

Rappahannock News

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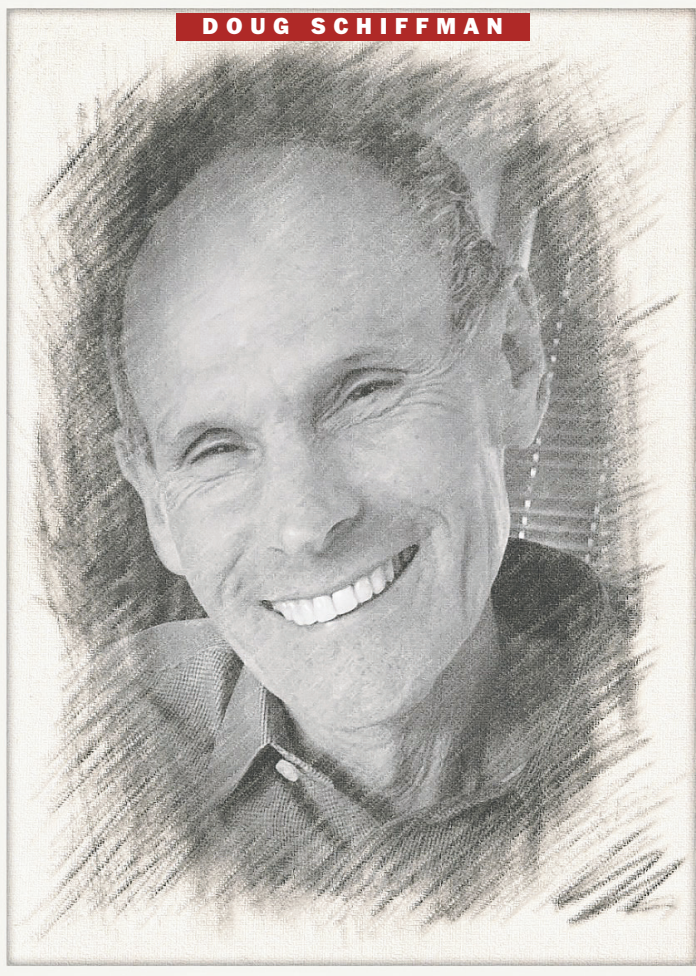
145th Year • No. 50

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 22, 2022

CITIZENS OF THE YEAR

Rappahannock County lost two invaluable citizens this year when both moved away after dedicating themselves to significant community undertakings. Nan Butler Roberts and Doug Schiffman both worked to uplift disadvantaged groups through education initiatives that proved indispensable to many.

DOUG SCHIFFMAN



BY BEN PETERS | Rappahannock News staff

Doug Schiffman, now a former Rappahannock County resident who recently moved to Florida, has a career that's spanned an unpredictably winding path underscored by his unrelenting dedication to serving others. He's owned several businesses, both big and small, and served on the boards of myriad local nonprofit organizations. But one achievement towers above the rest: the founding and

See **SCHIFFMAN**, Page 12

NAN BUTLER ROBERTS



BY JULIA SHANAHAN | Rappahannock News staff

Nan Butler Roberts has been described as an energetic individual who knows how to put a plan into motion and follow through. She's been applauded by many for her work in amplifying Black history and voices in Rappahannock County, and this year, the Rappahannock News wants to amplify Roberts as Citizen of the Year. Roberts, who is retired but works for various nonprofit organizations, recently moved to Atlanta, Georgia, where

See **ROBERTS**, Page 13


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OUR ANNUAL HOLIDAY BREAK
► The Rappahannock News will not publish next week (Dec. 29). We'll return in print on Jan. 5, 2023. In the meantime, follow local news at rappnews.com. Merry Christmas, happy holidays – and thank you for reading and advertising!

This week
COURTHOUSE ROW 15
MEETINGS & NOTICES 18
OBITUARIES 20
CLASSIFIEDS, LEGALS ...22-23



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THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 2022

\$1

'Everything we own fits in a milk crate'

Community rallies around Ennis family following fire that left their home in ashes



BY LUKE CHRISTOPHER

The Ennis family stands on what used to be the main door of their home in Gid Brown Hollow.

BY JULIA SHANAHAN
Rappahannock News staff

Shannon Ennis' background as a Rappahannock County Fire and Rescue volunteer did not prepare her to see her own home engulfed in flames last week, bringing out

volunteers from every fire and rescue company in the county.

Ennis' Gid Brown Hollow residence caught fire last Tuesday around 8:30 a.m. She and her husband, Robert, were at work, and her two kids, ages six and eight, were at school. Ennis said she

got an alert on her phone of a fire in Washington, and realized it was her own address.

"I feel like, probably in any type of loss, you see it, but maybe you're not believing it," Ennis

See **ENNIS**, Page 12

'We're at a deficit': Supervisors lament Whitson's absence from government

BY BEN PETERS
Rappahannock News staff

As Hampton Supervisor Keir Whitson's absence from county government continues for more than a month without a clear end in sight, members of the

Rappahannock County Board of Supervisors said the lack of his presence at meetings alters the body dynamic.

Whitson, who was hospitalized after suffering a heart attack on July 28 while visiting his parents in Wisconsin,

is expected to miss another Board of Supervisors meeting on Sept. 7, according to Chair and Wakefield Supervisor Debbie Donehey. He's also been absent from a number of other public meetings, including the Broadband

Authority and Planning Commission, which he chairs.

The current state of Whitson's health is not clear; he has not returned

See **WHITSON**, Page 18

Rapp student loan borrowers reflect on debt forgiveness plan

"It's a relief, because who doesn't want a little help now and again?... And how is it getting paid for?" ▶ Page 10



This week

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THURSDAY, JUNE 16, 2022

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THIS PLACE

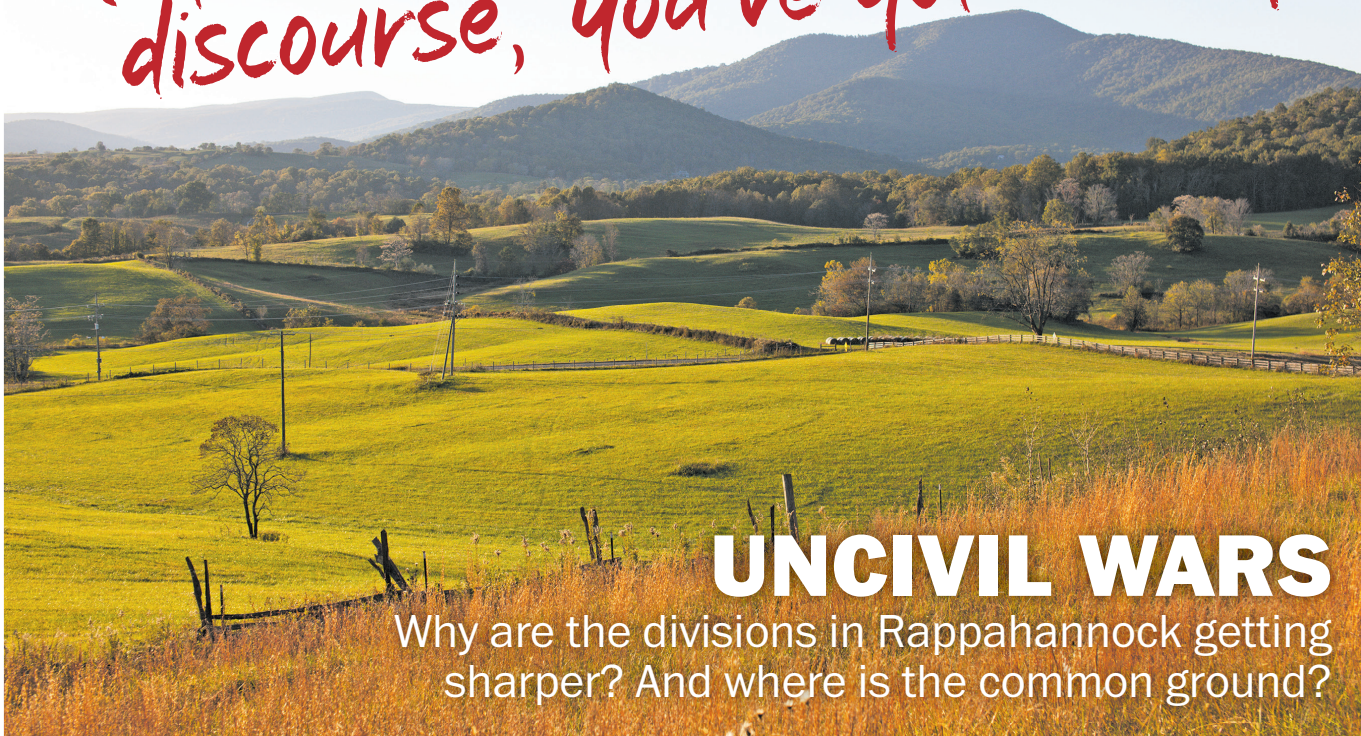
Finding common ground in a fractured world

"Some people believe their way of life is disappearing and they're scared about that."

"Most people just want you to listen."

"School board meetings weren't always blood sport."

"If you can't keep a civil discourse, you've got nothing."



UNCIVIL WARS

Why are the divisions in Rappahannock getting sharper? And where is the common ground?

A FOOTHILLS FORUM • RAPP NEWS SPECIAL REPORT ► Stories by Randy Rieland begin on PAGE 12

PHOTO BY LUKE CHRISTOPHER FOR FOOTHILLS FORUM

Town, county at odds over boundary change terms

Washington mayor: 'I am still befuddled by the main point, which is why the county is feeling this need to try to exact things from the town?'

BY BEN PETERS

Rappahannock News staff

Rush River Commons property owner Chuck Akre's attorney last week unveiled a draft document outlining a set of terms for both the Rappahannock County Board of Supervisors and Washington Town Council to consider as part of proposed boundary line adjustment in the town to accommodate an expansion of the development.

The document was crafted by attorney John Foote based on conversations held with Commonwealth's Attorney Art Goff, County Administrator Garrey Curry and Town Attorney Martin Crim. It is expected to be reviewed by the Board of Supervisors at a special meeting on Monday and as early as next month by the Town Council, which appears less willing to support its terms, as many favor the county.

"I have no pride of authorship, and I have attempted to adhere to the sub-

See **BOUNDARY**, Page 8



congratulations **MEREDITH WAYLAND**
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Big brouhaha over a little stop sign

Tensions arising from a threatening letter sent by the Town's attorney to The Inn at Little Washington boiled over at a public meeting Monday evening. ► Page 6



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