lane, McLean
$2,788,000

1448 Woodacre Drive, McLean
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703-939-3432

Vasa Zenchenko
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Sebastian Costantino
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