



The Briefing for September 22, 2023

The last Briefing was September 20 – 2023

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

College Football link-Schedules and Rankings

NCAA Football Schedule for Week 4

Link to this Weeks AP Rankings for College Football

Florida Teams At Play

FSU at Clemson

FAU at Illinois

Liberty at Florida International

UCF at Kansas State

Rice at USF

Charlotte at Florida

Alabama State at FAMU

West Ga. At UWF

Georgia Pacific Closure Will Have Significant Impact on Taylor County and Region

The announcement by Georgia Pacific this past Monday – left the Taylor community reeling at the prospective of the largest employer in Taylor County closing its door. Local community leaders, governmental officials, school leaders and others were stunned by the news and the magnitude of the impact of the closure and have begun to meet to identify what to do and where to go!

Immediately – State and Federal officials from members of the Congressional delegation, the Governor's Office, Ag Commissioner Wilton Simpson and the regions legislators – Senator Corey Simon and Representative Jason Shoaf expressed surprise - resolving to do what can be done to address the circumstance. Although it's been only 4 days since the news broke – local leaders have forged ahead to explore issues including the following:

- Identifying a potential buyer
- Determining the overall impact on the local and regions economy.
- Identifying programs that will support employees that will be laid off.

News of a mill closing in Perry has Rep. **Neal Dunn** fuming. The Panama City Republican slammed the decision by Georgia-Pacific to close the Perry Foley Cellulose facility, eliminating 525 jobs in the area.

Dunn said he will demand support for laid-off employees at the mill. He has urged Georgia-Pacific to provide workers six months of severance pay and benefits, allow paid leave for employees to seek new work before the plant closes, and donate the buildings left behind to local government.

Taylor County is Timber! The region is Timber! - This plant closure will have a devastating impact – not only on the 525 employees that will lose their jobs effective November 1 but people and businesses throughout the region. These are people whose families rely on GP for their livelihoods. The School District is the second largest employer. There are additional thousands of individuals and businesses that will be impacted through the region.

- The Regional Planning Council has indicated its willingness to conduct a REMI analyzing the direct and secondary impacts.
- A Task Force of local leaders familiar with GP and the community are working to explore steps that will entice a buyer!
- Government Agencies are arranging a job fair and other employee support actions.

These next few weeks and months will be significant for the future of the county and region. Let's hope that a buyer emerges!

The Quick

Senate Schedules Committee Meetings Oct 10 and 11

Gearing up for the 2024 legislative session, the Florida Senate has scheduled two days of committee meetings in October. The meetings will be held Oct. 10 and Oct. 11 and are the first of a series of Senate committee weeks leading up the Jan. 9 start of the 2024 session. Among other things, the Senate has set aside time on Oct. 11 for the budget-writing Appropriations Committee to meet. Three House subcommittees held an initial round of meetings this week.

Senator Bradley Schedules Local Legislative Hearings

If your county is part of Senate District 6 – mark these dates.

Oct 4 –

- 1:00-3:00pm - Clay County Delegation Hearing - Clay County Commission Chamber, Green Cove Springs

Oct 23 –

- 9:00-11:00am - Columbia County Delegation Hearing - FL Gateway College Administration Building, Lake City
- 1:00-2:00pm – Union County Delegation Hearing - Lake Butler City Hall, Lake Butler
- 3:00-4:00pm – Baker County Delegation Hearing - Macclenny City Hall, Macclenny

Oct 25 –

- 10:00-Noon – Gilchrist County Delegation Hearing - Gilchrist Co Commission Chamber, Trenton
- 1:30-4:00pm – Alachua County Delegation Hearing - Joseph W. Fordyce Building (R-01), Santa Fe State College Main Campus, Gainesville

Nov 1 –

- 2:00pm - Bradford County Delegation Hearing - Bradford Co Commission Chamber, Starke

Florida Leads Nation in Removing Books from School Shelves

More books were pulled from shelves in Florida public schools compared to any other state during the past school year, a new report released Thursday by PEN America found. The nonprofit, which advocates for freedom of expression, recorded 3,362 instances of bans in public school classrooms and libraries

from July 2022 to June 2023 across the country. Out of these, about 1,400 — or 40% of the national total — took place in Florida.

PEN America’s new Index of School Book Bans provides a comprehensive list of books banned in the 2022-2023 school year.

PEN America found **3,362 instances of individual books banned, affecting 1,557 unique titles**. This represents an increase of 33% from the 2021-22 school year. The bans occurred in 33 states, with Florida leading the nation, according to PEN America’s latest [Banned in the USA](#) report.

The 2022-2023 banned book list is a searchable index of each documented book ban in the school year. The Index lists instances where students’ access to books in school libraries and classrooms in the United States was restricted or diminished, for either limited or indefinite periods of time. Some of these bans have since been rescinded and some remain in place. More information about PEN America’s definition of schoolbook bans can be found [here](#).

[READ THE REPORT](#)

Local Funding Request Forms for Senate and House

Senate Releases 24-25 Local Funding Initiative Request Form

Senate Appropriations today released the 2024-25 Local Funding Initiative Request Form. The information provided will be published by the Senate for public viewing if sponsored by a Senator.

[2024-25 Local Funding Initiative Request Form \[PDF\]](#)

[2024-25 Local Funding Initiative Requests](#)

[Prior Years Local Funding Initiative Requests](#)

House Local Funding Documents

Submission Deadline: 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, November 14, 2023.

[House Appropriation
s Project
Request Form
FY 2024-25
Appropriation
s Project
Request Form
Guidance -
FY 2024-25
Attestation
Form - FY
2024-25](#)

Submission Deadline: 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 16, 2024.

[Frequently
Asked
Questions and
Materials:
House](#)

Links to Monitor the Legislative Session

- [Link to the Florida Senate](#)
- [Link to the Florida House of Representatives](#)
- [The Florida Channel](#)

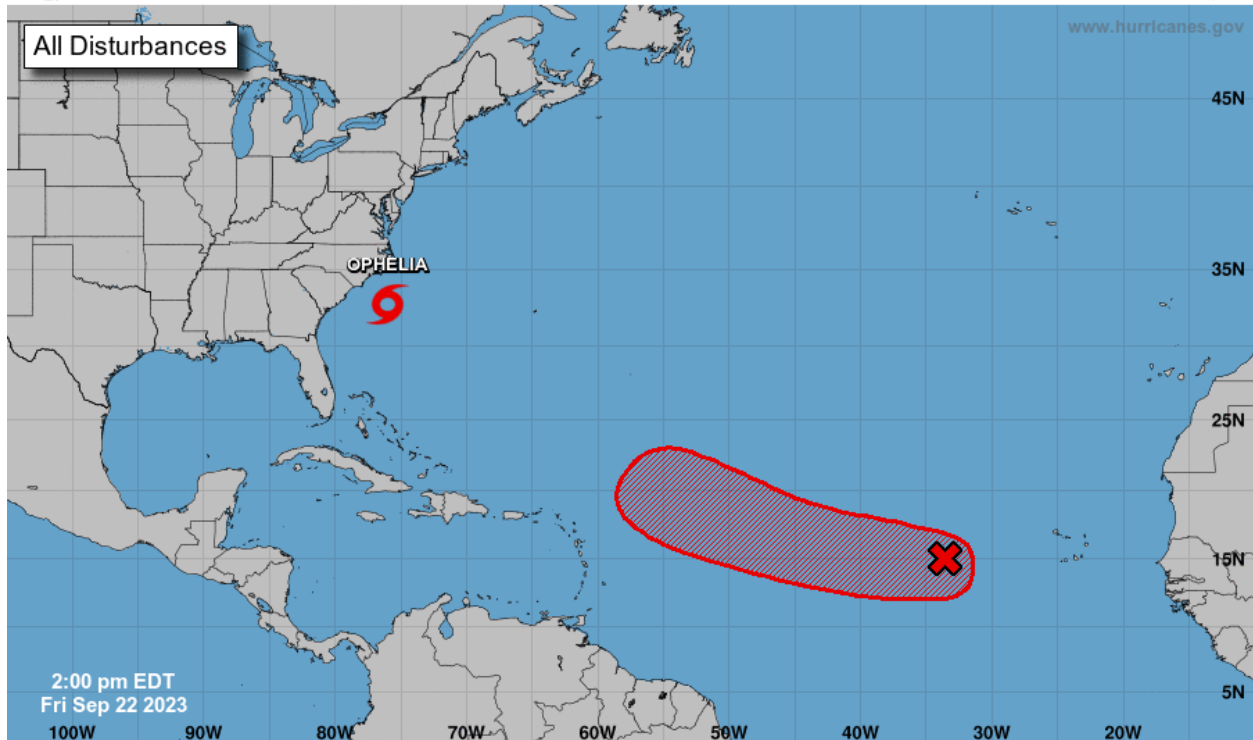
Tropical Outlook

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



Seven-Day Graphical Tropical Weather Outlook

National Hurricane Center Miami, Florida



Current Disturbances and Seven-Day Cyclone Formation Chance: < 40% 40-60% > 60%
Tropical or Sub-Tropical Cyclone: Depression Storm Hurricane
 Post-Tropical Cyclone or Remnants

Headlines Around The State

Politico: 'Waiting for him to drop out': DeSantis' influence nosedives in Florida

Politico: DeSantis delivered Covid booster warning as Florida led the nation in hospitalizations

Politico: Ron DeSantis is doubling down on Covid vaccine skepticism. It probably won't work.

The Hill: DeSantis vows to revoke funding for COVID vaccines if elected in 2024

The Hill: Fauci says DeSantis comments trigger 'crazy' people: 'reason why I have to have security'

FlaPol: Ron DeSantis doesn't know what Nikki Haley accomplished as South Carolina Governor

FlaPol: Gov. DeSantis taps Donald Trump admin lawyer to chair Elections Commission

Times: DeSantis offers paid maternity leave to state workers

Times: Florida families say school vouchers are unpaid, causing major disruption

Sentinel: Florida university workers could be fired for using non-assigned bathrooms

Times: Video shows Tampa officer taunting, cursing at residents

Sentinel: Name-confusion fight between Orlando, Sanford airports goes to federal court

The Hill: Democrats object to Rick Scott's effort to pass disaster relief fund without Ukraine money

Floridian: Steube Rejects Idea of a Continuing Resolution Before Government Shutdown

Floridian: Rubio Reiterates Importance of Inquiry Before Impeachment

Sun-Sentinel: Book bans surged across the US in 2023. Florida was the blueprint.

Herald: Florida now leads the country in book bans, new PEN report says. How did that happen?

Times: Corcoran, 2 others make their case to be New Colleges next president

FlaPol: Johnny Farias campaign for HD 118 nets nod from Florida Democratic Party

Sun-Sentinel: Steve Geller is running for Broward sheriff. It's not the Steve Geller you've heard of.

AP: Florida agriculture losses between \$78M and \$371M from Hurricane Idalia, preliminary estimate says

FlaPol: Idalia losses in Florida pass \$200M

WLRN: Dirty work: How Hurricane Idalia sent 200 miles of storm surge down the west coast of Florida

FlaPol: D-SNAP benefits aim to put Florida counties back on their feet

FlaPol: Free trees: Wilton Simpson announces grants for green infrastructure

AP: The building where the Parkland school massacre occurred is set to be demolished next summer

Herald: Commissioner spent 57 days in Miami's 'ultimate business playground.' Then he was arrested

FlaPol: Florida's Future Conference kicks off Thursday in Coral Gables

WUSF: The Florida Board of Governors votes to close three UCF campuses

City & State FL: In the dark? With private talk, Tallahassee mayor, city commissioner may have broken Florida's Sunshine Law, fellow official says

FlaPol: Florida journalists, political leaders remember Lucy Morgan

On the Docket Around the State

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2023

- DRUG LIST - Friday, 8:30 a.m. The Medicaid Pharmaceutical and Therapeutics Committee, which makes recommendations about a preferred drug list in the Medicaid program, will meet. <https://magellanhealth.zoom.us/j/91676269640?pwd=Z280MjdqaHVNZDJBWkszUjFOY0pPUT09>
- COLLEGE PRESIDENTS - Friday, 9 a.m. The Council of Presidents of the Florida College System is scheduled to meet. Tallahassee Community College Center for Innovation, 300 West Pensacola St., Tallahassee.
- AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY - Friday, 9 a.m. U.S. Rep. Frederica Wilson, a Florida Democrat who is chairwoman of the Caucus on the Commission on the Social Status of Black Men and Boys, will host a panel discussion on African American history. Walter E. Washington Convention Center, 801 Mount Vernon Place N.W., Washington, D.C.
- DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES COUNCIL - Friday, 9 a.m. The Florida Developmental Disabilities Council will meet. The Florida Hotel and Conference Center, 1500 Sand Lake Road, Orlando.
- ACUPUNCTURE BOARD - Friday, 9 a.m. The Florida Board of Acupuncture will meet. Call-in number: 1-866-899-4679. Code: 659073965
- REFUGEE ISSUES - Friday, 10 a.m. The Palm Beach Area Refugee Task Force will meet. Information at <https://www.myflfamilies.com/news-events/public-events-meetings/palm-beach-area-refugee-task-force-meeting>
- OPTICIANS - Friday, 2 p.m. The Florida Board of Opticianry will meet. Call-in number: 1-877-309-2073. Code: 239471221
- GULF CONSORTIUM - Friday, 4 p.m. The Gulf Consortium, which works on issues related to the Deepwater Horizon disaster, will meet. <https://meet.goto.com/176854197>. Call-in number: 1-872-240-3212. Code: 176854197

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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