

SCHOOLS FACE THEIR BIGGEST TEST

'A whole lot of moving parts'

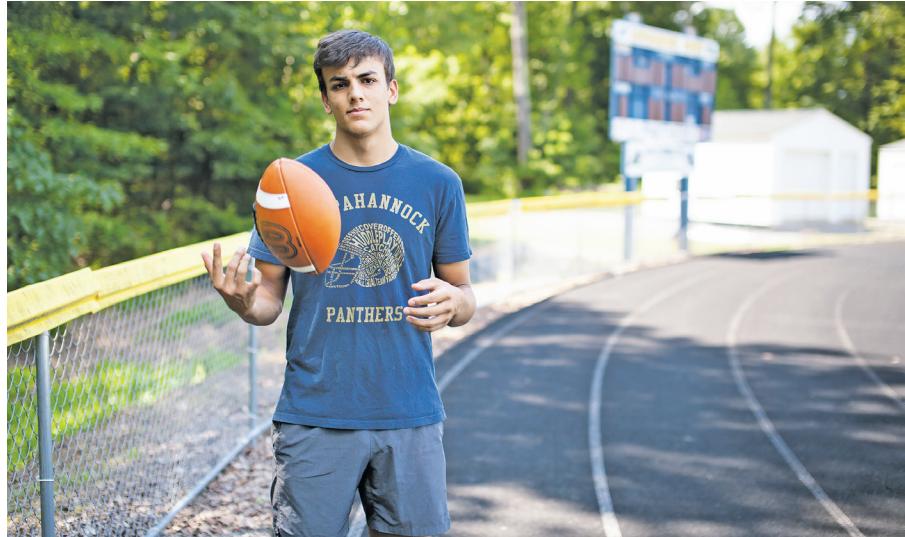
BY RANDY RIELAND
For Foothills Forum

When Rappahannock's public school students return next Monday, they'll kick off their school year with a temperature check.

They'll be wearing masks, too, at least on the buses and in the hallways. They can remove them once they get to their desks, where they will be shielded with plastic barriers from their classmates.

But beyond the obvious pandemic precautions, the school district is about to become part of something far more abstract and challenging. It is a kind of experiment to see not just how well students learn and teachers teach when a school's top priority is to keep everyone safe, but also how kids, used to the messy swirl of personal connections and social interactions, adapt to

See SCHOOLS, Page 12



BY LUKE CHRISTOPHER FOR FOOTHILLS FORUM

'I MAY NEVER PLAY FOOTBALL AGAIN' | The reality of COVID-19 is just now hitting Taven Murrah, a Rappahannock County High School athlete who is entering his senior year. Taven's story and others from RCPS are found beginning on Page 13.

A TYPICAL SCHOOL DAY IN ATYPICAL TIMES | How Rappahannock County's public school students will get back to class next week

1

Parents do a morning check of students for COVID symptoms — fever, chills, cough, shortness of breath, recent loss of smell or taste. If kids show symptoms, they should be kept home.

2

Students riding buses must wear masks and sit by themselves, with the exception of siblings. Bus drivers also will be masked.

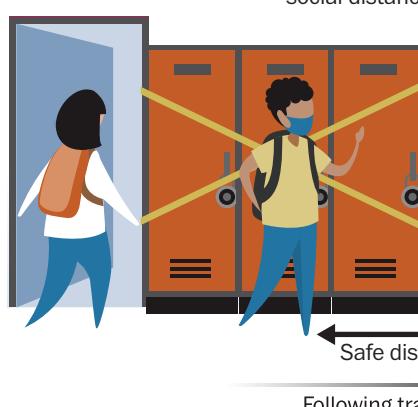
3

Staff at screening stations at the schools will do temperature checks of all students — bus riders and those who arrive in cars — before they're permitted to enter buildings.



4

Students will go directly to their first classrooms. No loitering in the halls. Lockers are off-limits.



5

When in the hallways, students will be required to wear masks and expected to follow directional arrows and social distancing rules.

6

Students will have access to a hands-free sanitizing stations when they enter classrooms.



7

All in-person days will start with "morning meetings" where students work on a social and emotional learning curriculum. This is also a time when classes can have group discussions and students can share concerns they may have.

8

Students will eat lunch at their desks, each of which will have a plastic shield. Those in the high school will go to the cafeteria in small groups and then take their lunches back to their desks. The staff is exploring how to use the cafeteria while maintaining social distancing.

9

Schedules for high school students will be staggered to reduce traffic in the hallways.



10

When classes go outside, their rooms will be sprayed with sanitizer by custodians. This is repeated at the end of the school day. Major cleaning, such as wiping down walls and windowsills, will happen every Wednesday when all students are at home.

BY LAURA STANTON FOR RAPP NEWS AND FOOTHILLS FORUM



Running Republican, juggling a pandemic

At a Rappahannock fundraiser last weekend, Congressional candidate Bob Good conceded risks of COVID-19 — sans mask: "I believe that we need to take reasonable precautions." Page 16

This week

MEETINGS & NOTICES	17
OBITUARIES	20
COURTHOUSE ROW	20
CROSSWORD	21
CLASSIFIEDS, LEGALS	22

143rd Year • No. 36

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 2020

\$1

Not so fast with amended comprehensive plan

County residents pointed out typos, incorrect information in document

BY PATTY HARDEE

Special to the Rappahannock News

A behind-the-scenes showdown between County Administrator Garrey Curry and Planning Commission Chair David Konick headed off what could have been an illegal process to amend the comprehensive plan approved for

Board of Supervisors' consideration at the planners August 19 meeting.

At that meeting's public hearing on the comp plan, several speakers pointed out typos and incorrect information in the document or suggested additions. For example, one speaker urged the planners to add "bicycling" to the list of outdoor activities enjoyed by tourists and residents, although there were far more serious corrections to

See PLAN, Page 8

Learning your 'A's' and 'B's'



BY HOLLY JENKINS

Rappahannock County Public Schools held their "second" first day of school on Thursday, Aug. 27. Teachers and staff greeted Group B students for the first time for in-school instruction after Group A, which had returned Monday, Aug. 24, completed their classes for the week. Seen here, 5th grader Mary Reinboldt waves hello to the new school year while kindergartner Daiana Flores brings a pretty pink reflection to her COVID-altered classroom.

HOME SWEET HOME?

A RAPPAHANNOCK NEWS/FOOTHILLS FORUM
SPECIAL REPORT

Is there a housing problem in Rappahannock?
Are there not affordable houses to rent or buy here?
What's at the root of the housing challenges in the county?
How do housing prices compare to elsewhere?
Who faces the biggest challenge: Renters or buyers?
Who is most in need of affordable housing?
What is housing's impact on hiring?
What's the impact of Airbnb and weekend rentals?
And why does affordability matter?

STARTING
ON PAGE 10,
find answers to these
questions – and a
clearer picture of
the county's housing
situation.



WHY APPLETON CAMPBELL?

BUILT ON TRUST

by providing
Honesty, Integrity & Experience Since 1976

540.518.2001 | appletoncampbell.com



Very good customer service. Professional.
Not pushy.
- Michael H.

" "

This week	
MEETINGS & NOTICES	15
OBITUARIES	20
COURTHOUSE ROW	20
CROSSWORD	21
CLASSIFIEDS, LEGALS	22



143rd Year • No. 45

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2020

ELECTION 2020

\$1

An untimely death in Flint Hill

Does 'driving too fast' pertain to local and state law enforcement?

BY JOHN MCCASLIN
Rappahannock News staff

The tragic death last week of Raymond L. Gooch, an 82-year-old former Washington town councilman who was involved in a serious two-vehicle crash with a Rappahannock County Sheriff's Office deputy who was responding to an emergency call last month, has once again placed vehicular speed of first responders under the microscope.

Which isn't to suggest that sheriff's deputy Crystal Jenkins was driving at an excessive speed when answering the 911 call of Oct. 18 along a very busy stretch of Route 522 in Flint Hill. Still, is traveling even 20 miles above the posted speed limit going too fast in a congested village with a limited line of sight on a sunny Sunday afternoon during the height of tourist season?

Virginia Code § 46.2-920, last updated in 2006, provides that the drivers of local and state emergency vehicles operated in the performance of public service "and under emergency conditions"

See DEATH, Page 16

APPLETON CAMPBELL
PLUMBING • HEATING • AIR CONDITIONING • ELECTRICAL
540.518.2001 | appletoncampbell.com



It's that time of year,
time to be
thankful



As local business bounces back, a COVID winter looms → PAGE 14

Firearms deer season around the corner

→ PAGE 8

This week

COMMENT, LETTERS	18
MEETINGS & NOTICES	5
COURTHOUSE ROW	17
SCHOOLS	10
CLASSIFIEDS, LEGALS	22



6 03700 23050 2