

BELLEFONTAINE EXAMINER

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75 CENTS



COUNTY CHAMPS

BHS boys take top five spots in Kiwanis meet



FORECAST

Today
▲ 75° ▼ 57°



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Ida's sweltering aftermath: No power, no water, no gasoline

Local Red Cross volunteers assist Hurricane Ida victims

BY THE EXAMINER STAFF

While it will be days before officials know the full scope of the damage that Ida left behind in the Gulf Coast, approximately 600 American Red Cross volunteers are already in place assisting those impacted — and more volunteers are on the way.

Sunday night, more than 2,500 people sought refuge in some 60 Red Cross and community shelters across Louisiana, Mississippi and Texas. The number of people seeking shelter is expected to increase in the coming days as power outages continue and people leave homes that are damaged or destroyed by the storm.

The American Red Cross' Central & Southern Ohio Region currently has approximately 13 volunteers in Louisiana. Additional volunteers from our region are preparing to leave for the affected areas.

An Emergency Response Vehicle left the Dayton chapter early Sunday en route to Louisiana. ERVs are typically used for mobile feeding or the distribution of emergency supplies in this type of situation. Another Emergency Response Vehicle will leave from the region midweek.

In addition to the help provided to hurricane victims, local Red Cross volunteers are out West assisting those whose homes have been ravaged by the relentless wildfires. Local volunteers are also in Tennessee helping people recover from the aftermath of that deadly flooding.

Weather experts predict this to be a devastating hurricane season. The Red Cross needs new volunteers to support disaster shelters. Volunteers will help with

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Additional disaster relief volunteers sought

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — Hundreds of thousands of Louisianans sweltered in the aftermath of Hurricane Ida on Tuesday with no electricity, no tap water, precious little gasoline and no clear idea of when things might improve.

Long lines that wrapped around the block formed at the few gas stations that had fuel and generator power to pump it. People cleared rotting food out of refrigerators. Neighbors shared generators and borrowed buckets of swimming pool water to bathe or to flush toilets.

"We have a lot of work ahead of us and no one is under the illusion that this is going to be a short process," Gov. John Bel

Edwards said as the cleanup and rebuilding began across the soggy region in the oppressive late-summer heat.

New Orleans officials announced seven places around the city people could get a meal and sit in air conditioning.

Edwards said that state officials likewise were working to set up places to distribute food, water and ice, but that it wouldn't start Tuesday. The governor's office also said discussions were underway about establishing cooling stations and places where people on oxygen could plug in their machines, but it had no details on when those might be up and running.



In the aftermath of Hurricane Ida, people wait in line for gas Tuesday, Aug. 31, 2021, in New Orleans, La. (AP PHOTO/ERIC GAY)

More than 1 million homes and businesses in Louisiana and Mississippi — including all of New Orleans — were left without power when Ida

slammed the electric grid on Sunday with its 150 mph (240 kph) winds, toppling a major transmission tower and knocking out thousands of miles of lines and

hundreds of substations. An estimated 25,000-plus utility workers labored to restore electricity, but officials said it could take weeks.

With water treatment plants overwhelmed by floodwaters or crippled by power outages, some places are also facing shortages of drinking water.

About 441,000 people in 17 parishes had no water, and an additional 319,000 were under boil-water advisories, federal officials said.

The number of deaths climbed to at least four in Louisiana and Mississippi, including two people killed Monday night when seven vehicles plunged into a 20

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COVID recession pushed Social Security insolvency up a year

BY RICARDO ALONSO-ZALDIVAR AND MARTIN CRUTSINGER
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON (AP) — The sharp shock of the coronavirus recession pushed Social Security a year closer to insolvency but left Medicare's

"The finances of both programs have been significantly affected by the pandemic and the recession of 2020."

exhaustion date unchanged, the government reported Tuesday in a counterintuitive assessment that deepens the uncertainty around the nation's bedrock retirement programs.

The new projections in the annual Social Security and Medicare trustees reports indicate that Social Security's massive trust fund will be unable to pay full benefits in 2034 instead of last year's estimated exhaustion date of 2035. For the first time in 39 years the cost of delivering benefits will exceed the program's total income from payroll tax collections and interest during this year. From here on, Social Security will be tapping its investments to pay full benefits.

The depletion date for Medicare's trust fund for inpatient care remained unchanged from last year, estimated in 2026. In the 1980s, financial



FILE - In this Feb. 11, 2005 file photo, trays of printed social security checks wait to be mailed from the U.S. Treasury's Financial Management services facility in Philadelphia. The financial impact of the coronavirus pandemic on Social Security and Medicare is front and center as the government releases its annual report on the state of the bedrock retirement programs on Tuesday, Aug. 31, 2021. (AP PHOTO/BRADLEY C. BOWER, FILE)

warnings about Social Security prompted then-President Ronald Reagan and lawmakers of both parties in Congress to collaborate on a long-term solvency plan, but such action is unlikely in today's bitter political climate. Democrats who control the White House and Congress offered assurances they would protect both programs.

"The Biden-Harris administration is committed to safeguarding these programs and ensuring they continue to deliver economic security and health care to older Americans," Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen said in a statement.

The latest estimates reflected the push and pull of many factors flowing from the pandemic, and the full impact may take years to sort out. The deep but relatively short recession

slashed revenue from payroll taxes. But the death toll from COVID-19, concentrated among older people, reduced future Social Security benefit payouts. Hospitals were stressed by the influx of COVID patients, but Medicare didn't have to pay for as many knee surgeries, colonoscopies and other more routine procedures. Birth rates and immigration, which tend to bolster the two programs, both fell.

For Social Security, the loss of payroll tax revenue outweighed any savings from what the program would have paid out to people whose lives were lost in the pandemic. The report noted that employment, earnings, interest rates and economic growth plummeted in the second quarter of 2020 after the pandemic hit the United States.

BUSINESS NOTES

CHWP president, CEO selected as Smart 50 honoree

BY THE EXAMINER STAFF

Tara Bair, president and CEO of Community Health & Wellness Partners, has been selected as an honoree in Smart Business Columbus magazine's list of 2021 Columbus Smart 50 leaders.



BAIR

Community Health & Wellness was opened in 2014 by Bair to provide a health care practice that would provide economic-based primary care and other wellness services to serve all patients — insured, uninsured, underinsured and self-pay patients. CHWP implements a patient-centered model of care.

Under Bair's leadership, CHWP has added many services to its primary care practice, including integrated behavioral health, chronic care management, medication assisted treatment, wellness, pharmacy, nutrition and social services support.

The Smart 50 Awards recognize the top executives of the smartest companies in the region for their ability to effectively build and lead savvy organizations, according to Smart Business Columbus magazine, which hosts the awards.

Bair and the other honorees were celebrated with a virtual event July 15. The honorees addressed several questions, such as how they run a "smart" business, how their business innovates and the impact the business has on the Central Ohio community.

"It is such an honor to be recognized alongside so many innovative executives and industry-leading companies in Central Ohio," Bair said in a release. "We are proud to make a difference in our patients' lives and our surrounding community and work to treat the whole person through innovative programs and accessible care."

CHWP has become an innovative health care center by creating programs that push the boundaries on the traditional way that health care is usually delivered. Such innovative programs include:

- A diabetes education program accredited by the American Association of Diabetes Educators that provides diabetes patients with increased access to quality diabetes education services through a team-based approach. In addition to their primary care provider, this program gives patients access to a dietitian, a pharmacist, behavioral health provider and nursing staff — all of whom work at CHWP.
- In 2020, CHWP became one of the first health centers to

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Dunk tank anticipation

Benjamin Logan Elementary School general music teacher Tyler Young awaits a dip in the dunk tank as a student throws a ball toward the target Sunday during the BLES back-to-school Math Carnival. Students were invited to play math games with their families. Teachers helped to facilitate the activities and games, and hot dogs, cotton candy and snow cones were served. While at the school, families were able to learn more about the Growing Gardens, Growing Minds Club as they picked some of the fresh produce in the garden on the elementary grounds. (BENJAMIN LOGAN SCHOOLS PHOTO)

BMS awarded renewal 21st Century Learning Grant

BY THE EXAMINER STAFF

Bellefontaine Middle School was recently awarded a grant for the second consecutive year from the Ohio Department of Education — the Nita M. Lowey 21st Century Community Learning Centers Grant — that focuses on learning opportunities outside the regular school day.

This year's grant is worth \$200,000. The Ohio Department of Education reviewed 145 new applications through a comprehensive peer review process. Priority was given to programs that serve students in rural districts.

Bellefontaine Middle School guidance coun-



selors Julie Kurtz and Natalie Collins co-coordinated the grant.

The grant will fund BMS+, which will offer before and after school programming. Monday through Friday morning, the programming includes homework help from 6:45 to 7:35 a.m. After school sessions take place Monday through Thursday

afternoon from 2:35 to 4:35 p.m.

The after school portion will offer a snack, homework help, enrichment, and specialized assistance in math and reading.

BMS+ offers enrichment in math, reading, youth development, and family engagement.

The free program is expected to: increase reading and math achievement, promote positive youth development in alignment with the Social Emotional Learning (SEL) standards, encourage parents, family, and community involvement, provide a safe and structured before and after school program and offer academic enrichment and tutoring by trained teach-

ers and staff.

Transportation is provided and students can earn incentives for attendance.

Students can be enrolled through the middle school website at ms.bellefontaine.k12.oh.us.

Collins touted the impact of last year's grant.

"We had many students improve their test scores, including math. We also gave students a lot of fun experiences outside of school," she said.

Last year, the grant only offered after school opportunities. Funding for the grant is allocated over a five-year cycle, and BCS could receive up to \$850,000 over those five years.