

Ready or not here she comes!

The Briefing for Sunday, August 27, 2023

The last Briefing was Saturday – August 26, 2023

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

Link to School Closure Information

<https://www.fldoe.org/em-response/storm-info.stml>

The Quick

All eyes focused on landfall in the Big Bend of Florida – Tracks seems to shift west!

The National Hurricane Center said late Tuesday morning that models indicate Hurricane Idalia will make landfall in the area of Apalachee Bay, which is near Tallahassee in the northeast Gulf of Mexico. “Confidence is increasing that Idalia will reach the coast of Florida adjacent to Apalachee Bay Wednesday morning, with all of the reliable deterministic track models honed in on that area,” the hurricane center said in an advisory. A hurricane warning was in effect from Longboat Key to Indian Pass in Gulf County. “There is the potential for destructive life-threatening winds where the core of Idalia moves onshore in the Big Bend region of Florida, with hurricane conditions expected elsewhere in portions of the hurricane warning area along the Florida Gulf Coast,” the advisory said. “Strong winds will also spread inland across portions of northern Florida and southern Georgia near the track of the center of Idalia where hurricane warnings are in effect. Residents in these areas should be prepared for long-duration power outages.” The hurricane center also pointed to potentially “catastrophic impacts” of storm surge between the Aucilla River, which is southeast of Tallahassee, and Yankeetown in Levy County.

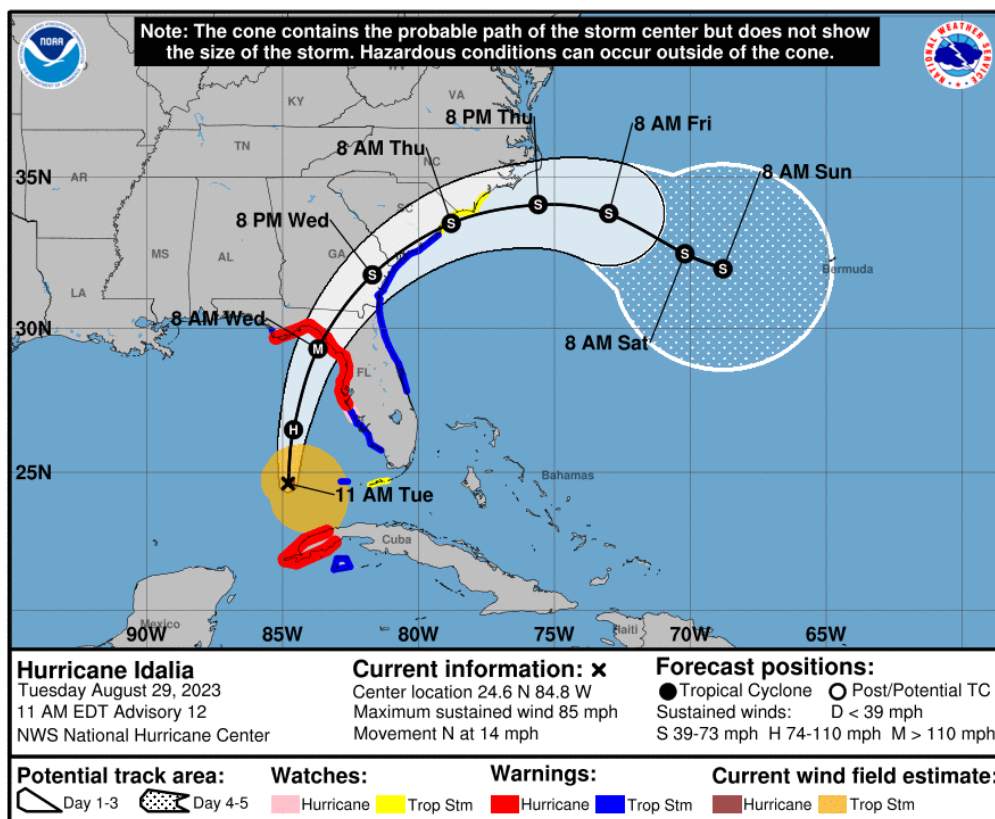
Indian River State College to Establish Data Campus in Okeechobee Project will position Okeechobee as the epicenter of the State's data capacity

OKEECHOBEE, FL—Indian River State College (IRSC) plans to establish a dedicated, fully operational data campus in Okeechobee County, positioning the County at the epicenter of the State's data center capacity. The data campus, named Okee-One, is the primary focus of economic revitalization for the former Okeechobee “School for Boys” site. Florida Governor Ron DeSantis signed HB1603 transferring ownership of the 205-acre parcel to the College in June. The site is well-positioned adjacent to data superhighways; the inland placement offers natural protection from coastal storm threats.

“Between access to dense fiber, natural gas, and land availability for solar backup and an existing water reclamation facility for cooling, the possibility of establishing the nation's most sustainable data campus here in Okeechobee is within reach,” shares IRSC Executive Vice President for Strategic Initiatives Dr. Michael Hageloh.

Tropical Outlook

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



Headline Around The State

Politico: Trump's Jan. 6 trial raises the stakes for the Florida presidential contest

Politico: DeSantis knows how to handle a hurricane. The racist shooting poses a bigger dilemma.

FlaPol: Ron DeSantis pauses 'political season' as he eyes post-Idalia cooperation with White House

Times: As Idalia approaches Florida, DeSantis says now is not the time for politics

Herald: DeSantis scraps pair of South Florida fundraisers as state prepares for major hurricane

NBC Miami: Biden signs state of emergency order for Florida as Tropical Storm Idalia approaches

Sentinel: Biden says action needed against hate-fueled violence after racist shooting in Florida

FlaPol: Nikki Haley stresses collective responsibility after 'horrible' Jacksonville mass murder

NYTimes: 'No Place for Hate in America,' Haley Says, Recalling 2015 Church Massacre

FlaPol: Donald Trump claims Ron DeSantis may primary Rick Scott in 2024

The Floridian: DeSantis Says U.S. Must Choose 'Freedom or Decline'

NBC News: Francis Suarez goes quiet after failing to make the GOP debate

WUSF: Some Florida tolls are being lifted to help aid Idalia evacuations

The Floridian: Diaz-Balart Urges Completion of Appropriation Bills

AP: Idalia strengthens to a hurricane, dangerous storm surges are forecast for Florida's Gulf Coast

Herald: Idalia now a Cat 1 hurricane. It could be a much stronger by the time it hits Florida

The Capitolist: Internet, utility providers begin preparations for Idalia's landfall

Times: Citgo says customers affected by Florida fuel contamination should file claims

WLRN: Gas prices are down in Florida, but could rebound with Idalia

Herald: Which part of Florida will see the 'dirty side' of Idalia and face the worst weather?

News4Jax: Florida prays Idalia won't join long list of destructive storms with names starting with 'I'

FlaPol: Personnel note: Howard Simon to again lead ACLU of Florida amid infighting, lawsuit

Times: Florida hotel chain offers hurricane 'distress rates' for Idalia evacuations

Ledger: Polk will open shelters Tuesday at 4 p.m.; there's a deadline for special-needs transit

Post: Back on top: How did Palm Beach County high schools fare in national rankings?

News4Jax: Florida governor declares widespread state of emergency ahead of Idalia's expected landfall

Herald: High stakes for Gulf Coast, Ron DeSantis as Idalia approaches Florida

AP: Florida Governor Ron DeSantis faces Black leaders' anger after racist killings in Jacksonville

Times-Union: Gov. DeSantis promises funding for EWU, families of Dollar General shooting victims

News4Jax: Gov. DeSantis gives \$1 million to bolster security at EWU in wake of racially-motivated shooting nearby

NYTimes: Hurricane Idalia: Florida's Evacuation Orders by County

Sentinel: Hurricane Idalia: DeSantis warns Floridians in low-lying places to evacuate

FlaPol: Ron DeSantis says he wanted to go further than Legislature in fixing insurance problems

Times-Union: 911 call from Dollar General shooter's father too late; killing had already begun

AP: HBCU president lauds students, officer for stopping Jacksonville killer before racist store attack

Herald: Florida reviewers of AP African American Studies sought 'opposing viewpoints' of slavery

The Capitolist: Florida workers' compensation rates could see 15.1 percent reduction

Democrat: Idalia prompts state of emergency in Leon County; extra line workers headed to town

News4Jax: Racially motivated deadly mass shooting brings attention to New Town neighborhood

WLRN: Florida regained control of Miami-Dade County toll roads. What now?

The Capitolist: Florida universities prepare for Tropical Storm Idalia: canceled classes, campus closures in effect

The Floridian: Florida Legislator Proposes to Expand Bright Futures Eligibility

WLRN: Jacksonville killings refocus attention on the city's racist past and the struggle to move on

Sentinel: Space Florida board picks Space Force Col. Long as next CEO

FlaPol: Jimmy Patronis warns to park electric vehicles somewhere dry before Idalia lands

Sun: Nearly 100 springs advocates speak out against state's 'harm rule'

Sentinel: 'And Tango Makes 3' legal fight expands to Escambia County schools

Times: 'And Tango Makes Three' authors refile challenge to Florida parental rights law

Sun-Sentinel: State attorney won't investigate administrators for sharing data breach details

Sun-Sentinel: Broward Republican Party chairman Tom Powers resigns as he battles cancer

On the Docket Around the State

TUESDAY, AUGUST 29, 2023

- JNC INTERVIEWS CANDIDATES - Tuesday, 8:30 a.m. The 20th Circuit Judicial Nominating Commission will interview candidates for a circuit-judge position and a Lee County judge position. Candidates scheduled to be interviewed are Christopher Whitney, Dennis Wallace, Tylan Ricketts, Tracey Redd, Michael Powell, Richard Frank Myers, Andrew Marcus, Amanda Levy-Reis, Steven Leskovich, Ryan Kuhl, Kimberly Erwin, Deborah Cunningham, James Chandler, Karla Campos-Andersen and Kimberly Davis Bocelli.
- Location: Lee County Justice Center Annex, 2000 Main St., Fort Myers.
- PEOPLES GAS RATES - Tuesday, 9:30 a.m. The Florida Public Service Commission is scheduled to start a hearing on a proposed rate increase by Peoples Gas System. Location: Betty Easley Conference Center, 4075 Esplanade Way, Tallahassee.
- HEARING HELD IN UNION DISPUTE - Tuesday, 11 a.m. Administrative Law Judge Robert Cohen will hold a hearing in a case challenging how the Florida Public Employees Relations Commission is carrying out a new law that placed additional restrictions on public-employee unions. The case was filed by the Florida Police Benevolent Association and was joined by the Florida Professional Firefighters, Teamsters and Fraternal Order of Police unions. Location: Florida Division of Administrative Hearings, 1230 Apalachee Parkway, Tallahassee.
- FRIED APPEARS IN PANHANDLE - Tuesday, 11 a.m. Central time and 5 p.m. Central time.
- Florida Democratic Party Chairwoman Nikki Fried is expected to appear in Santa Rosa and Escambia counties as part of a tour through the state. Location: 11 a.m. in Santa Rosa County and 5 p.m. in Escambia County. Information at <https://www.miamidadedems.org/events>
- BROWARD COLLEGE BOARD - Tuesday, 1 p.m. The Broward College Board of Trustees will meet. Location: Broward College, A. Hugh Adams Central Campus, 3501 S.W. Davie Road, Davie.
- FORESTRY ISSUES DISCUSSED - Tuesday, 1 p.m. The Florida Forestry Council will meet.
- Location: Sandestin Golf and Beach Resort, 9300 Emerald Coast Parkway West, Miramar Beach.
- TRANS TREATMENT HEARING - Tuesday, 3 p.m. U.S. District Judge Robert Hinkle will hear arguments on a request for a preliminary injunction against a new state law making it more difficult for transgender adults to access hormone-replacement therapy and surgery. Location: Joseph Woodrow Hatchett United States Courthouse and Federal Building, 111 North Adams St., Tallahassee.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 30, 2023

- UNIVERSITY SYSTEM - Wednesday, 9 a.m. The state university system's Board of Governors will meet after holding committee meetings. Among the issues will be reports on presidential searches at New College of Florida and Florida Atlantic University. Committees will start at 9 a.m., with the full board scheduled at 11 a.m. Location: University of Florida, J. Wayne Reitz Union, 655 Reitz Union Dr., Gainesville.
- PAROLE CASES - Wednesday, 9 a.m. The Florida Commission on Offender Review will meet.
- Location: Betty Easley Conference Center, 4075 Esplanade Way, Tallahassee. Call-in number: 1-877-309-2073. Code: 337350165
- UNEMPLOYMENT CASES CONSIDERED - Wednesday, 9:30 a.m. The state Reemployment Assistance Appeals Commission will meet. Location: Reemployment Assistance Appeals Commission, 1211 Governors Square Blvd., Suite 300, Tallahassee. Call-in number: 850-988-5144. Conference ID: 686974885
- FRIED APPEARS IN NORTH FLORIDA - Wednesday, 11 a.m. Central time and 6 p.m. Eastern time.
- Florida Democratic Party Chairwoman Nikki Fried is expected to make appearances in Bay and Gadsden counties as part of a tour through the state. Location: 11 a.m. in Bay County and 6 p.m. in Gadsden County. Information at <https://www.miamidadedems.org/events>

THURSDAY, AUGUST 31, 2023

- TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION - Thursday, 9 a.m. The Florida Chamber Foundation will hold the “Florida Technology & Innovation Solution Summit.” Among the numerous speakers will be Rep. Mike Giallombardo, R-Cape Coral. Location: Florida Hotel and Conference Center, 1500 Sand Lake Road, Orlando.
- APALACHEE PLANNING COUNCIL - Thursday, 10 a.m. The Apalachee Regional Planning Council is scheduled to meet. Location: Apalachee Regional Planning Council, 2507 Callaway Road, Suite 100, Tallahassee.
- SUPREME COURT RELEASES OPINIONS - Thursday, 11 a.m. The Florida Supreme Court is expected to release opinions.
- CITIZENS CLAIMS ISSUES - Thursday, 1 p.m. The Claims Committee of the Citizens Property Insurance Corp. Board of Governors will meet. Location: Call-in number: 1-786-635-1003. Code: 98593216531
- FRIED HOLDS NEWS CONFERENCE - Thursday, 11 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. Florida Democratic Party Chairwoman Nikki Fried is expected to appear in Jefferson County as part of a tour through the state and hold a news conference in Tallahassee. Location: 11 a.m. in Jefferson County and 1:30 p.m. in Tallahassee. Information at <https://www.miamidadedems.org/events>
- HEALTH INSURANCE - Thursday, 4 p.m. The Florida Health Insurance Advisory Board will meet.

Location: Call-in number: 1-866-299-7949. Code: 1433866

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 2023

- NURSING BOARD - Friday, 9 a.m. The Florida Board of Nursing will meet. Location: Call-in number: 1-888-585-9008. Code: 275112502
- OPTICIAN ISSUES EYED - Friday, 2 p.m. The Florida Board of Opticianry will meet. Location: Call-in number: 1-866-899-4679. Code: 216691181

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 2023

- ‘TOOL TIME’ TAX HOLIDAY STARTS - The state will start what it calls the “tool time” tax holiday that will allow shoppers to avoid paying sales taxes on a variety of items such as hand tools, ladders, shovels, tool belts and work boots. The tax holiday will end Sept. 8.

About the Briefing!

The Briefing is prepared almost daily by Chris Doolin

cdoolin@doolinandassoc.com

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.

Chris Doolin

President – Christian B. Doolin & Associates

Vice – President – Robert P. Jones & Associates

Mobile – 850-508-5492

Email – cdoolin@doolinandassoc.com

