

School News

LWHS Weather Rangers Take on Hurricane Vincent



As hurricane computer images of Category 3 Hurricane Vincent get closer to South Florida's coast, Mayor Jadrish Thomas friendly with her fellow Lake Worth High students to prepare for the worst. While student meteorologists provided storm briefings to student reporters, a fire in a shelter needed to be extinguished and 1,000 people relocated to other shelters in the area.

Mayor Thomas' responsibility is to coordinate Emergency Support Functions (ESF in emergency management parlance)

managed by her classmates (firefighting, transportation, law enforcement, search and rescue, medical assistance, hazardous materials, animal services and mass care), to name a few) to tend to the injured and ensure that the displaced people were properly relocated to other shelters and safe from the approaching storm.

"We need to put the fire out first," said Thomas. Quickly, fire fighters team leader Chandler Hansford directed his team to put the fire out while transportation team leader Sebastian

Calvin coordinated removing people from the damaged shelter.

As soon as the problem was resolved, an overturned truck on a major evacuation route left thousands of motorists stranded. Gas from the truck was spilling all over the road; people were overheated and thirsty; and several fights erupted due to short tempers. To make things worse, pets were escaping. Again, ESF's resolved this perilous situation and TV reporters alerted motorists to avoid this route out of town. "We need to get water out to these people as soon as possible, contain the spill and remove the truck from the roadway," emergency manager Amanda Perles cautioned. "Get Resources Management, Hazardous Materials, Law Enforcement and Mass Care alerted. We need to move fast."

After Vincent's passage, they found equally troubling emergencies such as several hundred senior citizens stranded on an island by a washed-out Intracoastal bridge. "We've got boats, helicopters and anything we can," said Mayor Thomas.

In the meantime, the local Zoo has taken a terrible toll from the hurricane. There is massive flooding leaving people and animals stranded. Numerous animals are missing and need to be captured. It has been reported that a lion-headed a resident in a nearby neighborhood and an elephant in roaming through other neighborhood. Animal Rescue Team Leader Michael Gutierrez went to work. There has been a fall spill from a large gas tank on the property and several animals and zoo workers have been injured.

They acted quickly and got the job done," Gutierrez added proudly.

Fifty sixth grade students, called Weather Rangers, spent a morning at the West Palm Beach Emergency Operations Center on November 6, partici-

parting in a special hurricane preparedness exercise sponsored by StormZone, where they planned for and recovered from Hurricane Vincent.

Weather Rangers are dedicated middle and high school students responsible for teaching their classmates and the community at large about the importance of disaster preparedness and community collaboration when confronted severe weather or earthquakes. Throughout the year, Weather Rangers participate in an assortment of events to get the word out.

According to Prof. Proby, StormZone founding director, StormZone is a school based multidisciplinary science and social studies education program that teaches students about the science of severe natural hazards—hurricanes, tornadoes, floods and flash floods, severe winter weather, extreme heat, wildfires, and earthquakes—and how emergency management agencies work with federal, state and local governments to prepare for and recover from such disasters.

"Like the Lake Worth High School experience, the program provides an interactive exercise where students plan for and recover from a major weather event or earthquake. This is an emergency preparedness simulation program for the classrooms that lets students form their own local government, learn the organizing principles used by emergency managers, make the decisions necessary to respond to a disaster in their community and create and coordinate a disaster recovery plan," Proby said. "They acted quickly to get the job done, the importance of preparedness. Through their StormZone experience, they take home to their families vital information that will help them become "disaster prepared." From the classroom, these

weather emergency preparedness simulations can be re-enacted at city and county Emergency Operations Centers or at a school facility such as a gymnasium or cafeteria.

At the conclusion of the exercise, External Affairs student Sebastian Orvosa answered questions from student reporter Ashia Rosenthal. She praised confidence in the EOC's Media Center to review preparedness measures that were taken prior to the storm and recovery efforts after its passage. "There were numerous injuries but no lives lost," said Orvosa with a smile.

In addition to supplementary science curriculum and the interactive experience, StormZone also teaches students about safety and preparedness, including a disaster survival kit (including pets) and a family communication plan to share with their families. The program also offers students and their families information about how to become a Red Cross volunteer where

they receive training in disaster service, shelter management and disaster flood and water.

"In any conversation, the most talked-about topic is weather, whether it is local, national or even international," said Proby, who founded the program in 2006 in Miami. "Unfortunately, every year thousands of Americans find themselves in harm's way from weather disasters. No one is exempt. That's why students need to know about the most dangerous weather threats and actions to protect property and, in some extraordinary occasions, save lives. That's what StormZone provides."

All of the StormZone teaching materials are available at no cost to educators, emergency managers and the public at large. "To help support the program's outreach operations, voluntary donations are welcome, Proby added.

To learn more about StormZone and how to organize a Weather Ranger program, visit www.stormzone.us.

PBSC Foundation Receives \$20,000 from Gene Haas Foundation

LAKE WORTH - The Lake Worth State College Foundation has been given \$20,000 from the Gene Haas Foundation for scholarship that will go to students in the College's Machining Technology Program.

"Machining is at the core of manufacturing, which is vital to the economy," said Richard Bowler, PBSC associate dean of trade and industry. "If you look at any manufactured item, a machinist probably had his or her hand in it somewhere. The Gene Haas Foundation not only recognizes just how important machinists are today but also how impor-

tant machining education is, and therefore we very much appreciate this generous gift."

Palm Beach State College's Machining Technology Program is a 1,600-hour program accredited by the National Institute for Manufacturing Skills. The College awards students who complete the program with a Post Secondary Advanced Vocational Training Certificate. Opportunities for those with the certificate include manufacturing industry careers as machine tool operators, precision machinists, tool and die makers, CNC operators and programmers and quality control inspectors.

Elementary School Menu

Friday, November 27

NO SCHOOL

Monday, November 30

Chicken Tenders or Cheese Quesadilla with Brown Rice

Garden of Eatin' Deluxe

Rack Bread

Fresh Baby Carrots

Thursday, December 3

Chicken Teriyaki with Rice & Veggies

Turkey & Cheese Sandwich

P&J Grape Sandwich Plate

Brccoli

Lunch Items Served Daily

Noname Salad Cup

Assorted Fresh Fruit

Assorted Fruit Cups

Assorted Apple & Pear Slices

Assorted Canned Fruit

100 Percent Fruit Juice (4 oz.)

Assorted Milk

Salad Dressings Assorted

Flavors

Tuesday, December 1

Minicorn & Cheese with Dinner Roll

Hamburger

Cheeseburger

Raspberry Yogurt Parfait

P&J Grape Sandwich Plate

Sweet Peas

Wednesday, December 2

Pulled BBQ Pork with Garlic Sauce

Mini Cheese Pizza Bites

Benita Waffle Platter

Collard Greens

Fresh Baby Carrots

LW Christian Elementary School Groundbreaking

Jim Harwood, Superintendent of Lake Worth Christian School has announced plans for a groundbreaking ceremony to be held on November 30, 12 p.m. on the site of the school's new elementary school building on the existing ramp on the campus behind the current elementary school. The ceremony is open to anyone that would like to show their support.

The new building will increase the size of the current elementary school. It will contain additional classrooms and room for special, as well as an extended learning area outside of the classrooms. The plan for the new building is ready for the 2018-19 school year.

Harwood said, "This is an exciting time in the history of our school. We are excited about the opportunity to serve more families in the Lake Worth, Boynton Beach, and Delray Beach areas that seek great Christian education for their children."

Harwood added, "The support from our strong community of believers has allowed us to get to this point. The response to our

Leaving A Legacy capital campaign is indicative of the support we have behind this project."

As part of the long term plan for the school, there is a second phase of the project that includes a multi-purpose space to serve as an auditorium, music facility and auxiliary gymnasium. The school is also reviewing plans to add another phase to their current outdoor athletic facilities that would include a weight room, locker rooms, a press box and more storage space.

Lake Worth Christian School has been "Growing Christian Leaders" since 1959. The school moved to its current location on High Ridge Road in Boynton Beach in 1976. The school currently has 445 students and just graduated the largest senior class, 32 students, in the history of the school.

Anyone interested in learning more about the school or contributing to the Leaving A Legacy Capital Campaign is asked to contact Jim Harwood, Superintendent, at 561-586-6216 or jharwood@lwcs.org. Information is also available on the school's website, www.lwcs.org.