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Serving the King William and King and Queen Communities since 1989

Wednesday, March 13, 2024

Upper Mattaponi Establishes Tribal Court, a Historic First for Virginia



Newly appointed Upper Mattaponi Chief Justice Melissa Holds the Enemy



Councilwoman Desiree Dyer (seated) and Chief Frank Adams look on as Chief Justice Melissa Holds the Enemy (Crow) swears in newly elected Assistant Chief Lou Wrachford during a swearing in of Upper Mattaponi tribal officers.

Source, RADIO IQ

At the historic Sharon Indian School, the Upper Mattaponi Tribe celebrated their new Tribal Court. Tribes in Virginia, are in various phases of adopting their constitutions and forming their branches of government. Melissa Holds the Enemy, an Apsáalooké tribal citizen from Crow Agency Montana is now the Upper Mattaponi's Chief Justice. "So, when you have your own court system in place for a Tribe, that system is going to keep the culture in mind, their own laws in mind, and the history."

Two other justices are Jack Trope and tribal citizen Dr. Brian Cameron. The Tribal Court will consider civil matters including divorce and child custody and hear criminal misdemeanor cases involving the Indigenous community that occur within Tribal jurisdiction. "Our challenge will be to get the county and the King William County General District Court and all to recognize our court system," Chief Frank Adams admits. "Since we do not have a police force or a jail, we will sign a pact with the sheriff's department for assistance, invitation only by the Tribe."

Please see TRIBAL COURT, on page 9.

Swinging into Action - Boosters Hit a Home Run Start to the Season



The varsity and junior varsity teams gather around baseball coach Mark Granger

Please see FULL STORY, continued on page 4.

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Supervisors Frustrated with Broadband De-

By Gene Campbell

During the February 26th King William County Board of Supervisors meeting, Tom Innes, Vice President of Business Development at All Points Broadband (APB), provided an update on his company's \$17.7 million-dollar broadband project in the county. All Points Broadband was engaged by King William County in September 2020 to bring high-speed internet to 2,236 homes and businesses in the county through the installation of 250 miles of fiber optic cable. Collaborating with Dominion Energy and Rappahannock Electric Cooperative, All Points Broadband will utilize the utilities' power poles for the project.

Initially, All Points Broadband told board members in late 2022 the projected substantial completion date of the project would be August 2023, but subsequent delays pushed the timeline further. In May 2023, the completion date was revised to February 2024, only to be revised again at the December 2023 supervisor meeting, extending the completion window to between April and June 2024. At the most recent supervisor meeting on February 26th, Innes told supervisors the completion date will be in the third quarter of this year, attributing the setbacks to the sluggish approval process for pole



All Points Broadband Vice President Tom Innes updates supervisors on the broadband project

attachments, also known as the "make ready" process, which must be finalized before fiber optics can be affixed to the power poles.

Expressing their frustration with the continuous delays, the supervisors raised doubts about meeting the third quarter 2024 completion target. Going forward the supervisors requested monthly progress reports from All Points Broadband and plan to engage officials from Dominion Energy and Rappahannock Electric Cooperative for additional insights into the project's progress.

The next regular board of supervisors meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 25th beginning at 6:30 pm in the administrative building at the courthouse complex.

Publisher's Message



Spring is almost here! I can see that there is some yard work that needs to be done. As the days get longer, we can spend more time outside, enjoying the warm and sunny weather. It's important to make time for our hobbies and interests, so that we can strike a balance between work and relaxation. This way, we can experience life's greatest gifts to the fullest.

Take care until next time.

Danny Clark



The Country Courier welcomes letters from our readers, which will be published with the writer's signature and county of residence. We accept calendar items at no charge for 60 words or less. The Country Courier reserves the right to edit letters and calendar items and print when space is available.

Serving King William and King & Queen Counties Since 1989

Country Courier

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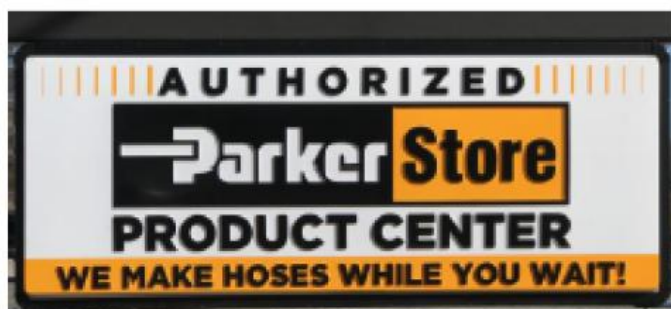


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Gates?

By Allen Brintley and "Pip"

We have been getting a lot of rain and even some sleet and ice lately. It slowed things down for a little bit but then the temperatures rose and it all melted quickly. That's the best kind of sleet or snow, sort of like family visiting. You're happy to see them, as long as they don't overstay their welcome.

I was at the hardware store the other day and this nice lady and I were discussing horses and mules. She asked about Pip and what kind of mule she was. I told her that she was a Tennessee walking mule. Pip's mom was a registered Tennessee walking horse and her dad was a smooth riding Jack. She asked "Well how many gates does she have?" I thought for a minute and said "Five." She asked "How many of them are smooth?" I said "All of them." She asked me to explain. I said "There are 2 metal gates in the lower pasture and 2 metal gates in the upper pasture and then there's a wooden gate that's beside the barn. That makes five." She laughed and said "I meant g-a-i-t not gate. A



gait is a way of moving sort of like how many speeds." I thought "Here we go again. I'm confused with this horse language stuff." I said "Let me list them. There's the walk, which is like first gear. Then there's this little running walk or shuffle which is pretty smooth. There's the gallop. Then there's the run. And last is w.o. which is like overdrive. That makes five gaits." She looked at me confused and said "I understand them all but the last one. What is w.o.?" I said "W.O. is wide open!" We both had a good laugh.

You can email me at Allen@twinriversrealty.com or call 690-7870. I'll see you on the trails.

K&Q Family C.A.R.E

Contributed

On August 3, 2023, the doors opened on a newly created K&Q Family C.A.R.E. (Community.Assistance.Resources.Empowerment.ent.) Center located at the intersection of Route 33 and The Trail. With funding from Families Forward Virginia and the Jesse Ball duPont Foundation, Thrive Virginia has created a place designed to make county residents feel more connected to their community and to facilitate access to various resources to help families. The Center's "north star" goal is to ensure all families, youth, and children in King and Queen County are safe, healthy, and nurtured and have equitable access to resources and opportunities to thrive. The purpose of the Center is to help transform from a reactive child protective system into a proactive child and family well-being system that integrates equitable family supports that reduce disparities in outcomes.

Since opening, the Center has provided concrete supports such as food, household and school supplies, financial and housing counseling, a computer area with public internet access, and connections to community



referrals. In addition, the Center offers a free public meeting space for up to ten people and private office space for one-on-one meetings by reservation.

Future activities include workforce development programs, living/life skills coaching, transportation resources, health services, support groups, parenting education and advocacy, and civic engagement.

The K&Q Family C.A.R.E. Center's hours of operation are Monday - Friday, 8 AM - 4:30 PM, excluding holidays, located at 4460 Lewis B. Puller Mem Hwy, Shackelfords, VA 23156. For further information, please visit the Thrive Virginia website at www.thriveva.org or call (804)551-9189.

Baseball, continued from front page

By Gene Campbell

The King William High School Cavaliers Baseball Boosters hosted their preseason banquet on February 27th at the King William Ruritan Building. The 2024 Cavalier baseball season is on the horizon, and the booster club gathered players, coaches, parents, and supporters to kick off the new season in style. The event was filled with excitement and camaraderie as players and coaches interacted with parents and supporters, sharing stories from the previous season. The evening began with a delicious meal generously donated by Roma's Restaurant, setting the stage for Head Coach Mark Granger to extend a warm welcome to everyone present. Each varsity and junior varsity player introduced themselves followed by the coaching staff consisting of Cameron Cooksey, Scoots Curry, and Junior Varsity Coach Kenny Waters.

Coach Granger, entering his second year coaching the varsity team, expressed his enthusiasm for the upcoming season and commended the players for their dedication and hard work. With a background of seven years

coaching at Deep Run High School in Henrico County and 28 years of service in the Air Force, Coach Granger teaches AFJROTC at King William High School in addition to his coaching duties, emphasizing the importance of discipline. Coach Granger highlighted the talent within the teams, consisting of seven varsity returners and nine junior varsity returners, underlining the strength of the players. He credited his outstanding coaching staff, supportive parents, enthusiastic boosters, and community, for making his job easier and instilling confidence in the team's capabilities.

The ultimate goal for the Cavaliers is to clinch the state championship, aiming to go all the way and emerge victorious. Coach Granger expressed gratitude to everyone for their unwavering support and encouraged them to continue cheering on the team throughout the season. The first varsity game is an away game scheduled for March 12th as they take on the Raiders of Rappahannock High School. Come out and support these talented young men as they march toward a state championship. GO CAVS!

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Obituaries

STULTZ



STULTZ, John Shelton, 77, of Mechanicsville, went to be with the Lord Sunday, February 25, 2024. He was preceded in death by his parents, John Samuel and

Helen Shelton Stultz and is survived by his wife of 38 years, Debbie Clark Stultz; son, Jonathan William Stultz; and sister, Joanna Hock (Michael). John was the owner of Copier Service of Virginia. He enjoyed fishing, and his dogs, Bailey and Buddy. John particularly loved his boat, 'Persnickety', and was a member of the VA Yacht Club. Services, with a period of visitation an hour prior, were held 1 p.m. Wednesday, March 6, 2024 at Fairmount Christian Church. Interment followed in Signal Hill Memorial Park. The family request in lieu of flowers, memorial contributions be made to the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, 6 Herndon Avenue, Annapolis, MD 21403.



WHITLOW



James Whitlow, It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of James Stanley Whitlow. This is a completely unexpected loss and our family is devastated by his passing. James Stanley

Whitlow, born on the bright and sunny morning of October 17, 1974, to Roger and Phyllis Whitlow in Richmond Virginia was a bright spark from the very beginning. A stranger to no one and no drum set, Stan discovered a beloved passion for percussion at a very young age. Stan excelled at drum lessons, was drumline leader in high school, and went on to create small bands with his close friends. After graduating from Lee Davis in the Class of 1992, Stan went on to play in Shire Lane Project (A band created by him, his late brother's/best friends) in the early to late 2000s. Stan also dabbled in other pursuits, including conspiracy thinking, podcasting with his dear friend, Danny, and traveling with his fiancée Julie. Stan would frequently play one day a week with his friends and family with a scheduled "Jam Session". Anyone who

knew Stan knew the type of soul he had and knew how difficult this loss was for our family.

Stan is survived by his mother and father, Phyllis and Roger Whitlow; his brother and nephew, David and Ashton Whitlow; his daughter, Raven Whitlow his fiancée, Julie Swiney; and his stepdaughter, Raine Cook.

The family received friends from 2 to 2:30 p.m. on Sunday, January 14 at Affinity Funeral Service, Mechanicsville Chapel, 8074 Mechanicsville Turnpike, Mechanicsville, VA 23111. A Celebration of Life, a time of sharing, followed from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m. There was a private family-only service, after the time of sharing, from 3:30 p.m. to 4 p.m.

We only ask that you take the time to remember the beautiful soul that Stan was.

CARTER



Nancy "MaMa Carter" Jo Boyer Carter, 82, of King William, VA passed away March 7, 2024. She drove the school bus for King William County for over 50 years. Nancy loved to knit and made many afghans for family and friends.

She always put her children and others before herself.

Nancy was preceded in death by her husband, Charles Ervin Carter. She is survived by three daughters, Pamela Carter, Cheryl Knight and Donna Byrd; two sons, James Carter and Michael Carter (Letha); grandchildren, Tiffany (Chay), Tamara (Tim), Courtney, Nikki, Mac, Danni, Jordan and Anthony; great-grandchildren, Alana, Aubrie, Gabby, Lily, Blake, Jaida and Ali; a sister, Betty Dillard and a brother, James Boyer; a special daughter, Natalia Fundureanu and a special granddaughter, Alicia Fortune.

A funeral service was held 2 p.m. Friday, March 15th at Colosse Baptist Church, 23945 King William Road, West Point, VA 23181. The family received friends from 12 p.m. to 2 p.m. Friday, before the service. Interment took place Saturday, March 16th in Summerfield UMC Cemetery, Fries, VA. In lieu of flowers memorial donations may be sent to Colosse Baptist Church Building Fund, (address above) or Summerfield UMC Cemetery Fund, c/o Ann Hodges, 138 Springwood Lane, Fries, VA 24330. Tributes may be posted at www.vincentfh.com.



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NOTICE OF DELINQUENT TAXES AND POSSIBLE JUDICIAL SALE OF REAL PROPERTY

On **April 15, 2024**, or as soon thereafter as may be effected, actions will be commenced under the authority of Virginia Code §58.1-3965, *et seq.*, to **begin proceedings** to sell the following parcels of real estate for the payment of County of King William delinquent real estate taxes:

Name	Tax Map No.	TACS No.
ERIN RUBY SPENCER & AUSTIN JOSEPH SPENCER	4-2-20	879561
TREVOR ADAMS PEELE	28-23A	707059
39 WEST POINT LLC	69A1-14-154	946203
STUART R MILLER & ANNIE S MILLER	38-5	707090
DANIEL R GOODWYN	29-5	946263
DANIEL R GOODWYN	29-6-E	946263
DANIEL R GOODWYN	29-6-J	946263
DANIEL R GOODWYN	29-6-K	946263
DANIEL R GOODWYN	29-6-L	946263
DANIEL R GOODWYN	29-6-C	946263
ELWOOD MCPHERSON & IRENE MCPHERSON	27-4	946658
QUENTIN T & MAXINE FRAZIER	69A3-65-925	948677
BRIAN BOWEN & SHERRI BOWEN	22-11-1-21	946210
HUNTER R LIPSCOMB	49-2-3	946276
SUSIE C LATNEY	26-18-A	946271
LYNDA C HURST	21-F-3-D-15	946251
DARGENABA NATU ANDERSON ET ALS	18-68	879564
SAMUEL S MUSANTE, LIFE TENANT & THE GERON FAMILY TRUST	63A9-1-194	707150
CORA L. JOHNSON ET ALS	11-7B	707034
SANDRA M TRUJILLO	29-4-1	947057
C T L INVESTMENTS, LLC	28-24	707138
CASEY DANIELLE ALLMOND	13-31-E	946200
JAMES EARL WASHINGTON ET ALS	54-86	880086
ERICA L HOLMES	52-26	880097
KENNETH C PARKER & ELISA M PARKER	35-1-B	946657
QUY TIEM DUONG	63A3-5-209	946231
MARY L NELSON	35-7-A	946655
CHAKIRIS TANAKA SPURLOCK	44-118-B	927130
HARVEY E ROBINSON & FRANCES ROBINSON	7-31	706989
COLD HARBOR, LLC	44-95	946220
IVALEE CAROLYN HARPER	63A1-6-C-1	946259
JAMES-KAREN WEEDEN & VIRGINIA M WEEDEN	30-39A	947062
LOUISE BERKLEY	20-7-1	707137
ROBERT W HILL	25-17	946264
JOHN DOUGLAS THORNTON & PEARL THORNTON	26-12	707100
CHRISTOPHER ROBINSON & ETHEL ROBINSON	14-18-A	947065
MELISSA DANSEY ATKINSON	69-A3-85-1306	946201
GAYLE A BACHINI	48-11-D	946197
MICHAEL GALLIHUGH	63-A2-1-24-B	948230
ADA BELL LOUDEN	45-59	946656
THOMAS FRANKLIN WEBB & ESTHER MAE WEBB	63-A4-6-4-11	963275
WALTER R PARKER JR	69-A1-29-374	946659
JEANETTE B BURRELL	63-A7-6-A-6	946217
LAWRENCE J MINOR ET ALS	37-21	946654
STEPHEN WAYNE RIFFE	15-A-1-B-1	946663
DAVID W THORPE	63-A7-6-F-1	707046
ESTATE OF WILLIAM E MCKINLEY SR & VICKIE MCKINLEY	52-5	948533
BRYAN SCOTT BIVINS & KIMBERLY N BIVINS	28-A-1-6	946204
LUVINIA MOORE	45-60	707089
RICHARD TALIAFERRO JR	63-A4-6-5-14	706968
MARABETH LOVE	18-3-4-A1	948526
FRANCES HARRIS ADAMS EXECUTRIX	22-78-B	946229
FRANCES IRENE FELS HARRIS ESTATE	22-78	946229
FRANCES IRENE FELS HARRIS ESTATE O	22-85	946229
TBCH CORPORATION	69-A3-1-84-2544	946274
JASON E TURNER TRUSTEE & COLEEN M KENAH	63-A3-5-271	948539

Properties subject to delinquent real estate taxes may be redeemed by paying all accumulated taxes, penalties, interest, costs and fees. Payments should be made payable to **County of King William** and mailed to **Taxing Authority Consulting Services PC, Post Office Box 31800, Henrico, Virginia, 23294**. Interested bidders and inquiries regarding the above-listed properties should be directed to TACS at (804) 545-2500, rcrammer@taxva.com or www.taxva.com.

| Andrew M. Neville, Esq. |
Re: King William County Delinquent RE Taxes
Taxing Authority Consulting Services, PC
Post Office Box 31800, Henrico, VA 23294

Indian Rivers Humane Society

Contributed by IRHS

“Kitten Season” is right around the corner and typically lasts from April through October. Kitten Season is an extremely hectic time for animal shelters trying to manage the huge influx of kittens being born and brought in as most animal shelters are often at or near capacity throughout the duration of kitten season.

The best way to help alleviate overcrowding in shelters is to ensure that your cats are spayed or neutered. If you need spay/neuter assistance, please contact us at (804) 885-3109 x 3. If you are considering adopting, please consider contact us or consider visiting Regional Animal Shelter - King William or Essex

Animal Shelter.

If you find a litter of kittens, please WATCH & WAIT! A kitten’s best chance of thriving is with its mother. The mother cat may be off finding food for herself, or she may be in the process of actively moving her litter to another location. If in doubt, it is best to notify the animal shelter immediately and not remove the kittens from their location. Please contact us at (804) 885-3109 x 3 if you have any questions or concerns or if you are interested in fostering cats & kittens.

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Three Rivers SWCD Celebrates Award Winners



Contributed

Three Rivers SWCD held our Annual Awards Banquet on February 20th. Winners included Ray and Vin Davis for the Clean Water Farm Award, Craig Leggett for the Outstanding Stewardship Award, and Chris Conway and Erin Hardin for the Partnership Award. Annabelle Townsend and Turpin Rowe were also recognized for their attendance at the 2023 Youth Conservation Camp held at Virginia Tech's campus last July. Annabelle and Turpin

shared an informative presentation on their time spent at the camp. Tucker Townsend, Makenzie Neely, and Patrick Upshaw were recognized for their participation in the Wildlife Food Plot Competition. Three Rivers sponsored a poster competition this past winter and received several submissions from JCIS students in 5th through 8th grade. Banquet attendees voted for their favorite poster and one winner was selected from each age group.

Tribal Court, continued from front page

The tiny school was packed. In a front row reserved seat, newly-elected Sheriff Donald Lumpkin. "I look forward to working with them in the near future and any way that the sheriff's office and King William County can help them," Lumpkin says. Also attending the ceremony, Nansmond Chief Keith Anderson. His Tribe will be swearing in its Tribal Court officials later this year.

This report, provided by Virginia Public Radio, was made possible with support from the Virginia Education Association.



Newly elected King William County Sheriff Donald Lumpkin

Congratulations Redd



Riley Redd

Contributed

Congratulations to Riley Redd on being chosen to perform with the District 1 Chorus. This event brings together the best singers in our district, which encompasses King William, King and Queen, New Kent, Charles City, Hanover, and Henrico counties. This is the first time a KWHS student has participated in 30 years.

Riley worked diligently on her own time to prepare first for the audition and then the concert music. Five challenging works were presented from memory in the two-and-a-half-day event.

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A Home Called Eglington

By Gene Campbell

When my father, Dick Campbell, purchased in 1967 the land where I now reside, a cinder-block cottage was already present on the property, serving as the second dwelling erected on the site. The first structure, built in the mid-1700s, was home to Thomas Chamberlayne and his wife, Wilhelmina. It was known as Eglington and consisted of over 500 acres. Thomas held the esteemed position of Commission of Justice for King William County from 1747 to his death sometime after 1771. They had four sons. The eldest son, Bryd, was a ship captain. Bryd and his son, Otway, navigated the waters of the Mattaponi River (as it was called then), transporting grain. Legend has it that Bryd would discreetly bury his valuables before setting sail to prevent theft while at sea. One day he and Otway set sail and never returned. Gertie Taylor, who lived by and worked many years at the courthouse, shared memories with me of her parents giving her a shovel and telling her to dig for the treasure after school. My father found old coins on the property dating back to the late 1800s. My good friend Donny Norman, found a 1773 coin one day after grading the dirt road leading to the cottage. It was identified as a Virginia half-penny. When he discovered the coin, we felt like two kids on Christmas morning, believing we had unearthed the hidden valuables.

The original brick house met a fiery demise in the late 1700s with some of its brick was used in the construction of

Colosse Baptist Church. In the early 1900s, the Hill family acquired the property, building the now-existing cinder block cottage and transforming it into a retreat for relaxation. I am told the Hill family known for their wealth, would make grand entrances when they traveled in a Rolls Royce from their home in New York City, generously distributing dollar bills to the gathered crowd at King William Courthouse as they passed by. My father found an antique wall thermometer within the cottage, showcasing advertisements for prestigious New York establishments like the Hotel President, Hotel Piccadilly, Hotel Plymouth, Hotel Forest, and Riverside Plaza. The thermometer highlighted "3000 rooms and banquet facilities for 10 to 4000 with bath, shower, and radio amenities, offering affordable rates starting from \$2.50 a night, lower by the week." My father purchased the property from the Garrett family, who I assume purchased it from the Hill family.

The property also served as the site of Mantua Ferry, a ferry crossing the Mattaponi River in the 1800s. There are old hand-hewed timbers used for the ferry, still resting on the shoreline to this day. My father would often remark, "People gathered here waiting for the ferry back in the day.....and still do today" referring to the many fundraisers and events held on the site. I am very proud of the fact my parents never charged one cent for the use of the place. As for the buried valuables/treasure, well, I think I know where it is, under all the concrete at the pavilions!



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2 parcels totaling +/- 41 acres with older dwelling. Great potential for recreation/ weekend getaway/ or year round living.
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Millers Tavern Area-Great Location. 15-20 minutes to Rappahannock River, Golf Course, Shopping, Hospital/ Medical Offices.
2 parcels totaling +/- 41 acres with older dwelling. Great potential for recreation/ weekend getaway/ or year round living.
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Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

Remember when KWCPS forced our children to follow a bunch of unscientific, unproven medical interventions during Covid like staying 6 feet apart, wearing masks and quarantining for their "safety?" Remember when those things wound up not working and being harmful? Surely, we would never forget and do it again, right?

Well, Dr. Wagner has. At the February School Board meeting, he is recommending the Board approve a nonscientific, unproven medical intervention in the form of on-demand, in-school psychological counseling to address the negative educational and emotional behaviors largely caused by their own incompetent response to Covid.

He wants to employ in-school staff and agencies to provide mental health counseling (i.e. talk therapy, etc.) to your child without telling you that there is NO consistent research demonstrating its effectiveness. In fact, there is a growing body of research indicating it can do more harm than good.

It's so similar to Covid it's scary. Who will be held responsible when your child gets mentally worse instead of better after these in-school school therapy sessions? It won't be KWCPS.

Our schools should do THREE things if

they want to help our kids.

1. Don't play doctor or psychologist. You already tried and failed at this. Your job is to educate.

2. Establish an effective referral-OUT program so that our kids and parents can get connected with help OFF-campus in the community.

3. Enforce the Code of Conduct. Our Principals need to do their job. Students currently have no rules, expectations, or consequences. This is making them miserable. It's time to remove ineffective Principals and hire ones that care enough to do the hard work of establishing a safe, orderly environment for our kids to learn and be happy.

Please contact KWCPS if you are as concerned as I am. And that's A LOT.

Jessica McLane
King William

Dear Editor,

Mr. Campbell's article "A Tale of Two Rivers" discussing the Mattaponi and Pamunkey Rivers began and ended with interesting information. I am saddened that Mr. Campbell felt the need to interject two tasteless jokes at the expense of our Mattaponi Indian Tribe, Upper Mattaponi Indian Tribe, and Pamunkey Indian Tribe neighbors, particularly considering the

front page noted a generous \$5,000 donation to the King William Fire & EMS from the Upper Mattaponi Indian Tribe. I have come to expect better from Mr. Campbell and the *Country Courier*.

Kirk Havens
King & Queen

Dear Editor,

I write to express my disappointment with Congressman Rob Wittman.

His recent votes to impeach Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas despite the absence of a basis for impeachment grounded in treason, bribery, or other high crimes and misdemeanors as required by Article I, Section 4 of the Constitution shows that he continues to vote for symbolic legislation that has no benefit to the voters of the First District.

At the same time he chooses to cast votes for meaningless symbolic legislation, he has failed to support legislation that could benefit our district. Among his many failures to assist our district was his no vote against the Infrastructure Act that provided over \$1.4 billion in federal funding to deploy broadband high-speed Internet service throughout Virginia, focusing on rural areas. Several hundred million dollars of this money has already

been used or is being used to install broadband to rural areas throughout the First Congressional District.

Rob Wittman voted AGAINST this money, yet, he frequently appears at construction sites wearing his hard hat and yellow safety vest, taking credit for the money that makes the work possible. It's time to find a Congressperson who will support the needs of our district and not the symbolic whims of Washington politicians.

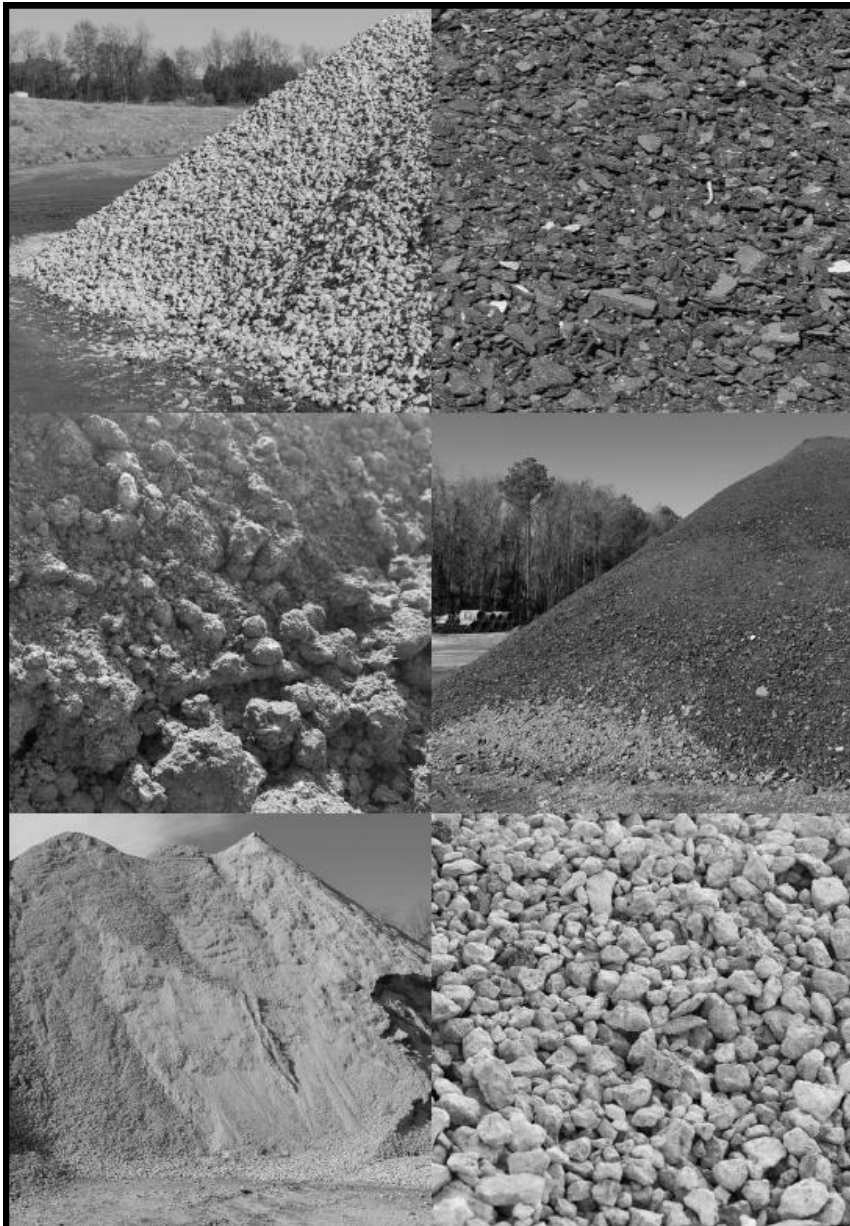
Keith Fogg
Manquin



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letters to the Editor

We welcome signed letters to the editor. Each letter must carry the writers signature, full valid address, and daytime phone number. We reserve the right to edit for accuracy, brevity, clarity, legality, and taste. We do not guarantee that every letter received will be published. Letters reflect the opinions and positions of the writers and not *The Country Courier*.



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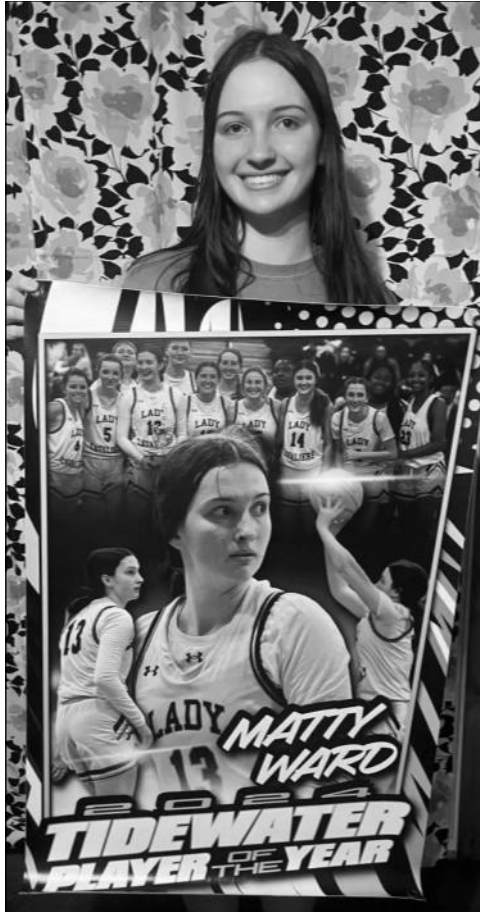
Letters to the Editor Continued

A Sincere Apology

I am writing this letter to offer my sincere apologies for any offense or disrespect caused by the funny stories I shared in my recent article entitled "A Tale of Two Rivers" that inadvertently touched upon Native American culture. It was never my intention to disregard or diminish the rich heritage and traditions of Native Americans and I deeply regret if my words were perceived in that light. I understand the importance of cultural sensitivity and respect towards all communities, including Native Americans, whose history and contributions to King William County and society should be honored and valued. I recognize that humor can sometimes unintentionally cross boundaries, and I take full responsibility for not being more mindful in my storytelling. Thank you for taking the time to read this letter, and I appreciate your understanding and forgiveness.

Gene Campbell

Congratulations



Congratulations to Matty Ward, King William Cavalier Girls Basketball 2024 Tidewater Player of the Year!

Senior Spring Fling

Saturday, March 16, 2024

Central High School
17024 The Trail

The event will be held in the auditorium, please use the rear doors.

10:00am to 11:00am - Scam Jam
Presentation

11:00am to 1:00pm - Vendor Booths

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King William Ruritan Club Fish Fry A Rite of Spring

By Gene Campbell

In 1939, one year after the King William Ruritan Club was chartered, club members decided to meet at club member Ben Garrett's cabin on the Mattaponi River for their April monthly meeting. It was shad season and the plentiful shad were spawning. "Let's catch some shad, invite our friends, and have a fish fry" was the consensus of the group. And so it began, a tradition and annual rite of spring that is one of the oldest, if not the oldest, in the county. This year marks the 85th time folks will gather on the second Tuesday in April, this year April 9th from 4 to 8 pm at the club's facilities on Rt 30. The success of the first fish fry led the members to turn it into a fundraiser. To date, the club has given over half a million dollars back to the community from their fundraisers. During the WWII years, club members and guests would sharpen their shooting skills by aiming at targets (bottles) over the river, getting ready to defend their land like true blue "minutemen." Over the years the event has evolved, moving in 1969 from member Ben Garrett's cabin by the river to club member Dick Campbell's cottage several hundred yards upriver. Politicians, including senators, governors, and judges were regular attendees with judges sometimes called in to make a "decision" at the horseshoe pits. In 1994 when a moratorium on catching shad began, the club switched to catfish but kept the popular shad roe on the menu. These days, the menu has grown to include clam chowder, pork skins, homemade cole slaw, and hush puppies, all washed down with your favorite beverage. In 2010, the tradition moved to the club's new



Ruritan members Tootsie Campbell, Stuart Bush and Greg Robinson sharing a laugh about the "ole times"

facilities on Rt 30, where the old-timers still gather and look forward to seeing old friends and making new acquaintances. This year, Faron Hamlin, the lead singer for the popular country music band, Honky Tonk Heroes, will serenade the crowd with some "good ole foot-stomping" music. The delicious catfish and all the 'fixins' will be served from 5 to 6 pm with take-outs available. Tickets are priced the same as last year, \$30 each, and are available at 360 Hardware, Atlantic Union Bank in Manquin, Primis Bank, Mechanicsville Drug Store, and West Store. Tickets are also available from club members, online at kingwilliamruritan.org or call 804 690 1861. So, buy your tickets early (none will be sold at the gate) to join in the merriment, the music, and the memories that will make this tradition one to remember.

King and Queen Senior of the Month

Contributed by Carol Carter

King and Queen County Public Schools recognized Nicole Davis as the February Senior of the Month. Nicole's journey at Central High School began in her sophomore year. She quickly became an integral and cherished member of our school family. Nicole's (known as Nikki) vibrant personality radiates positivity. She is known by her teachers and her peers for her humor, silliness, and kindness. Additionally, Nikki creates an environment where everyone feels valued and special. Her compassionate nature extends to all, making her a standout member of our school community.



At Central High School, Nikki is an exemplary student, maintaining an A/B average while enrolled in challenging AP classes and the EMS Technician program at Bridging Communities Career and Technical Center. Her commitment to academic excellence has earned her a well-deserved place in the National Honor Society. Mrs. Jennifer Powell, Government teacher, states, "Nikki is an absolute joy to be around -- she is full of life and positive energy. She is funny and silly... and she is kind and compassionate. Above all else, Nikki makes everyone around her

feel special because she is inclusive of EVERYONE." Nikki, we celebrate your academic achievements, your positive energy, and your ability to make a lasting impact on those around you. Your presence enriches our school, and we look forward to witnessing the continued success and positivity you bring to Central High School. Congratulations on being selected as February's Senior of the Month.

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Dedication to Community Empowerment: King & Queen Central High School JROTC Partners with Thrive Virginia



Princess Adams, Logan Branch, Lauren Flaathen, and Kathen Caldwell, Thrive's Family Resource Coordinator

Contributed by Kimberly Rector

King and Queen Central High School JROTC proudly announces its collaboration with "Thrive Virginia" in King and Queen, with a commitment to serving our community to empower those battling poverty, including children, families, and entire communities.

This impactful project is aimed at enhancing community resources and fostering literacy. These stands will serve as charming repositories for returning library books, symbolizing the fusion of beauty and functionality in our community

spaces.

Through this initiative, we strive not only to beautify our surroundings but also to promote literacy and community engagement. Our partnership with Thrive Virginia exemplifies the spirit of collaboration and service, inspiring us to work towards a brighter, more inclusive future for all.

Join us as we plant the seeds of positive change and cultivate a thriving community together! Thank you to Thrive Virginia for empowering JROTC leadership at Central High School.

Interested in Wildlife Rescue & Rehab?

Contributed

Are you interested in helping wild animals? Maleena's Wildlife rescue will be hosting two conferences in Tappahannock at Synagro.

The Wildlife Rehab Conference will be held on Saturday, March 23rd. It's for people who are interested in becoming a wildlife rehabber or volunteer. You'll need to be age 16 or older to volunteer and 18 or older to be a rehabber.

The Wildlife Rescue & Transportation Conference will be held on Saturday, April 13th. If you're interested in rescuing or transporting orphaned, sick or injured wildlife to permitted rehabbers? Participants will gain knowledge and confidence learning the laws and regulations, tips and tricks, do's and don'ts of wildlife rehabilitation. The guest speaker will be Julie Wobig. Julie is a permitted rehabber with AWARE, specializing in song birds, water birds and raptors. She has also worked dispatch and rescue for Tidewater Wildlife Rescue & Evelyn's Wildlife Refuge for 5 years. Must be 16 or older to volunteer.

Wildlife Rehab Conference
March 23, 2024 1 pm-3 pm

Wildlife Rescue & Transportation Conference
April 13, 2024 10 am-12 pm

Synagro
(Located at the rear left of Essex Square



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Register now, spaces are limited.
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March 23rd



April 13th

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Church Calendar

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CHRISTIAN

Christ Community Church

Meeting Sunday morning in the sanctuary at Beulah Church - 1539 Lewis B Puller Memorial Hwy. east, (SR 33E, Saluda 23149) PH: (804) 370-5035 Service starts at 0930. All invited to join. Family, Friends and Neighbors come worship our Lord together. We are Christ Community Church, where Christ is the center of our community!

Christian Fellowship Ministries

304 W. Chinquapin Rd, King William, will begin our Annual 40-Day Fast on February 14 to March 24. Join us for Revival each Wednesday, Thursday, & Friday at 7pm on Zoom. Zoom ID: 890 008 8851 Password: 61ayFH. Sunday Services at 11 a.m. in the sanctuary and follow us live on FaceBook and via Zoom.

Jerusalem Christian Church

We invite you to worship with us in person service. Adult Sunday School at 10:00 am and Sunday Service at 11:00. Minister Joshua Lewis, 1902 Powhatan Trail, King William. Follow us on Facebook

Smyrna Christian Church Bruington

3655 Powcan Rd., Bruington 23023 All Welcome! Worship Sunday mornings 10AM. Adult Sunday School 9AM. Children's church during service. Pastor Bill Ford (770)687-6621/ www.Smyrna.org

West Point Christian Church

290 West Euclid Blvd. West Point. Pastor Matt Cox P.O. Box 800 804-843-3185 westpointchristian.com

BAPTIST

Beulah Baptist Church

4805 West River Road, Aylett Come worship and study God's Word with us! Sunday School for all ages every Sunday at 9:45 A.M. Worship at 11:00 A.M. Sunday night Bible Study at 6:30 P.M. Wednesday night Bible Study and Youth at 7:00 P.M. View sermons via link to youtube at BEULAHBAPTISTVA.org Like us on FACEBOOK also. Pastor Alex Rand 843-696-6779

Broadus Church Hebron Campus

3407 King William Rd Aylett 23009. Facebook Broadus Church Hebron Campus, web broaduschurch.org Sunday morning worship at 9:30am Bible Study for all ages at 10:45am. Mid-week Bible Studies TUESDAY evening. Youth 6:00pm, ladies and men group at 6:15pm. Food Distribution 2nd Monday of each month from 6-8pm. If you need help with free firewood or used furniture call 804-779-2700 and ask for Pastor Jeff. Come SEE what GOD is doing!!

Bruington Baptist Church

4784 The Trail, Bruington, King and Queen County. Please join us at Bible Study and Sunday School on Sundays at 10 a.m. with Worship Service following at 11 a.m. Face coverings optional. Choir Practice Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. and Community Clothes Cupboard open first Saturdays from 10 a.m. until noon. Contact us at 804-769-3246.

Colosse Baptist Church

23945 King William Road West Point, VA 23181

Gethsemane Baptist Church

1890 Dunluce Road, King William, 23086. phone service at 267-807-9605 Meeting id# 88745. Starts at 10:00am Every 2nd, 3rd and 4th Sundays.

Indian View Baptist Church

13349 King William Road, King William Come worship with us on Sundays at 11:00 AM All Are Welcome!!

Kingdom of God Living Water Ministry

We invite you to worship with us, Sunday School 10:30, Tuesnight Party 7:00, Thusnigt Bible Study 7:00, Morning Service 12:30. You will not leave the way you come. All Are Welcome. Pastor Leo Reed 1438 Manfield Road, Manquin 23106. Sunday's at 12:15 PM.

Lower K&Q Baptist Church

204 Timber Branch Rd., Mascot, 23108 Pastor Terry Morrison, until church is rebuilt Sunday Services at: The Woman's Club House 208 Allen's Circle King and Queen C.H., 23085. Directions or questions, call or text (804) 925-5699. 10am Sunday School for all Ages, 11am Worship Service All welcome, come as you are.

Mattaponi Baptist Church

Sundays 11a.m. Children's Church during service. In-depth Bible study the 2nd & 4th Wed. during Daylight Saving Time. Services live on Zoom at: http://bit.ly/ MBCLIVE (Meeting ID: 871 964 216) & FBLive. Visit us on Facebook for latest news and any schedule changes: @MattaponiBaptistChurchVa. 13466 The Trail, King and Queen Court House, 23085. Pastor Stephen Rountree: 804-514-5715.

Mattaponi Friends Meeting

942 Buena Vista RD. Shackelfords 23156. Join us in-person and via Zoom for Quaker Worship in silent meeting at 10:00 A.M. and worship sharing/discussion at 11:00. First Sunday business meeting at 11:00. Third Sunday potluck lunch at 12:00 noon. For more information contact 804-785-9401.

Mt. Sinai Baptist Church

2327 Commins Road, Aylett.

Oak Grove Baptist Church

46 Towinque Farm Road, King William

Olivet Baptist Church

25338 The Trail (Rt. 14) Mattaponi, 23110. Join us for traditional worship services 10am Sunday School Bible Studies for children and adults of all ages. 11am Worship Service each Sunday morning. A place to be with God!

Poroporone Baptist Church

Sunday School - 9:30am Worship Service - 10:30am Wednesday Night Bible Study - 6:30pm We Invite You To Join Us!

Providence Baptist Church

570 Dorrell Road, Aylett, Pastor White (804) 240-1982.

Rock Spring Baptist Church

4134 Manfield Road Aylett 23009. Rev. Pagie Hancock, Pastor. 9:15am for Sunday School and 10:15 for Morning Worship. Annual March Rally Sunday, March 17, at 3:00 pm Ministry is sponsoring "Pockets of Hope" collection until March 24th. Men's Ministry hosting Easter Sunrise Breakfast following the Sunrise Service on March 31st at 6:00 am.

Second Mount Olive Baptist Church

Little Plymouth, VA

Saint Paul Baptist Church

Globe Road, Aylett, Call 804-769-2119

Easter Celebration of Song at Sharon Church to Benefit The CornerStone on March 17 Sharon Baptist Church at 901 Sharon Road in King William will host the annual Easter Celebration of Song on Sunday, March 17 at 6 pm. Area church choirs and musicians will present an evening of music to bring in the Easter season. A love offering will be passed to benefit the programs of The CornerStone Community Development Center in Aylett. The CornerStone coordinates the local food bank, free health clinic and a clothes closet for individuals and families in need. For more information on the program, contact Randy Shank at 804-238-8595.

The Edge Worship Centre

460 14th St. West Point.

www.tewcwestpoint.net

The Fix Ministry

Saturday nights @ 5:30, 1025 Hobbs Hole Drive in Tappahannock. Potluck Dinners first Saturday of month following the worship service. Wednesday night at 7pm, Bible Study is held at The Fix Chapel. If you have any questions, please call us at (804)473-9011. Come join us and be Blessed!

Third Union Baptist Church located at 452 Walkerton Road in King William will be celebrating Deacon, Deaconess and Trustee Day on Sunday, March 17th at 10:30am. The Theme is "Deacons, Deaconess and Trustees in Unity, stirring up the Gift of Servanthood" - 1 Peter 4:10-11 and 1 Corinthians 9:19. The Guest Preachers All are welcome! Any questions please call the Church Office at 804-769-3123.

Union Hope Baptist Church

571 Union Hope Road, King William: Sunday Morning Worship 10:15 a.m. (In-person and Teleconference) Teleconference option: Phone: (774) 220-4000, PIN 57187 Follow us on Facebook: Union Hope Baptist Church, King William, Upcoming: Spring Revival 2024 (Tele-Conference only at 7:30PM) April 8-9, Pastor Kevin Childs (Beth'el Baptist Church) April 10, Pastor Dr. Harold Stanley (Grace Christian Fellowship)

Upper King and Queen Baptist Church

1693 Bradley Farm Rd. Sunday Worship Service at 11:00 A.M. & Sunday School at 10:00 A.M. Visit us on Facebook.com/upperkingandqueenbaptist and https://www.youtube.com/@UpperKingandQueenBC Rev. Gerald Klimczak -Pastor.

Zion Baptist Church

King and Queen Courthouse, 615 Zion Church Road, King and Queen Courthouse, VA 23085. Mailing Address: P. O. Box 82. Worship Service (in-house), Each Sunday at 9:30 a.m. Rev. Virginia "BeeBee" Harvey Young, Pastor.

Wayland Baptist Church

10809 The Trail, Stevensville, Also via ZOOM & Facebook Live. Email: srobinson8134@gmail.com for invitation.

METHODIST

Epworth Methodist Church

11 Epworth Road Aylett 23009. Sunday 9:00am Worship Services, 10am Fellowship, 10:30 Sunday School. Please come visit us Sunday! Pancake Supper March 16 from 5 to 7pm. Tickets sold at door. Drive thru or eat in.

McKendree Methodist Church

4347 Manfield Rd., Manquin, 23106. Sunday worship 9:30AM in person and Facebook Live, followed by fellowship and Sunday School. Pastor Corey McConville mckendree23106.org, mckendree23106@gmail

.com.

EPISCOPAL

Immanuel Episcopal Church

190 Allen's Circle King & Queen Court House. For information on a particular Sunday call 804-785-2122

St. David's Church

"To Know Christ Jesus and to Make Christ Known" 11291 West River Road, Aylett (Beside the Public Boat Landing) Palm Sunday - 24 March - 11 AM Passover Celebration/ Dinner - 28 March - 6:30 PM Good Friday/ Stations of the Cross - 29 March - 6:30 PM Easter - 31 March 11 AM

St. John's Episcopal Church

916 Main Street, PO Box 629, West Point. 804-843-4594. Sunday Service at 10 am, followed by social time with refreshments. Services both in-person and livestream on Zoom. All are welcome at God's Table, always. Please join us. stjohnewp.org

Good Neighbor Center

Financial and related assistance to area residents. For assistance, please call the GNC's Manager, Ms. Thornton at 757-585-8227. Mail contributions to West Point Ministers Association, PO Box 1139, West Point, VA 23181.

St. Paul's Millers Tavern

7924 Richmond Highway. 804-443-2341 Sunday service 10am. The Rev. Dr. Johan Johnson, Priest in Charge, coffee hour and Bible Study following the service. Nursery and Sunday School during the service. Choir directed by Kristi Reynolds. stpaulsmillertavern.org

PRESBYTERIAN

Brett-Reed Memorial Presbyterian Church

29680 King William Road West Point, VA 23181. Pastor Karen V. Stanley. Sunday School 10. Worship Service 11.

St. James Presbyterian Church

(The church next to K.W. Courthouse) 411 Courthouse Lane. Rev. Dr. John Turner

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Community Calendar

Senior Spring Fling

presented by TRIAD and the King and Queen Sheriff's Office March 15, at Central High School (the event will be held in the auditorium, please use the rear doors). 17024 The Trail 10:00am to 11:00am - Scam Jam Presentation 11:00am to 1:00pm - Vendor Booths All are welcome!

Lower King & Queen Fire-EMS Fish Fry

Fundraiser Sat. April 20, 4 - 7 PM
Adult:\$15 / 10&Under:\$8 Contact (804) 832-8199 for tickets (Advance ticket only)

King & Queen Library

Call 804-769-1623 or visit the library at 396 Newtown Road for more information.

Upper KW Branch Library

Coloring, Coffee, & Donuts Tuesday, March 5, 10:30 - 11:30am Ages 18 & up. Gardening Forum Thursday, March 14, 11:00am - 12:30pm Ages 18 and up. UKW Anime Club Tuesday, March 19, 6:00 - 7:30pm Ages 12-18. UKW Chess Club Tuesday, March 26, 6:00 - 7:30pm All Ages. Call 804-769-3731 or visit the library at 694-J Sharon Road for more information.

West Point Branch Library

Family Storytime Fridays, March 15, 22, & 29, 10:30 - 11:00 a.m. Stay and Play Fridays, March 15, 22, & 29, 11:00 a.m. - noon Ages 0-5. Legos @ the Library Friday, March 15, 4:00 - 5:00pm Grades K-5. DIY Dog Enrichment Monday, March 18, 6:30 - 7:30pm I'd Rather be Reading Book Club Wednesday, March 20, 11:30am - 12:30pm Ages 16 and up. Play-Doh Monday, March 25, 11:00 a.m. - noon Ages 1-5. Call 804-843-3244 or visit the library at 721 Main Street for more information.

VFW Post 9501

The veterans of VFW Post located on 7712 King William Road, Aylett will have their monthly meetings the 2nd Thursday at 5:00PM. Call Post Commander Herbert

“Tim” Johnson for membership or information 804-769-1862. VFW Auxiliary meets in-person and virtual at 12:00 noon on the 2nd Thursday. Call Gladys Hickman, President at 804-330-9925 or Carolyn Brown, Senior-Vice 804-769-2496 for membership or more information.

Three Rivers SWCD Board of Directors' Meetings

Monthly Board of Directors' meetings on the third Tuesday of each month. If you would like to attend, contact the office at (804)443-4027 for meeting place and time. The public is invited.

K.W.T.E.A. Party

We now only meet the second Thursday of each month at 6:00pm. Info at kwteaparty.com and Facebook Come for the fellowship of patriots and the latest on what's happening at local, state and national levels. KWTP's meetings are open to all citizens of good will.

KW Children First Lions Club

Crossroads Mission Center located at 694 K Sharon Road, King William.

DCSE Service Point Assistance

DCSE Contact Information: 1-800-468-8894

KW Parks and Recreation

Visit the King William County Parks & Rec Site for details about upcoming events, workshops, exercise classes, and more! @ kingwilliamrec.com

Good Homes Needed For Good Pets

Regional Animal Shelter, 20201 King William Road, King William 804-769-4983. www.petfinder.com email: animalshelter@kingwilliamcounty.us

Southern States

485 Sharon Rd. King William, 23086 769-3100.

KW Community Watch

Interested in a community watch? Call Lisa

Mayville at 804-551-3267 or Email: lisamayville@atlanticbb.net. Any crime call King William Sheriff Office at 804-769-0999 or kwso@kingwilliamcounty.us Crime tips call Robin Bostic with King William Victim/Witness Program at 804-525-8838 or email: rbostic@kingwilliamcounty.us

KW Democrats

Please join us on Saturday, March 16 to hear from Candidate Herb Jones, who is running for U.S. Congress. Meet at the Upper KiW Library from 10:30 to noon, AND at the West Point Library (joining byZoom). Or Zoom in from home. Email kwdems@gmail.com or call 804-885-0544 for Zoom link.

KW Republican Committee Meetings

Meets the 4th Thursday of each month at 6pm at the KW Parks & Rec Building, 7890 Richmond-Tappahannock HWY. Questions please email us: kingwilliamgop.com

Mangohick Volunteer Fire Department

Mangohick Volunteer Fire Department is hosting an Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, March 23 at 1:00 pm. Bring the family and join in the fun. 3493 King William Rd, Aylett.

The CornerStone Community Development Center, Aylett.

Food Distribution - 11235 West River Road, Aylett) **The Lily Field Clothing Shed** - 11235 West River Road, Aylett Open on Saturdays, 9.30 a.m. to 11.30 a.m. **Please DO NOT drop off donations outside the building.** Drop off is

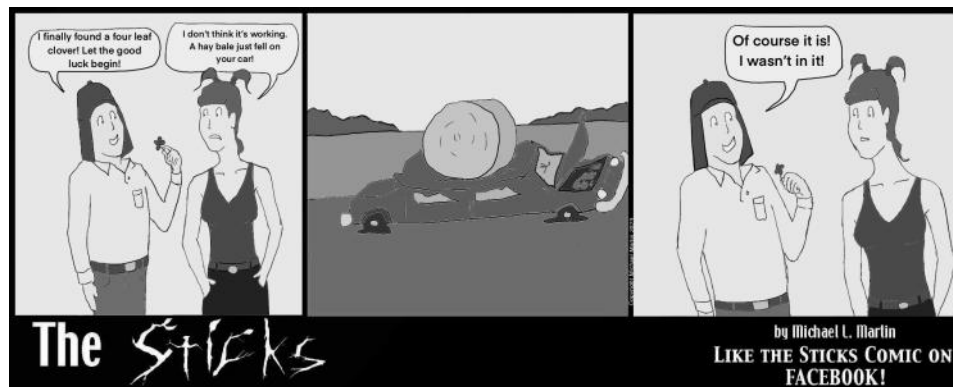
at the clothing shed on Wednesday mornings before 9 a.m. or kindly call ahead to schedule a donation drop off. Drop off is at the clothing shed on Wednesday mornings before 9 a.m.

The CornerStone Free Health Clinic 8270 Richmond Tappahannock Hwy., Aylett No walk in appointments. Please call to register. Call 804 769 2996 Email theccdc@gmail.com **Proceeds to benefit Food and Free Health Clinic Programs.** The CornerStone Community Development Center is a 501(c)(3) non profit organization. Donations are tax exempt. Mailing address: P.O. Box 68, Aylett, Virginia 23009.

Good Neighbor Center The West Point Ministers Association's Good Neighbor Center continues to offer financial and related assistance to area residents. For assistance, please call the GNC's Manager, Ms. Thornton at 757-585-8227. Mail contributions to West Point Ministers Association, PO Box 1139, West Point, VA 23181.

King William County Public Schools Preschool Screenings

At Cool Spring Primary School 7301 Acquinton Church Road, King William VA Wednesday, March 13 from 9-am to 7pm and Friday, March 15 from 9am to 3pm by appointment only Call now to schedule your appointment! 769-3434 ext. 300



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Candidate must have education, or prior experience in a related field, as well as customer service experience; must also possess excellent public relation and communication skills; good organizational ability and multi-tasking skills, and be punctual; willingness to be cross-trained within the office; be available to participate in on-going educational classes regarding state code. Computer experience is required. Knowledge of the Bright Software System is preferred. Excel experience is necessary.

Starting salary is \$36,164 plus benefits.

Applications and job descriptions are available on our website: www.kingandqueenco.net and are also available from the King and Queen County Commissioner of the Revenue's Office, King and Queen County Administration Building, 242 Allen's Circle, Suite I, King and Queen Courthouse, VA 23085.

Applications may be submitted in person to King and Queen County Commissioner of the Revenue's Office, 242 Allen's Circle, King and Queen Courthouse, VA 23085 or by mail to P. O. Box 178, King and Queen Courthouse, VA 23085. Position is open until filled.

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March 19th is the first day of **SPRING** Also on March 19th **Dick Campbell of King William** would be celebrating his **100th Birthday!** He Is Greatly Missed. Happy Heavenly Birthday!

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