Rappahannock Record

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Ernesto strikes Neck by surprise

by Lisa Hinton-Valdrighi and Joan McBride

Northern Neck and Middle Peninsula residents felt unprepared and helpless over the holiday weekend as tropical depression Ernesto hit eastern Virginia with an unexpected fury, battering the area with strong winds, a higher than predicted storm surge, heavy rainfall and flooding.

Once again, as with Hurricane Isabel three years ago, the landscape is littered with uprooted and splintered trees, many of which clipped power lines and blocked roads.

According to director of public affairs Bob Spieldenner with the Virginia Department of Emergency Management, Ernesto caused $87 million in damage statewide with 40 to 45 percent of it occurring in the Northern Neck. The majority of that is from private-property damage in Northumberland County, where the village of Lewisetta was hit particularly hard. Docks were destroyed, boats sunk and homes flooded.

A Red Cross disaster van came to the aid of residents of that area with hot meals and fresh water on Sunday. Most residents of the Northern Neck did not have electricity for two days; a few were still without power Monday evening and into Tuesday.

None of the Northern Neck or Middle Peninsula public school children celebrated the first day of class on Tuesday as expected. Instead, the school opening was cancelled until Wednesday due to power outages and closed roads.

Ernesto was a deadly depression, killing six Virginians, including a Gloucester County couple when a tree crushed their mobile home. Others were killed in storm-related car accidents.

Ernesto was predicted to be a mere nuisance at the start of the extended Labor Day weekend, when many had picnics, vacations and outdoor activities planned.

"It is amazing there was no loss of life [here]," said Capt. Chuck Wilkins with the Northumberland County Sheriff's Department. "It caught everybody by surprise."

The first hurricane of the Atlantic season, Ernesto reached Category 1 status with winds of

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Piers throughout the area like these at The Tides Inn were under water as the storm surge at high tide rose three to five feet above normal, according to official reports. Unofficially, the water in some areas appeared much higher and stayed longer than with Isabel. This photo was taken about 5 p.m. Friday. (Photo by Robert Mason Jr.)

More storm coverage appears on pages A12-13

Capt. Gus Dunaway clears away a tree blocking access to a garage and sport utility vehicle inside at a River Bluff Road residence. (Photo by Audrey Thomasson)

Boats belonging to residents of Northumberland Shores were totally destroyed when high winds and waves washed them ashore. (Photo by Bill Hrybyk)

This 300-year-old oak tree at the Kilmarnock Firemen's Festival grounds off Waverly Avenue was ripped by the wind early Friday. (Photo by Robert Mason Jr.)

State closes Chesapeake and rivers to shellfish harvesting

RICHMOND—The Virginia Department of Health announced Tuesday that the Virginia portion of the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries from Smith Point at the mouth of the Potomac River to the Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel will be closed for shellfish harvesting due to severe weather associated with Tropical Storm Ernesto. The closure is effective September 5 through 9, 2006.

"Monitoring shellfish harvesting beds is an important means to protect the health of Virginians," said State Health Commissioner Robert B. Stroube, M.D., M.P.H. "We watch shellfish beds for contaminants after major storms to ensure any seafood harvested there does not contain harmful substances that will make consumers of these shellfish ill."

High tides and heavy rainfall may flood the upland area, potentially washing animal waste and human sewage into the Chesapeake Bay. Due to potential microbiological and chemical pollution hazards, shellfish taken from these areas at this time are presently unacceptable for direct marketing.

Ingesting shellfish taken from the Chesapeake Bay south of Smith Point at this time could cause gastrointestinal illnesses including Norovirus, hepatitis A and Shigella.

For more information about how to protect yourself and your family before, during and after natural disasters, visit www.vdh.virginia.gov/weather, or the Virginia Department of Emergency Management's web site at www.vaemergency.com.

Kilmarnock officials pitch in to help feed crews working to restore power

by Audrey Thomasson

KILMARNOCK—The parking lot of Tri-Star was filled with power company bucket trucks Sunday, Monday and Tuesday evenings as dozens of crews working to restore power in Lancaster and Northumberland counties pulled in for dinner at Smokin' Joe's restaurant.

Dominion Virginia Power reported that outages affected more than 600,000 homes and businesses statewide. Some 15,800 were reported in the Northern Neck, another 28,600 were in the Middle Peninsula.

As of Tuesday, there were only 758 customers without power in the Northern Neck and 979 in the Middle Peninsula.

The company had about 370 bucket trucks and their crews scattered over 640 projects in those areas.

Feeding those crews was an operation in itself. Breakfast was served at several different staging areas where the men stopped to pick up supplies at the beginning of each day. For lunch, power company employees called on local fast food establishments, overwhelming them with orders such as 30-plus pizzas to go, and then delivered them to a myriad of locations.

Sunday night, the company made arrangements with Smokin' Joe's to use the outdoor decks to feed approximately 250 with a plan to supply fried chicken dinners from a resource in Richmond. But when workers started arriving at 6:30 p.m. after working up to 20-hour shifts and the Dominion company meal truck was nowhere in sight, restaurant owner Rick Moss broke out the barbeque, coleslaw and beans, and began dishing out combo meals as fast as the men arrived. It proved to be so popular, they were back for ribs on Monday and Tuesday.

It was dinner "town hall style" as Mayor Curtis Smith, council members Barbara Robertson, Paul Jones and his wife, Rosie, Fletcher Brown IV, Les Spivey and local volunteer Sandi Stamm worked with Moss and his staff to prepare the restaurant for the arrival of up to 250 men each evening, dishing up food and waiting tables until 11 p.m.

In addition to Dominion Power crews, the company contracted with eight other companies including Pike Electric, MasTex Energy and C. W. Wright. Most had followed tropical storm Ernesto up the coast for the past week, restoring power to homes in South and North Carolina before moving to Virginia.

After 18-hour shifts, the crews were forced to commute to motels in Fredericksburg at the end of each day because local hotels were booked up for the holiday weekend.

For area employees of Asplundh, many said they slept on the floor in the company offices rather than spend time driving home for a few hours' rest. Asplundh is contracted to remove trees and debris from the power lines so that linemen can concentrate on restoring power.

The crews had no control over where they worked and were assigned neighborhoods by a central office that prioritized jobs by need—hospitals and nursing homes, pumping stations and the wastewater treatment plants—and then by neighborhood population density, according to Dominion spokesperson, Dan Genest.

However, after two residents of the 35-home Kilmarnock neighborhood of Walnut Circle showed up at Smokin' Joe's Sunday night and pleaded with the mayor for help, local Dominion supervisor Joe Cox and one of his men took time off from their dinner break to walk the community. It took over an hour of working in the dark, but after cutting trees off the lines they were able to restore their power.

Sign of the times posted at Walnut Circle and Irvington Road. (Photo by Audrey Thomasson)

Crews relax over barbeque at Smokin' Joe's in Kilmarnock as the mayor and councilmen wait tables. (Photo by Audrey Thomasson)

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Sept.

7 Thursday

Bingo is played at the American Legion Post 86 on Waverly Avenue in Kilmarnock at 7 p.m.
The RFM Modelers meet at 10 a.m. at the Reedville Fishermen's Museum. 453-6529.
Al-ANON meets at 8 p.m. at Palmer Hall in Kilmarnock.
The Airport Club of Hummel Field meets at 6 p.m. for a dinner meeting at The Pilot House at Topping. 758-5500.
No-Name Needlers will gather at 1 p.m. at The Art of Coffee in Montross. 493-0873.
Free Square Dance Lessons will be given by The Stepping Stones from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. at Freeshade Community Center in Syringa.
Guitarist Robert Keyes will play at 7 p.m. at Cafe Mojo in Urbanna. 758-4141.

8 Friday

Itchy Dog will be featured on the deck at Smokin' Joe's Barbecue from 6 to 10 p.m.
Bingo will be played at the Upper Lancaster Ruritan Center in Lively at 7 p.m.
Bingo will be played at the Mid-County Rescue Squad Building in Heathsville at 7 p.m.
The Second Friday Art Walk will be held in Colonial Beach. 224-8411.
The 16th Annual Bay Seafood Festival will be held at Belle Isle State Park by the Kilmarnock-Irvington-White Stone Rotary club. $50 per person advance tickets only; sold out. Gates open at 4:30 p.m. Dinner begins at 5 p.m. Casper headlines the musical entertainment.
Neva Hart, a certified quilt appraiser, will present "Know Your Quilts and How to Add Value to Them" at 3 p.m. at Bethany United Methodist Church in Reedville.

9 Saturday

The Dragon Run Bluegrass Band will be featured at Café Mojo in Urbanna. The show will begin around 7:30 p.m. 758-4141.
Mercy Creek brings aggressive folk to The Rivers Inn in Gloucester.
Jumbo Lump Daddy And The Backfin Boys will present a "Groovin' at the Gallery"concert from 6 to 8 p.m. on the lawn at Yates House Fine Art and Craft Gallery in Deltaville. $5.
The Stepping Stones will host a square dance at the Freeshade Community Center in Syringa from 8 to 10 p.m. 694-5118.
The 40th Annual Boardwalk Arts And Crafts Festival gets under way in Colonial Beach. 224-8145.
A Yard Sale will be held from 7 a.m. to noon at the Bethel-Emmanuel United Methodist Men's warehouse on Route 201 near Lively.
The 20th Annual Cople Parish Barn Sale will be held at Cople Parish House on Coles Point Road in Hague, beginning at 9 a.m.
Edwardsville Day will be held on the grounds of Galilee United Methodist Church in Edwardsville. Activities include face painting, praise dancing, horseshoe tournament, food and a parade at 1 p.m.
The Northumberland County Animal Shelter will hold its monthly indoor/outdoor yard sale September 9 from 8 a.m. to noon. The yard sale is also open from 9 a.m. to noon on Tuesdays.
The First Baptist Church Praisers for Christ Adult Praise Dance Ministry will hold a bake sale during Edwardsville Day in Edwardsville on September 9.
The Fairfields United Methodist Men will sponsor a North Carolina-style barbecue at the church in Burgess. Barbecue will be available from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and will be served with baked beans and cole slaw. Take-outs are available; call 453-2631.
The Urbanna Farmers' Market will be held from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Southside Sentinel parking lot in downtown Urbanna.
The Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities will host a reception at Walter Reed's Birthplace to celebrate his 155th birthday. To mark the occassion, all Gloucester County History Trail sites will be open from 1 to 4 p.m.
The Native Plant Society will hold its annual plant sale September 9, beginning at 9 a.m. at the Thrift Shop adjacent to Wicomico Parish Church in Wicomico Church on Route 200.
Rusty Eklund and Rokia Sidibe will present an African drum concert at 6 p.m at the Urbanna Town marina at Upton's Point on Urbanna Creek. African box dinners prepared by MoJo's can be ordered prior to the concert. The cost for each vegetarian dinner will be $7 and can be ordered through Suzanne at 804-815-0062.
The Northern Neck Audubon Society will hold its annual picnic at the home of Evie Thorndike on Cosshills Road.
The Fourth Annual Antique And Classic Boat Show will be held in Reedville from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The show is sponsored by the Tidewater Chapter of the Antique and Classic Boat Society and the Reedville Fishermen's Museum. A classic boat parade will take place at 3 p.m. Boats will be docked at homes and businesses along Main Street. The Antique Automobile Club of America will also visit.
Neva Hart, a certified quilt appraiser, will be at the Reedville Fishermen's Museum from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
An Antique Tractor Pull will begin at the Callao Ruritan Club at 10 a.m. Lawnmowers, ATVs and antique tractors will pull on Saturday. The event continues on Sunday with field stock, open class and antique tractors.
The Middle Peninsula Hearing Loss Support Group will meet at 10 a.m. at Riverside Walter Reed Hospital in Gloucester. The topic will be emergency preparations for disasters. For more information, contact Linda Miller, president, HLAAMP, at 725-2487, (voice or fax.) TTY users first dial 7-1-1 or email to gcsioutreach@gmail.com.
The Lion King will be shown at 8:30 p.m. in the backyard at Northern Neck Solutions at 72 North Main Street in Kilmarnock. The movie is free. Bring lawn chairs or blankets.
The Northern Neck Computer Users Group will meet at 10 a.m. at the Lancaster Community Library in Kilmarnock. Tran Forbes of H&R Block will discuss tax preparation software. A Beginners Special Interest Group will meet at 11:30 a.m.

10 Sunday

The Widowed Persons Service for Lancaster and Northumberland counties holds its lunch brunch at Eckhard's in Topping immediately following church services.
Robert Keyes will be featured on guitar at Rose's Crab House in Kilmarnock, beginning at 11 a.m.
An Antique Tractor Pull will continue at the Callao Ruritan Club at 10 a.m. Field stock, open class and antique tractors will pull.

11 Monday

Open Mike Night is from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Gables Coffee and Ice Cream Shop on Main Street in Reedville.
The First-Place Weight-Loss Class meets at 6:45 p.m. at the White Stone Church of the Nazarene Family Life Center at 57 Whisk Drive. 435-5701.
The Historyland Community Workshop volunteer craft group meets at the Lancaster Woman's Club from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Brown bag lunch. Guests welcome.
The Cobbs Hall Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution will meet at 1 p.m. at Rappahannock Wesminster-Canterbury.
The Lancaster County School Board will meet at 6 p.m. at Lancaster Middle School in Kilmarnock.
The Northumberland School Board will meet at 5:30 p.m. p.m. at the school board office in Lottsburg.

12 Tuesday

The Rappahannock Pistol and Rifle Club will meet at 7 p.m. at the northside branch of the Bank of Lancaster in Kilmarnock. 435-2143.
Boat Talk, an exchange of ideas on classic and wooden boats, will be held at 4 p.m. at the Reedville Fishermen's Museum. 453-6529.
Bridge will be played at 1 p.m. at Rappahannock Westminster-Canterbury.
The Kilmarnock Planning Commission will meet at 7 p.m. at the town office.
The Kilmarnock Museum Board of Directors will meet at 2 p.m. at the museum on North Main Street.
The Lancaster Lions Club will meet at 7 p.m. at Lancaster Landing Restaurant in White Stone.
The Republican Committee for Northumberland County will meet at 7:30 p.m. at Northern Neck State Bank in Burgess.
The Northern Neck Chapter of the Military Officers Association will meet at 11:30 a.m. at Rappahannock Westminister-Canterbury near Irvington to conduct annual business.

13 Wednesday

The Rotary Breakfast Club meets at 7:30 a.m. at Lee's Restaurant in Kilmarnock.
The Kiwanis Club meets at 7:30 a.m. at St. Andrews Presbyterian Church in Kilmarnock.
The Rotary Club for Kilmarnock, Irvington and White Stone meets at 12:30 p.m. at Rappahannock Westminster-Canterbury.
The Northern Neck Bay Tones meet at 2:30 p.m. at St. Andrews Presbyterian Church in Kilmarnock. 438-5127.
The RFM Quilters meet at 9:30 a.m. at Reedville Fishermen's Museum. 453-6529.
Duplicate Bridge will be played at 1 p.m. at the Woman's Club of White Stone. Men, women and newcomers, are invited. No reservations needed. 462-7605.
A Yard Sale will be held from 3 to 6 p.m. at the Bethel-Emmanuel United Methodist Men's warehouse on Route 201 near Lively.
The Rappahannock Community College Board will meet on the Glenns campus at 1 p.m, In addition to committee reports, there will be a special report recapping highlights of RCC and the RCC Educational Foundation Inc. for 2005-06. Among action items the board will be requested to adopt the goals of the president for 2006-07.
The Friends of Lancaster County meet at 7 p.m. at Lancaster Community Library in Kilmarnock.
A Great Take-Out Lunch to benefit WalkAmerica will be held at Willaby's in White Stone. Willaby's will donate a portion of the proceeds for take-out food to the local March of Dimes WalkAmerica campaign. See the menu at www.willaby's.com or call 435-3669.
Dr. Joseph C. Bessler will talk about ticks at the Grace Church Men's Breakfast at 7:30 a.m. at the church in Kilmarnock.

(Submit calendar items to Robert Mason Jr., editor@rrecord.com.)

14 Thursday

Bingo is played at the American Legion Post 86 on Waverly Avenue in Kilmarnock at 7 p.m.
The RFM Modelers meet at 10 a.m. at the Reedville Fishermen's Museum. 453-6529.
Al-ANON meets at 8 p.m. at Palmer Hall in Kilmarnock.
The Wetlands Board for Lancaster County will meet at 9:30 a.m. at the courthouse in Lancaster.
The Board of Supervisors for Northumberland County will meet at 3:30 p.m. at the courthouse in Heathsville. Public hearings begin at 7 p.m. at the courts building.
The Irvington Town Council will meet at 7:30 p.m. at the town office.
The Interfaith Service Council will meet at 7:30 p.m. at Wicomico Episcopal Church in Wicomico Church.
The Upper Lancaster Ruritan Club will meet at 6:30 p.m. at the Ruritan Center in Lively.
American Legion Post 117 will meet at 7:30 p.m. at the post home in Reedville.
No-Name Needlers will gather at 1 p.m. at The Art of Coffee in Montross. 493-0873.
The Rappahannock Amateur Radio Association will meet at 7:30 p.m. at the Mid-County Volunteer Rescue Squad Building at 7990 Northumberland Highway near Heathsville.
Guitarist Robert Keyes will play at 7 p.m. at Cafe Mojo in Urbanna. 758-4141.
A Basic Coastal Navigation will begin at 7 p.m. a the Lancaster Community Library in Kilmarnock. Th course will be taught by the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary and continue on Tuesdays and Thursdays for four weeks from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. $65. To enroll, call 435-2254.
The Mary Ball Washington Republican Women's Club will meet for a Dutch Treat luncheon at 1 p.m. at The Tavern at 73 Monument Place in Heathsville. The speakers will be Ryan Dunn, a district representative for Sen. George Allen, and Joe Schumacher, a top aide to Rep. Jo Ann Daivs. 580-4050.
The Potomac River Fisheries Commission will meet at 2 p.m. at the PRFC Building at 222 Taylor Street in Colonial Beach.
A Great Take-Out Lunch to benefit WalkAmerica will be held at Willaby's in White Stone. Willaby's will donate a portion of the proceeds for take-out food to the local March of Dimes WalkAmerica campaign. See the menu at www.willaby's.com or call 435-3669.

(Submit calendar items to Robert Mason Jr., editor@rrecord.com.)

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LET'S EAT!

Your guide to the most delicious food & tastiest treats in the Northern Neck and Middle Peninsula.

THE BLUE HERON PUB & GRILL: 37 N. Main Street, Kilmarnock. Casual dining with a diverse menu. Full bar with an excellent selection of specialty draft and bottled beers and extensive wine list. Open for lunch and dinner from 11 am-10pm, Tuesday-Saturday. 804-435-7005.

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DIXIE DELI: Family owned and operated (forever!) Serving lunch 5 days a week, Mon-Fri., 10:30-3:00, Subs, soup, our famous potato & chicken salad and sandwiches, 50 Irvington Rd., Kilmarnock 435-6745.

FADED GLORY CRUISES: -Irvington "Faded Glory"-the Hope and Glory Inn's classic 1952 Chesapeake Bay dead rise. **Friday Night Crab Cruises:** $65 per person/wine and beer inclusive. Departure 6:30 pm-90 minutes. **Saturday Cocktail Cruises:** $30 per person/Libations a la carte. Departure: 4:30 pm. 90 minutes. Reservations required for cruises-438-6053 and 800-497-8228.

HOPE and GLORY INN: ***Dinners at our Chef's Table:*** $65.00 per person++/Four courses/wine paired/one table limited to 18/prix fixe/7 pm. Reservations required for dinners-438-6053 and 800-497-8228. 65 Tavern Road and King Carter Drive, Irvington.

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THE MOUNT HOLLY STEAMBOAT INN: Overlooking beautiful Nomini Creek in historic Westmoreland County. Winter Hours Dinner Wednesday to Saturday. 5:00-9:00 Grand Sunday Brunch Buffet 11:00-2:00. 804-472-9070. 3673 Cople Highway (Rt. 202 at Nomini Bay) www.mthollysteamboatinn.com

PAPERBACK WRITER: 367 Chesapeake Drive, White Stone 804-436-9339. Open 7 days 7:30 am-5:30pm, Sat 9-5, Sun 11-3. Fresh Arabica Coffees, espresso, cappuccino, fresh baked pastries and sweets, soft ice cream, reading rooms, music, free WiFi for customers.

ROSE'S CRAB HOUSE AND RAW BAR: Relax and savor delicious food inside or on the deck outside. Enjoy live entertainment. L/D. Open daily, closed Tuesday, Sunday Brunch 11-3. (888) 323-CRAB (2722) or 436-8439. Across from Holiday Inn.

SANDPIPER RESTAURANT: Est. 1982. Casual relaxed dining with friendly service. Featuring nightly specials, charbroiled steaks and fresh seafood dishes. Full menu. (D) Route 3, White Stone. 435-6176.

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SKEETERS Home of the famous Buster Burger! Thursday Shrimp Night, Friday Crab Cake Night. Daily Lunch Specials. 5360 Mary Ball Road, Lively. 804-462-5700.

THE STEAMBOAT RESTAURANT: Enjoy casual dining while overlooking the beautiful Piankatank River Golf Club. We offer a traditional lunch menu, gourmet and traditional evening menus and Sunday Brunch selections. Open Tues.-Sat., 11:00 am - 2:30 pm, Thurs., Fri. & Sat. evenings 5:30 pm - 9:00 pm, and Sunday Brunch 10:30 am - 2:00 pm. Banquets, functions and group outings also available. Call 776-6589 (Reservations suggested). Located off Rt. 33 at 629, Hartfield, Va.

THAI POT: Authentic Thai cuisine. Serving lunch and dinner. Dine in and carry-out. Hours: Tuesday-Saturday Lunch: 11:30am-3pm. Dinner: 5:30pm-9pm., Catering available. 238 N. Main St., Kilmarnock, 436-Thai.

THE TAVERN RESTAURANT: In the heart of Heathsville, Va. Chef Branden Levine serves a pleasing Progressive American Cuisine. Enjoy steak, seafood, chicken, lamb, and gourmet desserts. Open for lunch: Wednesday - Saturday 11:30 - 2:30, Dinner: 5:30 - 9:00 and Sunday Brunch 10:30-2:00. Call 804-580-7900 for reservations.

TOWN BISTRO: Casual upscale dining in an intimate setting. Featuring Modern American Cuisine. Open Kitchen. Wine & Beer on premises. 62 Irvington Road, Kilmarnock. 435-0070. Mon.-Thurs. 5-9 Fri. & Sat. 5-10.

WILLABY'S: Comfortable casual atmosphere. Featuring daily chef's specials, gourmet burgers & delectable desserts. Eat in or carry out available. Monday-Saturday 11-3. Items available for take home until 4:00. White Stone. (L) 435-0044.

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BRKSCG (10/01) ED: 12/02

Area Events

■ Dining politics

Ryan Dunn, district representative for U.S. Sen. George Allen, and Joe Schumacher, a top aide to U.S. Rep. Jo Ann Davis, will speak at a "Dutch treat" luncheon of the Mary Ball Washington Republican Women's Club. The luncheon will begin at 1 p.m. Thursday, September 14, at the Tavern at 73 Monument Place in Heathsville. The public is invited. For information, call Jeannie Kling at 580-4050.

■ Seafood Fest

The Kilmarnock-Irvington-White Stone Rotary Club will host the 16th annual Bay Seafood Festival at Belle Isle State Park, Friday, September 8. Gates open at 4:30 p.m. Seafood service begins at 5 p.m.

Tickets are $50 per person in advance; sold out. Musical entertainment includes the Casper Band live; Big Band sounds by Entertainment Systems Corporation and The Kilmarnock and District Pipe Band. Proceeds benefit local organizations.

■ 55th Festival

The Chickahominy Indian Tribe will celebrate its 55th annual Fall Festival and Powwow September 23 and 24 on the Chickahominy Tribal Grounds. Visitors will enjoy a variety of traditional crafts and skills demonstrations, flute music and historical exhibits as well as Native American dancing and singing.

Grounds open at 10 a.m. September 23, with grand entry at noon. Sunday hours are 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. For directions, visit www.chickahominytribe.org, or call 829-2027.

Archaeological dig planned at Christ Church

From September 19 to 21, the Foundation for Historic Christ Church will sponsor "Come Dig With Us," a special public archaeological program. The program is part of a Phase III excavation that is searching for evidence of a 1670 church built on the site by John Carter I, father to Robert "King" Carter, who in the early 1730s would build the brick church that stands at Christ Church today.

Participants will have an opportunity to spend two days excavating selected areas in the historic churchyard. They will enjoy an intensive, hands-on experience working with and learning from professional archaeologists, historians, and guest lecturers. The program will include catered lunches and a special dinner reception and presentation on archaeology at Robert "King" Carter's Corotoman mansion, one of the most important structures built in early18th-century Virginia. On the third day, participants will travel to archaeological sites at Fairfield, tour the romantic ruins of Rosewell, and visit the new Archaearium at Historic Jamestowne.

The program costs $200 for all three days; participants may also register for just the first two days of excavations and lectures for $150.

To register, contact the Foundation for Historic Christ Church at 438-6855, fhcc@crosslink.net or www.christchurch1735.org/archaeology.html.

NNLC to celebrate at 'Juggs'

Boots and Barbecue, the annual Northern Neck Land Conservancy (NNLC) celebration, will take place Sunday, September 10, from 5 to 7 p.m. at Juggs Farm, on the Sabine Hall estate near Warsaw.

Sabine Hall is best known as the gracious manor house on a nearby ridge above the Rappahannock River. Three sons of Robert "King" Carter built imposing mansions in the Northern Neck. Sabine Hall, the beautiful Georgian mansion built by Landon Carter about 1738 in Richmond County, is the only one of these historic houses to survive. It is owned and lived in by Carter's descendants to this day.

"Sabine Hall also refers to the entire tract of land whose boundaries have remained more or less unchanged since the 1770s," said Judy McBride of the NNLC.

This historic property includes five or more smaller farms that were pieced together by Landon Carter. Juggs Farm, or "Juggs," named for a tenant farmhouse on the land, is one of these.

"With its fields and trees and river breezes, it is a perfect setting for an event such as Boots," said McBride.

To participate, contact NNLC at 435-2814, nnlc@kaballero.com or www.nnconserve.org.

Adopt-a-Highway volunteers gear up for Sept. 9 pick-up

Just as surely as leaves change color each fall, Adopt-a-Highway volunteers get out in force this time of year as well. Virginia's statewide fall pickup is set for Saturday, September 16. There are two statewide pickup events each year—one in the spring and one in the fall.

Environmentally conscious volunteers commit to cleaning approximately two miles of Virginia's roads four times a year. Volunteers work closely with a local Adopt-a-Highway coordinator to adopt roads in their community.

After cleaning their assigned road, volunteers report the number of bags filled during their pickup, the number of volunteers, any unusual items found, the number of hours it took and where the Virginia Department of Transportation can pick up the orange bags stuffed with trash.

Adopt-a-Highway volunteers consist of school and church groups, businesses, civic organizations, Girl and Boy Scout troops, college clubs, neighborhoods and individuals.

The Adopt-a-Highway program began in Virginia in 1988. Now with more than 6,800 groups and 13,000 miles of adopted highway, it is one of the largest programs in the country and has sparked many related programs.

Geneological Society to meet

The Genealogical Society of the Northern Neck of Virginia will hold its next meeting September 16 at 10 a.m. at St. Mary's Whitechapel Episcopal Church at 5940 White Chapel Road in Lancaster County.

Social hour will begin at 9:30 a.m.

The program will be presented by local genealogist, historian and charter member Carolyn H. Jett, whose topic will be "Exploring the Enigma of Robert Carter of Nomini Hall." Jett will help the society trace Carter's search for his identity and what helped form his personal ethics in the Northern Neck of the 18th century.

The Genealogical Society of the Northern Neck of Virginia was organized in 1992 to advance genealogical interests and activities in the counties of the Northern Neck.

Genealogical and historical topics with wider scope are also presented. The group holds four business meetings each year and a spring picnic. Membership is open to anyone with an interest in genealogy. Guests and prospective members are always welcome. Annual membership dues are $10.

For more information, call Peggy Hill at 435-3279.

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the STUDIO GALLERY of the Rappahannock Art League
2006 FALL WORKSHOP SCHEDULE
Fall workshops begin September 22. See the brochure available at the Studio Gallery or the web site for more detail.

Beginning Acrylic Jane Stouffer, Instructor
Fridays, Sept 22 & Oct 6 10 am - 3:30 pm Members $80/Non-members $90
This class is for students with little or no experience in acrylic painting. We will explore the mixing of paint (thick or thin techniques), color theory and how colors interact with each other, and basic design. There will be demonstrations, individual critiques including end of day class critique.

Painting the Colors of Autumn Kathleen Noffsinger, Instructor
Tuesday and Wednesday, Oct 10-11 10 am - 3 pm Members $80/Non-members $90
This workshop is all about the warm colors of autumn and is packed with ideas for mixing those colors in watercolor. Students will work on landscape and seascape paintings from their own reference photos. Demonstrations will include mixing lights, mid-tones and darks for a unity of color to create a ìWOWî factor in a painting

Open Studio (any medium) Jane Stouffer, Instructor
Fridays, Oct 13, 20, 27 10 am - 3:30 pm Members $120/Non-members $140
This class is for all levels in development in acrylics, realism, abstract, fast & loose, alcohol techniques, and collage. There will be only a few demonstrations as the instructor will be working one-on-one to help artists see with a fresh eye to further advance personal style. Think outside the box!

Oil (and Acrylic) Painting, Fast and Loose Charles VanDenburgh, Instructor
Tuesday-Thursday, Oct 17-19 10 am - 3 pm Members $120/Non-members $140
This 3-day workshop will cover the essentials of oil painting, with the aim of helping you develop your skills at capturing a realistic image quickly and with a limited pallet. Emphasized will be color accuracy, simplifying the subject matter, composition, as well as materials. Two days will be "in studio" painting, followed by a third day of painting ìen plein airî on location.

Abstract Painting Using Acrylic Rose Nygaard, Instructor
Tuesday - Thursday, Oct 24-26 10 am - 3:00 pm Members $120/Non-members $140
This workshop is for students interested in experiencing the challenges of Acrylic Abstract painting through self expression and interpretation. Knowledge of fundamentals of art and color theory would be helpful, but both will be discussed in the workshop.

Photoshop for Photographers Tom Norris, Instructor
Mondays, Oct 30 & Nov 6 10 am - 3 pm Members $80/Non-members $90 ($10 materials fee payable to instructor)
Photoshop Elements for Photographers: Best ways to get photos into Photoshop, make easy edits with Quick Fix, harder edits with Standard Editor and to get photos out as prints, emails or video compact disks. Demonstration and notes to follow at your computer.

Exploring Pastels Lella Lee Edwards
Tuesday and Wednesday, Oct 31 & Nov 1 10 am - 3 pm Members $80/Non-members $90
This workshop will explore what can be done with pastels (drawing, painting, printing, mixed medium). No previous experience required. Use supplies you already have or contact the instructor who can provide some supplies, i.e. donít buy what you might not use later. She will suggest ways to use ìoddî colors.

Printmaking - Collagraph and Monotype Jane Stouffer, Instructor
Fridays, Nov 3 & 10 10 am - 3:30 pm Members $80/Non-members $90 (see Supplies sheet for lab fees, payable to instructor)
We will work with the etching press. Both artists with previous experience and beginners are invited as this is one-on-one instruction. Color and design techniques will be explored. Advanced artists will experiment with multi-place registration and printing. Each class will have a critique for the last Ω hour.

Experimenting with YUPO Sarah Soderlund, Instructor
Tuesday- Thursday, Nov 7-9 10 am - 3 pm Members $120/Non-members $140
Because YUPO is a synthetic paper, watercolor will sit on the surface. Color can be poured on and wiped off easily. Almost anything will look painterly and creative. There are no rules. YUPO is an excellent surface for experimentation and a great deal of fun. Enjoy making things happen on this exciting surface.

Graphite Drawing Way Outside the Box Kathleen Noffsinger, Instructor
Tuesday and Wednesday, Nov 14 & 15 10 am - 3 pm Members $80/Non-members $90
Tap into your creative genius to improve your drawing skills. Lots of fun drawing challenges will help you see things through your ìartist eyesî and transfer what you see to your paper. Learn to turn a contour drawing into a work of art! The instructor will demonstrate with graphite pencil and pen and ink but students may work in any drawing medium.

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Excerpts

by Henry Lane Hull

Ernesto has come ... and gone? It was not Isabel, and not Hazel, references being to September l8, 2003, and October 15, 1954, but it was more than a drizzle. We spent 36 hours fighting window leaks and mopping up, but other than one major limb, we sustained no damage. A neighbor's boat floated off its boat lift, and another lost l0 feet of embankment. A friend at Windmill Point had to carry his two sons, 9 and 8, on his shoulders up the flooded roadway in front of their home, and then go back to liberate his neighbor's two dogs which were treading water in a kennel.

In times such as these, I always return to my childhood memories of Hurricane Hazel, the first major storm of my lifetime. Our home in Westmoreland County had fared well, but when my parents took me out driving through the Northern Neck, we encountered downed trees, cars and boats askew, and loss of power everywhere. As a major natural disaster, Hazel remains the standard by which I have judged all others that have followed over the many years thereafter.

Captain Henry Clay Parker Sr. at Colonial Beach kept our boat for us at his marina on Monroe Bay. He was a wiry man, then in his early 70s, who had lost all the fingers on his right hand in a sawmill accident as a youngster. He had later turned to the water, built his own crab shore, and then, after retiring from the restaurant, his own small marina. He was an unforgettable figure, tall and lean, used to a life of hard work. He exuded common sense in everything he said and did.

When we reached his dock, he greeted us with his usual composed demeanor.

My father beheld no boats anywhere, and remarked to him that he supposed that all of us had lost all of our boats. Cap'n Parker replied, "Your boat is fine. When the storm was coming I hauled it and all my other renters' boats in my back yard, but I have lost all of my own boats."

The latter clause was significant in that he had 15 small craft, which he had built himself, and which he rented out by the day. My father always used that example to illustrate what it was to be a man of one's word. Cap'n Parker had rented us a space at his pier, which to him meant that his first obligation was to us, even if it meant losing everything of his own. He regrouped, but never had as many boats again. He died at 83 in l966.

Hazel also showed me for the first time what can happen when surf and wind pound against a fragile shoreline. In those pristine days rip-rap did not exist, and very few people had bulkheads. Consequently, when a storm came, the land was at its mercy, and Hazel had shown very little of that commodity.

Until October l5, l954, I did not know what really being out of power was. I knew that in heavy summer rains we might lose electricity for a few hours, but a few days was something new to me. Bottled water was not common back then, and refrigeration meant the electric ice box which went out, spoiling all the food.

At the time of Hazel, the "old timers," actually folks then in their 30s and 40s, used to talk about the big storm of l933. I heard tales of people leaving their front porches by rowboat, as well as snakes emerging from their lairs seeking shelter the same as humans. Given the absence of modern emergency response technology, and the remoteness of small communities in the Neck, I am amazed that many more did not lose their lives. As time passes, I think all the more that statement can apply as well to Hazel, Isabel, and now, Ernesto.

Delegate's Report

by Del. Robert J. Wittman

Last week, the House of Delegates went back in session to act upon the governor's amendments to House Bill 5019 – the Estate Tax/ Land Conservation Tax Credit Bill, to consider changes to the budget and to set the date for the start of the transportation session.

The governor's amendments to House Bill 5019 passed unanimously on a vote of 91-0. The discussion concerning the bill pointed out a number of issues that need attention in the Land Conservation Tax Credit Program. It was also pointed out that the bill should be passed now and the remaining issues can be worked out in the future. I was happy that the amendments passed with unanimous consent of the House and passed with an overwhelming majority in the Senate.

The bill to correct budget miscalculations in the financing for schools was provided by the governor's office Monday morning. The appropriations committee is considering the budget bill change and will report the bill out to the House to be considered on the first day we return, September 27.

There was much debate about how this error in calculating sales tax revenues for school systems could have occurred and why it was not brought to light earlier. The governor in his address to the appropriations committee took responsibility for the problem and has assured the General Assembly that it will not happen again and that he will hold all involved accountable in the future. Members of the House that spoke during the debate all stated they are in favor, as am I, of providing the $60 million this year to make up for the sales tax revenue miscalculations to local school systems.

The House and Senate have agreed to start the transportation deliberations September 27. The deadline to file legislation addressing transportation in this session is September 15. This transportation session will end no later than September 30. So the House and Senate will have four full days for bills to be considered for passage concerning transportation. The bills will be heard in committee between the filing deadline and the beginning of the session. This will allow for all of the bills that are reported from committee to get the opportunity for full deliberation on the House and Senate floor.

If I can be of assistance, contact my district office, 493-0508 or robwittman@verizon.net. For more information on the final version of the land conservation tax credit/estate tax bill go to http://leg1.state.va.us/cgi-bin/legp504.exe?062+sum+HB5019.

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Letters to the Editor

Happily ever after

To The Editor:

While I do not necessarily believe you should stop printing letters from your readers, it would be nice if your audience would submit positive comments more often.

For example: I have had the best experience dealing with the Social Security Administration, both over the telephone and in person. It has been pleasant discovering that dealing with a bureaucracy can be so satisfying.

Also: recently a friend told me she received a telephone call from a Tri-Star employee notifying her that her pocketbook had been found in the store's parking lot. When she picked it up, all was as it should be, and she was happy.

So, while it is more usual to voice complaints, I have no doubt that you would print compliments just as readily, were you to receive them.

Tove Power
Irvington

Photo credits are fitting

To The Editor:

As much as writers hate to admit it, pictures are worth a thousand words. The photographs telling the story in last week's feature about the fitness program at Rappahannock Westminster-Canterbury were taken by Amy Lewis, RW-C's versatile activities coordinator.

Jane Tims
Kilmarnock

Letters to the Editor

Firemen to the rescue

To The Editor:

We are most blessed to have a wonderful, helping group of volunteer firemen in White Stone. They arrived Sunday morning, quickly, with a large pump, pumped the water out from the boat in my boathouse, and kept it from sinking.

Harriet W. Adams
White Stone

I survived Ernesto

To The Editor:

As a little girl, originally from the midwest, who grew up experiencing ice storms, snow storms, blizzards, and hazardous driving conditions, my initial reaction when the weather forecasters informed the residents of Northern Neck that the storm named Ernesto was raging on the North Carolina border and had caused some minor damage and flooding at Virginia Beach, my reaction was I have experienced adverse weather conditions before and I can survive this.

Little did I know that Ernesto had picked up speed and was developing into a fierce storm and the effects would be felt along the entire eastern coast.

Since retiring from the federal government in the Washington metropolitan area, I have come to spend virtually every week or weekend at our home on Fleets Bay Road. Sometimes my husband joins me later or I will stay and entertain guests. So as it was this weekend, I was home alone.

My husband and I are avid boaters and have weathered more than one storm in our 25 years of boating on the Chesapeake Bay from the Susquehanna Flats to the Hampton Roads area. However, I had never experienced the ferocity of a storm on land. When my husband and I purchased this property over a decade ago, we relished and enjoyed having a house overlooking the beautiful Chesapeake Bay. Outside our bay room window, the view is usually pristine and calm 99 percent of the time. But, as my husband often says, "it is that 1 percent that we need to concern ourselves with and prepare." Both of us are not naïve and we knew the risks involved with the advantages and disadvantages. However, with all that in mind, I was not prepared for what the storm Ernesto hurled at me.

Believe me, it can be very harrowing and frightening when you are all alone and looking out over the Chesapeake Bay from our bay front room and observe white caps atop four- to five-foot swells filled with debris (logs, chairs, screen windows) thundering in from the bay as they crashed against the windows. My first thought was thank God my husband had the foresight to install double insulated commercial windows.

Being an adventuresome spirit, I realized I was at the Northern Neck of Virginia on the point battling the storm called Ernesto. This exhilarating sort of adventuresome spirit quickly subsided and I started my survival mode. I knew I had to start moving furniture into the other room. I also knew I had to stuff towels and sheets around the bottom of all door openings to hold back the seepage as much as possible. The water already had reached the 5 foot level outside and I was afraid the broken limbs and debris would eventually break the front glass. I also pulled down the staircase steps leading to the second floor level in case I had to evacuate the first floor.

The storm raged, the winds roared and howled, trees came crashing down, the water was rising fast and furious. By this time all my bravado had been drained. I went into my prayer mode. I prayed for the storm to cease and just sat in the dark for what seemed like hours. Miraculously the storm died down for a short period and through the bedroom window I saw the water started to recede. After a day and night of exhaustion and anxiety, I finally fell asleep sometime around midnight Friday.

When I awoke on Saturday morning, the water level had somewhat dissipated. Aside from the debris scattered on the lawn, the sun broke through the skies to a beautiful new day and again, the view was pristine as ever.

First, I'd like to thank God that I survived the 1percent. Also, thank you to my neighbors on the point who came to inquire about my safety and brought me some food and refreshment.

Life goes on. Later that morning we could hear the buzzing of chain saws, the putt putt of generators, and people removing debris from their yards.

I realize that in the future there will be many more storms. Especially, if the global warming theory is correct.

So my advice to future residents is this: If you want to enjoy this scenic paradise, be willing to pray and prepare for the 1 percent of the times that all will not be well. This will not be the last storm.

I survived!

Rita Bial-Boxley
Kilmarnok

Upset by new minimum gallonage on water bills

To The Editor:

I can't tell you how happy I was to read Robert E. Wille's letter in the August 24 issue of the Record. I was beginning to think I was the only one upset by the stab in the back dealt to us by the outgoing council. I'm talking about lowering the gallonage by 2000 on our water bills in Kilmarnock.

I live alone on a fixed income. I have never paid more than the minimum amount for water. Let me tell you the contortions I go through to keep it minimum now. I installed a cutoff valve on my shower so I can turn the water off while I soap up. I put a brick in my toilet tank. I catch the cold water in a jug that I run in order to get hot water for dishes. I pack more clothes in the washing machine. I could go on and on about the things I don't do anymore.

I did manage to stay under the minimum, slightly. But this is no way to live. Are Mr. Wille and I the only ones that are bothered by this injustice?

Rose Marie Smallwood
Kilmarnock

Bush and Cheney values

To The Editor:

Four years ago, President George W. Bush announced: "I'm the commander—see, I don't need to explain—I do not need to explain why I say things. I don't feel like I owe anybody an explanation." But now that a voter unease on key issues forces him to attempt explanations, here are extra topics for him and his vice president to explain.

The Bush family had strong ties to Dresser Industries, whose stock was sinking under a tide of asbestos-related tort claims. Mr. Cheney, then CEO of Halliburton, obligingly acquired Dresser, thus eliminating the victims' lawsuits. Next Mr. Cheney fired 10,000 employees. He himself walked away with a golden parachute worth $18,500,000.

So VP Cheney must explain the claim he made later in debating fellow VP candidate Joe Lieberman: "I have been out in the private sector, building a business, hiring people, creating jobs."

At Halliburton he also presided over $100,000,000 of improperly reported revenues. He left them with a legacy of unbridled greed. At root, this is why Halliburton cheated our troops, his own administration and us taxpayers, big time.

Who would buy life insurance from either of these men? Yet is that not what most of us have done as voters?

Jerry Peill
Lancaster

Trust the president to eavesdrop

To The Editor:

Last week a writer expressed concern about the president's authority to eavesdrop. There is certainly reason to be concerned about such an issue, given the recent experience with the Clintons—where somebody in their bureaucracy obtained access to the FBI records of hundreds of their political opponents.

Even so, giving a panel of judges control over our national security is a nonstarter. Judges have no official responsibility for our safety, and further, are not even accountable for such decisions. The president has been assigned constitutional responsibility for our safety and is accountable. If that function is not taken seriously or he makes improper use of that power he may be impeached and/or his party may be voted out of office.

This is much ado about nothing. Consider what currently happens when local eavesdropping has been approved for the FBI related to tracking, say, a drug dealer or a mob member. Any person in a telephone conversation with that mobster, whether they initiated the call or as the recipient of the call, is, by definition, also subject to eavesdropping, and nobody seems to be complaining about this.

The president clearly has the constitutional right to eavesdrop on non-citizens in foreign countries and when these foreigners happen to be interacting via phone or computer with a U.S. citizen then clearly that citizen, as the other participant in the conversation is, as in the earlier example, also subject to eavesdropping.

Jimmy Carter (as every other president since) recognized that the president has the right to take such actions without necessarily first obtaining approval from FISA, and it's easy to demonstrate why this must be the case. Suppose a terrorist-recognized phone initiates, or receives, a call to /from a U.S. phone number. Assume that the U.S. number is not one which has previously been approved for eavesdropping by FISA. Since critical information may be lost if that call is not recorded right then, eavesdropping must be activated instantly (and hence automatically) before approval from anybody can possibly be obtained. To delay listening to that conversation may cost a lot of U.S. lives.

The only added function that FISA could perform in such a case is to give the president authority to proceed before the fact, which is equivalent to leaving that authority where it is now, with the president. But it gets even more complicated—suppose, after the U.S. citizen hangs up, he/she immediately initiates a call to a third party also in the U.S. Should that call be ignored? I don't think so.

It doesn't take a rocket scientist to figure out that by now most terrorists are probably obtaining cell phones with U.S. numbers. A couple of the usual suspects were recently caught in the U.S. with hundreds of cell phones in their car. It's quite possible that both parties of many terrorist conversations, even if both phones are overseas, and now via cell phones with U.S. phone numbers.

I don't think congressional bills can deal with this ever changing target. We need to trust the guy voted into the presidency unless/until he acts improperly, but then, since in these dangerous times there can be no interruption in performing that role, we must very quickly move in a replacement.

Denis Ables
Mollusk

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Drowning Without a Hurricane

by Dirk Philipsen

Virginia Forum

Pictures of horror floating out of flooded New Orleans have opened our eyes to more than just a "natural" disaster. Katrina waters washed up characteristics of contemporary American society that are ordinarily ignored or repressed: the richest and most powerful government on earth is increasingly abandoning its own people. And the poorer and darker you are, the more likely you are to drown.

While the production of wealth in America expands, we allow living conditions to fester in this country that simply do not exist in any other highly industrialized nation on earth. In our midst there are tens of millions of people who lack the very basics, such as a home, a living wage, health care, the ability to read, or, for that matter, a way to escape town when a major storm is approaching.

In the meantime, working Americans—some of the most productive people on earth—receive an ever smaller share of the wealth they produce. The minimum wage, currently $4.15, has lost about 35 percent of its purchasing power since 1970, while the gap between the earnings of working Americans and corporate leaders has virtually exploded (from about 1:35 in 1970, to about 1:300 today). No other advanced country in the world has a gap between rich and poor that even comes close.

But isn't all this part of the American "rags to riches" dream?

Well, no. The way opportunities are provided or denied in America today looks more like the class and privilege-ridden societies of old. As a society, for instance, we do not provide a quality education for everyone. The schooling disproportionately black and poor kids receive in places like New Orleans, Richmond and Petersburg is what civil rights leader Bob Moses rightly calls a "sharecropper education"—preparation for a lifetime of unskilled, low-wage, insecure menial jobs.

What the tragedy of Katrina revealed is an increasingly inept government that has effectively been hijacked by corporate interests. It has vacated its role as safeguard of the public good, and degenerated into a massive welfare provider for the rich and powerful.

The mighty "military-industrial complex" Dwight D. Eisenhower warned us against in 1960 is dwarfed by what is securely in place today. Under the mantra of "what is good for American corporations is good for America," the U.S. government subsidizes, protects, and defends corporate interests at home and abroad. For that reason, we spend more on the military than all other military powers in the world combined. The interests of multinational corporations, the military, and the top political decision makers are not only closely aligned, but in most cases, identical—and opposed to the real interests of most Americans.

It seems that government is no longer about public goals such as providing quality education or quality jobs, or ending poverty or racism, or making sure that people are taken care of after a natural disaster. All lofty (and empty) rhetoric to the contrary notwithstanding, our elected leaders are firmly focused on profit.

Here is the tragic irony: despite growing corporate control of government, the only institution that could provide essential services to the American people is the government. There simply is no other institution that has the ability to curb corporate excesses, or to maintain a healthy environment, or to provide a quality education to every American child.

The final ironic twist, however, is that large numbers of Americans have been led to believe that we need "to get government off our backs." Who, then, will protect us against corporate excesses, against job and wage losses, against environmental destruction and educational failure, and against ravenous debts and social insecurity?

The role of the government is much larger than to protect our borders and businesses. What government stands for is up to us, and there is an American tradition that says government has a responsibility toward all of us. In our efforts to take back government, we could start by no longer letting politicians distract us with bogus issues such as gay marriage or public prayer, or letting them scare us away from important challenges like real energy conservation or meaningful international cooperation to oppose the threat of terrorism.

Above all, we should demand from our political representatives nothing less than that government return to serving the public good, and not the corporate good—for they are clearly not the same.

(Dirk Philipsen is an American historian and co-director of the Institute for the Study of Race Relations at Virginia State University).

Virginia Vignettes

Who Were the Powhatan Indians?

The term "Powhatan Indians" is used to encompass all of the tribes who were part of the leader Powhatan's paramount chiefdom. These tribes are sometimes mistakenly called the "Powhatan nation" or "Powhatan tribe," but there were more than 30 tribes paying tribute to the great paramount chief when the English arrived in 1607.

The only "Powhatan tribe" was that tribe who lived about a mile below the falls of the James River, near present-day Varina in Henrico County, said to be the birthplace of the paramount chief. In 1607, the chief of that tribe was Powhatan's son, known as Tanx Powhatan or Parahunt. The similarity in names created some early confusion among the Jamestown colonists.

The Powhatan Indians were Algonquian speakers, as were the coastal tribes to the immediate south and north. One powerful tribe, the Chickahominy, were also Algonquian speakers, but unlike other tribes in eastern Virginia, they resisted becoming part of Powhatan's polity, although they were usually allies of the Powhatan tribes.

Today there are seven state-recognized tribes in Virginia who are descended from those 17th-century Algonquian-speaking tribes: the Chickahominy, Eastern Chickahominy, Mattaponi, Nansemond, Pamunkey, Rappahannock and Upper Mattaponi.

(By Deanna Beacham, Program Specialist, Virginia Council on Indians. Brought to you by Encyclopedia Virginia at the Virginia Foundation for the Humanities. Set to debut in 2007. Visit www.virginiavignettes.org.)

Yesteryear in Lancaster

(A reprint from the September 1, 1905, issue of the Virginia Citizen).

School matters

Among other points of interest contained in his circular to superintendents and clerks of boards, the Superintendent of Public Instruction has the following:

Teachers are to be paid hereafter at the end of each calendar month, even though they may have taught only a part of a month or part of a week. For example:

Miss A opens her school on Monday, September 17, 1906. Her salary is $45.00 per school month. Her first report will cover ten school days, closing Friday, September 29th. Her salary being $2.25 per school day, she will receive a warrant for $22.50. Her second report will cover twenty-three school days, closing Wednesday, October 31st, and she will then receive a warrant for $51.75. If, however, it so happens that she loses four days in October she will be paid for nineteen days and will receive $42.75.

(Transcribed by volunteers of the Genealogy and Research Center of the Mary Ball Washington Museum and Library).

Email your NEWS to:
editor@rrecord.com

Letters to the Editor

The dim and the delusional

To The Editor:

We have either helped or participated in making a rubble-strewn graveyard of the Middle East: Iraq, the West Bank, Gaza and, now, Lebanon. We have done so in the name of our worldwide war on terror and to advance the causes of our ally, Israel.

Now, we are faced with the very real danger that the administration will exponentially increase the rate of destruction and killing by bombing Iran, before it leaves office. If our objective is to enhance the security and welfare of Americans, what we are doing is a sign of madness; it is paranoia compounded by megalomania in their most extreme forms.

This administration has made a lot of mistakes in the Middle East, some of which it now admits. But, there are three grave mistakes that it will never admit. The first is a lack of clarity about our enemy. We talk of a "war on terror," which is sheer nonsense. Terror is not a thing against which one can wage war; it is a tactic. In this case, it is a tactic used by our actual enemy, Al Qaeda, which attacked us on 9/11, attacked our embassies in Nairobi and Dar es Salaam and the destroyer USS Cole.

Hamas and Hezbollah are not our enemies. They are Israel's enemies. They are nationalist political organizations of the Palestinians and Lebanon, respectively. To be sure, Hezbollah has killed Americans in the past, but in the context of American intervention with Israel in the Lebanese Civil war of the 1970s and 1980s. Hezbollah employs terror because it is the only weapon it has against the armed might arrayed against it. We should remind ourselves that prior to acquiring their independent state in 1948, Jewish settlers in Palestine employed terror against the British and Palestinians in their struggle to establish Israel. We should not forget the atrocities committed by the Ergun and the Stern gang, some of whom became Israeli officials and Prime Ministers and are now Israeli heroes. Today we applaud Nelson Mandella, leader of the African National Congress, an organization that used terror against a white South African government.

Most Republicans will now acknowledge that it was an enormous mistake to invade Iraq as part of a "global war on terror" and to protect Israel. In so doing, we have been bullies, big rubble-makers and graveyard fillers. In the process, we have angered not only the Muslim world but everyone else of consequence. The use of torture and the inevitable atrocities of an occupying Army have greatly lowered our stature, while making for ourselves many enemies and some of whom will surely harm us in the future.

Our biggest mistake, related to the others, was Bush's declaration that Israel is our ally. This single statement removed us from our traditional role as a mediator, further enabled Israel to pursue its goal of a greater Israel and helped escalate mayhem in the Middle East. Now the Israel lobby with its well-placed neocon contingent is in full cry, demanding that Bush take care of Iran, Hezbollah's supporter and Israel's enemy, before he leaves office. He seems amenable to that argument, particularly since his major constituency, the Christian Evangelicals, support Israel's role in bringing about the "end days," death and destruction at Armageddon and the return of Christ. This is the kind of delusional thinking determining our policies in the Middle East. Our policies are being determined by neocons whose first loyalty is to Israel and by, lets face it, Christian radicals whom Israel and the Israel lobby cynically embrace.

To come to grips with terror, the next administration, Republican or Democratic will have to make sharp changes in policy. We cannot protect Israel or ourselves by being Israel's ally. Our assistance to Israel has to be made conditional on Israel's return to its 1967 borders and its cessation of targeted assassinations, tit-for-tat hostage taking and military action that has destroyed the physical and institutional infrastructure of its antagonists further fueling their paranoia.

Since we are a participant in the mayhem, we need a lot of help to extract ourselves from Iraq, protect Israel's security and revive hope for Palestinians and the Lebanese. There has to be an international peace conference to mediate between Iran, Iraq, Syria, Lebanon, the Palestinians, Israel, Jordan, Egypt, Saudi Arabia and ourselves to formulate a "grand bargain" for the region. Given its larger objectives, Israel will not want to participate, but we can compel them to do so. Even with their 200 nuclear tipped missiles, they cannot survive without us. The Israel lobby and its supporters, the Christian Evangelicals, will be hysterical but the paranoid madness and mayhem in the Middle East must stop in the interests of our own security, to say nothing of justice and morality. It is probably too much for Bush to do the necessary. We should fervently hope that in a fit of righteous, messianic zeal, he does not attack Iran in his final days.

That is a path to despair.

David G. Davies
Irvington

Riding the waves of Ernesto

To The Editor:

"Ernesto was supposed to have quietened down by the time it reached here.."

These words, quoted from my parents who endured Ernesto as far north as Connecticut, probably echoed the sentiments of many residents along the Atlantic seaboard during the storm. It seems Ernesto's strength exceeded everyone's expectations, and this proved true during my stay throughout the storm aboard Maple Leaf, our boat berthed at Urbanna Town Marina at Upton's Point.

On Thursday, August 31, Ernesto had been predicted to be a tropical depression for coastal Virginia with winds of 30 to 35 knots possible. To me, Ernesto wasn't much more worrisome than a bout with an afternoon thunderstorm. At home in central Virginia, two hours west of Urbanna, my husband and I didn't feel any heightened concern for getting out to our boat, as we always leave Maple Leaf tied securely with lines doubled in case of weather like this.

Early Friday morning, after seeing the latest reports of Ernesto approaching the North Carolina border, my sense of duty toward Maple Leaf escalated, prompted by the brisk winds and rain we were getting at home. If it was this windy at 8 a.m., I thought, it's only going to get worse. My husband, who had to go to work that day, was hesitant about me going out to the boat alone. I've been through rough weather before, I reassured him, and told him that I just couldn't not go. He reluctantly gave in, and I packed up my car and headed out.

Approaching Urbanna at around 11:15 a.m., the view of the marinas from the bridge into town was strangely different—there was not a dock in sight—they were all under water. The only docks still above water (that I could tell) were at our marina, the town's marina. Rain was quite heavy, and the wind must've been blowing a steady 35 knots straight into Urbanna Creek off the Rappahannock River. I headed down Virginia Street to our docks, but water was already breaking over the road which led to the marina parking lot.

My initial reaction was "Oh man, this is gonna be bad..." I parked my car out of immediate reach of the flooding and started out on foot. The water in the parking lot was already shin deep. No way was I going to try to drive through this. And not knowing how fast the waters were rising, I decided to park my car up in town where I knew it would be safe.

Since the wind and rain were in drenching proportions, I didn't dare risk bringing anything with me to the boat. Not my cell phone, not my camera, not my overnight bag, and not even my purse. And for good reason. By the time I got onto Maple Leaf, I was soaked to the skin. The lightweight rain slicker I had on proved useless.

Looking around at all the flooding, I thought to myself, "I sure hope this isn't low tide." But it was. High tide was still six hours away.

Out in the harbor were several large boats, both sail and power, riding out the storm at anchor. My heart went out to them. "I sure hope their anchors hold," I thought, not envying any one of them. (After the storm, word was that they had had a smoother ride than we at the docks, being closer to the lee of the harbor's far shore).

There were a few other boats tied up at the marina, some who regularly docked there and others who had sought refuge from the storm. I was comforted by the fact that practically every boat had its owners aboard, with the same intention as me: to protect our beloved vessels.

Upon boarding my boat, I was encouraged to find that the electricity was still on. Hmmm, I guess the storm isn't that bad yet. But then a few minutes later, the power went off...but then on again...and then off...then on...then off for good. So much for being encouraged.

I checked the bilges—all dry, thank goodness. Checked the lines—they were holding fast. then the canvas bimini tops—do I need to take them down? Naw, just keep an eye on them for now. OK, time to chill and gather my wits for the impending clash with nature.

At one point, I looked out the cabin window and saw that the biggest boat in the marina had parted one of its stern lines. A couple of people were trying to get her back to the dock. I, along with another gentleman, grabbed a couple of our spare dock lines in an effort to assist. Luckily the boat's bow was still tied to the dock, but her stern was loose, getting blown away from the dock. After a bit of strategic seamanship, and some general tugging and heaving 'round, we finally got her back to normal, safely secured alongside...this time with lots of lines.

The tide was still rising. The finger piers that led to each individual boat were now completely submerged and invisible. It would only be a few more inches of rise before the main dock, my only means of escape in the event of disaster, would be awash.

And then they were awash. Water, angry water, was breaking over the docks, and with it all sorts of debris washed in from the river: sea grass, deadwood, waterlogged logs that rivaled the lengths of our boats, and various bits of flotsam. The sand spit at the entrance to the harbor, normally a nice spot for a lazy day of leisure, was now a boilermaker of sable-colored breakers and foam.

It was an eerie feeling, seeing the docks under water. Isolation. And although I knew that I could still get off my boat if I had to, the visual effect of having no access to safe, dry land was unsettling. I was beginning to question the wisdom of my decision to stay onboard. What if the docks broke loose? What if the deck cleats don't hold? What if the water keeps rising, or the storm gets worse and goes into the night? Hmm. it's conditions like these that lead some people to their deaths...No, no, no, mustn't think like that. We're nearing high tide, I reasoned. Storm has to be passing, I rationalized. It just can't get any worse. And then, thankfully, it didn't.

At around 5 p.m., the winds calmed, the rain lightened, the docks resurfaced, and my intrepid comrades and I emerged from our faithful charges, all unharmed, and all still afloat. With the exception of a few broken lines, and a couple of cleats that had pulled loose, we were all happily unscathed.

After having checked on each other and breathing a collective sigh of relief, we set about trying to clear the docks which were now fully covered with sea junk. Pushing it all back into the water was not an option. Doing so would have created more hazards to navigation than the already-mired harbor could stand, and the finer debris would have threatened to get sucked into the sea strainers of those boats lucky enough to have generators running. With boat hooks and deck brushes we cleared what path we could, hauling errant logs and branches off to one side, and clearing cluttered electrical shore ties and water faucets.

Life was pretty much getting back to normal. It was over. We were safe.

"And just think," said one of the dock mates after all was said and done, "tomorrow at this time, it'll all be bright and sunny!"

And, so it was.

Danielle Marks
Aboard Maple Leaf

Sharing Y memories

To The Editor:

At the end of my letter in the August 24 edition, I asked people to send me their happy experiences with the YMCA. Well, people have been either too shy or too busy to send me anything so far. So here goes:

A few years ago my wonderful young "Reading Partner" at Northumberland Elementary School invited me to his first Little League basketball game. Being a former round ball player and interested in how my future Michael Jordan would play, I took off the next Saturday morning and went.

To my surprise, I learned right away that the Little League program was being put on by the local YMCA and that the Y was (and is) carrying out the recreation program for the county. Before the game started, the Y director had the players and their coaches for both teams sit along the half court line. He gave them a wonderful lecture about "What it Means to be a Real Man." He told them that "real men don't lie, real men don't steal, real men don't cheat." Then he raised his voice to the parents in the stands and asked them to give their sons a job to do at home during the coming week like wash the dishes, take out the trash, or take care of the pet. Then he said he would ask each boy at the game the next weekend what they had done and how it worked out. I was so impressed that this lesson in family values was worked into such a healthy sports program. I won't soon forget it.

Now, will you please send me your fondest memories of your experiences with the YMCA as you were growing up, or while you are or were raising your families? You can mail them to me at P.O. Box 206, Wicomico Church, VA 22579, or e-mail them to me at mikehar26@juno.com.

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60 years together

Manuel "Woody" and Ruth Steppe of Lively celebrated their 60th anniversary August 31. They have two children and three grandchildren, who gave them a dinner party at their home in Lively.

Bennett to perform Farmhouse Concert

Farmhouse Concerts will kick off its fall series September 23 with guitarist Stephen Bennett.

The music critic for the "Toronto Review" raved: "No matter which guitar he's playing, this man's technique is impeccable, his style highly articulated and consistent. Stephen's treatments incline towards the vigorous, with plenty of bounce and sparkle coming off the strings, and a beat that he emphasizes by slaps and thumps on strings, neck and body of his instruments."

Bennett was born in Oregon, grew up in New York and has lived in Virginia for the better part of the last three decades. Since his 1987 win at the National Flatpicking Championship in Winfield, Kan., he has become known as a versatile and original guitarist who consistently garners critical praise and audience enthusiasm for his recordings and live performances.

With his stellar musicianship, a relaxed stage presence and quick wit, Bennett has performed throughout the United States, as well as in France, England, Italy, Sweden, Germany, Holland, Australia, New Zealand and Japan. He has appeared on A Prairie Home Companion. He has a dozen self-produced CD recordings to his credit.

Aside from his work on the six-string guitar, Bennett is also one of the world's premiere performers on the harp guitar, an instrument he inherited from his great-grandfather. As a composer and arranger, he has created an enduring repertoire and a significant body of recorded work for this instrument. He organized and hosted the world's first harp guitar convention, the Harp Guitar Gathering in November 2003 in Williamsburg. Slide work on his 1930 National resophonic steel guitar is also an important part of his instrumental diversity.

Bennett will perform at the home of Mary Beane in Miskimon at 7:30 p.m. Dessert and coffee will be served at intermission and the artist's CDs will be on sale. There is a $15 donation per person. All proceeds go to the musician.

To reserve a space, e-mail: Farmhouse_concerts@hotmail.com, or call 804-761-0103 and leave a message. Advance reservations are required.

Barbecue and bluegrass event to support missions

As the leaves turn from green to gold, thoughts naturally turn to barbecue chicken and bluegrass gospel music.

By coincidence, the Big Dawgs Men's Ministry at the White Stone Church of the Nazarene is planning a Barbecue Chicken and Bluegrass Gospel Luncheon Saturday, September 30, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Family Life Center at 57 Whisk Drive off Route 3 near White Stone.

The Wayne T. Holt Band of Deltaville will provide the foot-stomping bluegrass and gospel music.

Big Dawgs members will slow-grill the chicken using a traditional Shenandoah Valley of Virginia recipe. Plate lunches will include a half a chicken, baked beans, cole slaw, roll and a beverage. Meals will be available to go.

Big Dawgs actually stands for "Building In Guys, Direction, Accountability, Worship, God and Service." True to its mission, the Big Dawgs will apply the proceeds from the event to White Stone Church of the Nazarene missions worldwide.

During 2006, missions pastor Jeff Jackson has completed trips to Peru, Ethiopia, Sudan and China. He currently is in Morocco. In late October, he plans to lead a dozen church members on a "work and witness trip" to Peru.

Meanwhile, the church supports Nazarene Missions International, including a World Evangelism Fund, a World Evangelism Broadcast Offering, a Compassionate Ministries Fund, Deputation Offerings, a Mission Medical Plan, LINKS special gifts for missionaries, and Work and Witness materials.

Other mission activities include a Thanksgiving offering, an Easter offering, and Alabaster offering, a Builder's Club and Books for Pastors (in missions regions).

Local missions include the operation of a food bank and clothes closet.

Tickets are $10 per plate. A limited number of tickets will be sold. Tickets will be available from Big Dawgs members, the Rappahannock Record, Farm & Home in Kilmarnock, Twice Told Tales in Kilmarnock, EVB Bank in Kilmarnock, Lamberth's Building Supply in White Stone, the Family Life Center, and by calling 435-9886, or 435-1165.

Chesapeake Chorale to begin rehearsals for 10th anniversary holiday concerts

Rehearsals will begin October 2 for the Chesapeake Chorale's 10th anniversary holiday concerts and will continue each Monday night through November 27.

Rehearsals will be held at Harmony Grove Baptist Church in Topping with the only exception being the October 9 rehearsal, which will be held at Friendship Baptist Church in Hartfield. All rehearsals begin at 7 p.m.

Holiday concert dates are December 2 at 8 p.m. at the Lancaster Middle School Theater in Kilmarnock and December 3 at 3 p.m. at St. Clare Walker Middle School in Locust Hill.

The Chesapeake Chorale was the vision of its founder and original artistic director Kim Leggett, who organized the first concert at St. Clare Walker Middle School in 1996 with a little over 40 singers. Through the years, the group has grown to include almost 125 members and has performed concerts at numerous locations throughout the Middle Peninsula, Northern Neck and Richmond.

Leggett, who now lives in North Carolina, will return for the 10th anniversary concerts as guest artistic director for part of the performance.

Also on stage with Leggett for the first 1996 Chesapeake Chorale concert was pianist Doug Harris, who has been the group's accompanist for all concerts since and who will again perform with the group for the December shows.

Artistic director Matthew Rosendahl has planned an exciting holiday program in honor of the 10th anniversary event and welcomes all interested singers to join the group. No auditions or fees are required.

Professional dancer to join Extravaganza

Former Washington Red Skin cheerleader Joyy Hess will be among the headliners at Dance Extravaganza 2006.

A professional dancer and entertainer for 10 years, she has traveled around the world performing for the USO, Armed Forces Entertainment, and Dance International USA. She was a Pro-Team dancer for the National Basketball Association, Washington Wizards. She has also made pro-team dance commercials for ESPN.

In addition, she has performed solo at the Opera House in Sydney, Australia. Joyy continues to study throughout the year in New York at Broadway Dance Center as well as the Edge Performing Arts Center in Hollywood.

Joyy will be joined by Nancy Lee Martin, Ms. Virginia Senior America from Mechanicsville, who will vie for Ms. Senior America next November in Las Vegas. Also on this year's program are the Northern Neck Big Band, the Dancing Divas and the Middlesex County YMCA Dancers.

The Peanut City Cloggers from Suffolk will make four appearances. The group made their first trip here last year and was easily the big hit of 2005, said organizer Carroll Lee Ashburn. The cloggers dance traditional and precision clogging and have won many awards up and down the east coast.

New to the show will be the Soul Girls from Fredericksburg and Nathan Pol from Mechanicsville and all of the winners from Star Search Hanover held last March in Montpelier.

Joyy Hess

The returning performers include Rick Barney and Charlotte Thompson from McLean who will be making their third appearance, and once again will be bringing with them a few surprises. Also returning are Jeff and Gayle Stoneman who were instrumental in getting the first Dance Extravaganza going. They have performed in every show.

Dance Extravaganza IX is the only show of its kind and there will be one performance only Saturday, September 16, at 7:30 p.m.

Advance tickets are now on sale for $7.50 at the Rappahannock Record, Bay 101.7, Twice Told Tales, Heads Up Hairworks, Foxy in Kilmarnock, Bank of Lancaster main office and White Stone office, Chesapeake Bank in Lively, EVB bank in Kilmarnock and at the Kilmarnock Museum. Tickets will be $10 at the door.

Proceeds benefit the museum.

Museum to host oyster workshop

The Reedville Fishermen's Museum will host an oyster gardening workshop September 23.

The workshop will begin at 10 a.m. with a presentation on oysters by Jim Wesson, head of oyster replenishment for the Virginia Marine Resources Commission. The presentation will take place in the sanctuary of Bethany United Methodist Church.

The workshop will feature the Tasmanian cage sold last year. The cost of each cage will be $12. One green bag is also necessary to hold the oyster spat. These cost $1.50.

Materials for Half Taylor floats may be ordered in advance so that the materials can be precut and ready on the day of the workshop. The cost of the float will be $85.

Doug McMinn from Chesapeake Bay Oyster Company will exhibit floating bags which are floated by two black plastic cylinders aligned on the longer sides of the mesh bag. McMinn also will have oyster trays which rest on the bottom and hold larger numbers of oysters and other supplies.

Museum workshop participants can obtain seed oysters, at the rate of $25 per thousand, from Ken Kurkowski of Middle Peninsula Aquaculture. Seed oysters must be pre-ordered. Members of the Northern Neck Oyster Growers wishing to replenish existing floats must contact Don Beard at 438-4820 for seed oyster ordering and pickup information.

The lecture is free. Advanced registration is required. Contact Cal Boyd at 453-5333, or jkbjcb@highstream.net.

Audubon picnic is Saturday

The Northern Neck Audubon Society (NNAS) will host its annual picnic at 4 p.m. Saturday, September 9, at the home of chapter vice-president Evie Thorndike in Wicomico Church.

All members, prospective members and guests are invited to the event, which marks the beginning of the 2006-07 season of programs and bird walks.

Participants are asked to bring a prepared entrée, side dish, salad or dessert along with serving utensils, in a quantity large enough for their parties and three others. NNAS will provide soft drinks, ice, cups, plates and eating utensils. Attendees may bring wine and beer if desired.

In case of bad weather on the day of the picnic, listen for a cancellation on WKWI (101.7), or call Thorndike at 580-9204.

To reach the Thorndike residence from Route 200 in Wicomico Church, turn east on Crosshills Road. Drive approximately 0.6 miles to a mailbox on the right with the number 315. Turn left into the driveway across from the mailbox.

Edwardsville Day goal is to make a difference through faith in action

Galilee United Methodist Church will host Edwardsville Day September 9 on the church grounds on Route 640 in Northumberland County. The theme will be "Making a Difference by Putting Our Religious Faith into Action."

Activities will begin at 10 a.m. Activities will include face painting, praise dance routines, youth and children's activities, a horseshoe tournament and a variety of vendors. A voter registration both will be open from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

A parade will begin at 1 p.m. Line-up will begin at 12:15 p.m. Parade entries will include bands, cheerleaders, motorcycles, trucks, bicycles, clowns, floats, cars, scouts, fire trucks and rescue squads.

The event would not be complete without a variety of food. Crab cakes, fried chicken, fish, pizza, hamburgers, cheeseburgers, hot dogs, pies, cakes and beverages will be served.

The vendor fee is $15 per space. The parade entry fee is $5 for adults and $3 for children.

To rent a space, or enter the parade, call Rev. Charles F. Bates at 580-7256 or 580-7306, or call Jim Long at 580-2477.

Bay Aging to celebrate senior active lifestyles week

To create an awareness of aging lifestyle issues, a special program on the benefits of proper nutrition and exercise for adults 50 years and older will be presented on September 18 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Lancaster Senior Active Lifestyles Center (senior center) in Kilmarnock. Virginia Cooperative Extension in partnership with Bay Aging will sponsor the program.

Bay Aging also extends an invitation to RSVP volunteers to attend the program as well as others in the community who are interested in these topics. This is also an opportunity to learn more about Bay Aging's programs and services and how to become involved in the community through the Retired Senior and Volunteer Program.

Light refreshments will be provided. For questions regarding this program, call Renee Payne at 758-8285, or Dee Thomas at 758-8853.

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This little cattle rustler from Sunnybank is still smiling,
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Love,
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Colonial Williamsburg to host second annual storytelling festival

The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation will host eight nationally acclaimed storytellers September 15 to17 during its second annual storytelling festival, "Spinning Stories/Spanning Time: A Weekend of Stories Old and New."

When asked about her passion for storytelling, guest teller Diane Ferlatte said, "I tell because this is what it's all about—the little moment that lasts forever in one's memory; that time of intimate connection with the listener, even someone you hardly know. For some, the right story at the right time will enrich the day and even make the world a little better place."

Ferlatte and seven other tellers will entertain and inspire with stories and songs from a variety of American traditions.

Ferlatte will offers tales of inspiration, struggle, humor and love. Often sharing personal stories in her programs, she engages her audience with singing, signing and musical percussion.

Bill Harley is a singer, songwriter, storyteller, author and playwright. With 20 recordings and four children's books to his credit, his humorous yet meaningful work chronicles the lives of children at school and home.

Baba Jamal Koram brings alive the history, humor, people, music and lore of African and African-American cultures through Aesop's fables, stories and songs. Blending contemporary and traditional storytelling, his stories enable youth to empower themselves through making intelligent choices and resolving conflict.

Randel McGee is a versatile and multi-talented performer. Programs he has presented include: "Randel McGee and Groark," the popular comedy and musical act with character education stories; "Hans Christian Andersen—The Man and His Tales," a lively portrayal of the famous author; and "Randel McGee," with songs, folktales and other stories for the entire family.

Antonio Sacre has delighted audiences for 10 years with his touching and humorous bilingual stories, challenging solo theatrical performances and children's books and tapes. Often they are the first understandable theater experience for Latino children and they are an exciting introduction to the Spanish language for English speaking audiences.

Ed Stivender, called the "Robin Williams of storytelling" in the Miami Herald, brings a mixture of humor, music, song, dance, story and sometimes seriousness. He is famous for his "fractured" fairytales with comic twists and participatory improvisations, updated Bible stories and hilarious yet touching memories of his parochial school upbringing.

Dovie Thomason of the Lakota and Kiowa Apache Nations has traveled throughout North America and abroad for more than 20 years, sharing wisdom and humor of her heritage in a totally engaging celebration of life and culture. She's been called "a natural storyteller" for her word weavings of traditional stories, untold histories and memories.

Kathryn Tucker Windham's stories are as unmistakably southern as the voice that tells them. She appeared at the second National Storytelling Festival in 1974 and has become a favorite storyteller nationwide. Windham recently was named to the Communication Hall of Fame at the University of Alabama, and received the prestigious Alabama Humanities Award. She was a favorite in Colonial Williamsburg's inaugural Storytelling Festival in 2005.

The weekend event will begin at 9:30 a.m. September 15 at Bassett Hall, with a storytelling sampler that offers a taste of what all eight storytellers will present during the weekend. The evening olio will begin at 7 p.m.

On September 16, storytellers perform throughout the day beginning at 9:30 a.m. Guests can enjoy special presentations of family stories from 6 to 7:30 p.m. and ghost stories under the cover of darkness from 8:30 to 10 p.m. A wine and cheese reception with adult stories will be held from 6:30 to 8 p.m. The fee for the wine and cheese reception is $25.

On September 17, the festival will continue at 9:30 a.m. The closing olio will be held from 2 to 4 p.m. The Storytelling Festival concludes at 4 p.m.

A variety of festival ticket options are available. A Weekend Pass features day programs on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, the Friday evening olio, and either the family storytelling or ghost storytelling events on Saturday and the closing olio for $65 for adults and $33 for youth ages 6 to 17.

A Single Day Pass is available for Friday, Saturday or Sunday and includes admission to all day programs for the selected day for $29 for adults and $15 for youth ages 6 to 17.

An Evening Pass provides admission to one evening program for $15 for adults and youth ages 6 to 17 and $8 for children under age 6. Guests can choose from a Friday evening olio, and a family storytelling performance and ghost storytelling performance on Saturday.

School groups are invited to attend day programs on Friday at a cost of only $10 for teachers and $5 for students. Guests staying at any Colonial Williamsburg hotel property can purchase any festival ticket at a discounted price of 50 percent off. Senior citizens, Good Neighbors and students who are not with a school group may purchase any festival ticket at a discount of 10 percent off.

For a complete vacation getaway, combine tickets for the Storytelling Festival with an overnight package, such as the Revolutionary City Adventure or Patriot Plan. The Revolutionary City Adventure puts guests just steps away from a dynamic daily, two-hour program in Colonial Williamsburg's Historic Area that details Williamsburg's role in one of America's defining periods. Starting prices for fall season are: Governor's Inn, $44; Woodlands Hotel & Suites, $70; Williamsburg Lodge, $110; Colonial Houses-Historic Lodging, $140; Providence Hall, $177, and Williamsburg Inn, $232. A minimum two-night stay is required.

The Patriot Plan allows guests to step back in time to experience the ideas and dreams of both great and everyday people on the eve of the American Revolution. Starting prices for the fall season are: Governor's Inn, $96; Woodlands Hotel & Suites, $122; Williamsburg Lodge, $162; Colonial Houses-Historic Lodging, $237; Providence Hall, $274; and Williamsburg Inn, $329. A minimum two-night stay is required.

To purchase tickets, call toll-free at 1-800-447-8679.

Rusty Eklund and Rokia Sidibe will present an African drumming concert Saturday, September 9, at 6 p.m. on the Urbanna waterfront.

Drumming concert set on Urbanna waterfront

Rusty Eklund and Rokia Sidibe will present rhythms and songs from Mali, West Africa, Saturday, September 9, at 6 p.m., at the Town of Urbanna Marina at Upton's Point on Urbanna Creek.

Sidibe is a native of West Africa and a member of the Fula tribe from southern Mali. Eklund has spent some eight years in Mali studying the music of more than a dozen ethnic groups and has performed with numerous international headliners, including Grammy-winner Toumani Diabate.

Eklund has recently finished authoring *Rhythm Masters, Melody Makers*, which will be available for purchase at the performance. The book highlights music from two prominent drumming styles and the string music of the Maninka Jeli, traditional musician-historians.

Vegetarian African box dinners ($7) prepared by Cafe Mojo may be ordered by Friday, September 8, by calling Suzanne at 804-815-0062.

Eklund also offers a drumming class on Wednesdays at the Urbanna Visitor's Center. Children ($5) attend from 6 to 7 p.m. and adults ($15) from 7 to 8 p.m. Drums are provided.

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Montross Fall Festival to offer new attractions

The Montross Fall Festival will be held October 7. Activities will begin with opening ceremonies at 10 a.m.

Among new things at the festival, the Virginia Department of Transportation will have a booth adjacent to the Carrot Cottage. It will display informational brochures on a variety of topics; also available will be state, scenic and local county maps.

A "Faster Pastor" event was designed for the YM CA to seek support from local churches while giving local pastors/ministers the opportunity to be more visible to the community, and to help build camaraderie between local congregations. Any local church that pre-registers with the YMCA is invited to participate. The folks at the YMCA are asking for pastor/minister; however, anyone that holds a leadership role in that church can sign up.

The event will take place on the lawn of Peoples Community Bank in Montross, during the morning of the festival. The event will consist of six to eight low impact challenges. Entrants will compete and earn points for place finished in each challenge. The winner will receive a humongous, gaudy traveling trophy that any church will want to have on display. Each year this trophy will travel and be displayed in the church of the Faster Pastor.

There is a new contest this year. It's called the Sidewalk Chalk Art contest, and it will be held at the Art of Coffee in downtown Montross.

New to the Food Court this year will be an Ice Cream Truck by Rainbow Refreshments. The items on sale will consist of ice cream, candy, chips, cookies and water.

Military officers to hold annual business meeting

The Northern Neck Chapter of the Military Officers Association will hold its annual business meeting at Rappahannock Westminster-Canterbury near Irvington Tuesday, September 12, at 11:30 a.m.

The meeting will include the election of officers for the next calendar year. The nominating committee has recommended president Maj. Gen. James Harding, past president Vice Adm. Richard Allen, first vice president Brig. Gen. Frank Martin, second vice president, Lt. Col. Anthony Blackstone, third vice president Lt. Col. William Stackhouse, secretary Col. Jackson Reavill, treasurer Maj. William Sigler, director Brig. Gen. R. W. "Wes" Richards, director Col. Gerald Eddy, director Col. George Van Sant, director 1st. Lt. John Townes.

In addition to the election and other business, the meeting will include a presentation by Roy Eisenberg and retired U.S. Navy Capt. Robert May, who will discuss LINK-16 and its positive impact on the men and women in the Mid-East war zone.

Eisenberg and Capt. May have been and continue to be deeply involved in the development and deployment of LINK-16 program. This system is a total joint military communications and identification system for the entire battlefield. It daily saves lives of pilots, ground-based and sea-borne personnel which at the same time can intercept communications by the enemy. It permits identification and targeting of enemy forces using radio-based communication.

Eisenberg is an internationally recognized authority on technical data link systems and spread communications. He is the technical director and principal with SRA International Inc, in Fairfax.

Capt. May served in the U.S. Navy and during the latter portion of his career was instrumental in the development of the LINK-16 system as well as the global positioning/navigation program. Following his retirement from active duty in the Navy, he helped found the Galaxy Scientific Corporation where he continued expanding the field of integrated communications navigation and identification. Capt. May lives near Irvington.

All members and interested persons are invited to attend. Checks for $13 per person for the luncheon should be sent to: NNMOAA, P.O. Box 786, Kilmarnock, Virginia 22482. Deadline for receipt is September 8.

Hearing loss support group to meet Saturday

The Hearing Loss Association of America Middle Peninsula chapter will meet Saturday, September 9, from 10 a.m. to noon at Riverside Walter Reed Hospital in Gloucester.

There will be a sign language interpreter and real time computer projected notes of the meeting to accommodate those with hearing challenges.

The program continues on the topic of emergency preparations for disasters. The group has been focusing on flood, hurricanes and other weather-related disasters. This meeting will explore further man-made disasters and health threats, such as a pandemic avian flu resistant to treatment, or terror threats forcing evacuation.

The Gloucester Office of Emergency Services has done much work in the community, educating people about how to react to a notice to evacuate. Groups such as HLAAMP are working with this agency to help them understand communications needs of people who can't depend on radio and television communications to alert them of disasters.

For more information, contact Linda Miller, president, HLAAMP, at 804-725-2487, (voice or fax. TTY users first dial 7-1-1), or email to gcsioutreach@gmail.com.

Kinsale celebration to last all day

On Saturday, September 16, the community of Kinsale will celebrate its 300th anniversary. The birthday celebration will begin at 10 a.m. and conclude with fireworks at 8 p.m.

The event will focus on life in Kinsale and the surrounding region as it was 300 years ago. There will be a Colonial-era Indian Village, period hunters and back-woodsmen, blacksmithing and other 18th-century living skills demonstrations, displays by local artists and artisans, traditional farming and fishing equipment exhibits, period music and food.

In addition, there will be a moon bounce for the kids, a tethered hot-air balloon which will provide a "Bird's-Eye" view of the village, and a parade at 5 p.m. followed by country music around the gazebo. The day will conclude with a fireworks display at 8 p.m. over Kinsale Harbor.

The day will begin with exhibits opening in the park and museum at 10 a.m. followed by the annual Kinsale Foundation business meeting at 1 p.m. The afternoon program will begin at 1 p.m. and will feature live music, including Gaelic, African-American gospel and country.

Bring lawn chairs and plan to spend the day.

Party on Main Street

The Gloucester Main Street Association will hold its first "Main Street Mania" After-Work Party September 29, between Stillwaters and Glouceser-Southside Insurance on Main Street.

The event will feature live music by Beats Walkin', a Williamsburg-based party band that's all about having a good time. The group plays classic rock, blues, soul, funk, rockabilly and anything else that's good for dancing or fun.

Beer, wine, and sodas will be available for purchase. Lite food will be available for purchase as well. Tickets are $5 in advance and $6 at the door. Tickets can be purchased at Olivia's in the Village, Olivia's at the Point, both Chesapeake Bank locations in Gloucester County, Village Cleaners, and Kelsick Gardens.

Main Street Mania T-shirts will also be available for purchase, courtesy of Peace Frogs for $10.

This event is sponsored by Gloucester Main Street Association, Chesapeake Bank, Village Cleaners, Peace Frogs and Gloucester-Southside Insurance.

For more information, call the Gloucester Main Street Association at 695-0700, or visit www.gloucester-virginia.org. Must be 21 or older to attend.

Addition

In an article, "Birthday celebrated with health theme," appearing August 24, the name of Catherine Kenner was left out by mistake. She was among those celebrating the birthday of Sharon Doggett.

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Field Day of the past event offers trip down memory lane

The Rockville-Centerville Steam and Gas Historical Association will host its annual Field Day of the Past, September 15 through 17. The event is a tribute to the "good ole days" and "old timey" lifestyles.

Fifteen years ago, when the event first opened its gates on a one-day show, the emphasis was on the importance of steam power. A huge Case traction engine and a steam power sawmill were the most prominent attractions for the approximate 3,000 visitors. Now, Field Day of the Past has expanded its offerings to encompass a variety of exhibits which feature lifestyles, occupations and talents rapidly vanishing from the American scene.

From the smell of hams smoking in the smokehouse to the sound of a hammer hitting an iron anvil, or the sight of suds bubbling up in an old wringer washing machine, the event conjures up past memory for some and new experiences for youngsters.

At the sorghum mill, sorghum cane is pressed and the juice slowly cooked down into molasses. It is a time-consuming process and as the volunteers stir the juice with a paddle, each offers advice on the best way to cook molasses.

In the sawmill complex, a huge steam-powered Corliss engine, with its impressive 12-foot flywheel, powers a sawmill. Saw milling was once one of central Virginia's major industries and sawmill shanties once dotted woodlands. Saw milling was hot, dirty and dangerous work. The sawmill hands at Field Day are well versed in the backbreaking chores of turning logs and cutting slabs.

Over at the Short Pump Grocery, the store is "open for business." Patrons can step through the screen door advertising bread and into the past. Clerks sell hunks of cheese and ice cold cokes in bottles while customers discuss the price of medicine, thread and oatmeal and pass the time gossiping about politics, the weather and their neighbors.

In the Field Day of the Past Educational Building, several static exhibits dish up relics from bygone eras. Photographs from the collections of Dementi Studio freeze yesteryear in black and white stills including several images of the streetcar system in Richmond, tobacco farming and old Richmond businesses. In the kitchen, iron cookware rests on the wood cook stove. Canning jars, meat grinders, crocks and a Virginia Dairy milk bottle set on shelves. An antique washing machine and wooden clothes pins, a spinning wheel, Singer sewing machine, wash stand with a pitcher and bowl, butter mold, milking stool and oil lamps are all remnants of a lost era.

The Farm Exhibit, also located in the Educational Building, houses poignant memories of Virginia's agricultural past. Many of the hand tools and implements in the exhibit were common on Virginia farms from the late 18th century until the mid 20th century. Plows, harnesses, hoes, axes and rakes speak to the once back-breaking chore of living off the land. At the log cabin, heritage crafters weave, spin, knit and practice other skills once common in every household.

Field Day has acquired several huge pieces of equipment from several businesses in Richmond. Although now obsolete in the modern world of electronics, these monsters were once essential to operations. Out of the old Thalhimer's building at 7th and Grace streets, came the Kohler generator which once served as the emergency backup system if the electricity failed. The monstrous condensers powered Richmond's streetcar system on Brown's Island. The generators from Bell Atlantic, now Verizon, are so large they require ladders to reach the uppermost dials and levers. As testament to the durability of these massive pieces of machinery, each is still operational.

An Erie steam drag line and gold separator, a canning kitchen, woodwright shop, blacksmith shop, a Pullman railroad car, water towers and a windmill round out the many and varied exhibits and displays found at this event.

Participants may also browse through the 100 plus arts and crafts and flea market vendors, visit a frontier Show featuring "Animals that Built America," root from their favorites in the truck and tractor pulls, watch antique construction equipment in operation, tour modern construction equipment exhibits or just stop in the shade and enjoy some homemade ice cream made with a small John Deere "putt putt" engine.

Show hours are 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. with truck events on Friday and Saturday evenings. The show is 14 miles west of Richmond off I-64, exit 173 (Rockville-Manakin), exit and follow signs for 1/8 mile.

Admission is $10 per person; children younger than 13 are admitted free. Friday is Senior Citizens Day—all those 55 and older are admitted for $8. The admission price includes all exhibits and displays. Carnival rides are charged separately. Parking is free and food is available on the grounds.

For complete details, call 741-8468, or visit www.fielddayofthepast.net.

One-room school to welcome visitors

Shiloh School at the intersection of Shiloh School and Balls Neck roads will be open September 30 from 2 to 4 p.m.

The 1906 building remains as it was when the parents of local children from the Balls Neck area built it with their own hands. Few one-room schools in the Northern Neck remain in stable condition, but Shiloh does, thanks to the work of volunteers of Northumberland Preservation Inc. (NPI) in the early 1990s.

The small building rises alone amid fields and surrounding woodlands. Two Natural Area Preserves are close by and await walkers who wish quiet, birds and botany; Hughlett Point and Dameron Marsh are accessed from Balls Neck Road in opposite directions from Shiloh School. The ditches along these roads boast wildflowers at this time of year.

Shiloh School

The purpose of holding an open house at Shiloh School by NPI is to heighten awareness of the history and rural heritage of the area, Northumberland and Lancaster counties, near Dividing Creek. Modest refreshments such as those children might have enjoyed at school recess in 1910 will be offered from a tin bucket, dipper and picnic basket.

A scale model of Shiloh School, with furnishings by George Edwards, will be displayed. It is loaned to NPI by Edwards' daughter, Debbie Whittaker, who lives in the area. Several of the former students of the school will be available, too.

NPI plans to record and/or collect historic information on the school, and anyone with documents, stories, pictures, and school artifacts from the days when Shiloh School was in operation (1906-1929) is urged to call June Turnage at 435-3245, or Jane Towner at 435-3566.

RW-C plans Fall Bazaar for Sept. 23

"With These Hands" is the theme for Rappahannock Westminster-Canterbury's 22nd annual Fall Bazaar September 23 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. The theme celebrates RW-C's new cookbook of the same name, available at the bazaar for $12.

Granny's Kitchen will feature items made from the cookbook, and The Westbury Club will sell the cookbook's steaming clam chowder. The Westbury Club also will sell handmade crafts and white elephant gifts.

The RW-C Boutique will offer handmade items such as crocheted afghans, Christmas stockings, cloth tote bags, lap quilts, pillows, knitted hats, mittens, hand-strung beaded jewelry and Pat Morris's fabric humbug bags for cell phones and keys.

The watercolor class has made hand-painted flower pots and Christmas ornaments of hand-painted crab shells. Their original artwork will be available, as well as note cards with reproductions of their painting. Instructor Pam Bowers will have a booth of her watercolors and prints, crab t-shirts, boat t-shirts and turquoise jewelry.

Granny's Garden will sell pansies in a variety of colors, potted chrysanthemums in fall and pastel shades, and ornamental peppers in three colors; transplanted items from their gardens by Wood Duck Lake and seeds from the Texas star hibiscus, found in two spots on the RW-C campus. The plants from last year's seeds did not bloom this year, but have grown spectacularly, said June Swanell, who co-chairs the booth with Barbara Shultz.

Art and Mary Hicks chair the Bountiful Books booth and welcome boxed donations of anything but magazines and textbooks. They request that donated books be taken to the library upstairs in the Chesapeake Center.

Chaired by Betsy Douglas, the popular Attic Treasures booth will sell vintage and antique furniture, jewelry, silver and other items, including Waterford, Baccarat and Royal Copenhagen animal figurines. Assorted external vendors also will sell their wares.

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BY ROSS CHRISTIANSEN

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Ernesto delays 2006 high school football season opening games

Local high school football teams planning to open the 2006 season last Friday didn't, courtesy of tropical depression Ernesto.

Four of the Northern Neck District's five varsity teams were scheduled to start regional play over the weekend. None played Friday. Only one team, Essex, officially opened the season with a Monday night make-up game against Middlesex.

The Trojans hammered the Chargers, 49-13.

The anticipated Lancaster-Northumberland non-district opener last weekend has been rescheduled for Friday, September 29, in Heathsville.

Instead, the Devils will open the season tomorrow night on the road at Charles City, while the Indians start play at home against Windsor.

Ernesto cancels Lucas Oil All-American 500

After discussions with the Lucas Oil Late Model Dirt Series, officials at Virginia Motor Speedway canceled the All American 50 presented by Thurston Spring Service Inc. scheduled for September 1 due to the rains and forecasted weather from tropical storm Ernesto.

"This is just heartbreaking to have to cancel this event," said Track General Manager Clarke Sawyer. "Last year's race was just fantastic and I'm sure that we would have seen an even better show this year, but with the amount of rain and severe weather expected from Ernesto, we have to look after the safety of our competitors and fans."

"We are very disappointed that one of our most anticipated events of the year is rained out yet again. We have to thank Bill and Clarke Sawyer and his staff for working so closely with us on the June postponement and now on this unfortunate cancellation due to Ernesto. They always take the safety of our competitors and fans in mind when making their decisions. We look forward to the opportunity to come back and race at one of the country's finest facilities in 2007," said Spencer Wilson, series director for the Lucas Oil Dirt Late Model Series.

Virginia Motor Speedway will take Saturday, September 9, off due to the NASCAR event at Richmond International Raceway. The speedway will return to action September 16 with 104.9 WIGO Championship Night when the track will crown it's five divisional champions for 2006.

Officials also announced that Round 4 of the Victory Lap Late Model $25,000 Challenge presented by BB&T will now run during the 37th annual Fall Classic September 22 and 23.

Competitor gates for September 16 will open at 3 p.m.; spectator gates at 4 p.m. On-track activities will begin at 6:15 p.m. with hot laps. Divisions scheduled to race include late models (35 laps), sportsman (30 laps), modifieds (25 laps), chargers (25 laps) and All Americans (15 laps).

Admission is $10 for adults, $8 for seniors and military, $7 for students ages 13 to 17, $4 for children ages 7 to 12 and free for children ages 6 and under.

The track is on Route 17, eight miles north of Saluda and 25 miles south of Tappahannock.

Brian Bertoti Memorial set for September 30

The sixth annual Brian Bertoti Memorial Golf Tournament will be held September 30 at the King Carter Golf Club in Irvington.

The format will be captain's choice with a 9 a.m. shotgun start.

Cash prizes will be awarded for flight winners. There also will be prizes for closest to the pin, longest drives, longest putt, and a 50/50 Par-3 contest.

Team entry fee is $260 and includes golf, cart, golfer goodie-bag, beverage cart and dinner. Hole sponsorships are available at $125. Team sponsors are $350 and include a team entry fee and a hole sponsor.

Proceeds benefit the Bertoti Memorial Fund, which is raising money to endow a scholarship at Virginia Tech, where Bertoti was a graduate student before his death in 1997.

To register or for more information, contact Robert Teagle at rrteagle@cox.net, or call 694-5036.

Aeronautical Society plans September 14 bus trip

The Northern Neck/Middle Peninsula Chapter of the Virginia Aeronautical Historical Society has scheduled a bus trip to the National Air and Space Museum Steven F. Udvar-Hazy Center, Thursday, September 14. The bus will depart from the Pilot House Restaurant at 6:45 a.m., Ice House Field at 6:50 p.m., Lancaster Square at 7 a.m., Chesapeake Bank in Lively at 7:20 a.m., and the BP Station on Routes 3 and 360 at 7:50 a.m. Arrival at the museum is estimated at 10 a.m. The bus will depart the museum about 3:30 p.m. and return at approximately 7 p.m. The fee is $35. Reservations should have been made by September 1. Call Bob Schneider, 462-7763, for any seats available at this time. Gary Ellis may be reached at 435-2947 for more information.

There will be no meeting at the Pilot House for September. The next noon luncheon meeting will be October 19 at the Pilot House or the Beacon in Topping.

Scoreboard

Varsity football
Essex 49, Middlesex 13

Upcoming Games

Varsity football
(7:30 p.m.)
September 8:
Lancaster at Charles City
Windsor at Northumberland
King & Queen at Rappahannock
King George at W&L
King William at Essex
Mathews at Middlesex
Colonial Beach at West Point
William Campbell at Sussex
Franklin at Southampton

JV football
(6:30 p.m.)
September 14:
Lancaster at Middlesex

Volleyball
(JV 6 p.m.; varsity 7:30 p.m.)
September 7:
Middlesex at Lancaster
September 12:
Lancaster at Mathews
September 14:
Lancaster at King William

Golf
(4 p.m)
September 12:
Lancaster and W&L at Bushfield Golf Course
September 14:
Lancaster and Rappahannock at Village Green

Cross Country
(4 p.m.)
September 11:
Lancaster at Northampton
September 13:
Lancaster at West Point

Field Hockey
(JV 5:30 p.m.; varsity 7 p.m.)
September 14:
Lancaster at New Kent

Miss Ann Cruise is a highlight of the Turkey Shoot Regatta

By Tom Neale

The skipjack Claud Somers heeled suddenly, water boiling over its leeward rail. Gusts of wind veered and whipped across the Rappahannock River, slamming into its sails with surprise blasts of power. Skipjacks capsize more often than you might expect. They were built with wide, relatively shallow bottoms to skim across the shoals of the bay. They've been known to capsize even while at anchor when the wind veered hard. Usually the only people who see the capsizes are those who are about to get wet.

Passengers on the Miss Ann watched in fascination on that blustery day in October 2004 as sailing yachts all over the river struggled to remain upright and the Claud Somers continued to roll over. Her rail dug in, water flowing over the deck while the wind mercilessly pushed. She capsized in around 28 feet of water, but within minutes all aboard had been rescued by nearby boats. Two weeks later they floated her and today she's sailing the bay again, in great form. You never know what's going to happen when sailboats race in the fall on the Chesapeake. The Turkey Shoot Regatta brings out the best, and those watching from the Miss Ann have the best view.

They see as many as 100 beautiful classic boats, all designed over 25 years ago, some built many years before that, racing toward the Miss Ann, as she hovers close to the finish line. The rule for the day is that the first over the line wins, with other boats placing in the order they cross. The racing boats converge on a spot just upwind of the 124-foot-long luxury yacht, all fighting to be first, all subject to the whims of the wind. They then sail close alongside the yacht, jockeying for position before the passengers who vote, deciding the winner of the coveted "Miss Ann's Choice Trophy." The criteria for this award is simply the boat that most impresses the passengers, for whatever reason.

The famous Turkey Shoot Regatta began over 15 years ago as a parade of old boats. Now it's a three-day affair (from October 6 to 8) that benefits area hospices and is a member of the National Hospice Regatta Alliance. All proceeds and efforts are donated to that cause, including those from the celebrated Miss Ann cruise on Sunday, October 8. The cruise on this classic 1926 yacht, provided by the Tides Inn, includes a basket lunch sponsored by the Bank of Lancaster and prepared by Tides Inn, the finish line view and a fun and interesting commentary about the classic racing boats, their racing tactics and the background of the river.

Passengers aboard the Miss Ann select the winner of the Miss Ann's Choice Trophy at the conclusion of the final race in the Hospice Turkey Shoot Regatta. Last year, the passengers selected Desperado, a restored Hinkley, sailed by Ric Bauer from Deltaville, as the winner. This year, 100 classic sailboats are expected to circle the Miss Ann as they compete for the trophy.

The final race provided unexpected excitement as the skipjack Claud Somers capsized at the finish line in the 2004 Hospice Turkey Shoot Regatta. When the Somers capsized, most competitors had not finished, and under full sail faced the challenge of avoiding the partially submerged skipjack and circling small boats.

Copyright 2006 by Tom Neale

(Tom Neale will be aboard and narrating during the Miss Ann Cruise. Author of two books, he's also technical editor of Soundings magazine for which he writes the Sea Savvy column, editor at large for PassageMaker magazine and columnist for BoatUS.com. He wrote Cruising World's On Watch Column for years and coordinated its "Boat of the Year" judging. He and his wife have lived aboard their boat and cruised since 1979.

Tickets for the Miss Ann Cruise at $50 per person including lunch are available from Karen Knull at Yankee Point Marina, 804-762-7018. For more information, see www.hospiceturkeyshootregatta.com)

Bridge Results

Nine and a half tables of duplicate bridge were in play August 29 at the Woman's Club of White Stone. Winners north/south were first, Laura Schooley and Ginny Flanagan; second, Dianne Monroe and Babs Murphy; third, Cynthia Birdsall and Arden Durham; and fourth, Ronnie Gerster and Katherine Frayne.

Winners east/west were first, Elvira Plumb and Verla Burgess; second, Judy Peifer and Virginia Adair; third, Martha Engaard and Marilyn Snodgrass; and fourth (tie) Margaret Livesay and Marilyn Reed and Liz Hargett and Tot Winstead.

The next bridge for this group is Wednesday, September 13, at 1 p.m.

Eight tables of bridge were in play August 31 at Indian Creek Yacht and Country Club.

Winners north/south were first, Barbara Bryant and Mary John Gilchrest; second, Arden Durham and Dianne Monroe; and third, Ginger Klapp and Babs Murphy.

Winners east/west were first, Kay Williams and Janey Eppes; second, Shirley Crockett and Betty Fay Lewis; and third, Les Inskeep and Leif Olsen.

The next bridge for this group is September 7.

Club Golf

Quinton Oaks ladies

The Quinton Oaks Ladies' Golf Association on August 30 played a blind partner tournament. Winners were first, Linda Dennis and Judy Wise; second, Su Schmalz and Sharon Dickens; third, Jean Lee and Millie Dickens; fourth, Juanita Miles and Cheryl Rembisz; and fifth, Jane Herron and Sara Goodwynn. Dennis won low putts with 27, Darlene Bean had a chip-in and Schmalz had three birdies; Dottie Sites and Gloria Smith each had one

Tartan club

Monday Play Day mens' winners at the Tartan Golf Club were first, John Burton; second, Ron Silver; third, Arthur Abbott; and fourth, Mike Broderick.

Bobbie Armfield was the low gross women's winner. Ann Silver was the low net winner.

✳ Rappahannock Almanac ✳

White Stone/Grey's Point Tides, Sun, & Moon – September, 2006

Fri	**9/8**	Sunrise	6:42	High	12:13	**1.9′**
		Moonset	7:34	Low	6:41	-0.1′
		Sunset	**7:24**	High	**12:34**	**1.9′**
		Moonrise	**8:00**	Low	**7:09**	-0.1′
Sat	**9/9**	Sunrise	6:42	High	1:01	**1.9′**
		Moonset	8:50	Low	7:26	-0.1′
		Sunset	**7:23**	High	**1:24**	**2.0′**
		Moonrise	**8:28**	Low	**8:02**	-0.1′
Sun	**9/10**	Sunrise	6:43	High	1:50	**1.8′**
		Moonset	10:05	Low	8:12	-0.1′
		Sunset	**7:21**	High	**2:14**	**2.0′**
		Moonrise	**8:58**	Low	**8:56**	0.0′
Mon	**9/11**	Sunrise	6:44	High	2:39	1.7′
		Moonset	11:21	Low	9:00	0.0′
		Sunset	**7:20**	High	**3:06**	**2.0′**
		Moonrise	**9:32**	Low	**9:50**	0.1′
Tue	**9/12**	Sunrise	6:45	High	3:30	1.6′
		Moonset	**12:36**	Low	9:49	0.0′
		Sunset	**7:18**	High	**4:00**	**1.9′**
		Moonrise	**10:12**	Low	**10:48**	0.2′
Wed	**9/13**	Sunrise	6:46	High	4:25	1.5′
		Moonset	**1:47**	Low	10:43	0.2′
		Sunset	**7:17**	High	**5:00**	**1.8′**
		Moonrise	**10:59**	Low	**11:50**	0.3′
Thu	**9/14**	Sunrise	6:47	High	5:25	1.4′
		Moonset	**2:51**	Low	11:42	0.2′
		Sunset	**7:15**	High	**6:05**	1.7′
3rd Q. - 7:15		Moonrise	**11:53**			
Fri	**9/15**	Sunrise	6:47	Low	12:56	0.4′
		Moonset	**3:45**	High	6:30	1.3′
		Sunset	**7:14**	Low	**12:47**	0.3′
				High	**7:13**	1.6′

Corrections	High	Low	Height
Piankatank River, Cherry Pt.	-1:42	-1:44	86%
Great Wicomico River Light	0:30	0:20	76%
Smith Point Light	1:01	0:44	86%

PM times are in **boldface type**.
Unusually high & low tides are also in **boldface**.
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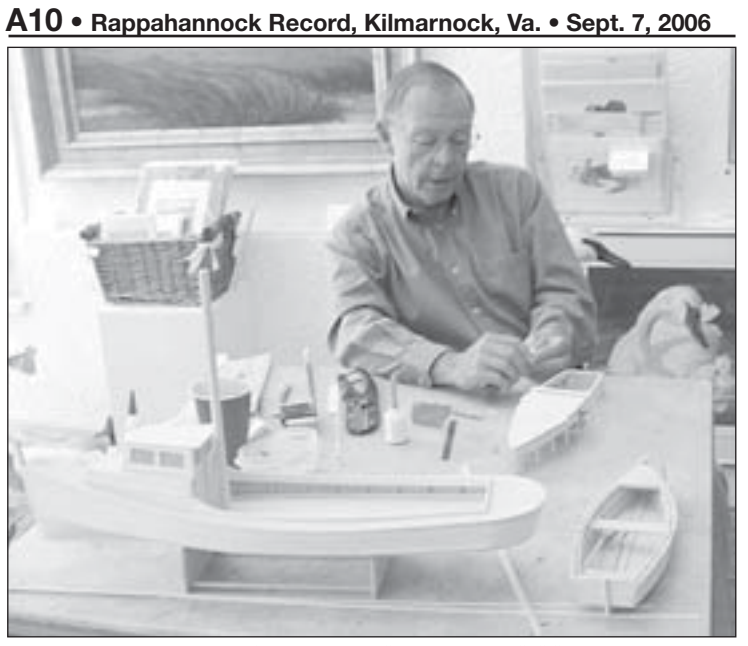

Warren Robinson works on a model boat.

Class to build model boats

A scratch model boat building class will be sponsored by the Mathews Art Gallery.

Warren Robinson whose models are exhibited and sold at the Mathews Art Gallery and galleries and shops throughout the east coast and at his Mobjack shop.

The course is designed for first-time and intermediate students. Participants will build their own Chesapeake Bay rowing skiff. The course costs $80 which covers cost of materials used.

The deadline for registration is September 18. The class will be limited to eight participants. Directions and a list of recommended tools will be supplied at registration.

To register, call Mathews Art Gallery at 725-3326, or Warren Robinson at 725-5396 between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m.

A Doctor Speaks

by George Moore, MD

Living Longer Can Be Easy

Americans are living longer and the news is extra good for men, according to the latest Longevity Index based on government data. American men can now expect to live 78.1 years, on average; women 82.6 years.

These are estimates at birth.

If they reach these ages, a man can expect to live another 7 to 8 years, average, and a woman, another 10 years.

The gender gap is closing—it is now 4.5 years, down from nearly 8 years in 1975. Over the last 10 years, lifetime expectancy has increased 2 percent per year for men, 1 percent for women. And over the past 22 years, men have added 3.7 years to their lives; women, 1.7 years.

Apparently, men are dying less frequently from drugs, alcohol, firearms and AIDS in recent years. Their death rate from heart disease and lung cancer is also dropping. Women, on the other hand, are developing these "male diseases" at a higher rate, in part because they started smoking more in the last 25 years.

Exercise alone won't prevent cancer, nor will it counteract the effects of a poor diet, smoking, and being overweight. But it may help. And it certainly can reduce chances of developing conditions such as heart disease, hypertension, diabetes, and osteoporosis. Thirty minutes of moderate-intensity activity five or more days a week will do the trick.

To reduce the risk of age-related macular degeneration, eat foods rich in vitamin E and C, beta-carotene and zinc. People who consume the most of these nutrients are 35 percent less likely to develop this leading cause of blindness over an eight-year period than those who consume less-than-average amounts.

Foods rather than dietary supplements that are rich in these nutrients seem to be most important. Foods rich in E include nuts, seeds, vegetable oils, broccoli and whole grains. Zinc is found in meat, fish, dairy products and whole grains. Carrots, spinach and cantaloupe are good sources of beta-carotene. Citrus fruit, peppers, broccoli and potatoes are among the best sources of C.

Oldest Virginia plantation invites public to take guided nature hike

Inaugurating a new feature of its guided historic tour, on Sunday, September 17, Virginia's oldest plantation (1613) will offer visitors the first Shirley Plantation guided nature trail.

Charles Carter III, plantation administrator and 11th-generation heir to Shirley, has for years been involved in the ecological reclamation of the historic farm- and wet-lands of the 780-acre plantation. The walking tour pilot program is an outgrowth of his dedication to this effort. Dr. Lee Daniels, Virginia Tech Professor, Department of Crop and Soil Environmental Sciences, has designed the one and one-half-hour tour.

Shirley visitors, always welcome to visit the plantation "Great House," are now advised to include comfortable walking shoes in their attire in order to take the nature trail walk. Guests are asked to be at Shirley by 2:30 p.m. Guided walking tours will begin at 3:30 p.m. on the banks of the James River, the background setting of Shirley's Great House.

Guests will be introduced to the 1960s sand and gravel mining area west of the river, where reclamation of the land has taken the form of the polo field where the Colonial Polo Cup is held each October.

Visitors will see farmland with flourishing corn crops where soil is made up of dredge materials hauled all the way from the Potomac. An active restoration program will be demonstrated in formerly barren marsh and wetlands areas, now a hospitable home for wildlife where turtles and waterfowl such as herons and geese may be seen. Shirley now provides home to many varieties of birds.

Guides will lead the tours, and answer such questions as What is an easement, and how will it relate to Shirley Plantation's future history? Where may eagles with six-foot wingspreads be found? What is a "sand spit" area?

For more answers to these and other questions, take a "nature walk" at Shirley. For more information about this new addition to the Shirley Plantation historic guided tour, call 1-800-232-1613, or e-mail Director Janet Appel.

Shirley Plantation is on Route 5, 10 miles east of I-295 at Richmond (Exit 22A) and 35 miles west of Williamsburg. Open year round from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. seven days a week, regular admission to Shirley Plantation is $10.50 for adults and $7 for youth (6 to 18).

Travel maps now available for Capt. John Smith's Trail

The Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) and Virginia Tourism Corporation (VTC) recently unveiled travel maps for Capt. John Smith's Trail, a boat and auto tour along the James River.

Developed to complement Jamestown 2007—America's 400th Anniversary, the route includes 40 parks, historic sites and museums between Richmond and Newport News.

The trail is divided into three loops—dubbed Oxbow, Cypress and Oyster–each of which can be toured in a day by boaters and motorists alike. In addition to a compelling narrative that tells the story of John Smith and the Jamestown settlement, the map provides travelers with information on the amenities available at each site and the location of boating ramps, and piers.

"Capt. John Smith's Trail is a great way for boaters and motorists to discover the beauty of Virginia that inspired John Smith," said DCR director Joseph Maroon. "Along the way they will see verdant marshes and towering forests, and they will learn about the native Algonquins who first canoed the James River. This is also the first segment of what we hope will become a national water trail."

Maps of the trail are available at sites along the route and from Virginia Welcome Centers and regional visitor centers. Individuals can also order maps at www.JohnSmithTrail.org.

"Whether you explore the trail from a car or a kayak, you'll discover unspoiled river views, eagles, heron, osprey and a variety of other wildlife," said VTC president Alisa Bailey. You can also experience a diversity of interpretive experiences from the archaeology at Historic Jamestown and the re-created ships at Jamestown Settlement, to 17th-century plantations and a variety of related museums."

In addition to the map, www.johnsmithtrail.org provides links to attractions, restaurants, tours, lodging, and other visitor amenities along the trail.

"The trail is the perfect backdrop for a vacation getaway and each season offers a new perspective. You'll discover hidden treasures tucked away throughout the trail including state park lodging, unique Bed and Breakfasts, restaurants and small town mainstreets," Bailey said.

Lunch to benefit WalkAmerica

The Lower Northern Neck's WalkAmerica committee invites folks to take advantage of a great take-out lunch at Willaby's Restaurant on Wednesday or Thursday, September 13 and 14. Willaby's will generously donate a portion of their proceeds for take-out food to the local March of Dimes' WalkAmerica campaign. For take-out only service, see the menu at www.willaby's.com, or call 435-3669.

The March of Dimes' mission is to improve the health of babies by preventing birth defects and infant mortality, while the current focus is on prematurity—the leading cause of newborn deaths in the country. In Virginia and the Northern Neck, the March of Dimes is saving babies with research, community services, education and advocacy.

Please remember that premature babies need hope, love and the community. Local events include Lunch at Willaby's, raffles, and bake sales and will culminate with WalkAmerica in Kilmarnock October 1. Opportunities to sponsor "spirit stations" and mile markers for the walk are still available.

For more information, call Susan Pittman at 435-4146.

Central Virginia MS Walk is September 30

The Central Virginia Chapter of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society will have an MS Walk September 30 at 10 a.m. at the Tappahannock Memorial United Methodist Church to raise money.

"We are looking for walkers to participate as well as recruit other walkers to form teams with their friends and families, from their workplace, schools, clubs and organizations," said program coordinator Jarrod Butcher. "We are also looking for individuals to help volunteer for the walk and help pass out brochures to local shops."

To participate as a walker or a volunteer, call Butcher at 333-5008 ext. 10.

Sports Shorts

Football contest results

John Flynn of Atlantic Beach, Fl., had a perfect score to take first place in the initial Rappahannock Record Football Contest of the season.

Nine contestants missed just one game but Buddy Ratcliffe was nearest on the tiebreaker guess to take second place. He was among only three of the nine who picked Florida State over Miami. He predicted 24 points would be scored. Florida State won, 13-10.

Flynn wins $25 and Ratcliffe wins $15. Contestants who do not place in the contest during the season are eligible to win $50 in a season-ending drawing.

Two high school games postponed because of last week's storms were not considered in the judging.

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Entries must be delivered to the Rappahannock Record office before 5 p.m. each Friday, or mailed to the Rappahannock Record Football Contest, P.O. Box 400, Kilmarnock, Va. 22482, with a postmark no later than Friday or enter online at www.rrecord.com (same deadline).

Persons picking the most correct winners will win $25 and the runner-up will win $15. In case of a tie, the first tiebreaker game will decide the winner. If there is still a tie, the second tiebreaker game will decide the winner.

OFFICIAL ENTRY BLANK

Deliver to Rappahannock Record by 5 p.m. Friday, Sept. 8, 2006

WINNER

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2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____
11. _____
12. _____

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▼ *Ernesto . . . .*

(continued from page A1)

75 mph for about 10 hours on Sunday, August 27, before weakening to tropical storm force with winds of 60 mph. Warnings were posted for the Florida Keys and the Florida panhandle for last Tuesday and Wednesday.

The storm tracked up the coast and by the time the system hit Virginia last Friday at 11 a.m., the National Hurricane Center had downgraded it to a tropical depression.

What forecasters didn't expect, however, was a high pressure system from the north, which gave Ernesto more strength and staying power as it tracked along the east coast of Virginia.

"There was a really strong area of high pressure in New England, which held tight as Ernesto approached. That was the part we didn't anticipate," said Bill Sammler, warning coordination meteorologist at the National Weather Service in Wakefield.

Most residents along the Chesapeake Bay had prepared for a day or two of soaking rain with anticipated rainfalls of five to six inches. Almost no one expected the devastating winds and tides that accompanied Ernesto.

Even as late as Thursday night and early Friday morning, forecasters were downplaying the storm.

"The best forecasts we got, six to seven hours before the worst occurred, weren't forecasting the winds," said Sammler. "We were still forecasting gale-force winds of about 35 miles per hour."

Instead, eastern Virginia experienced hurricane-force winds.

According to the National Weather Service, maximum wind gusts at Lewisetta were 63 mph. At Rappahannock Light east of Windmill Point, wind gusts reached 67 mph. And at the York River Range Light, gusts reached 76 mph.

"The thing that really caused all the problems were the winds from Yorktown and northward to the Northern Neck," said Sammler. "We weren't anticipating any wind gusts above 50 or 55 miles per hour and we got gusts of 60 and above for several hours.

"Waves really impacted everyone facing east to northeast on the bay," he added.

According to Stammler, the average tidal surge in the Northern Neck was three to four feet, about six inches less than the tide height during Hurricane Isabel. Many across the area don't agree and say the tide was higher.

Many also don't agree with the rainfall statistics. According to the National Weather Service, 4.5 inches of rain fell in Tappahannock and 4.2 inches fell in Reedville.

In Weems and on Gwynn's Island in Mathews County the official recorded rainfall was 8 inches. Some residents in the area reported rain gauge readings from 12 to 15 inches.

"No matter what the forecast, I think it's always a good idea for everyone to be prepared for the worst," said Stammler.

In Lancaster County

Emergency services personnel opened a shelter at Lancaster Middle School around 2 p.m. Friday and called for the voluntary evacuation of low-lying areas of the county, including Windmill Point and Morattico.

A total of 60 folks came to the shelter, and 17 spent the night. All left Saturday morning, said Lancaster County's emergency services coordinator Bill Pennell.

Also around 2 p.m. Friday, the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) closed Windmill Point Road, Towles Point Road and Morattico Road due to high water. The highways remained closed for nearly 24 hours.

According to VDOT superintendent Robert Harper, over 50 percent of the county's secondary roads were closed at various times and all five of the primary roads, including Routes 3, 200, 201, 354 and 222, were temporarily closed several times each over a 24-hour period.

Lancaster's VDOT headquarters had all 13 employees plus two independent contractors and the local volunteer fire departments on call.

"My thanks really go out to them for all the help," said Harper.

Pennell said he had heard from some that the tidal surge exceeded Isabel, and from others "that it didn't quite reach Isabel's surge."

"It was probably a little worse" than Isabel as far as flooding, according to Lancaster County Sheriff Ronnie Crockett.

He said Ocran and Foxwells near Windmill Point experienced flooding.

Sheriff Crockett said 325 calls came into the 911 center during the 24-hour period from 10 a.m. Friday morning through Saturday morning. About 300 of those calls were storm-related.

The old oyster house and its surrounding buildings were flooded as tides from the Rappahannock River and Carters Creek rose up the banks at the end of Weems Road Friday evening. (Photo by Lisa Hinton-Valdrighi)

In Northumberland County

An emergency shelter opened at the Callao fire house Friday and "a couple of people stayed Friday night," said assistant county administrator Luttrell Tadlock. The shelter fed folks Saturday and Sunday, but had no overnight guests.

Three roads in Lewisetta were completely closed from midday Friday to Sunday because of sand, debris and high water, while another 50 percent of the county's secondary roads were temporarily closed at some point because of downed trees and power lines.

According to VDOT superintendent Billy Rice, a full 18-man crew plus two independent contractors spent the weekend clearing debris and downed trees from area roadways.

For three to four hours Saturday, Route 360 in Heathsville was blocked. Route 201, one of four primary roads through Northumberland, was also temporarily closed several times during the storm. Routes 200 and 202 were never closed.

Capt. Wilkins said volunteers from the fire department, other helpers and deputies rescued residents from waist-deep water.

He said they started evacuating folks about 6:30 a.m. Saturday morning, including a woman who had eight inches of water in the house, still had electricity, and was using the coffee pot. He said before they could get her out, the water rose still higher.

And water wasn't the only intruder, according to Capt. Wilkins, who said some folks had two feet of water and "several had that much sand" in their houses.

Several houses have been condemned in the Lewisetta area and one trailer house was completely destroyed.

Falling trees presented yet another danger to people, cars, and homes.

Capt. Wilkins felt the tide was just as high as with Isabel, with more sustained winds.

According Tadlock, local watermen said they thought the winds reached 70 miles per hour. "A lot of reports said it was as bad, if not worse, than during Isabel," he said.

Tadlock said Northumberland County submitted a total of $33 million in damages to boats, piers, houses, businesses and crops, compared to the $28 million in damages done by Isabel.

Capt. Wilkins noted that many hadn't moved their boats or jet skis since the storm wasn't expected to hit the area so hard.

An uprooted tree adjacent to a cove of Tabbs Creek damages the art studio of Agnes and Charles Carter off Edgewater Farm Road. (Photo by Audrey Thomasson)

Great Fortune in Kilmarnock, one of the few restaurants to remain open during Friday's storm, served hundreds of dinners to powerless residents of the Northern Neck and Middle Peninsula. Although the wait for food was nearly two hours at one point, customers welcomed a hot meal. (Photo by Lisa Hinton-Valdrighi)

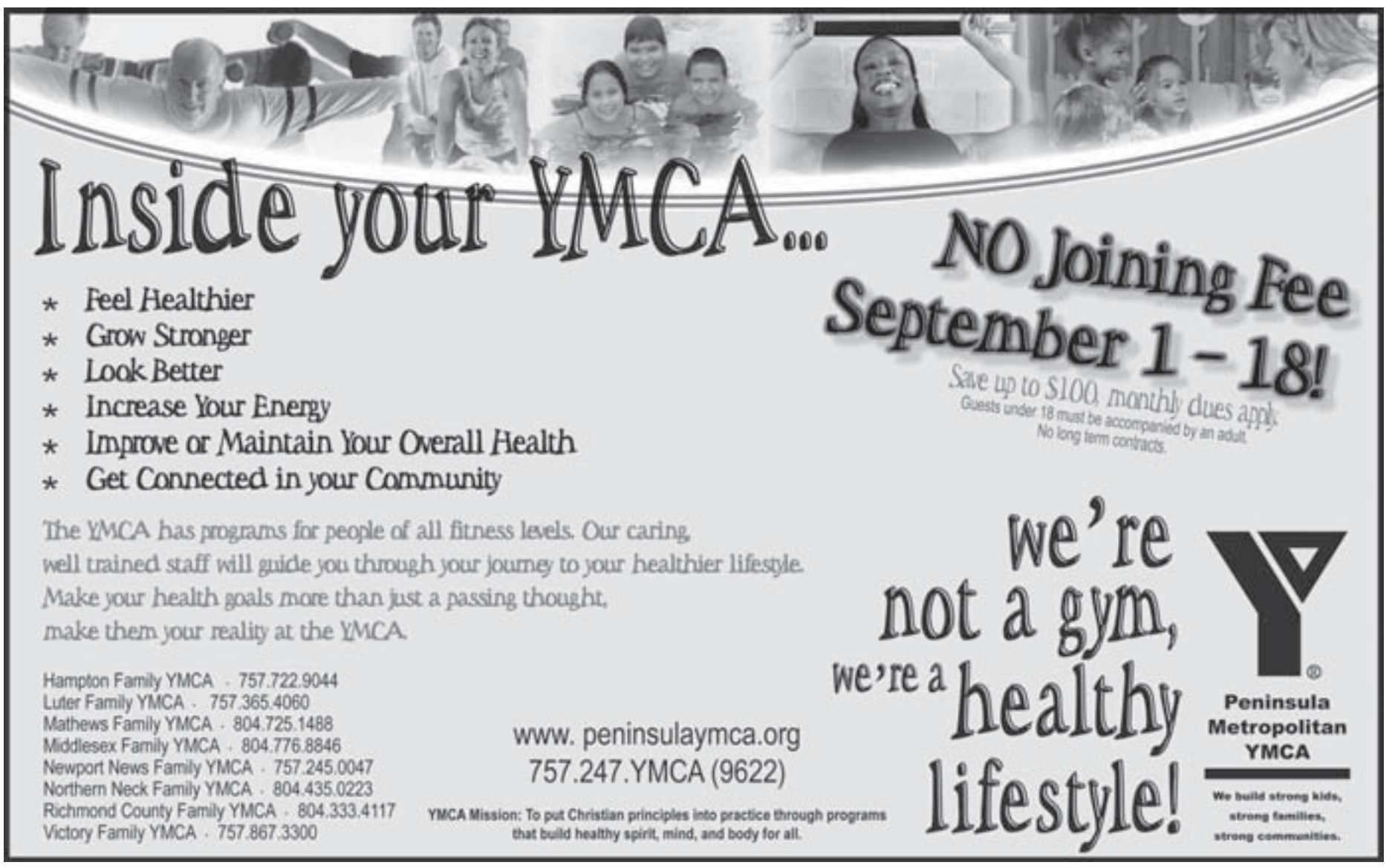
A Red Cross disaster van served hot meals and fresh water to residents of Lewisetta and nearby Northumberland Shores Sunday at 11 a.m. (Photo by Bill Hrybyk)

Fallen trees made navigation treacherous Friday aftrnoon. (Photo by Robert Mason Jr.)

The Chris Mart on the corner of School Street and Irvington Road was the first to open in Lancaster County when power was restored in Kilmarnock around 5 p.m. Friday. Hundreds of motorists and those seeking gas for generators waited for hours. (Photo by Lisa Hinton-Valdrigh)

Jimmy Gordon has lived in the Morattico area his whole life and said this downed tree that just missed his house was the first time he'd ever had any damage. Ernesto claimed several trees in the area. (Photo by Joan McBride)

Ernesto tipped a large tree onto the back of the Webers' house in Corrotoman-by-the-Bay. Three or four streets north of this house, resident Robert Blankenship reported water was flowing about two feet deep over the community dock at the height of Friday's storm. About five or six blocks south of this house, neighbor Warren Ryan noted that the height of the water flowing over his dock was about six inches lower than at the time of Hurricane Katrina's fall visit. (Photo by Joan McBride)



Someone somewhere is having a much harder time

by Lisa Hinton-Valdrighi

BERTRAND — Wendy Bailey threw her laptop computer, a few books and some other essentials into a suitcase, held it above her head and trudged through waist-high water to safety last Friday as tropical depression Ernesto battered her waterfront cottage in Lancaster County.

By the time Bailey decided to evacuate for higher ground, over three and a half feet of water from Whitehouse Creek had gushed into her home.

"The wind was awful at that point and I thought, 'This is not what we were told,' " said Bailey, who was caught off-guard by Ernesto's intensity.

Around 1 p.m., the high tide started coming into the back porch of her rental cottage.

"I called a neighbor who said it won't get much higher because the weather service said this is going west of Richmond and it should end about two or three o'clock," said Bailey.

Not feeling well, Bailey piled a few valuables from the porch on top the kitchen table and went back to her room to lie down. She fell asleep and woke to the sound of gurgling in her toilet and sink.

"I thought, this can't be good," she said.

By then, water had come fully into her house.

Bailey ran to a nearby cottage, where her neighbor had duct-taped his door and so far successfully kept the creek waters at bay. When Bailey broke through the barrier, water poured into his house.

"At this point, the water was moving so fast that it was over our tall [Wellington] boots," she said. "We ran next door and got our landlord and her dog. I think she realized her life was at risk at this point."

Bailey's Pontiac Vibe had creek water up to its door. Her neighbor's truck was also deep in water.

"So we waded," she said.

The three, including her elderly landlord, walked about a quarter of a mile in driving rain and wind towards River Road, where Tom Stevens was driving. Stevens, the owner of Capt. Tom's Seafood, had been down to his crabhouse to check his boats and dock. The dock, which had just been rebuilt because of Hurricane Isabel, was completely destroyed.

Although Bailey didn't know Stevens, she jumped into his truck anyway. At that point, "I would go anywhere with a stranger just to get to dry land!" she said.

"People here are tremendously supportive of one another," said Bailey, who moved to the Northern Neck from Williamsburg in August 2005.

Although almost all of her furniture was damaged, her clothes ruined, her car totaled and some treasured family photos destroyed, she considers herself lucky.

"I was feeling sorry for myself," said Bailey, "but then realized that there are people here that are having a much harder time. For something that was just supposed to be a nuisance, [this storm] was much worse."

The Markow family of Lottsburg picks up the pieces after the storm. Their dock, along with many in the area, was destroyed by the tidal surge associated with Ernesto. (Photo by Reid Pierce Armstrong)

Usually, there's no water in sight of Foxwells on Windmill Point Road, unless you know where to look. Mike and Marty Lyman observed this view from their house next door, reportedly eight feet above sea level. Since they had about a foot of water on their lawn, they estimated the surge there to be about nine feet. (Photo by Mike Lyman)

William Small had just purchased a new sailboat (right) which was anchored on Glebe Creek when tropical depression Ernesto tore through the area with unexpected winds and tidal surges. The force of the storm tore Poseidon from its mooring sending it crashing into the Smalls' old boat, which was for sale. The two vessels ended up wedged between a boathouse and the shore. Lottsburg Crane untangled the mess in the aftermath of the storm. (Photo by Reid Pierce Armstrong)

Ernesto toppled a large cedar at Enon Hall in White Stone, demolishing a wall of the Hathaway family graveyard there. (Photo by Bill Chapman)

Nearly every dock in Northumberland Shores was destroyed during tropical depression Ernesto. The ruins washed up on the banks Saturday. (Photo by Bill Hrybyk)

Tips offered to prevent injury and illness after the storm

RICHMOND–The Virginia Department of Health reminds residents impacted by the remnants of Ernesto to take measures to stay healthy after the storm.

"As the waters recede, people in the areas affected by heavy rains and flooding will continue to face a number of health hazards associated with cleanup activities," said State Health Commissioner Robert B. Stroube, M.D.,M.P.H.

Practicing good hygiene, such as washing hands, is key to staying healthy in any situation. Floodwaters resulting from the severe weather may harbor disease-causing bacteria and viruses. To help prevent illness, be sure to wash hands often, especially during cleanup efforts. If tap water source has been contaminated in any way, use disposable cleaning cloths or hand sanitizer to keep hands clean. Until water supply is tested and deemed safe, use only bottled, boiled or treated water to drink, wash hands, rinse dishes, brush teeth, wash and prepare food or make ice.

If power is lost, take careful precautions to ensure food safety. To avoid food poisoning, discard any food that has been at room temperature for two hours or more, and any food that has an unusual odor, color or texture. Just remember, "When in doubt, throw it out!"

Use caution when using gas-powered appliances and charcoal or gas grills for power and cooking. Improper use of this equipment can lead to serious carbon monoxide poisoning cases and fatalities. Carbon monoxide is an invisible, odorless, tasteless gas and is highly poisonous. Do not burn charcoal or gas grills inside a house, garage, vehicle, tent or fireplace. Never use a generator indoors, including in homes, garages, basements, crawl spaces and other enclosed or partially enclosed areas, even with ventilation. Opening doors and windows or using fans will not prevent carbon monoxide build-up in the home.

Never enter flooded areas or touch electrical equipment if the ground is wet, unless certain the power is off. Never touch a downed power line. If clearing or other work must be performed near a downed power line, contact your utility company. Use extreme caution when moving ladders and other equipment near overhead power lines.

More information about how to protect the health of yourself and your family before, during and after a storm can be found at www.vdh.virginia.gov/weather, or www.vaemergency.com.

Broken power lines and poles fell into the road at Lewisetta.

Northern Neck Electric responds with 20 crews

Tropical depression Ernesto's high winds downed trees on power lines last Friday, causing outages for approximately 65 percent of Northern Neck Electric Cooperative's (NNEC) system.

Twenty line crews rolled out Saturday morning before 6 a.m. to restore electricity for the 11,500 NNEC members without power.

Line crews from Shenandoah Valley Electric Cooperative, Powell Valley Electric Cooperative, Central Virginia Electric Cooperative and numerous contractors assisted NNEC crews.

"The most damage to [our] system was along the Potomac River with broken poles and trees over the lines," said Jim Moss, vice president of operations. "Restoring electric service to our members after Ernesto has truly been a team effort. Our line crews, office personnel and contractors have worked diligently to restore power to our members as quickly as possible."

Most of NNEC's customers in lower Northumberland and upper Lancaster counties had power restored by Saturday evening. As of Tuesday, NNEC still had 22 scattered outages.

Northern Neck Electric, a member-owned cooperative, provides service to 17,800 members in Lancaster, Northumberland, Richmond, Westmoreland, King George and Stafford counties.

From left, Northern Neck Electric Cooperative linemen Will Schools and James Kelly search for broken power lines in tall briars.

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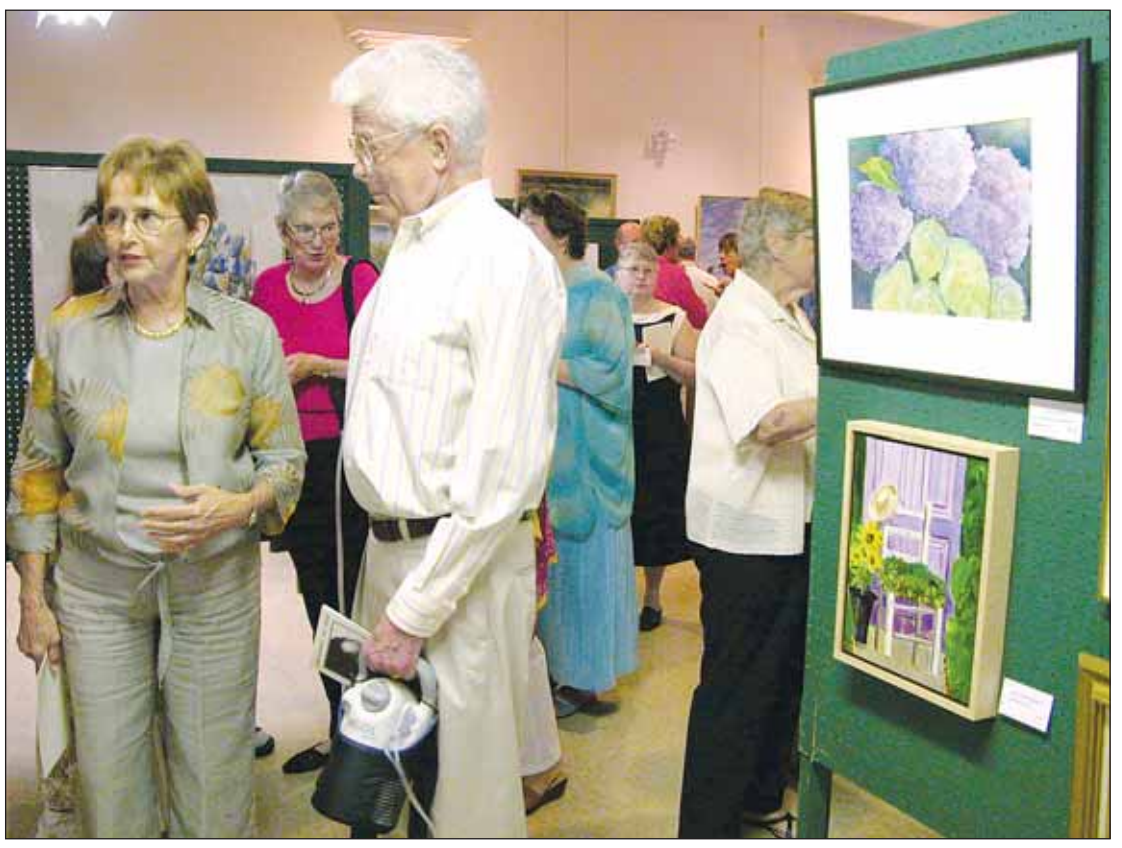

Ernesto dampens show

Ernesto dampened the turnout and sales at Rappahannock Art League's 45th annual Labor Day Exhibit. The show was off to a great start on Wednesday evening as crowds gathered to admire the artwork (above). But after the tropical storm knocked out power across the area, show attendance was off 66 percent and sales were down from last year's $13,000 to a low of $2,000, according to exhibition chairman Don Kennedy.

The Viewer's Choice Award winner was "Grog Island," an acrylic by Jane Stouffer (right). All of the winners will be on view at the Studio Gallery at 19 North Main Street in Kilmarnock through September.

Correction

In the article, "School and county officials respond to lingering issues" in the August 31 Rappahannock Record, it was implied that county administrator William H. Pennell Jr. had misused the term "personal services," when in fact he was using the budgetary term correctly as it applies to salaries, wages and overtime. Our apologies to Mr. Pennell. We stand corrected.

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Published September

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