

Rappahannock News

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146th Year • No. 11

THURSDAY, MARCH 16, 2023

\$1

Tax hikes proposed to fill school shortfall

VICTORY IS SWEET!



BY BILL KAMENJAR FOR INSIDENOVA/RAPPAHANNOCK NEWS

OUR CHAMPS Rappahannock County High School varsity girls' players celebrate their Class 1 VHSL state championship with its 70-65 win over Eastside in Richmond last Thursday.

► Story, photos on Pages 10-13

COUNTY BUDGET

State spending standoff forces tough local choices, \$1 million gap

BY TIM CARRINGTON
For Foothills Forum

The county budget – normally long on detail and short on drama – has been yanked into an showdown over tax increases that promises a spring of debate and painful choices.

Rappahannock's proposed tax hikes, scheduled to be presented Wednesday evening by County Administrator Garrey Curry, are fueled by a winter standoff in the Virginia General Assembly.

The Republican-controlled House passed a budget bill featuring a \$1 billion tax cut endorsed by Governor Glenn Youngkin, while the Democratic-controlled Senate dropped the tax cut, but voted in new spending, partic-

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SCHOOLS BUDGET

District seeks big boost in county support

Significant drop in federal and state subsidies – many related to Covid relief – declining enrollment and inflation fuel money crunch. ► 14

May your troubles be less, your luck be more, & nothing but happiness come through your door!

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Lifestyle THE 17th ANNUAL BEST OF FAUQUIER

Supervisors' agenda: Zoning appeal, possible FOIA violation

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summer camps
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Judge denies motion to set trial date for fire company

A Rappahannock County Circuit Court Judge on Monday denied a motion to set a trial date for an “expedited hearing” filed by local attorney David Konick on behalf of the ousted Flint Hill Volunteer Fire and Rescue Company board of directors.

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APPRECIATION

Natural born helper Michael Soule worked to make life better for others

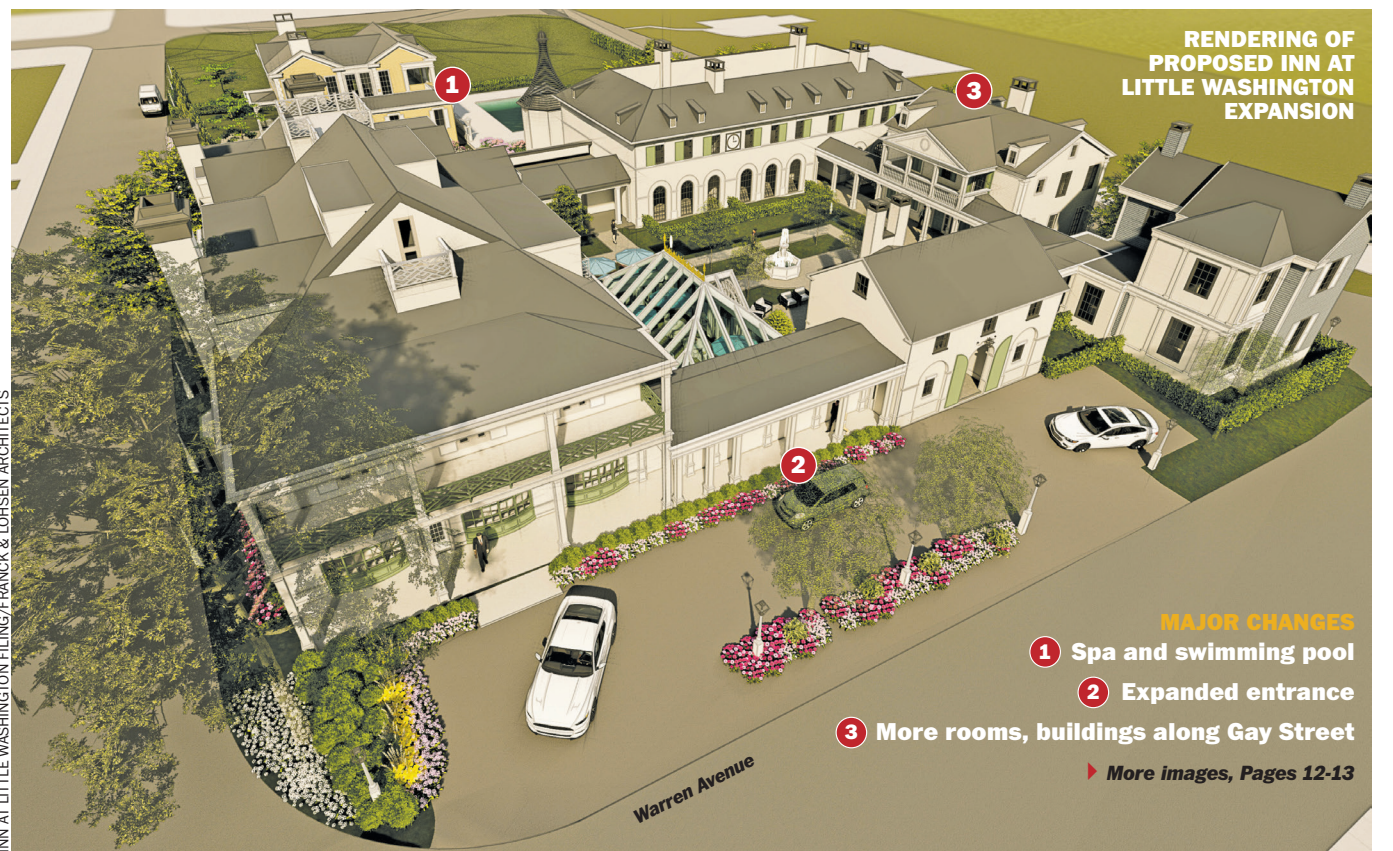
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Residents invited on-site to visualize courthouse concept

► Page 10

Inn plans transformational expansion adding buildings, spa

Moving beyond renowned cuisine to create luxury destination



RENDERING OF PROPOSED INN AT LITTLE WASHINGTON EXPANSION

MAJOR CHANGES

- 1 Spa and swimming pool
- 2 Expanded entrance
- 3 More rooms, buildings along Gay Street

► More images, Pages 12-13

INN AT LITTLE WASHINGTON FILING/FRANCK & LOHSEN ARCHITECTS

BY TIM CARRINGTON
For Foothills Forum

The Inn at Little Washington, soon to celebrate its 45th birthday, has unveiled a bold expansion plan that pushes the county’s largest private enterprise into new territory, and presents

the Town of Washington with significant changes in its streetscape and ambience.

A detailed design by Washington D.C.-based Franck & Lohsen Architects envisions 10 more guest rooms spread across various buildings, a spa with a

pool, new outside dining areas, a reception building for guests, a carriage house with a “Juliet balcony,” plus a wine cellar and tasting hall. One existing building would be moved whole-

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Shenandoah Soirée boosts park

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Rappahannock News

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THURSDAY, JUNE 15, 2023

\$1

Messy Flint Hill fire dispute heads to court

► **Lawyer:** Supervisor, fellow fire company, plaintiffs' attorney undermining county's efforts to revive station

► **Frazier:** 'Appalled at the attacks'; denies collusion
 ► **On the ground:** 'Very difficult set of circumstances'

BY JULIA SHANAHAN
Rappahannock News staff

An attorney representing the new leadership at the Flint Hill Volunteer Fire and Rescue Company (FHVFC) is

alleging that a member of the Board of Supervisors is working to undermine the county's efforts to address ongoing turmoil within the fire company.

A January Board of Supervisors

decision to remove the former leadership at the FHVFC and appoint a new board of directors spawned a months-long lawsuit, which has prevented the new leadership from operating at full

capacity as a fire company.

The Rappahannock County Board of Supervisors in January voted 3-2 to

See **FLINT HILL**, Page 10



NOL PUTNAM

IN APPRECIATION

FILE PHOTO BY LUKE CHRISTOPHER FOR FOOTHILLS FORUM

Rappahannock bids farewell to beloved artist-blacksmith

BY TIM CARRINGTON | *For Foothills Forum*

For half a century artist-blacksmith Nol Putnam transformed one of the Earth's hardest and most unyielding substances into flowing forms, such as leaves, stems, tendrils and seed pods.

His forge was loud, fiery and dangerous, and though he made his work seem plausible and ordinary, his mutations

See **NOL**, Page 13



RAE ANN GAEDKE

COURTESY PHOTO

A thousand-watt smile and food magic made all of Rappahannock Rae's Place

BY DAPHNE HUTCHINSON | *Special to the Rappahannock News*

Rae Ann Gaedke spent a lifetime turning food into love.

At Nature's Foods, Mountainside Market and Rae's Place, for potlucks, benefits, fundraisers and barbecues, in restaurants and home kitchens, she practiced her magic. The bibbity-bobbity-boo was equally divided between tasteful and healthful, and a single bite

See **RAE**, Page 12

LET US HELP WITH DAD'S TO-DO LIST! HAPPY FATHER'S DAY

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Food Pantry's first and only leader is stepping down

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