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A SHOCK AWAY



DAILY NEWS PHOTO BY ALLAN JUNG

Northborough Police Sgt. Jim Bruce demonstrates the training his department received on one of its eight defibrillators.

LOCAL POLICE ARE ARMED TO SAVE YOU

But number of defibrillators in area departments varies

By Abby Jordan
 DAILY NEWS STAFF

When Northborough Police Chief Mark Leahy was handed a check for \$12,500 last spring, he was startled by the largest donation the department had ever received.



MULTIMEDIA
 ON THE WEB
VIDEO

The chief and Sgt. Jim Bruce knew exactly what to spend the money on: eight automatic external defibrillators (AEDs) for seven police cruisers and the station.

"I knew we were getting a check, but all I could think was, 'Wow, we've never seen anything like that,'" said Leahy. "This is a big deal for us."

AEDs are cropping up in malls, schools and airports, and have been required by the state to be in POLICE, Page A5

SAVING LIVES ONE SHOCK AT A TIME

With police officers sometimes being the first on the scene for a heart attack, more cruisers are being equipped with automatic emergency defibrillators (AED) which can provide an electric shock to re-start a person's heart. How many AEDs do area departments have?

Town	No. of officers	No. of AEDs	Town	No. of officers	No. of AEDs
Framingham	113	30	Holliston	24	7
Marlborough	65	8	Hopkinton	21	6
Natick	48	16	Sudbury	29	5
Hudson	39	1	Wayland	22	4
Southborough	16	7	Ashland	27	3
Northborough	20	8	Milford	44	1
Westborough	25	1	Franklin	46	5

LOCALLY GROWN

FARM AID COMES TO BAY STATE

Local farmers will supply all the food at concessions for Sept. 20 concert

By Rob Haneisen
 DAILY NEWS STAFF

In 1985, musicians led a charge to save family farms as banks foreclosed on great swaths of the American Midwest.

Twenty-three years later, small farmers are still under immense pressure but the public, as well as the musician celebrities who push the annual Farm Aid concert, may have formed a stronger alliance with local growers thanks to the organic foods movement, price hikes and fears about food-borne illnesses.

On Sept. 20 in Mansfield, Farm Aid comes to the Comcast Center and area farmers will be there to educate the public about the value of locally grown food and give them a taste of their hard work.

Among those on hand will be Jim Wilson and Tony Casieri from Wilson Farm in Lexington. Wilson Farm will FARM AID, Page A8



DAILY NEWS PHOTO BY MIKE SPRINGER

Chris Kurth, owner of Siena Farm in Sudbury, supplies vegetables to his wife's Cambridge restaurant, Oleana, and a dozen other area restaurants.

HURRICANE DAMAGE

Search is on for Ike victims

Three million without power; thousands of homes damaged

By Christopher Sherman and Pauline Arrillaga
 ASSOCIATED PRESS

HOUSTON - Rescuers in boats, helicopters and high-water trucks set out across the flood-stricken Texas coast yesterday in a monumental effort to reach tens of thousands of people who stubbornly ignored warnings of "certain death" and tried to ride out Hurricane Ike.

The storm roared ashore hours before daybreak with 110 mph winds and towering waves, smashing houses, flooding thousands of homes, blow-

ing out windows in Houston's skyscrapers, and cutting off power to more than 3 million people, perhaps for weeks.

By evening, it appeared that Ike was not the single calamitous stroke that forecasters had feared. But the full extent of the damage - or even a rough sense of how many people may have perished - was still unclear, in part because many roads were impassable.

Some authorities feared that this could instead become a slow-motion disaster, with IKE DAMAGE, Page A6



AP PHOTO BY LM OTERO

Joe Martinez wipes his brow while walking through the West End section of Galveston, Texas, flooded by hurricane Ike, yesterday.

MENTAL HEALTH BARRIERS

Workers with mental illness fear stigma

Obstacles for good employment still exist for some

Editor's note: This is the third in a weekly series on challenges facing the mentally ill.

By David Riley
 DAILY NEWS STAFF

Are they violent? Is the work too stressful? Will they cost a pretty penny in lost productivity, disability checks and expensive accommodations?

Employers have asked Robert Charpentier all these questions when he calls to try to connect a person with mental illness with a job.

Charpentier, employment services manager for Programs

for People Inc. in Framingham, says the fact is that for the vast majority of people living with a psychiatric disorder, the answers are simple: No.

After more than 30 years in his field, Charpentier said he has seen disabled people in general face fewer barriers and misconceptions that once kept them out of the workplace. But some obstacles to meaningful employment persist, especially for those struggling with mental health.

"The problem with mental illness is it's a hidden disability, and it's one that has stigma attached to it right from the start," Charpentier said.

The Americans with Disabilities Act and state law bar employers from outright discriminating WORKERS, Page A6

INSIDE



WEATHER/A7
 Cloudy with some showers. Upper 70s.

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HIGH SCHOOL
 Marian romps over Keefe Tech in football action. See story page D1.



FROM THE FRONT PAGE

As many as 140,000 ignored evacuation orders

IKE DAMAGE, From A1
thousands of victims trapped in their homes, waiting for days to be rescued.

"We will be doing this probably for the next week or more. We hope it doesn't turn into a recovery," said Sheriff's Sgt. Dennis Marlow in Orange County, where more than 300 people had to be rescued from flooded homes. He said that was only "a drop in the bucket" compared with the number still stranded.

By some estimates, more than 140,000 of the 1 million or so people who had been ordered to evacuate the coast as Ike drew near may have tried to tough it out. Many of them evidently realized the mistake too late, and pleaded with authorities in vain to save them overnight.

Ronnie Sharp, 65, and his terrier-mix Princess, had to be rescued from his trailer in Orange County when water reached his knees. "I was getting too many snakes in the house, otherwise I would have stayed," Sharp said. He said he lost everything in the flood but his medicine and some cigarettes.

After the storm had passed, National Guardsmen, members of the Coast Guard, FEMA representatives and state and local law enforcement authorities mobilized for what Gov. Rick Perry pronounced "the largest search-and-rescue operation in the history of the state of Texas."

Some emergency officials were angry and frustrated that so many people ignored the warnings.

"When you stay behind in the face of a warning, not only do you jeopardize yourself, you put the first responders at risk as well," Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff said. "Now we're going to see this play out."

Steve LeBlanc, Galveston's city manager, said: "There was a mandatory evacuation, and people didn't leave, and that is very frustrating because now



Debris is seen scattered across Highway 146 on a bridge leading from Kemah to Seabrook yesterday in Kemah, Texas.

we are having to deal with everybody who did not heed the order. This is why we do it, and they had enough time to get out."

Because Ike was so huge — some 500 miles across, making it nearly as big as Texas itself — hurricane winds pounded the coast for hours before and after the storm's center came ashore. Ike soon weakened to a tropical storm as it made its way inland, but continued to pound the state with 60 mph winds and rain.

Officials were encouraged to learn that the storm surge topped out at only 15 feet — far lower than the catastrophic 20-

to-25 foot wall of water forecasters had feared.

Preliminary industry estimates put the damage at at least \$8 billion.

Damage to the nation's biggest complex of refineries and petrochemical plants appeared to be slight, but gasoline prices shot up for fear that the supply would be interrupted by power outages and the time necessary to restart a refinery. In some parts of the country, gas prices surged briefly to \$5 a gallon.

As the day wore on, hundreds of people were rescued from their flooded-out homes, in



Galveston resident Abraham Cox looks at the destruction on Seawall Boulevard in Galveston after Hurricane Ike passed through.

many cases by emergency crews that had to make their way through high water and streets blocked by peeled-away roofs, wayward yachts and uprooted trees.

But the day was already half over before the winds died down enough for authorities to begin the rescue, and the search was almost certain to be suspended before dark because of the dangers posed by downed power lines and flooded roads. A portion of hard-hit Galveston had yet to be examined.

The storm, which killed more than 80 in the Caribbean before reaching the U.S., was blamed for at least two lives in Texas. A woman was killed in her sleep when a tree fell on her home near Pinehurst. A 19-year-old man slipped off a jetty near Corpus Christi and was apparently washed away. Louisiana officials said a 16-year-old boy drowned yesterday after falling out of a fishing boat in Ike-flooded Bayou Dularge.

Lisa Lee spent hours on the roof of her Bridge City home with her husband, John, her 16-year-old brother, William Robinson, and their two dogs. They dove into 8-foot floodwaters and swam to safety after a sheriff's deputy arrived in a truck and drove as close to their home as he could. Their dogs

paddled to safety behind them.

"It was like a dream," said William Robinson, while his sister shivered in a blanket at a shelter set up at a Baptist church in Orange.

A convoy of search-and-rescue teams from Texas and California drove into Galveston — where the storm came ashore at 3:10 a.m. EDT — after bulldozers cleared away mountains of debris. Interstate 45, the only road onto the island, was littered with large overturned yachts, dead pelicans and twisted debris from homes and docks.

Homes and other buildings in Galveston and homes burned unattended during the height of Ike's fury; 17 collapsed because crews couldn't get to them to douse the flames. There was no water or electricity on the island, and the main hospital, the University of Texas Medical Branch, flew critically ill patients to other medical center.

Sedonia Owen, 75, and her son, Lindy McKissick, stayed to shoo off looters. She was armed with a shotgun, watching floodwaters recede from her front porch. "My neighbors told me, 'You've got my permission. Anybody who goes into my house, you can shoot them,'" Owen said.

President Bush declared a

major disaster in his home state of Texas and ordered immediate federal aid.

In downtown Houston, shattered glass rained down on the streets below the JPMorgan Chase Tower, the state's tallest building at 75 stories. Trees were uprooted in the streets, road signs mangled by wind.

"I think we're like at ground zero," said Mauricio Diaz, 36, as he walked along Texas Avenue across the street from the Chase building. Metal blinds from the tower dotted the street, along with red seat cushions, pieces of a wood desk and office documents marked "highly confidential."

Southwest Louisiana was spared a direct hit, but Ike's surge of water penetrated some 30 miles inland, flooding thousands of homes, breaching levees and soaking areas still recovering from Labor Day's Hurricane Gustav. Officials said the flooding was worse than it was during 2005's Hurricane Rita, which hit the Louisiana-Texas line.

But there was good news: A stranded freighter with 22 men aboard made it through the storm safely, and a tugboat was on the way to save them. And an evacuee from Calhoun County gave birth to a girl in the restroom of a shelter with the aid of an expert in geriatric psychiatry who delivered his first baby in two decades.

In Surfside Beach, retired carpenter and former Marine Ray Wilkinson became something of a celebrity for a day: He was the lone resident in the town of 805 to defy the order to leave. Authorities found him yesterday morning, drunk.

"I consider myself to be stupid," Wilkinson, 67, said through a thick, tobacco-stained beard. "I'm just tired of running from these things. If it's going to get you, it's going to get you."

He added: "I didn't say I had all my marbles, OK?"

Employers not always clear on how to accommodate workers

WORKERS, From A1
against anyone for a job because of mental illness, but less straightforward barriers still stand in the way.

That much is clear from simple statistics: 90 percent of people in the U.S. with serious mental illnesses are unemployed, says a 2002 report by the president's New Freedom Commission on Mental Health.

Yet the same report found many of those people said they wanted to work, and could do so with modest assistance. That not only costs those people personally, the report says — it costs the economy.

Even among those who are employed, facing a mental illness is by no means rare. One in five Americans over age 18 suffers from a diagnosable mental disorder in a given year, according to the National Institute of Mental Health.

In a national study released last year, the institute found of 9,282 surveyed, more than half suffered a mental or physical

condition that prevented them from fulfilling their role at work for several days a year. Depression ranked as the second highest cause on the list, just below musculoskeletal disorders like severe neck and back pain. Psychiatric disorders also account for nearly half the top 10 causes of disability, says the National Alliance for the Mentally Ill.

Yet often, workers are afraid to reveal a mental illness to an employer for fear of being stigmatized, Charpentier said. When these employees exhibit some difficulty with depression, anxiety or other problems, even if their symptoms can be managed, it can be hard for a boss to understand why, if he or she doesn't know about the underlying problem, he said.

Even if a worker informs a boss of an illness, professionals say that fear of stigma can be well-placed when, say, the employee needs a sick day.

"I think there's always in an employer's mind, who needs

the person there, some difficulty in understanding why the person suddenly can't come to work," said William J. Taylor, CEO of human services provider Advocates Inc.

While it sometimes may be clear how to accommodate an employee with a physical disability, doing so for a worker with a mental illness can be less clear-cut, Taylor said.

Most accommodations are not complicated or expensive. Charpentier recalls a cashier who needed short breaks to get water and take medication.

"Employers are afraid of accommodations, I think, because they could be too costly or they could make exceptions to the rule for other employees," Charpentier said.

And there are simple misperceptions about what mental illness means. Charpentier said employers sometimes worry their work is too stressful for a person with a psychiatric disorder. Years ago, that was the

reason the CEO of a large MetroWest company declined to work with Project Advance, his jobs program.

"Little did he know his personal executive secretary had been a client in our program," Charpentier said.

In another case, a local distribution center that has since left the area hired an efficiency expert, who told the local manager there were complaints that some workers were not pulling their weight. He asked for a list of nine or so employees placed there by Project Advance. The manager asked instead for a list of the employees who supervisors complained about.

"Not one of them was our client," Charpentier said.

Four clients at Programs for People spoke with the Daily News recently about their own experiences on the condition they not give their full names. Each had struggled with work because of mental illness.

Mark had managed a ware-

house and worked for years in the food service field, but mental illness and alcoholism got in the way.

"I have had good careers, but it was the drinking," he said. Going through Programs for People's day treatment program, Mark was 19 months sober when interviewed and said he hopes to get back to work. If he continues his treatment, he said, he'll do fine.

"Society today doesn't want to hear that as an answer," he said.

Melissa showed she could hold down a job — she worked at the same restaurant for 10 years. When the symptoms of depression take hold, however, she has had difficulty keeping work.

Bill said he has had supportive bosses who knew about his depression and still valued him as a worker. But in another job, he said he believes word of his illness got out to other employees against his wishes.

"It should have been kept

confidential, but it wasn't," Bill said.

Charpentier believes there has been incremental change thanks to public education about mental illness, and employers who have demonstrated success with workers who have psychiatric disorders.

Through Project Advance at Programs for People, Charpentier works with 50 to 60 clients a year and helps place about half in jobs. The program has strong relationships with about six local employers, and is about to launch an effort to increase that number, he said.

Charpentier also heads the MetroWest Work Opportunities Coalition, which helps increase acceptance of the mentally ill and disabled in the workforce. But there is more work to do.

"Compared to other disability groups, we're still behind," Charpentier said.

(David Riley can be reached at 508-626-3919 or e-mail him at driley@cnc.com)

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