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### No Photo **Three towering trees removed as hurricane season begins**

By VANESSA FRANKO, Staff Writer

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A hunk of wood from a white ash tree crashed to the brick walk around the State House, bouncing with a loud thud.

The thick 3-foot-long branch was one of the many casualties as workers from The Care of Trees in Crofton started to remove three trees on the State House grounds yesterday.

Last July, an ash, a linden and a tulip poplar were found to have damage after Tree Radar, Inc. used technology akin to a MRI to assess the trees.

The Department of General Services decided to remove the offending organisms to prevent perilous situations as the hurricane season begins.

The removal of the trees changed the face of one of Maryland's most recognizable historic areas.

Mimi Calver, director of artistic property and public outreach for the Maryland State Archives, said it was unknown exactly when the trees were planted at the State House but tree experts said two of the three could be up to 150 years old.

They may not have been there when the Treaty of Paris was ratified, but the trees have seen their share of history, which came crashing down starting at 6 a.m. yesterday.

That's when seven workers from The Care of Trees started removing the linden tree, which towered at 80 feet, from the middle of the State House lawn.

By 3 p.m., all that was left of the 100- to 150-year-old tree that had been hit by lightning, was a stump about a foot high.

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"It looked beautiful this morning," said Evelyn Scudder of Bordentown, N.J., who has been visiting since Saturday.

"The linden looked healthy," said Michael F. Galvin, supervisor of Urban & Community Forestry for the Maryland Department of Natural Resources. "That's really the worst kind of situation."

The damage caused the tree to be hollowed out through most of its interior.

"I was very leery of it. This tree survived 100 years. It is an important part of our State House," said Thomas V. Mike Miller Jr., senate president.

Huge chunks of the trunk were stacked along the far wall of the lawn.

A buzzing of a chain saw and flecks of sawdust filled the air as a worker sliced apart the multi-ton white ash tree yesterday afternoon. A pulley system was set up to lower each piece without the wood crashing into the oldest public building in Maryland, the Old Treasury Building.

David DiPietro, an arborist with The Care of Trees, estimated the ash tree to be about 100 to 150 years old and standing about 85 feet tall.

"The ash is the toughest tree," he said.

Workers weren't able to climb it because of its damage. They had to use the bucket truck to get high enough to dismantle it.

Mr. DiPietro said that State Circle, from East Street to Maryland Avenue, would be closed to traffic tomorrow while crews remove the tulip poplar, which he estimated to be 75 feet tall and 60 years old.

Mr. Humphrey said it will cost \$9,300 to remove the trees.

The state archivist will decide what trees will be planted to replace the damaged ones.

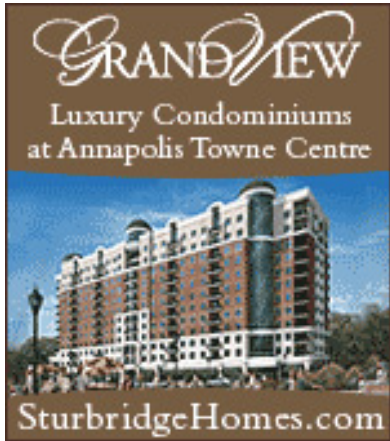
"He most likely will choose trees that fit into the environment," Mr. Humphrey said.

Ms. Calver said that the replacements for the trees have not yet been discussed but indicated that the Maryland Department of Natural Resources and arborists would also play a role in the decision.

- No Jumps-

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