

Rappahannock Record

Thursday, June 3, 2004 • Kilmarnock, Virginia • Eighty-seventh Year • Number 34 • Three Sections • 50¢

Memorial Day observed: *'When their duty demanded it, uncommon valor became a common virtue'*

by Reid Pierce Armstrong

Memorial Day services last Friday at Christ Church and Monday at Bethel United Methodist Church held a poignant note in light of ongoing conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The Northern Neck Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America and American Legion Adams Post 86 organized a traditional service at Christ Church. The Bethel-Emmanuel United Methodist Men organized the Bethel observance.

Lawrence Virgil Henderson and Brig. Gen. William C. Louisell USA (Ret.) laid the wreath at the Christ Church ceremony Friday. Rev. Bryan McClain laid the wreath at Bethel.

Parishioner Bob Smart said Rev. McClain was the perfect person to be honored with the traditional task because he had chosen to serve both God and his country. The Bethel-Emmanuel charge pastor has been accepted for commission into the U.S. Air Force as a chaplain. He will be departing the area at the end of June.

At Christ Church, an ensemble from Lancaster High School played patriotic music in the churchyard. At Bethel, the Methodist Men's Choir performed "America the Beautiful" and Robbie Spiers trumpeted "Call the Colors" and "Taps."

Post 86 presented the colors at both events.

Vice Adm. William H. Rowden, USN (Ret.) delivered an inspiring message at both church ceremonies.

Following is a portion of his speech.

"When pondering the sacrifice of our armed forces, citations of Medals of Honor bestowed on the



Members of an American Legion Adams Post 86 Color Guard bow their heads for the Christ Church Memorial Day service invocation. From left are World War II veteran Elmo Jackson of White Stone, Vietnam veteran William L. Elswick of Weems and Korean War veteran Alton "Soccer" Perciful of Reedville.

bravest of the bravest for actions 'above and beyond the call of duty' are among the most powerful reminders of the breadth and depth of that sacrifice...

"It is said, during the bloody campaign for Iwo Jima during

World War II, that uncommon valor was a common virtue and President Roosevelt asked, perhaps rhetorically, 'Where do we find such men?' It is clear to me that future presidents will be

(continued on page A8)



Christ Church filled with the echoing sad sounds of bag pipes during the Memorial Day service Friday. Retired Army Col. James R. Stuart played "When the Battle's Over."

Tornado hits Irvington marinas; eight ride it out

by Lisa Hinton-Valdrighi

IRVINGTON—A tornado that started as a water spout hit land in Irvington around midnight last Tuesday, creating havoc at two marinas and an estimated \$1.5 million in damages to one.

Andy Wylie was standing on the deck of his boat, the Bonnie Gray, just after 11:30 p.m. when he saw the waterspout form in the mouth of Carters Creek and move inland towards the Tides Inn. It stopped directly across from Irvington Marina and headed for the Bonnie Gray.

"He was just standing there staring and I was saying what's wrong, what is it?" said Wylie's girlfriend, Juli Feddersen. "But he didn't say a thing. He just kept staring. That's when I knew what was coming."

Wylie said, "I grabbed a hold of my girlfriend and dragged her into the cabin," to ride out the storm.

"It picked us up and threw us up on the dock and then picked the boat up again and tossed us back into the water," said Wylie, who operates Irvington Marina along with his father, Andrew S.

Wylie Sr.

Wylie and Feddersen were among eight people on boats when the boathouse sheltering them collapsed.

Three people living on their boats were displaced, according to Lancaster County Emergency Services director Scott Hudson.

"The Red Cross was contacted," said Hudson, who responded to the emergency call at around 12:50 a.m. Wednesday morning. "They were temporarily housed at the Holiday Inn in Kilmarnock."

According to Hudson, the tornado did minimal damage inland, mainly felling trees and scattering branches along Rappahannock Drive. It dissipated after moving about a half-mile inland. One home was damaged by a fallen tree.

Although radio and television stations reported winds at 112-miles per hour, the twister was classified as an F1 by the National Weather Service in Wakefield.

Tornados are classified on the Fujita Scale from F1 to F5, with F1 being the weakest. According



County officials and members of the National Weather Service survey damage to a boathouse at Irvington Marina. Twelve boats, including the Faded Glory (above), were housed under the facility when it collapsed.

to Tony Siebers, manager in charge at the weather station, the twister that hit Irvington had sustained winds of 80- to 90-miles per hour.

"It's a conflict in reports out there," said Hudson, "but Tony Siebers surveyed the damage and talked to eyewitnesses and made the classification.

"They're usually hesitant to call anything a tornado," Hudson said. "But when there is a funnel cloud associated with it, they have no choice."

Witnesses saw a definite funnel cloud moving down Carters Creek and when the waterspout made landfall, it was then classified as a tornado.

Hail, which typically precedes a tornado, pelted Weems, White Stone and Irvington during the late-night storm. Hudson said hail was reported from half-dollar to ping-pong ball size, depending on the area where it fell.

Hail poked holes in the radiator of a travel lift at Rappahannock Yachts, where the winds also knocked two boats in dry storage off their blocks.

It picked up a 34-foot-long sailboat and turned it 90-degrees and dropped it 10-feet away from its blocks, according to Rappahannock Yachts owner Bruce Sanders.

"I've been doing this for 32 years," said Sanders, "and I've never had a boat blow over on shore, even during the hurricane."

Sanders lost his travel lift and a temporary shed and estimates that the two boats blown off their blocks were completely

(continued on page A10)

Lancaster fields budget requests; sets public hearing June 15

by Robb Hoff

LANCASTER—The board of supervisors last Tuesday entertained departmental budget requests that would require \$103,536 more in spending than the \$22.5 million anticipated in revenues for 2004-05.

The revenue estimate includes \$7 million in real estate tax receipts based on a tax rate of 39 cents per \$100 of assessed value.

That tax rate has not yet been adopted, however.

The board set another budget work session for Wednesday, June 2, at 5 p.m. in the county administration office. A public hearing on the budget is set for June 15 at 7 p.m.

Supervisors previously adopted a \$12.9-million school operating budget with \$8.2 million in county funding.

Sheriff's office

Among the budget requests received last week, Sheriff Ronnie Crockett sought additional county funding of \$43,000 for vehicles, \$17,600 in supplemental pay that would raise a starting deputy's salary to \$23,854, and additional \$1,500 salary supplements for police radio dispatchers.

Including enforcement, corrections, dispatchers and a school

resource officer, the overall sheriff's budget proposal is \$1.7 million, including \$575,962 in local funds. Compared to the current year's budget, the overall increase would be \$127,810, which includes a 4.8-percent raise in deputy pay through state funding.

However, the county budget under consideration by the board does not include funds for two

additional deputies to replace two veteran officers who would be assigned entirely to drug enforcement.

"The drug crimes are the most serious we have and that's what I'm trying to reduce," said Crockett, who estimated that 75 percent of crimes in the county are drug-related.

The sheriff also noted that of 35 arrests made for drug dealing in

the past 30 months in the county, 26 have resulted in federal court proceedings, where defendants have received prison sentences ranging from 10 years to life.

"The quantity and type of drugs that we have is getting quite serious," said Sheriff Crockett.

Other offices

The offices of the commissioner of the revenue, treasurer,

(continued on page A14)

Inside

Family Fun Fest:

Belle Isle State Park will host fun events for all ages Saturday A3

Growing White Stone:

Town will discuss boundary adjustment procedures tonight B1

Business B5-6
Calendar A2-3
Churches B2-4
Classified C1-10



Memorial Day re-enlistment: B1

Directory C8-9
Obituaries B3
Opinion A4-5
Police report B1

Utility tax may be imposed in Northumberland

by Reid Pierce Armstrong

HEATHSVILLE—Northumberland County will decide next week whether to levy a utility tax on telephone, cell phone and electric services in the county.

The tax could raise as much as \$400,000 a year for the county coffers, said county administrator Kenneth D. Eades.

Appearing on monthly utility bills, the levy of 20 percent on the first \$15 of each phone and electric bill and 10 percent on the first \$30 of each cell phone bill would cost the average citizen \$3

per month per bill.

A family with all three utilities would pay approximately \$108 in new taxes annually if the measure is approved.

The public is urged to comment on the proposed tax during a public hearing at 7:15 p.m. on Thursday, June 10, at the courts building in Heathsville.

"I don't want people thinking it's a done deal. It's not," Eades said, noting that there is a range of utility taxes that could be imposed.

County officials have indicated

that more people would share the burden of county expenses through the utility tax than through real estate or personal property tax increases.

"The board is trying to plan for the future," Eades said. "There are a number of capital expenditures coming down the road. This is the pay-as-you-go method rather than spend it all at once."

Some 85 counties in Virginia already have a utility tax. Northumberland and Lancaster are the only counties in the eastern region of the state where the tax

has not yet been adopted.

The board will consider a proposed \$25 million county budget after the utility tax hearing.

Among other agenda items, a survey team will report on a school facility needs study which has been ongoing for the past six months. The presentation will address structural and maintenance problems discovered at the middle school and the high school.

The study team also will discuss possible solutions and related cost estimates.