

Country Courier

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Serving the King William and King and Queen Communities since 1989 Wednesday, September 30, 2026

Honoring Heroes One Step at a Time

By Gene Campbell

With each step up the bleachers of Roger G. Brookes III Field at King William County High School, local firefighters and recruits honored the memory of those lost on Sept. 11, 2001. Members of the King William County Fire Department and Fire Recruit Academy 26-1 gathered Sept. 11, 2026, for a memorial stair climb sponsored by the King William County Professional Firefighters and IAFF Local 5235.

Participants climbed until they completed the equivalent of 110 stories—the height of the original World Trade Center Twin Towers. Recruit Alexandra Tocarchick, class leader of Fire Recruit Academy 26-1, led the climb while carrying the Flag of Heroes. The flag remained with the group throughout the event and never touched the ground, serving as a symbol of remembrance, patriotism, and respect.

Please see Honoring Heroes, continued on page 14



Firefighters participating in the memorial

Photo by Ivey Tupponce

Community Spirit Shines Despite Rain at National Night Out

By Gene Campbell

An enthusiastic crowd gathered on Sunday, September 27th, for the annual King William County Sheriff's Office National Night Out, held in the parking lot of King William High School. The Sheriff's Office was joined by local fire departments, rescue squads, law enforcement agencies, and vendors. Residents and parents, many with children, visited booths and enjoyed the evening despite the threat of rain. The three-hour event concluded with raffle prize awards.

Traditionally held on the first Tuesday in August, the event was established nationally in 1984 to give neighborhoods a chance to unite against crime while building relationships with local law enforcement officers.

Please see Night Out, continued on page 5.



The men and women of the King William Sheriff's Dept

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Third Time is a Charm!

Doris Harvey of King William won the 2026 Bass contest in Caroline County. Her Bass weighed 5 lbs. 9 oz.

All money collected was donated to her charity “The St. Jude’s Hospital. Thanks to Mike’s Bait Shop for sponsoring this annual event. Her son affectionately calls her the “Bass Assassin.”

“Maybe next year Jaden and Ethan”.



King and Queen
county K-9 Deputy Aja

See page 5!

Publisher’s Message



Working here at the *Country Courier* for the past 37 years has allowed me to meet so many wonderful people. With many of them, I have formed lasting friendships, from business owners to members of the Rappahannock, Mattaponi, Upper Mattaponi, and Pamunkey Native American tribes. I have learned much from all that I have met. Some of these folks have gone on to be the lord, but their memory is still clear to me. I am thankful for you, the reader of this message. You have given me encouragement with your words through the years. I am blessed to have a job that provides these wonderful opportunities. Enjoy this beautiful time of the year.

Take care until next time.

Hanny 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 50 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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Two Words

By Allen Brintley and “Pip”

The more things that we can expose our animals to and help them to work through and accept, the better off we’ll be. There are some things that only come up once or twice a year, like getting shots from the vet. I remember when Pip was young, I wanted her to be safe and accepting while getting vaccinated each year. The idea of sticking a thousand pound animal with a needle a few times didn’t sound like much fun for either of us. So I had the bright idea of pinching her on the neck to simulate getting a shot. I started off easy and got harder until I got a slight reaction. She looked at me as if to say “What in the heck are you doing to me?” I immediately gave her a treat and praised her. We worked on that a few times each day until it was a regular routine for her. She got so good at it that I think she wanted me to pinch her more so she could get more treats.

I heard a story the other day about a guy that became a monk and the head of the monastery told him that he had to take a vow of silence, but once a year on his anniversary he



could say two words. The first year went by and the new monk was called in and asked what his two words were. He said “Food, Bad.” The head monk said “Thanks, now go back to your work.” The second year passed and he was called in again and asked for his two words. The monk said “Bed, Hard.” The head monk thanked him and sent him back to work. The third year came around and he was called in again for his two words. The young monk said “I Quit!” The head monk said “I figured as much. You’ve done nothing but complain since you’ve been here!”

You can contact me at Allen@TwinRiversRealty.com or call 690-7870. I’ll see you on the trails.

Obituary



PAGE Charles M. Page, Sr. (92) of Aylett, VA shed his earthly existence August 20, 2026. He was home into eternity to be with his Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Charles was predeceased by his wife of 35 years, Marion, their younger son, Stuart, his bonus daughter, Sarah and his brother Billy. He is survived by his wife, Liz, elder son, Chuck, bonus daughter, Nycol, 13 dear grandchildren and 8 precious great grandchildren.

Services in 1985. Page Electric thrives with son and grandson at the helm. Charles was a man of steely, quiet strength and deep faith. He was steadfast in his love of family and always ready and willing to help anyone in need. He was a crackerjack woodworker and fixer of broken things. Charles had a profound appreciation of God’s wondrous creation and spent much time hiking the Appalachian trail, canoeing the Piscataway Creek and fishing those waters . . . catch and release. His love for critters was evident in his many rescues of strays and pampering of numerous pets over the years. Charles was an avid fan of the old westerns – especially Gun Smoke. His absence will be far-reaching and deep. In his memory we ask all to perpetuate kindness in a world in much need of it. Numbers 6:24-2.

Charles proudly served in the United States Army and was stationed on Okinawa Island for 3 years. His trade as an electrician served him well until he retired at 71. He and his son, Chuck, began contracting as Page Electric

Celebration of Charles’ life was Sunday, September 20, 2026 from 5 PM – 7PM at Burkwood Swim and Racquet Club. @ The Burkwood Clubhouse 9120 Burkwood Club Drive Mechanicsville, VA 23116.

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Sam Levenson

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ARTS ALIVE

Night Out, continued from front page



Hey mom, I won a raffle prize



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K-9 Deputy Aja in the driver's seat



Sheriff Lumpkin announces the winner

This year's event, originally scheduled for August 4th, was postponed until September 27th because of inclement weather.

In 2016, the late Bob Coats, a King William Ruritan Club member and former state trooper, proposed establishing a local National Night Out in conjunction with other communities across the metropolitan

area. The idea was an immediate success and has since become a much anticipated community event.

Special thanks go to Sheriff Donald Lumpkin and his staff for organizing this annual event, which continues to bring residents and local public safety agencies together.

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King William Democrats Host Candidate Shannon Taylor



King William Democrats at their picnic with candidate Shannon Taylor.

Contributed by Betsy Donahue

The King William Democrats hosted Candidate for Congress Shannon Taylor at their annual picnic. Candidate Taylor spoke to the crowd and spent time talking individually to voters about their concerns.

She emphasized lowering costs for consumers and fighting corruption in Congress. Taylor stressed her intention to work to restore healthcare access and funding to our rural communities. Senator Mark Warner's team represented

him at the Democrats' picnic and encouraged people to vote early. Senator Warner is running for re-election to the United States Senate. His team provided signs, buttons and bandanas to the voters present.

King William Democrats enjoyed each other's company and conversations, as well as the good food! Yard signs were distributed. To get a yard sign or for more information, go to www.kwdemocrats.org or email kwdems@gmail.com.

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King and Queen County's Dr. Carter read to the Pre-Kindergarten elementary students.

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King William Raiders Celebrate Homecoming



Here come the Raiders!



By Gene Campbell

The King William Raiders Youth Football Organization held its homecoming activities on Saturday, September 19th at Roger G. Brookes Field at King William High School. The stadium buzzed with excitement as the young athletes took to the gridiron, while parents, relatives, and supporters proudly cheered them on. They played games throughout the morning and early afternoon. After the first two games, homecoming activities took place, with teams and cheerleaders marching onto the field and culminating in the crowning of the homecoming kings and princesses. The celebration highlighted the

importance of youth athletics in building confidence, discipline, and sportsmanship. Programs such as the Raider Youth Football Program help nourish and train young athletes, preparing them to become future contributors and perhaps future state champions for King William High School. Minnesota Vikings running back Demond Claiborne, a product of the Raider organization and King William High School, is a prime example. With strong community support and continued opportunities to grow, these young Raiders are taking meaningful steps toward a bright athletic future. Go Raiders!



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A Legacy of Leadership and Partnership: Joint JROTC Color Guard Triumphs at Major League Soccer Match



Contributed by SGM (RET) Ronald Howard

On September 19th, the Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps (JROTC) program was presented with a distinguished honor: presenting the Color Guard for a Major League Soccer match. Bringing together Cadets from two distinct programs—King and Queen JROTC and Rappahannock JROTC—the occasion marked a memorable showcase of discipline, military precision, and teamwork. Standing before a roaring crowd, the young leaders represented their schools and units with pride, embodying the foundational values of leadership and duty on a major athletic stage.

What made this year's performance especially noteworthy was the seamless

collaboration between the two JROTC programs. Rather than operating independently, King and Queen JROTC joined forces with Rappahannock JROTC to present a unified front. The Cadets synchronized their drill movements, commands, and flag placements through mutual trust and shared standard operating procedures. Seeing Cadets from different school's march shoulder-to-shoulder under one formation demonstrated how military structure fosters instant camaraderie and cohesion.

This joint presentation marked a significant evolution in how the event was handled compared to previous years. In the past, the honor of presenting the Color Guard for this Major League Soccer event had been carried out solely by the



Rappahannock JROTC program. Transitioning to a joint operation provided a valuable learning experience for both units, giving Cadets from both programs an opportunity to step outside their comfort zones, build inter-school relationships, and witness firsthand the power of cross-program partnership.

For the Cadets in attendance, the day offered far more than just a drill execution; it was a deeply impactful life experience. Performing in front of thousands of fans in a professional stadium environment instilled a profound sense of accomplishment and pride. Standing at attention on the pitch as the national anthem played created a lifelong memory for everyone involved, highlighting the unique and rewarding opportunities that JROTC participation offers high school students.

In addition to their ceremonial duties, the event provided many of the Cadets with a brand-new cultural and athletic perspective. A number of the participating Cadets had never attended or watched a professional soccer match prior to this event. Watching the game live from the sidelines gave them a newfound

appreciation and genuine understanding of the sport, opening their eyes to the speed, strategy, and global appeal of Major League Soccer.

The joint Color Guard detail proved to be an overwhelming success for both schools, the cadre leadership, and the event organizers. The Cadets represented their communities with exemplary decorum, showing the public the dedication, sharp appearance, and maturity that define the JROTC program. The seamless execution of the event served as a testament to the hard work put in by the Cadets during practice sessions prior to gameday.

Both King and Queen JROTC and Rappahannock JROTC expressed deep gratitude for the opportunity to participate in such a high-profile event. The success of this unified presentation established a strong precedent for future collaborations between the two programs. Looking ahead, both units hope to build on this tradition, eager for the opportunity to return to the stadium pitch and present the colors together once again in future seasons.

VFW Post 9501 Received State And National Recognition For Fiscal Year 2025-2026

During the VFW VA 3rd District quarterly meeting held at Post 9808 in Mechanicsville, VA on August 15, 2026, Commander, Ben Clark and Quartermaster, James Brown were recognized for leading Post 9501 as an All State and All American Post for fiscal year 2025-2026. The All State recognition was announced at the Department of Virginia State Convention held in Harrisonburg, VA May 27-30, 2026. The All American Post recognition was announced at the VFW National Convention held in Reno, Nevada July 25-29, 2026.

At the Department of Virginia State Convention, the Auxiliary, whose, President is Gladys Hickman, received a Certificate and special recognition for Youth Chairman, Colleen Williams, a Registered Little Free Library Steward and the Auxiliary Secretary. The Certificate was for "Donating the Most Books for Patriotism Through Literacy" in the state of Virginia.



These honors could not have been achieved without the continued cooperation and support from members of the Post and Auxiliary and members of our community. Thanks to all who helped.

For Post membership information, please contact James Brown at 804-337-7029. For Auxiliary membership information, please contact Gladys Hickman at 804-380-9925.

Submitted by Colleen Williams

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44th Annual Crab Carnival



WEST POINT, Va. — The 44th Annual West Point Crab Carnival returns to downtown West Point on Friday, October 2, and Saturday, October 3. The West Point Chamber of Commerce hosts the two-day festival along Main Street and the waterfront district. Admission is free both days. Saturday's festival runs from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Organizers expect about 16,000 visitors over the weekend. The carnival has been held on the first weekend in October since 1982.

Friday begins with the Tour de Crab, a community bike race for children in Pre-K through fifth grade at Main and 7th streets. The Bart Chucker Band takes the main stage at 6:30 p.m. Carnival rides run from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m., and food trucks will be on site. Fireworks are scheduled for 8:30 p.m.

Saturday is the full festival day, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friends of Soul performs on the main stage in Town Park from 11 a.m. to 4

p.m., with a break for the 1 p.m. parade. Mike "One Mic" Keeter plays on Main Street before the parade, and Junior Wilson performs afterward. Williamsburg Field Musick Fifes and Drums will appear along the festival loop. Cannon Country 107.9 is scheduled to broadcast live from Main Street. A professional actor portraying Benjamin Franklin will be on the grounds.

Carnival rides, a children's activity area, 24 food trucks, and 165 vendors will be out all day Saturday. Fresh crabs and shrimp will be available, and a beer garden will operate throughout the festival area.

The children's area includes a baby and toddler play space, a changing and nursing station, a mud kitchen, and a water table. This year's theme is "Crab State of Mind." King William illustrator Lauren Stewart designed the official artwork after a public logo contest.

Sponsors include the Town of West Point, Smurfit Westrock, Baylands Family



Credit Union, C. Joe Sanders Jr. / BHM, Wyatt-Ogg Furniture, Giaimo Management Co., Renewal by Andersen, Bohannon Legal, Smiles of West Point, Edward Jones - Robert Lawrence, York River Pressure Co., Buck Shot Photography, Walter C. Via Enterprises, Thrift Insurance, Panache Studio, St. John's Episcopal Church, Club America TPUSA, Jeff and Donna Cole, Bullseye Bookkeeping, Sam & Ashleigh Drewry,

C&F Bank, Limitless Grafex, Coastal Title & Settlement and Visit West Point King William.

The carnival runs on Main Street from 11th Street to 6th Street and on side streets from 9th Street to 7th Street.

Details are at <http://westpointvachamber.com/crabcarnival>

44th Annual West Point Crab Carnival

Friday, October 2 & Saturday, October 3



Friday, October 2nd

- Event Hours 5:00 pm - 10:00 pm
- Tour de Crab Bike Race 5:00 pm
- Carnival Games & Rides 6:00 pm - 9:00 pm
- Concert 6:30 pm - 9:30 pm
- Fireworks 8:30 pm
- Food Vendors
- Beer Garden
- Local Shopping & Dining

Saturday, October 3rd

- Event Hours 10:00 am - 6:00 pm
- Live Music
- Craft & Food Vendors
- Freshly Steamed Crabs & Shrimp
- Carnival Games & Rides - Parking lot between 7th & 8th Streets
- Local Shopping & Dining
- Parade 1:00 pm



Details are at

<http://westpointvachamber.com/crabcarnival>



Celebrate King & Queen County Community Pride Day 2026!

Saturday, October 24, 2026
One Community. One Celebration. All That Is King & Queen!

For years, Ms. Julia Redd has worked alongside dedicated community partners to make King & Queen County Community Pride Day a special tradition: a day when neighbors from across the county come together to celebrate the people, organizations, schools, churches, businesses, and public servants who make King & Queen such a wonderful place to call home.

Community Pride Day has deep roots in King & Queen County. Records dating back more than two decades identify the celebration as an annual October tradition and Julia Redd as its Parade Chairperson. She describes past events covering the entire parking lot at CHS and the parade stretching from the courthouse to the high school packed with participants from all around King and & Queen and surrounding communities. Over the years, the celebration has continued to bring generations of King & Queen residents together.

The parade has become one of the highlights of the celebration and often pairs with the weekend for Central High School's Homecoming events. The parade travels from the King & Queen Courthouse to Central High School, where the

festivities include games, food, vendors, and community fellowship. Julia Redd serves as Parade Chairperson and in a partnership with King and Queen County Public School's the AJROTC Instructor SGM Ronald Howard puts the work in to make the event run smoothly.

Community Pride Day is more than an event. It is a celebration of King & Queen County itself.

It is a day when our churches, businesses, schools, county government, civic and community organizations, families, students, alumni, and neighbors can stand together and celebrate everything that makes King & Queen County unique.

SAVE THE DATE for OCTOBER 24, 2026

Come join us for the 2026 King & Queen County Community Pride Day and help us make this year's celebration one to remember! Enjoy the excitement of the Community Pride Day Parade, visit local vendors and community organizations, reconnect with friends and neighbors, support our schools and businesses, and celebrate the history, people, traditions, and future of King & Queen County.

Bring your family. Bring your organization. Bring your King & Queen pride! Whether you grew up here, work here, attend school here, worship here, own a business here, or simply love this



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Sixth Graders Learn About Their Watersheds



Contributed by Dawn Shank

On Friday, September 18, more than 150 Hamilton-Holmes Middle School students visited Sandy Point State Forest in King William. The Mattaponi and Pamunkey Rivers Association organized the River Day.

Students used the scientific method at several stations to learn about the properties of water and water quality by chemically testing the river water, observing the tide, simulating how pollution affects things that live in the river in a game, and getting in the water with nets and observing what they caught.

"We found a little crab, some grass shrimp and two baby turtles. It was so cool," remarked one student at the end of the day. Local natural resources professionals, retired science teachers, and

volunteers manned stations by the river. Middle Peninsula

Master Naturalists led the students on a nature hike. Dave Slack with the VA Dept. of Forestry, Leslie Anne Hammond, York Riverkeeper, Laura Nay, Christine Roadman, and Christina Murray of VA Cooperative Extension taught the children about forestry, soils, and watersheds. MPRA volunteers, April Hill Deacy, Audrey Mitchell, Dawn Shank, Mary Shipman, John Nachman, Tammy Heath, and Tamara Dozier also led stations.

"MPRA organized the Sandy Point River Day for sixth graders for two decades before the Covid pandemic," said MPRA Audrey Mitchell. "We were very excited to revive this hands-on 'meaningful watershed experience' again."

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Church Calendar

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*Under 60 Words please. Thank you.

CHRISTIAN

Christ Community Church Meeting Sunday morning Beulah Church - 1539 Lewis B Puller Memorial Hwy. east, (SR 33E, Saluda 23149) (804) 370-5035 Service starts at 0930. All invited to join.

Jerusalem Christian Church We invite you to worship with us, in person service. Adult Sunday School at 10:00am. Sunday Service & Children's Service at 11:00. Minister Joshua Lewis, 1902 Powhatan Trail, King William. Jerusalemcc.com

One Hope Community Church Sundays 10:15am worship in a welcoming, kid-friendly environment. Coffee, light breakfast. Wednesdays - 6:30pm Awana (ages 4-12) and Teens (13+) 6:45pm Adult small groups. Like us on Facebook. 186 Walnut Spring Rd, St Stephens Church 23148 PO Box 9, Aylett 23009 Email onehopeva@gmail.com Pastor Joshua Brassard 804.840.4461

Smyrna Christian Church located at 3655 Powcan Road, Bruington. Ph (804) 238-9086 / email: billford@smyrnacc.org / website: www.smyrnacc.org "Find a true church family and deep, faithful teaching of God's word at Smyrna."

West Point Christian Church 290 West Euclid Blvd. West Point. Pastor Tom Wilburn P.O. Box 800 804-843-3185 westpointchristian.com

BAPTIST

Beulah Baptist Church Sunday School, all ages 9:45AM, Worship Service 11AM. View sermons, via YouTube / Facebook at beulahbaptistva.org. Follow, like YouTube / Facebook, be notified of upcoming livestream. 4805 West River Road Aylett, 23009. PO Box 846 Aylett, 23009 804.539.2191 kwbeulahbaptistchurch@gmail.com beulahbaptistva.org

Broadus Church Hebron Campus Sunday worship at 9:30am Bible Study for all ages at 10:45am. Mid-week Bible Studies Tues. evening. Youth 6pm, ladies and men group at 6:15pm. Food Distribution 2nd Monday each month from 6-8pm. Free firewood or used furniture call 804-779-2700 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 Sunday School on Sundays at 10am. and Worship Service at 11am. Community Clothes Cupboard open first Saturdays from 10am. until noon. Rev. Brian

Harfst, pastor. Contact us at 804-769-3246

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, Tuesday night Party 7:00, Thursday night Bible Study 7:00, Morning Service 12:30. All 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. Directions or questions, call or text (804) 925-5699. 10am Sunday School for all ages, 11am Worship Service. Meal & Movie every Wed. night at 6-8. All welcome, come as you are.

Mangohick Baptist Church 147 Mangohick Church Road Hanover 23069. Come worship with us each Sunday morning @9AM. Sunday School following morning worship 10:30AM. Bible Study Tues & Thurs at 6PM. Wednesday Morning Inspiration at 6AM both via Teleconference: 978-990-5181 Access Code: 1850844# Rev. Dr. Elijah L. Campbell Pastor Email: Mangohickbaptistchurch147@gmail.com Facebook: Mangohick Baptist Church (804)994-5390

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

Mattaponi Friends Meeting 942 Buena Vista RD. Shacklefords 23156. Join us in-person and Zoom for Quaker Worship in silent meeting at 10A.M. and worship sharing/discussion at 11. First Sunday business meeting at 11. Third Sunday potluck lunch at 12noon. For more info 804-785-9401.

New Hope Memorial Baptist Church Rev. Dan Grantham 14173 New Hope Road Shacklefords, Va 23156 Worship service at 10am

Olivet Baptist Church 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 www.facebook.com/PoroporoneBaptistChurch.

Revival Baptist Church Are you looking for something different? Revival Baptist Church is a new Independent Baptist Church! Come join us on Sunday mornings at the King William High School Cafeteria! Sunday School at 9:00am, and Morning Service at 10:00am. Learn more at visitrevival.org.

Sharon Baptist Church 901 Sharon Rd, King William, 23086 804-769-2320, Office hours Tuesday through Friday 9am to 2pm Pastor Chad Brannan, Sunday School 9am, Worship 10:15am Tuesday Morning Bible Study - 10am Wednesday Youth Group - 6pm Awanas - 6:30pm. Wednesday Night Prayer Group - 6:45pm

The Forge Ministry Join us for our church service at 10:30 on Sunday morning. Spark City Kids is available for 5th grade and under. Find more information at theforgeministry.churchcenter.com (Theme: Moving Forward, Phil 3:13-14)

Union Hope Baptist Church: 571 Union Hope Road, King William: Sunday Morning Worship 10:30 AM (In-person & Teleconference) Teleconference: (774) 220-4000, PIN 57187 Follow us on Facebook: Union Hope Baptist Church, King William, The Food Bank Ministry Hours of Operation (Monthly from 1pm-3pm) Every Tuesday, 1st Friday and 3rd Saturday Upcoming services: Fall Revival, Oct. 12-14 at 11 a.m. Speakers: Mon., Bishop C. Johnson Greater Grace; Tues., Elder S. Parsons Mt. Olive; Wed., Pastor A. Parsons Mt. Olive. For details on service(s), see Facebook or call the church at 804-843-4415 151st Church Anniversary: Oct. 18 at 3 p.m. Guest speaker: Pastor Authur Roane, Escobrook BC, and the Macedonia Praise Dancers.

Upper King and Queen Baptist Church invites you to worship with us at 11:00 A.M. Sunday with Sunday School at 10:00 A.M. Pastor Dr. David Peppler Visit us on Facebook.com/upperkingandqueenbaptist

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

NON DENOMINATION

Rehoboth Bible Church 5904 Acquinton Church Road, KW, Sunday Worship service at 10:30am. We are a church that still walks the old paths while shining the light of truth in today's world. Monthly Blue Grass Gospel Jam held the 3rd Tuesday of

each month from March to October from 6:30 to 9:00. (804)769-8400.

Women in the Word Community Bible Study! 396 Newtown Road, St. Stephens Church Email Melissa Rice at mrsmelissarice@aol.com.

CATHOLIC

Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church 3570 King William Ave. W.P. 23181. 804.843.3125. worship 5pm Sat. 9am Sunday, 10:15am Sunday- Bible Study & Sunday school.

METHODIST

King William Wesleyan Methodist Church 21076 King William Road King William, 23086 Pastor Michael Marshall Sunday: Sunday school 10:00 a.m., Worship 11:00 a.m., with children's services available. Afternoon service 3:30 p.m., Wednesday prayer and praise 7:00 p.m. A warm welcome awaits you!

McKendree Methodist as in Church Sunday School: 10:00 - 10:30am. Worship: 10:30 - 11:30am Fellowship Time: 11:30am 4347 Manfield Road, Manquin. Pastor: Corey McConville

Mizpah United Methodist Church 6062 Canterbury Rd. Walkerton. 23177 Service every Sunday at 11:00 with Pastor Steve Hundley All Welcome
New Song Church King William. YOU are invited! Join us for worship on Sundays at 10am at Cool Spring Primary School (7301 Acquinton Church Rd, King William, 23086). New Song Church: King William is a United Methodist faith community that Loves ALL! Jesus Said So!

Old Church Methodist Church Route 14, 25614 The Trail, Mattaponi. Come worship with us Sunday mornings at 11:00 am. Bluegrass Jam is held the 4th Thursday of each month at 6:30 pm. follow us on Facebook: Old Church Methodist Church in King and Queen email us at lgoins45@gmail.com Welcome All

EPISCOPAL

Immanuel Episcopal Church 190 Allen's Circle King & Queen Court House. For information on a particular Sunday call 804-514-5952.

St. John's Episcopal Church 916 Main Street, PO Box 629, West Point. 804-843-4594. Sunday Service at 10am, followed by refreshments, conversation and Bible study. In-person or Zoom. 2nd & 4th Wednesday Holy Eucharist with healing prayers in Church Library at Noon. stjohnewp.org; info@stjohnewp.org

Church Calendar, continued

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

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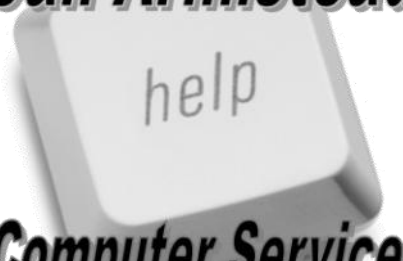
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Honoring Heroes, continued from front page



As the climb became more difficult, Fire Chief Ronald Brown carried the American flag during the final stretch, helping guide the firefighters and recruits to the finish. His actions reflected a lasting tradition within the fire service: When the burden becomes difficult, no one is left to carry it alone.

Four commemorative stops were held along the way. Participants honored the law enforcement officers who gave their lives, remembered the victims and their families, and paid tribute to the 343 firefighters who made the ultimate sacrifice on 9/11. The final stop focused on the promise firefighters continue to make each day—to serve their communities with courage and compassion.

The climb was more than a physical challenge. It was a solemn tribute to courage, sacrifice, and service. With every step, participants ensured the memories of those lost live on through the next generation of firefighters.

The King William County Fire Department extends its sincere thanks to King William County High School for providing a place for the memorial and appreciates the community's continued support. Twenty-five years later, the memory of Sept. 11 remains strong in the flags carried, the sacrifices remembered, and the firefighters who continue to climb in honor of those who never came home.

Many thanks to Ivey Tupponce and Fire Captain Saul Mijangos for the pics and information for this article.

Be sure you put your feet in the right place, then stand firm.
Abraham Lincoln

West Point Honors John Harper as Grand Marshal of the 44th Crab Carnival

He will ride at the front of Saturday's parade down Main Street

West Point, Va. — September 10, 2026 —

The West Point Chamber of Commerce is proud to announce John Harper as Grand Marshal of the 44th Annual Crab Carnival, to be held Friday, October 2, and Saturday, October 3, 2026. When the parade moves down Main Street on Saturday afternoon, Harper will ride at the front of the line, waving to neighbors and visitors who return to town for the first weekend in October.

Each year the Chamber chooses a Grand Marshal as a public thank-you. The honor goes to someone whose work in West Point — in business, in the schools, in civic clubs, or in the quiet jobs that keep a small town humming — has added up in ways the rest of us get to enjoy. It is a ceremonial place in the procession, not a working assignment. Grand Marshals do not run the route or call the cues. They ride first so the town can say, in front of everyone, that a life of showing up has been noticed.

Roots on the Point

Harper has been a cornerstone of the West Point community since his family moved to the area in 1968. A 1970 graduate of West Point High School, he was active in athletics before continuing his education at Virginia Tech (then VPI&SU), where he earned both a Bachelor of Arts and a

Master of Science in Education.

In 1973 he married Eleanor O'Connor. Fifty-three years later she remains not only his life partner but his most consistent source of good advice, his favorite travel companion, and the person who can tease a man who was never built for standing still into sitting down for five minutes. Eleanor has a loving eye for the moment when "take it easy" is about to lose a friendly argument with a pile of metal that, to him, looks like it needs a home.

Together they raised two daughters and built a life deeply rooted in the community that raised them.

Teacher, Merchant, Neighbor

Harper's professional journey began as a teacher and coach in both private schools and West Point Public Schools from 1975 to 1978. He later transitioned into the family business at O'Connor Furniture before founding Harper's Carpet in 1982, where he served as co-owner and president until his retirement in 2016. The store became one more place where a generation of West Point families knew they would be treated fairly — and that John would remember their names.

Service Without a Spotlight

In addition to his career, Harper has dedicated significant time to public service and community leadership. He served eight years on the West Point School Board, including several years as vice-chairman.

He was actively involved in the early West Point Area Chamber of Commerce. A charter member of the Rotary Club of West Point since 1997, he has twice served as club president. He recently gave several hundred hours to an interactive display at the West Point Historical Society's museum — a lasting exhibit, built by a proud family man, that tells the story of his late father.

The efforts of John Harper are too many to capture in full, but one local display the town knows and enjoys would not be possible without his selfless service, and that is the Rotary Club of West Point's Flags for Heroes program. Each year the flags rise along Main Street, each one honoring someone who has had a positive impact on another person's life. The display has become part of the civic landscape of town. It exists because people like John Harper treated it as a cause worth the sweat, the early mornings, and the years of showing up.

The Kind of Humble That Gets Things Done

Crab Carnival Co-Chair Sam Drewry told us a realization recently that captures John's dedication to community, civic duty, and volunteerism — and his own particular style of stubborn humility:

"The history of local volunteerism disappears surprisingly fast over the years, and John Harper will never tell you the

time, sweat, and effort he has put into a cause. Once you get to know him, though, you can see how involved he has been across a lifetime in West Point. He is a walking archive of those disappearing histories, because not only was he there — he was probably a part of it. If something good happened here, he was probably nearby, with a toolbox, a flag, or a quiet "I'll take care of it."

That is the spirit the Chamber is honoring this October.

Leading the Line

"John Harper embodies the values of dedication, service, and community spirit that define the Crab Carnival," said Crab Carnival Co-Chair Lauren Evans. "We are thrilled to honor his lifelong contributions by naming him this year's Grand Marshal." The 44th Annual Crab Carnival will take place October 2 and 3 in downtown West Point, featuring the parade, music, local cuisine, and an array of family-friendly activities. The parade steps off Saturday, October 3, at 1:00 p.m. along Main Street. Community members are encouraged to join in celebrating John Harper — and Eleanor beside him — and the neighbor whose favorite way of helping has always been to simply get the work done.

*For more information, visit
CrabCarnival.com or
westpointvachamber.com.*

SPARKLE Awards



Lakazia Davis from King and Queen Elementary School pictured with Dr. Carter and Principal Clarke

Contributed by Carol Carter

King and Queen County Public Schools started a new celebration this year - The Sparkle Award. Sparkle stands for S-Service, P-Positivity, A- Achievement, R-Respect, K-Kindness, L- Leadership, and E-Empathy. We believe everyday these individuals make KQPS sparkle and shine. The recipients were Lakazia Davis from King and Queen Elementary School pictured with Dr. Carter and Principal Clarke, Mihaughony Redd from Central High School pictured with her class, and Rachael Latimer pictured with Dr. Carter and Principal Kesling from Lawson Marriott Elementary School.



Mihaughony Redd



Rachael Latimer pictured with Dr. Carter and Principal Kesling from Lawson Marriott Elementary School.

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Abraham Lincoln

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