having a plan in place before

"Today is the day to have

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Islands had four shelters set up and were housing about 57 people, but the numbers were rapidly dwindling as conditions improved.

'Overall, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands faired very well," Hernandez said. "There is a lot of fallen debris, and that is one of the priorities.

Emergency and weather officials expect that by late Friday and Saturday the storm would be affecting New England and Canada. According to Read, the east coast of the United States should see dangerous ocean swells and surf, rip currents and beach erosion.

Read said in addition to high waves, circulation will grow (wind) and coastal areas could expect a certain amount of tree damage, which leads to power outages. Fugate said the most accurate information about how

your local community will be impacted will come from the National Weather Service.

"We are not forecasting a landfall," Fugate said, "but do expect impact. we Evacuations may be required if the storm does not make the turn as forecasted and tracts toward the west."

Fugate said FEMA support efforts by states and local government. He said there was already a team in North Carolina and there were teams designated for each state, including New Jersey. He said regional representatives were working close with state officials.

"The most important message is to keep people aware of storm," Fugate said. "Make sure they take steps to plan for storm."

Fugate said people should do all the planning before the storm, and the first step should be a good family disaster plan. He said people can still plan recreation over the holiday weekend, but they should prepare for an emergency first.

"If the weekend is good, great. If not, know what to do," he said. Fugate said people should

be prepared to move early in the process. "Don't wait for the storm to

hit," he said. Fugate said FEMA is not

waiting to be asked to go in and is moving personnel from west coast to east to have enough people.

Lisa Stark from ABC News asked Fugate where FEMA had sent advance teams. Fugate said they had teams in Pureto Rico and the Virgin Islands, and they were working with the governors in east coast states from the Carolinas to Maine. He said FEMA wanted to have their teams in place and ready to go in based on when states activated emergency plans.

Fugate said if the storm track moves west states

would not be able to wait and such a move could prompt an evacuation.

Mike Baker from the Associated Press asked how close the storm would have to come to the coast before it was too close to make a decision to evacuate.

Fugate said the decision to evacuate is made by local government. Read said it's based on what they call "clearance time." He said they calculate how long it will take for the storm to arrive and backtrack, figuring how long they estimate it would take to evacuate.

"The longer the clearance time more uncertainty there is. It will be looked at through the day," he said. Read said the reason for

evacuating is not from the wind. He said the primary factor is the storm surge. He said they use the arrival of tropical winds as a benchmark for evacuation. He said communities would want to

have evacuation complete or nearly complete before the tropical force winds arrive.

Asked about the Hurricane Center's confidence in Hurricane Earl turning northwest as forecasted, Read said the chances were 'average.^{*}

"There are already compli-cating factors. Initially the challenge is knowing how soon is Earl going to start moving northeast – it's now moving west-northwest. The problem with running parallel to the coast is even small errors - 100 miles in either directors – could have huge impact," Read said.

Earl was supposed to pass 300 miles from Puerto Rico and ended up passing about 100 miles away.

By late Wednesday the Hurricane Centers was anticipating large waves in the Carolinas, and by Friday it would be the same father north along the coast.

Fugate again emphasized

your plan completed. Again, we're mainly concerned about storm surge. So have a

the storm

family disaster plan, have supplies, if evacuation orders are issued you know what to do. As we come up on holiday weekend build some flexibili-ty into plans. It's too early to rule out anything other than Earl is a very large storm, a very powerful storm," Fugate said.

For information about preparing for evacuation orders go to www.ready.gov, or www.fema.gov, or on your mobile device or phone at

m.fema.gov. "If it was my family I'd want to know what to do know and make the decision later," Fugate said.

Hall -

this structure.

Continued from page A1

and how or why the architect

thought it would not work for

The project team did not

meet on Sept. 1, and plans to

have its next meeting on

Sept. 8 beginning at 2 p.m.

instead of 9 a.m. MacLeod said part of the reason is

Steve Markley of Hunter

Roberts Engineering, who

was planning to give some

project costs, can't make it to

the meeting until 4 p.m.

Plans -

Continued from page A1

or Braciole. Some people use chicken, but I don t go for that.'

Ranalli said there is always a little competitiveness between family members, even if they are using the same recipe that came from the same line of the family. She said people will overlook the gravy/sauce dispute but there is no agreement among relatives about who makes the best gravy.

Ranalli devotes Chapter 1 to the gravy/sauce argument, and Chapter 2 to the competition between family members. She also includes recipes for marinara and other Italian staples. But the book is primarily about the Italian-American culture,

including a look at interior design.

"The plastic slip-covers, the marble, the glass...the whole 70s look," she said.

Another chapter deals with "Malocchio" (pronounced "ma-loik"), which concerns widely held superstitions in the Italian-American commu-

nity. "It's almost blasphemous very morbid superstitions," Ranalli said. "The evil-eye is something you threaten people with.

Another example is the custom of older women wearing black for months after someone dies. "I poke fun at all of this,"

Ranalli said.

Ranalli, who hosts a radio called Cucina program Chatter on WCBC-AM 1490 (Levittown, Pa.) said she is excited to be part of the West Cape May Tomato Festival, if only to spread the gospel of Italian-American culture.

"I don't think West Cape May has a heavy contingent of Italians," she said. "I've been to all the shore points, and so I thought it would be very much about the Jersey Tomato. I think I should Italian it up a little.'

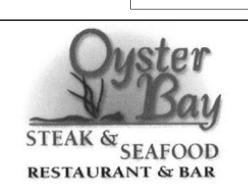
Ranalli said a lot of the southern Italians were farmers, so it's only natural that Italy be represented at the West Cape May Tomato Festival. Ranalli will be at the festival from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. and will be available to sign copies of "Gravy Wars." She will also be the subject of a life interview on the Tomato Festival stage.

to her interviewer. Ranalli is not a stranger to

the area. She has done book signings from Avalon to Cape May, having appeared at the Copper Fish during a cooking demonstration by Cheoff Geoff Johnson.

Gravy Wars features a glossary of commonly used Italian terms, such as "metagon," which is the name given to any non-Italian. The book also puts into print a long tradition of recipes that were never before written down.

The West Cape May Tomato Festival is on Saturday, Sept. 4, in Wilbraham Park from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Vendors will be selling all kinds of tomato related items will line the park. Tomato T-shirts, Tomato pottery, Tomato jew-elry along with tomato tacos, tomato pie and fresh ripe jersey tomatoes will be for sale. There will also be antiques, art, massages, etc. Music by favorite Bluebone. local

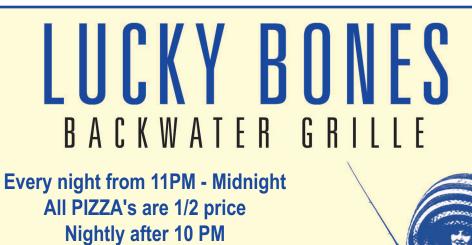


Catch a discussion of Lorraine Ranalli's "Gravy Wars - South Philly Foods, Feuds and Attitudes" with the author, who will also be signing books. Wear your favorite tomato outfit and win a prize! The Jersey Tomato Festival benefits the West Cape May Shade Tree Commission and proceeds are used to maintain Wilbraham Park and the tree canopy of West Cape May. Wilbraham Park is located at the corners of Broadway, West Perry and Sunset Aves. For more information call organizer Diane Flanegan at 609-884-8382.

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