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The Intelligencer

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WHEELING, W.VA. — WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2020

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COVID-19 Cases, Deaths on the Rise

From STAFF REPORTS
Ohio County reported its 15th COVID-19-related death Tuesday night, while Marshall County reported 34 new positive COVID-19 cases.

The Wheeling-Ohio County Health Department, in its late Tuesday update, announced the death of a resident of a long-term care facility in Wheeling who was hospitalized at the time of their death.

That comes after the health department's late Monday announcement of two COVID-19-related deaths.

(Please see **RISE**, Page 6)



COVID-19 by the numbers

COUNTY	POSITIVE*	RECOVERED	ACTIVE	DEATHS
OHIO	1,079	738	328	13
MARSHALL	822	436	376	10
HANCOCK	407	266	137	4
BROOKE	401	268	126	7
WETZEL	339	214	114	11
TYLER	109	63	46	0
BELMONT	1,602	818	756	28
JEFFERSON	862	502	356	4
HARRISON	164	108	52	4
MONROE	264	183	61	20

WEST VIRGINIA	
Total cases	35,324
Recovered	24,019
Active	10,707
Deaths	598
OHIO*	
Total cases	296,387
Deaths	5,412
UNITED STATES	
Total cases	11,342,495
Deaths	248,468

*Numbers from the West Virginia DHHR, Ohio Department of Health.

City Provides Former OVMC Space for Freeze Shelter

By ERIC AYRES
Staff Writer

WHEELING — With winter weather blowing into the Ohio Valley and COVID-19 cases on the rise, the city of Wheeling has agreed to allow facilities on the former Ohio Valley Medical Center to be used by Youth Services System as its Winter Freeze Shelter this season.

During Tuesday night's meeting of Wheeling City Council, a resolution was passed adopting a memorandum of understanding between the city and YSS for the use of space at OVMC this winter from December through March.

Officials noted that the former Hillcrest facility on the former campus of OVMC has been designated as the site for the Winter Freeze Shelter. Until now, YSS has operated the shelter in several fourth-floor rooms inside its East Wheeling administrative building.

"The current location is incredibly inadequate," said Councilman Ben Seidler. "We don't have enough room there. This is a big deal for our homeless community, especially with the COVID issue."

This winter season will mark the 12th year YSS has offered its Winter Freeze Shelter program, which offers basic needs such as food, clothing and fellowship to those in need. The program has a mission to prevent serious illness and even death of people in the community who otherwise have no adequate shelter during the often brutal winter months.

"The city of Wheeling is pleased to be able to assist YSS with the Winter Freeze Shelter by fulfilling a need in our community," Vice Mayor Chad Thalman said. "We're living in unprecedented times when it's important for entities to work together for the well-being of everyone."

Since 2009, a total of more than 1,500 people have stayed at YSS's Winter Freeze Shelter during the winter months.

Because of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and related tightening of health and safety guidelines — including social distancing — officials stressed the importance of having a larger space available in terms of warm, indoor sheltering.

(Please see **OVMC**, Page 6)

Ohio Governor DeWine Orders 3-Week Retail Curfew to Slow Virus

By FARNOUSH AMIRI and ANDREW WELSH-HUGGINS
Report for America/Associated Press

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) — Ohio Gov. Mike DeWine on Tuesday announced a three-week retail curfew running from 10 p.m. to 5 a.m. to slow the spread of the coronavirus as cases stay at near-record high levels.

DeWine said this measure, effective Thursday, is needed to reduce cases and stop the state's hospitals from being overrun. The curfew under which retail businesses must close, paired with increased mask-wearing, could help cut contacts between people by 20% to 25%, he said.

DeWine also asked Ohioans to consolidate their movements — such as combining shopping trips — and do at least one thing daily to reduce contact with others.

"We know if we reduce the number of people we come in contact every day, we reduce the chance of getting the virus, and we reduce the chance of getting the virus if you unknowingly have it," the governor said.

The curfew comes with several exceptions. It doesn't apply to people who need to be at work, who have an emergency or need medical care, DeWine said.

It is also not meant to stop someone from buying groceries or getting a carry-out, drive-thru or delivered meal,



AP Photo Cecelia Brockett, left, and Courtney Barefoot enjoy a lunch at the Winking Lizard Tavern Monday in Beachwood, Ohio. Ohio Governor Mike DeWine issued a new health warning Sunday to limit mass gatherings.

DeWine said. Restaurants would not be open except for takeout and delivery, but grocery stores would, the governor said in clarifying remarks.

The Republican governor had been signaling such a restriction was in the

works. In a series of Monday tweets, he said the rapid spread of the virus recently has made people's odds of contracting it much higher.

(Please see **DEWINE**, Page 3)

Ohio Sen. Portman Joins COVID-19 Vaccine Study to Set Example

By DAN SEWELL
Associated Press

CINCINNATI (AP) — A U.S. senator is participating in a COVID-19 vaccine study, hoping to encourage others to volunteer to take part in testing.

Ohio Republican Rob Portman told The Associated Press that he wanted to do what he could to help "explain the great potential for these vaccines" and the need for volunteers.

Portman decided to sign up after hearing about the need from executives with Covington, Kentucky-based CTI, which is recruiting volunteers and doing vaccine tests for multiple drugmakers.

"I could help ... encourage more people to step up and join the trials," Portman said.



PORTMAN

He said he also wants to send a message about vaccine safety.

"One of the challenges as you know is assuring that people will be willing to be vaccinated."

He noted that some surveys have shown that many Americans are wary of vaccine safety when vaccines become available.

He received an injection Nov. 5 at a CTI Cincinnati lab that is testing for Johnson & Johnson's vaccine candidate. Volunteers get either the vaccine or a dummy shot but aren't told what they received.

He does daily monitoring of vital signs,

keeping a log and working with the lab. Portman, who will turn 65 next month, said he feels great and hasn't experienced any side effects.

The only discomfort was shoulder soreness at the site of the injection, similar to a flu shot.

He said he is donating the \$1,200 stipend offered to charity.

Portman's aides said they weren't aware of any other members of Congress who are participating in vaccine testing.

Belgium-based Janssen, owned by New Brunswick, New Jersey-based J&J, is testing a single-shot vaccine in 30,000 volunteers. Late-stage testing started in September.

(Please see **PORTMAN**, Page 3)

Governors, Mayors Ratchet Up Restrictions Ahead of Thanksgiving

By DAVID EGGERT and RACHEL LA CORTE
Associated Press

(AP) — From California to Pennsylvania, governors and mayors across the U.S. are ratcheting up COVID-19 restrictions amid the record-shattering resurgence of the virus that is all but certain to get worse because of holiday travel and family gatherings over Thanksgiving.

Leaders are closing businesses or curtailing hours and other operations, and they are ordering or imploring people to stay home and keep their distance from others to help stem a rising tide of infections that threatens to overwhelm the healthcare system.

"I must again pull back the reins," New Jersey Gov. Phil Murphy said Monday as he restricted indoor gatherings to 10 people, down from 25. "It gives me no joy."

California Gov. Gavin Newsom announced he is pulling the "emergency brake" on efforts to reopen the economy, saying the state is experiencing the fastest growth in cases yet, and if left unchecked, it will lead to "catastrophic outcomes." The move closes many nonessential indoor businesses and requires the wearing of masks outside homes, with limited exceptions.

The tightening came as Moderna Inc. announced that its experimental coronavirus vaccine appears to be over 94% effective, based on early results. A week ago Pfizer disclosed similar findings with its own formula. The news raised hopes that at least two vaccines against the scourge could win emergency authorization and become available in the U.S. before the end of 2020.

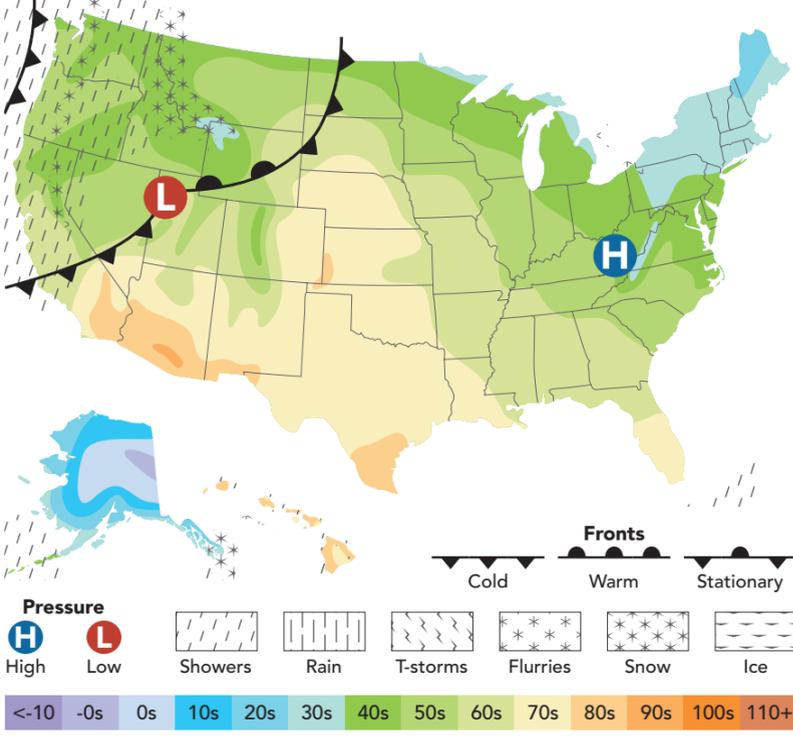
(Please see **RATCHET**, Page 3)



AP Photo Student nurse Ryan Eachus collects forms as cars line up for COVID-19 testing at a testing site set up the OC Fairgrounds in Costa Mesa, Calif. on Monday.

Forecast for Wednesday, November 18, 2020

Bands separate high temperature zones for the day.



NATIONAL SUMMARY: A storm system will continue to bring rain and high-elevation snow to the Northwest and Northern California today. High pressure will slide into place over the East Coast and keep dry but cold conditions in place. Winds and warmth will pick up across much of the Central states as a storm system takes shape north of the Canadian border.

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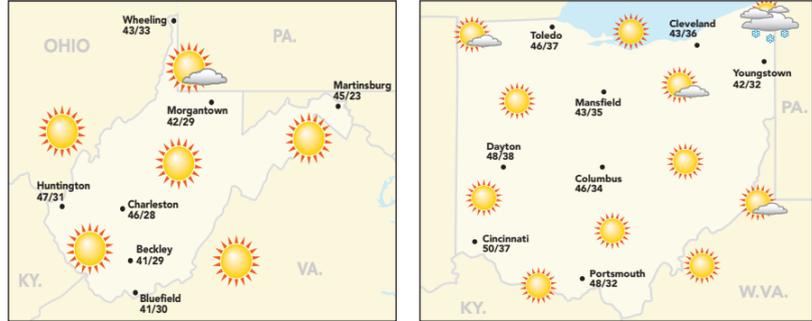
OHIO VALLEY FIVE-DAY FORECAST (As of 7 p.m. Tuesday)

Today	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Sunny during the day, high near 42. Mostly clear at night, low around 30.	Sunny during the day, high near 62. Partly cloudy at night, low around 44.	Mostly sunny during the day, high near 61. Mostly cloudy at night, low around 44.	Mostly cloudy during the day, high near 61. Cloudy at night, low around 44.	Mostly cloudy during the day, high near 64. Cloudy at night, low around 44.

ALMANAC

Wednesday, November 18, the 58th day of fall and the 323rd day of 2020.
 Yesterday's temperatures: High - 39. Low - 28.
 Predicted Temperatures: (From the National Weather Service) High today - 42. Low - 30. High tomorrow - 62. Low - 44.
 Precipitation: To 7 p.m. at Pike Island - none
 River Reading: 13.8 feet and stationary.
 Sunset today: 5:03 p.m.
 Sunrise tomorrow: 7:13 a.m.
 Length of day: 9 hrs., 50 min.

WEATHER FORECAST FOR TODAY



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OVMC

(Continued from Page 1)

"In light of our increasing numbers in recent years coupled with the ongoing pandemic, we realized our current facility would likely prove woefully inadequate," YSS CEO John Moses said. "We approached the city about the space at the former Hillcrest and determined it is large enough to allow us to operate in accordance with COVID-era guidelines for homeless shelters set forth by the Centers for Disease Control."
 "We're grateful for this partnership, which is the latest example of the good working relationship YSS and the city have enjoyed for more than four decades. It shows the city's dedication to helping us serve the

community's most vulnerable." According to the short-term memorandum of understanding between the city and YSS, city leaders will continue to market outside investment interests in the buildings of the former OVMC campus, including the portion that YSS will be using this winter.
 If need be, the city agreed to provide appropriate notice to vacate the premises in the event the building is sold and needed to be vacated before the end of the winter.
 The memorandum also noted that YSS - through grant application funding - has offered to provide \$1,000 per month to the city for expenses incurred.

Also Tuesday, the city approved a resolution that will help finalize the securing of funds received through the federal CARES (Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security) Act, which will boost allocations for the city's Community Development Block Grant recipients for pandemic-related needs for low- to moderate-income areas of the community. Among a list of local charitable organizations set to receive extra CDBG-Coronavirus money is YSS, which was allocated \$21,000 through this special funding program.
 According to Nancy Prager, director of the city of Wheeling's Department of Economic and Community Development,

YSS is targeting these CDBG funds for several items needed to get its Winter Freeze Shelter ready for the winter - and for the pandemic.
 "For the freeze shelter, they think there's going to be about 300 people going through there at various stages this winter," Prager told city leaders Tuesday. "That money is going to be used for plexiglass dividers for the intake person, for part of their rent, for storage footlockers so people who come and want to spend the night - if they do have some belongings - they'll feel comfortable locking them up. No one will touch them."
 Thermometers will be purchased so intake personnel

can take temperatures of those coming into the shelter, Prager noted. Clear curtains will also be purchased and will be positioned between beds as an additional precaution to keep occupants safe.
 The YSS Winter Freeze Shelter is a "low bar" shelter, meaning that no identification is required for admission. Almost any adult is welcome to the shelter, but violence is not tolerated and is grounds for permanent eviction, officials noted. Children are not admitted to the Winter Freeze Shelter, but other options will be offered to help shelter a parent or parent with children who seek help during the winter.

RISE

(Continued from Page 1)

Ohio County announced 51 new positive COVID-19 cases Tuesday, which brought the county's total to 1,151.
 The Marshall County Health Department posted Tuesday that there were 34 new positives and nine more probable cases in the county. That pushes the county's totals to 757 positive cases and another 110 probable cases. Ten

people are hospitalized and there have been 10 COVID-related deaths.
 Ohio and Marshall counties were orange and red, respectively, on the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources daily COVID-19 alert map. Ohio County had a 5.64 percent positivity and 78.65 infection rate. Marshall County had an 8.87 percent

positivity and an 85.63 infection rate.
 Free testing in Ohio County will be held from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. through Saturday at the following locations:
 ■ Valley Grove Volunteer Fire Department, 355 Fire House Lane, Valley Grove
 ■ Warwood Fire Station, Station 9, 1301 Richland Avenue

■ Wheeling Island Fire Department, Station 5, 11 North Wabash Street
 The free clinics are for those with or without symptoms and no insurance is needed. Participants need to bring a driver's license, photo ID or other proof of address. There are no residency restrictions. This is a drive-up testing clinic and participants will be tested either in

their personal vehicles or at a walk-up location near the testing sites.
 Marshall County will conduct testing at the Marshall County Health Department, located on Sixth Street, Moundsville, at the following times:
 ■ 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. today
 ■ 1 - 5 p.m. Thursday
 ■ 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Friday and Saturday

Trump Fires Agency Head Who Vouched For 2020 Vote Security

WASHINGTON (AP) - President Donald Trump on Tuesday fired the nation's top election security official, a widely respected member of his administration who had dared to refute the president's unsubstantiated claims of electoral fraud and vouch for the integrity of the vote.
 While abrupt, the dismissal of Christopher Krebs, the director of the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency, was not a surprise. Since the election, Trump has been ridding his administration of officials seen as insufficiently loyal and has been denouncing the conduct of an election that has led Democrat Joe Biden to lead the unofficial vote count.
 That made Krebs a prime target. He had used the imprimatur of Trump's own Department of Homeland Security, where his agency was based, to issue a stream of statements and tweets over the past week attesting to the proper conduct of the election and denouncing the falsehoods spread by the president and his supporters - without mentioning

Trump by name. Krebs stood by those assertions after his ouster. "Honored to serve. We did it right," he said in a brief statement on Twitter. "Defend Today, Secure Tomorrow."
 He closed with the phrase "Protect 2020," which had been his agency's slogan ahead of the election.
 The firing of Krebs, a Trump appointee, came the week after the dismissal of Defense Secretary Mark Esper, part of a broader shakeup that put Trump loyalists in senior Pentagon positions.
 A former Microsoft executive, Krebs ran the agency, known as CISA, from its creation in the wake of Russian interference with the 2016 election through the November election. He won bipartisan praise as CISA coordinated federal state and local efforts to defend electoral systems from foreign or domestic interference.
 Hours before being dismissed, Krebs tweeted out a report citing 59 election security experts saying there is no credible evidence of computer fraud in the 2020 election

outcome. Trump responded on Twitter later in the day. He repeated unsubstantiated claims about the vote and wrote "effective immediately, Chris Krebs has been terminated as Director of the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency."
 Officials with CISA and its parent agency, the Department of Homeland Security, had no immediate comment.
 Members of Congress - mostly Democrats - denounced the firing.
 Rep. Adam Schiff, D-Calif., chairman of the House intelligence committee, assailed Trump for "retaliating against Director Krebs and other officials who did their duty. It's pathetic, but sadly predictable that upholding and protecting our democratic processes would be cause for firing."
 One of the few Republicans joining in the criticism was Sen. Ben Sasse of Nebraska, a frequent Trump critic. "Chris Krebs did a really good job, as state election officials all across the nation will tell you, and he obviously should not be

fired," he said. Biden campaign spokesman Michael Gwin noted that bipartisan election officials have dismissed Trump's claims of widespread fraud. "Chris Krebs should be commended for his service in protecting our elections, not fired for telling the truth."
 Krebs kept a low profile even as he voiced confidence ahead of the November vote and, afterward, knocked down allegations that the count was tainted by fraud. The repudiation of Trump was notable coming from a component of DHS, which has been criticized for seeming to be too closely aligned with the president's political goals.
 CISA issued statements dismissing claims that large numbers of dead people could vote or that someone could change results without detection.
 It also distributed a statement from a coalition of federal and state officials concluding there was no evidence that votes were compromised or altered in the Nov. 3 election and that the vote was the most secure in

American history. Krebs avoided ever directly criticizing the president and tried to stay above the political fray, even as he worked to contradict misinformation coming from the president and his supporters. "It's not our job to fact check the president," he said at a briefing with reporters on the eve of the

election. CISA works with the state and local officials who run U.S. elections as well as private companies that supply voting equipment to address cybersecurity and other threats while monitoring balloting and tabulation from a control room at its headquarters near Washington.

GOREN BRIDGE
 WITH BOB JONES
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BEST DEFENDED HAND
 East-West vulnerable, East deals
 NORTH
 ♠ K Q J 3
 ♥ 8 6 3 2
 ♦ J 9
 ♣ 6 4
 WEST
 ♠ 10 7
 ♥ Q 4
 ♦ A Q 8 3 2
 ♣ A 10 8 5
 EAST
 ♠ 6 5 4
 ♥ J 9
 ♦ 10 5
 ♣ K Q J 9 3 2
 SOUTH
 ♠ A 9 8 2
 ♥ A 10 7 5
 ♦ K 7 6 4
 ♣ 7
 The bidding:
 EAST SOUTH WEST NORTH
 3♠ Db1 3♦ 4♣
 Pass All pass
 Opening lead: ?
 Today's deal is from a team competition in London some years ago. West and East were English experts David Price and David Burn, respectively. They won the award for Best Defended Hand for their efforts on this deal.
 Price's hand was worth no more than a raise to four clubs at this

(Bob Jones welcomes readers' responses sent in care of this newspaper or to Tribune Content Agency, LLC., 16650 Westgrove Dr., Suite 175, Addison, TX 75001. E-mail: tcaditors@tribpub.com)