

# Rappahannock News

rappnews.com

145th Year • No. 44

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2022

\$1

**NOW STREAMING**



## WHEN SMALLER IS BETTER 8-MAN FOOTBALL TURNED OUT TO BE A BIG WINNER PAGE 8



Relive the RCHS Panthers' unforgettable season by scanning the QR code at right or going to: [rappnews.com/panthers2022](http://rappnews.com/panthers2022)



## Regional broadband construction to begin in mid-2023; unclear if Rapp will face delay

- ▶ Broadband Authority expands chair's spending powers after dispute about invoice payment
- ▶ All Points goal: Most installations complete regionwide by late 2025

BY JULIA SHANAHAN  
Rappahannock News staff

The Rappahannock County Broadband Authority during a joint meeting with the Rappahannock County Board of Supervisors expanded the chair's power in approving county expenditures.

The body voted 3-2 on Monday to allow Chair and Wakefield Supervisor Debbie Donehey to authorize the payment of any bill to the Broadband Authority up to \$2,500 following a dispute among members over an invoice received from attorney Sharon Pandak, whom the body hired to provide counsel on broadband expansion.

The Broadband Authority rarely spends large sums of money on a monthly basis.

See **SUPERVISORS**, Page 12

### INSIDE THIS WEEK

Mixed bag for acorn crops, leaf color this fall ▶ Page 16

Honoring our Veterans ▶ Pages 14-15

## Rapp remains red as 10th goes blue



BY LUKE CHRISTOPHER

**U.S. Rep Jennifer Wexton met with Rappahannock voters on Election Day in Sperryville, including the family of Sasha Tenenbaum and Jonathan Jacoby.**

## Incumbent Democrat Rep. Wexton carries redrawn district

BY JULIA SHANAHAN, BEN PETERS,  
JARED FORETEK AND JAMES JARVIS  
Rappahannock News and InsideNova staffs

Despite voting overwhelmingly Republican, Rappahannock County will be represented by a Democrat in the U.S. House of Representatives for the first time in more than a decade after redistricting placed the county in Virginia's 10th Congressional District. Incumbent Democratic Rep. Jennifer Wexton

was declared the winner in her bid for re-election to Virginia's 10th Congressional District. Wexton edged Republican challenger Hung Cao, both CNN and NBC projected about 9:15 p.m. on Tuesday night. The Associated Press then called the race firmly for Wexton.

With 99% of precincts reporting on Wednesday

See **ELECTION**, Page 12

## 'Nothing short of astounding' efforts

Parent Teacher Organization, led by President Shauna Volmrach, raised thousands for elementary school footpath, which broke ground this week. ▶ Page 6



### This week

**COURTHOUSE ROW** ..... 18  
**CROSSWORD** ..... 21  
**MEETINGS & NOTICES** ..... 18  
**CLASSIFIEDS, LEGALS** ...22-23



# How 8-man football united Rappahannock County

In a new video streaming now, relive the RCHS Panthers' come-from-behind Homecoming win

By LUKE CHRISTOPHER AND ROGER PIANTADOSI  
For Foothills Forum

It was a football season nobody in Rappahannock County will soon forget. The switch this year to an eight-man league by Rappahannock County High School — Northern Virginia's smallest school division, and one of the smallest in the state — provided a giant lift to the school and helped unite the community around a single cause.

The team went 6-5 in the Panthers' best-ever football season, despite a disappointing ending last week with a 52-6 loss to Virginia Episcopal School in the first round playoffs. But the season's Hollywood-movie highlight came Oct. 14 at RCHS' Homecoming contest against Chincoteague — with a last-second, come-from-behind 36-33 win before a record crowd at Panther Stadium.

The Panthers led most of the game, but were down by three points with six seconds left on the clock and 20 yards to the endzone. As the clock ran down



**WATCH** *When Smaller is Better* for free by scanning the QR code at right or going to: [rappnews.com/panthers2022](http://rappnews.com/panthers2022)



to zero, quarterback Dylan Hensler whipped the ball in the air. As it arced down to tight end Brandon Pullen in the end zone, the injured Pullen leaped up and over the defender's head and brought down victory, pride and elation.

The Homecoming crowd of students, faculty, parents, friends and alumni screamed and jumped for joy as

Pullen hobbled out of the end zone with the winning ball in his hands, mobbed by his teammates.

In an emotional speech to the players after the game, Head Coach Fulmer Burks, already looking ahead to the team's last games of the season and the playoffs beyond, repeated something he's said before to the boys: "Why not us? Why not us?"



**Finding common ground in a fractured world**

This Foothills Forum/Rappahannock News documentary of the game, and what the Panthers' winning season meant to the school and the community, is part of "This Place," a series exploring what divides us — and unites us — in Rappahannock County.

"This Place" is grounded in months of research by a team of Rappahannock News reporters and Foothills Forum volunteers who conducted interviews with dozens of county residents of diverse political, cultural and socioeconomic backgrounds, most of whom said there has been an increase in divisiveness and conflict in recent years.

This documentary was made by the Rappahannock-based team of award-winning photographer Luke Christopher and editor-composer Roger Piantadosi, a former Rappahannock News editor. Other videos in the series include the Cancer Is Messy event at Eldon Farms and the Amissville parade and carnival that returned in August after a two-year pandemic-pause.



Rappahannock News encourages your support for

**SMALL BUSINESS SATURDAY®**  
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 26th



**RESERVE YOUR SPACE TODAY!**

Ad sizes are 2 1/2" x 3 1/2" full color:

**Reserve your space now and get ready for the crowds Saturday!**

This special SHOP SMALL page will run

Wednesday, November 23rd in the Rappahannock News.

**Deadline for space commitments and copy: Friday, November 18.**

**Rappahannock News**

Contact Audra Dickey at 571-512-1442 or [audra@piedmontpub.com](mailto:audra@piedmontpub.com)

Tom Spargur at 540-812-2282 or [tspargur@culpepertimes.com](mailto:tspargur@culpepertimes.com)