

## ***The Aftermath of Idalia!***

***What was expected happened as the Big Bend Region and coastal communities were ravaged!  
As local communities move forward, they will continue to lean on each other!***

## ***The Briefing for Wednesday – August 30 - 2023***

***The last Briefing was Tuesday – August 29, 2023***

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

### ***Extreme Sadness***

In the midst of our current crisis – we need to take a moment to acknowledge the untimely passing of Carson Liam Owens, the grandson of Okeechobee Commissioner Kelly Owens.

#### ***In Memoriam - Carson Liam Owens***



Okeechobee – Carson Liam Owens, the grandson of Okeechobee County Commissioner Kelly Owens died this past Sunday -August 27, 2023. He was born September 1, 2006, in Stuart, Florida. A lifetime resident of Okeechobee, he attended Okeechobee High School Virtual School and worked with his family's business. He was loved by all that knew him. He is survived by his parents, grandparents, brother, sister and a large extended family. His passing was unexpected and tragic – our thoughts and prayers go out to The Owens family. Those wishing to leave a message of condolence may sign the register book at, [www.OkeechobeeFuneralHome.com](http://www.OkeechobeeFuneralHome.com) Visitation will be 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. Thursday, September 7, 2023 at Buxton & Bass Okeechobee Funeral Home, 400 North Parrott Avenue, Okeechobee, Florida, 34972.

### ***The Quick***

#### ***A Message to DEM Director Kevin Guthrie***

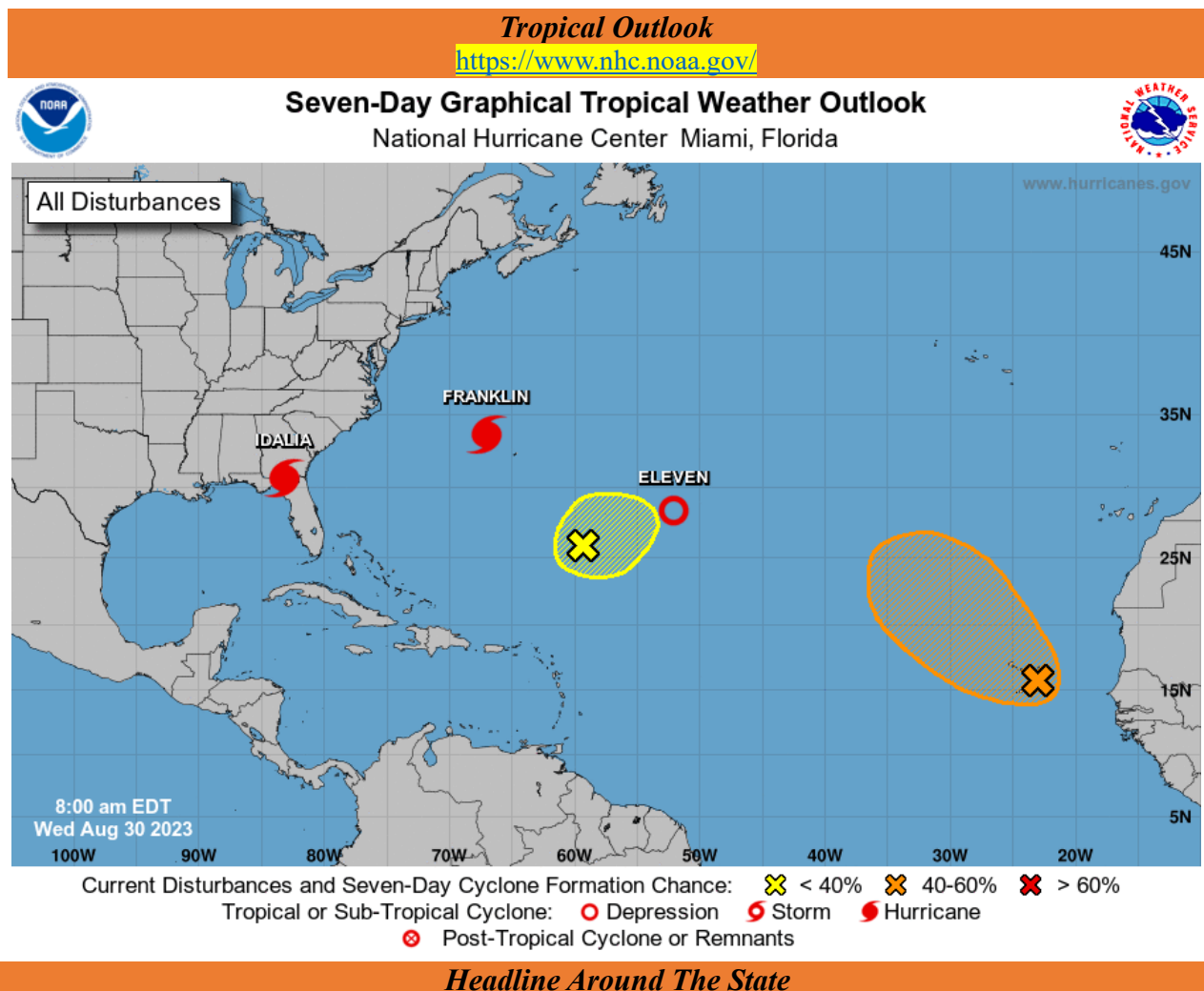
Hang in there! A lot of stuff to evaluate We appreciate the close collaboration amongst the local, state and Federal Emergency programs. Based on what we have experienced, we trust your leadership and understanding of Florida's rural areas. Many of the small counties in the Big Bend region have been seriously impacted – total impact yet to be determined. We are confident that these small, rural, fiscally constrained counties in the Big Bend will get the same focused attention from the state that has been provided in the past to areas that are larger, more populated, and have more significant fiscal capacity. The leadership of the Small County Coalition will encourage continued engagement of all county leaders within the current collaborative processes. If you or staff need anything in terms of contacting any of the small county local folks please let me know I am in touch with Eric Poole and others at FAC and will remain on the bench until I hear or have an idea. Good luck And thank you!

#### ***A Message to Briefing Recipients***

With the significant impact of Hurricane Idalia on North and Northeast Florida – many of the small counties in the region experienced impacts that devastation to coastal towns and rural areas that have not experienced destruction of this magnitude. Taylor, Levy, Dixie, Gilchrist, Suwannee, Madison, Columbia, and others now face search, rescue, debris removal, damage assessment and subsequent recovery. This will begin immediately with FEMA and DEM teams coming into the impacted communities.

We are blessed with probably the best Emergency Program in the country. They collaborate; communicate; and are ahead of impending disasters. They certainly seem to have been with this Storm. In that regard, our office – the Small County Coalition – will stand along with the existing structure in a

manner that does not get in the way but engages as needed to help resolve an issue or facilitate communication but not create any unnecessary diversion from the task at hand.



*The Hill: Biden says he's in 'constant contact' with DeSantis as Hurricane Idalia approaches*

*The Hill: FEMA chief: Floridians need to take Hurricane Idalia 'seriously'*

*Politico: DeSantis urges Floridians to heed Hurricane Idalia evacuation orders*

*FlaPol: Asked how long he'll pause campaign, Ron DeSantis says response to Idalia 'no different' than Ian*

*FlaPol: Ron DeSantis dodges question about insurance reforms he claimed Legislature didn't want*

*FlaPol: Jimmy Patronis recalls 'catastrophic' flooding in South Florida. It didn't stop Ron DeSantis' out of state trips.*

*FlaPol: Ron DeSantis praises 'resilient' mobile homes as Idalia approaches*

*FlaPol: Gov. DeSantis extends state of emergency for Hurricane Idalia to 49 counties*

*Floridian: DeSantis Announces One Million Gallons of Fuel, 25,000 Linemen on Standby As Hurricane Idalia Approaches*

*FlaPol: Duke Energy mobilizes 5,000 responders ahead of Idalia landfall*

*FlaPol: DCF allowing access to September SNAP benefits early due to Hurricane Idalia*

*FlaPol: Florida evacuates 4,000 prisoners from 35 facilities statewide ahead of hurricane*

*NBC: Fears over Florida immigration law surface as residents prepare for Hurricane Idalia*

*FlaPol: Uber offers free rides to hurricane shelters as Hurricane Idalia nears*

*FlaPol: Hillsborough transit agency to suspend service Wednesday*

*FlaPol: UCF cancels Wednesday classes, most campus activities*

*FlaPol: Casey DeSantis jokingly wonders whose idea it was to bring her 3 kids to the GOP presidential debate*

*Herald: Done in 76 days: Francis Suarez acknowledges his presidential campaign is over*

*NBC: Francis Suarez ends his presidential bid, the first GOP candidate to drop out of the race*

*Politico: Francis Suarez suspends presidential campaign*

*Herald: Miami mayor discloses millions in side gigs in his last act as a presidential candidate*

*NBC: Jacksonville gunman stayed in his room after dropping out of college and losing job, father says in 911 audio*

*Times-Union: Ryan Palmeto's father: He 'pretty much has been living in his room'*

*NYTimes: The Lives Lost to the Jacksonville Gunman*

*AP: What does Florida's red flag law say, and could it have thwarted the Jacksonville shooter?*

*NBC 6: Ex-Hialeah cop found guilty of kidnapping charges in homeless beating trial*

*NBC: Hurricane Idalia intensifies to major Category 4 storm: Live updates*

*Sentinel: Hurricane Idalia now Category 4 hurricane approaching Florida landfall*

*NYTimes: Cedar Key Residents in the Path of Idalia Prepare for the Worst*

*City & State FL: The calm before the storm: Florida fishing village prepares for historic hurricane surge*

*News4JAX: Hurricane Idalia menaces Florida's Big Bend, the 'Nature Coast' far from tourist attractions*

*NYTimes: Hurricane Idalia Is Aiming for Florida's Big Bend Region*

*News4JAX: Inland Northeast Florida counties expected to take brunt of local effects from Hurricane Idalia*

*Politico: How a steaming Gulf is powering Idalia's threat to Florida*

*NYTimes: Hot Ocean Temperatures Could Give Hurricane Idalia a Boost*

*Semafor: Florida's hot oceans are strengthening Hurricane Idalia*

*WSJ: Why Hurricanes Are Becoming More Intense*

*Politico: Hurricane heads for state still recovering from 2022 storm*

*WaPo: In photos: Floridians along the Gulf Coast brace for Hurricane Idalia*

*Democrat: Evacuees from Taylor County fear the worst, find shelter from Idalia in Tallahassee*

*Times: Along Florida coast, some shrug off Idalia evacuation orders*

*NYTimes: Hurricane Idalia Threatens to Stir Up Lake Okeechobee's Toxic Algae Blooms*

*Sun-Sentinel: Could Hurricane Idalia swing back toward Florida east coast?*

*Times: Idalia brings Tampa Bay water and a whole lot of worry*

*FlaPol: DeSantis tells Biden: Keep your IRA money*

*FlaPol: In latest sign of evolution, Rick Scott deems climate change an important issue*

*Politico: A 6-figure Donald Trump donor is now a No Labels adviser*

*FlaPol: Felicia Robinson faces Primary challenge in her bid for a 3rd term*

*WLRN: Broward school board delays vote on controversial arrest diversion program for students*

*NBC 6: 'Truly proud of him': Father mourns Broward flight paramedic killed in helicopter crash*

*City & State FL: To solve the affordable housing crisis, some communities are turning to hotels*

*FlaPol: Miami-Dade sets table for food delivery app regulations amid privacy concerns*

*FlaPol: Tom Powers resigns as Broward GOP Chair, citing battle with cancer*

*FlaPol: Rockie Pennington, GOP mainstay and adventurer, dies*

### **On the Docket Around the State**

#### **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***

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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](mailto:cdoolin@DoolinandAssoc.com)

If you want to see all of the latest briefings – you can go [www.smallcountycoalition.org](http://www.smallcountycoalition.org) or [www.ssdec.org](http://www.ssdec.org) and click on the red **Briefing** button.

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