

In Memoriam - Tony Bennett



“For my money, Tony Bennett is the best singer in the business.”
Frank Sinatra – 1965

The Briefing for Saturday, July 22, 2023

The last Briefing was Monday, July 17, 2023

How's your weather – <https://weather.com/>

Websites Updated

The websites for the Small School District Council Consortium – www.ssdcc.org and the Small County Coalition – www.smallcountycoalition.org have been updated to reflect newly elected officers and Executive Committee. The updates also include Activity Calendars for 2023-24.

2023 Back-to-School Sales Tax Holiday - July 24 Through August 6, 2023

https://floridarevenue.com/taxes/tips/Documents/TIP_23A01-06.pdf

The 2023 Back-to-School Sales Tax Holiday begins on Monday, July 24, 2023, and ends on Sunday, August 6, 2023. There will be a second Back-to-School Sales Tax Holiday beginning Monday, January 1, 2024, and ending on Sunday, January 14, 2024. During the sales tax holiday period, tax is not due on the retail sale of:

- Clothing, footwear, and certain accessories with a sales price of \$100 or less per item
- Certain school supplies with a sales price of \$50 or less per item,
- Learning aids and jigsaw puzzles with a sales price of \$30 or less
- Personal computers and certain computer-related accessories with a sales price of \$1,500 or less, when purchased for noncommercial home or personal use

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission confirms no bear hunt this year.

“Earlier this year, FWC Commissioners requested staff present an update on Florida black bears to a future Commission meeting; however, a date for this update has not yet been finalized,” spokeswoman Lisa Thompson said in an email. The commission last approved a bear hunt in 2015, the first in more than two decades. The hunt was promoted as slowing an increase of black bears in the state and reducing dangerous interactions between bears and humans. The 2015 bear “harvest” was set to last a week in four sections of the state, with 320 bears expected to be killed. Instead, the hunt was called off after two days as the bear death count quickly reached 304. The commission in 2019 approved a 10-year plan for bears that primarily stresses using education and non-lethal techniques to manage the animals. Under the plan, hunting remains an option if interactions between bears and humans escalate amid the increasing number of people in the state. As of 2017, the commission estimated there were 4,050 black bears across Florida. Over the past five years, the state has averaged 5,765 calls a year about bears, according to the commission. In 2022 there were 5,907 calls, up from 5,738 in 2021.

State Jobless Rate Holds at 2.6%

The Florida Department of Commerce on Friday announced the jobless rate remained at 2.6 percent, unchanged since it was 2.7 percent in December. The June rate represented an estimated 280,000 Floridians qualified as unemployed, up 3,000 from May, from a labor force that grew by 41,000 to 10.998 million. The rate remained below the national rate of 3.6 percent

Florida Rural Economic Development Summit 2023

November 29 – December 1, 2023
Renaissance Orlando at SeaWorld®
6677 Sea Harbor Drive - Orlando, FL 32821

[**Link to more information-
Rural Summit 2023**](#)

Headlines Around the State

AP: DeSantis downplays Jan. 6, says it wasn't an insurrection but a 'protest' that 'ended up devolving'

AP: DeSantis, in deeply conservative Utah, says he's driven more by faith in God than by politics

FlaPol: Ron DeSantis credits himself with creating Florida 'pride' because he took on Anthony Fauci

FlaPol: Ron DeSantis explains why he needs a big campaign staff

FlaPol: Ron DeSantis says Constitution gives states the right to be 'woke'

Messenger: DeSantis Tweets Sarcastically About Biden's Seventh Grandchild

AP: Judge sets a trial date for next May in Trump's classified documents case in Florida

Herald: Judge sets Trump documents trial for May 2024, a soft spot in presidential primary season

Times: Meet the Tampa lawyer who just agreed to defend Trump

NYTimes: An Untested Judge in the Trump Documents Case

Times: As Florida State Guard prepares for second round of training, supporters seek clarity

FlaPol: Investigators analyzing ballistics, interviewing neighbors after shooting at Spencer Roach's home

Times: Mosaic wants to test 'radioactive road' with 337 tons of phosphogypsum, records show

Bradenton Herald: 'Amazing progress.' Piney Point operators celebrate key milestones toward site closure

Politico: 'They insult us': Harris hits DeSantis over Florida's new U.S. history standards

Times-Union: In Jacksonville, V.P. Kamala Harris warns of 'national agenda' to whitewash Black history

WUSF: VP Harris says Florida's new Black history curriculum replaces 'history with lies'

WaPo: Harris, on DeSantis's turf, blasts Florida curriculum on Black history

AP: Harris says Florida rules on Black history pushed by DeSantis are 'propaganda'

FlaPol: Kamala Harris touches down in Jacksonville to rip state's updated social studies curriculum

FlaPol: Ron DeSantis charges Kamala Harris with trying to 'chirp and demagogue' Florida Black History guidelines

NYTimes: DeSantis Faces Swell of Criticism Over Florida's New Standards for Black History

Herald: Teachers enraged that Floridas new Black history standards say slaves could 'benefit'

Times: Benefited from slavery? Critics say some of the state's examples were never even slaves.

FlaPol: Bobby Powell calls for 'examination' into what's driving 'galling' new state Black history curriculum

Ledger: State Rep. Melony Bell to run for Polk supervisor of elections, challenging Lori Edwards

Daily News: Byron Donalds visits Fort Myers plant that released carcinogens for 12 years: What we know

Floridian: Buchanan and Moskowitz Introduce Resolution Demanding Protection of Dogs and Cats Worldwide

FlaPol: Inflation-reduction action: What Mara Elvira Salazar, Anna Paulina Luna have done to lower costs for Floridians

Sentinel: Amazon to set up \$120 million Space Coast shop in competition with SpaceX's Starlink

On the Docket

MONDAY, JULY 24, 2023

- **TAX HOLIDAY STARTS** - A back-to-school tax "holiday" will start, with shoppers able to avoid paying sales taxes on items such as clothes, school supplies and personal computers. The holiday will end on Aug. 6.
- **REVENUE ESTIMATING CONFERENCE** - Monday, 9:30 a.m. The Revenue Estimating Conference will address issues related to "measures affecting revenue." 117 Knott Building, the Capitol.
- **BLACK HISTORY STANDARDS** - Monday, 11 a.m. Religious and civil-rights leaders will hold an online meeting to criticize new state standards directing school instruction about African American history. <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/95038309862?pwd=NUxGRFpVKzRCaUthaFBwWDFhNzVqUT09>

- **BROADBAND** - Monday, 2 p.m. The Florida Department of Commerce Department will continue a series of workshops about broadband services. Information at www.floridajobs.org/community-planning-and-development/broadband/office-of-broadband

TUESDAY, JULY 25, 2023

- **SOUTHWEST FLORIDA WATER BOARD** - Tuesday, 9 a.m. The Southwest Florida Water Management District Governing Board will meet. Southwest Florida Water Management District, 7601 U.S. 301 North, Tampa.
- **TRUST FUNDS** - Tuesday, 9 a.m. The Revenue Estimating Conference will address issues related to the Tobacco Settlement Trust Fund, the State School Trust Fund, the Educational Enhancement Trust Fund and the general-revenue fund. 117 Knott Building, the Capitol.
- **NORTH FLORIDA COLLEGE BOARD** - Tuesday, 9 a.m. The North Florida College Board of Trustees will hold a workshop. North Florida College Live Oak Location, 210 Ohio Ave. North, Live Oak.
- **TOBACCO PAYMENTS** - Tuesday, 9:30 a.m. The Revenue Estimating Conference will discuss a forecast for payments from the tobacco industry under a legal settlement. 117 Knott Building, the Capitol.
- **FIU TRUSTEES MEET** - Tuesday, 10 a.m. The Florida International University Board of Trustees will meet, with topics including a legislative budget request. <https://webcast.fiu.edu>
- **KEYS COLLEGE BOARD** - Tuesday, 2 p.m. The College of the Florida Keys Board of Trustees will hold an organizational meeting. The College of the Florida Keys, Middle Keys Center, 350 Sombrero Beach Road, Marathon.
- **DIABETES ISSUES** - Tuesday, 2 p.m. The state Diabetes Advisory Council is scheduled to meet. Call-in number: 850-792-1375. Code: 79845923

WEDNESDAY, JULY 26, 2023

- **WATER QUALITY** - Wednesday, 9 a.m. The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's Harmful Algal Bloom Task Force will meet. Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, Fish and Wildlife Research Institute, 100 Eighth Ave. S.E., St. Petersburg.
- **PAROLE CASES** - Wednesday, 9 a.m. The Florida Commission on Offender Review will meet. Betty Easley Conference Center, 4075 Esplanade Way, Tallahassee. Call-in number: 1-877-309-2073. Code: 337350165
- **ARCHITECTURE BOARD** - Wednesday, 9 a.m. The Florida Board of Architecture and Interior Design is scheduled to meet. Hyatt Regency Grand Cypress Resort, 1 Grand Cypress Blvd., Orlando.
- **UNEMPLOYMENT CASES** - Wednesday, 9:30 a.m. The state Reemployment Assistance Appeals Commission will meet. Reemployment Assistance Appeals Commission, 1211 Governors Square Blvd., Suite 300, Tallahassee. Call-in number: 850-988-5144. Conference ID: 686974885
- **BROADBAND** - Wednesday, 2 p.m. The Florida Department of Commerce Department will continue a series of workshops about broadband services. Information at www.floridajobs.org/community-planning-and-development/broadband/office-of-broadband
- **FLORIDA COLLEGES BOARD** - Wednesday, 2 p.m. The Association of Florida Colleges Board of Directors is scheduled to meet. Information at <https://www.myafchome.org/>
- **DEMOCRATS DISCUSS PROPERTY INSURANCE** - Wednesday, 6 p.m. Democratic lawmakers, including Senate Minority Leader Lauren Book, D-Davie, and Sen. Jason Pizzo, D-

Hollywood, will hold the first in a series of online events to discuss property insurance issues. <https://www.facebook.com/FLSenateDemocraticCaucus>

THURSDAY, JULY 27, 2023

- LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE - Thursday, 8:45 a.m. The Florida Board of Landscape Architecture is scheduled to meet. JW Marriott Miami Turnberry Resort & Spa, 19999 West Country Club Dr., Aventura.
- HUMAN RELATIONS PANEL - Thursday, 9 a.m. The Florida Commission on Human Relations will meet. Florida Commission on Human Relations, 4075 Esplanade Way, Tallahassee. Call-in number: 850-270-6017. Code: 374710025
- MASSAGE THERAPY ISSUES ADDRESSED - Thursday, 9 a.m. The Florida Board of Massage Therapy will meet. Holiday Inn Orlando-Disney Springs, 1805 Hotel Plaza Blvd., Lake Buena Vista.
- NURSING HOME ADMINISTRATORS - Thursday, 9 a.m. The Florida Board of Nursing Home Administrators will meet. Holiday Inn Orlando-Disney Springs, 1805 Hotel Plaza Blvd., Lake Buena Vista.
- GULF COAST COLLEGE BOARD - Thursday, 10 a.m. The Gulf Coast State College Board of Trustees will meet. Gulf Coast State College, Robert L. McSpadden Student Union West, Panama City.
- CHILDHOOD POVERTY - Thursday, 10 a.m. The Florida Chamber Foundation will hold an online event titled, "Root Cause Matters: Addressing Justice to Tackle Florida Childhood Poverty." Information at <https://floridaflcoc.weblinkconnect.com/events/Root-Cause-Matters-Addressing-Justice-to-Tackle-Florida-Childhood-Poverty-2327/details>
- ATHLETE PAY ADDRESSED - Thursday, noon. The Economic Club of Florida will host a panel discussion about the payment of college athletes for use of their names, images and likenesses. Florida State University Alumni Center, 1030 West Tennessee St., Tallahassee.
- TAMPA INTERSTATE RAMP EYED - Thursday, 5:30 p.m. The Florida Department of Transportation will hold an open house about changes to the Interstate 75 ramp from Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard to Interstate 4 in Hillsborough County. Hillsborough Community College, Brandon Campus Conference Center, 10451 Nancy Watkins Dr., Tampa.
- NORTH CENTRAL PLANNING COUNCIL - Thursday, 7 p.m. The North Central Florida Regional Planning Council will meet in Columbia County. Holiday Inn Hotel and Suites, 213 S.W. Commerce Blvd., Lake City. <https://meet.goto.com/311964829>. Call-in number: 1-866-899-4679. Code: 311964829

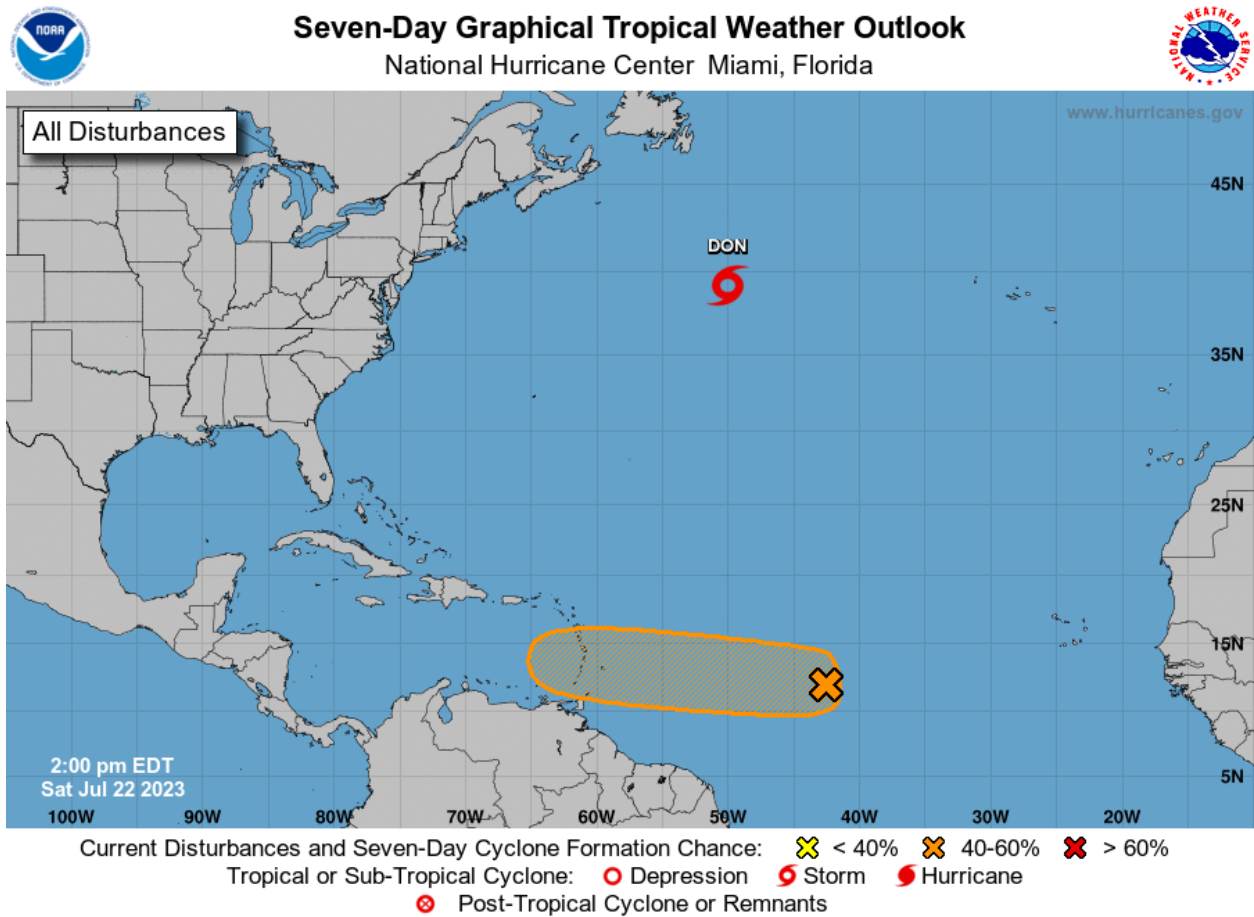
FRIDAY, JULY 28, 2023

- PROPERTY INSURANCE - Friday, 8 a.m. The Citizens Property Insurance Corp. Board of Governors will meet. Call-in number: 1-786-635-1003. Code: 88307560058
- PSYCHOLOGY BOARD - Friday, 8 a.m. The Florida Board of Psychology will meet. Call-in number: 1-888-585-9008. Code: 564-341-766
- ETHICS COMMISSION - Friday, 8:30 a.m. The Florida Commission on Ethics will consider dismissal of a long-running ethics case against former state Sen. Jack Latvala, R-Clearwater. 1st District Court of Appeal, 2000 Drayton Dr., Tallahassee.
- MASSAGE THERAPY ISSUES ADDRESSED - Friday, 9 a.m. The Florida Board of Massage Therapy will meet. Holiday Inn Orlando-Disney Springs, 1805 Hotel Plaza Blvd., Lake Buena Vista.
- CRIMINAL JUSTICE ISSUES - Friday, 9 a.m. The Criminal Justice Estimating Conference will meet. 117 Knott Building, the Capitol.

- TREASURE COAST COUNCIL - Friday, 9:30 a.m. The Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council will meet. Indian River State College, Chastain Campus, Wolf High Technology Center, 2400 S.E. Salerno Road, Stuart.

Tropical Outlook

<https://www.nhc.noaa.gov/>



About the Briefing!

The Briefing is prepared almost daily by Chris Doolin

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The Briefing is compiled **2-3 times a week** to provide information to elected officials and staff in counties that are members of the Small County Coalition and the Small School Representing District Council Consortium. It is also sent to Professional Colleagues and Associates. For Questions Email cdoolin@DoolinandAssoc.com

If you want to see all of the latest briefings – you can go www.smallcountycoalition.org or www.ssdcc.org and click on the red **Briefing** button.

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