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Tallahassee topics

NEWS AND NOTES FROM YOUR LOCAL NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE OFFICE.

The National Weather Service (NWS) office in Tallahassee, FL provides weather, hydrologic, and climate forecasts and warnings for Southeast Alabama, Southwest & South Central Georgia, the Florida Panhandle and Big Bend, and the adjacent Gulf of Mexico coastal waters. Our primary mission is the protection of life and property and the enhancement of the local economy.

Hurricane Debby Impacts the FL Big Bend & Southwest GA

By Jasmine Montgomery

On August 5th, [Hurricane Debby](#) made landfall along the coast of Taylor County (lower-right fig), FL near Steinhatchee as a category-1 hurricane with 80-mph max sustained winds. This is nearly the same location as where Hurricane Idalia made landfall the year prior. The resulting impacts from the slow-moving Hurricane Debby were downed trees & powerlines, power outages, 3-5-ft of storm surge, and widespread flooding. Unfortunately, downed trees on homes were responsible for a couple of fatalities in both Dixie County, FL and Moultrie, GA. The most significant impacts occurred in Madison County, FL where around 12 inches of rain led to prolonged flooding in and along portions of the Suwannee River basin. In particular, rainfall in Southeast Madison County corresponded to a 0.2% annual chance occurrence or a 500 year flood event! Areal flooding persisted in southeastern Madison County well into late August, where water levels continued to gradually rise east of Lee and areas around US-90 as well as areas south of I-10 east of SR-53. Flood waters in southeastern Madison County gradually shifted slowly south and east toward the Suwannee River. The name “Debby” may be familiar to those in the area as there was a [Tropical Storm Debby in 2012](#) that affected the Florida Panhandle and Big Bend with very heavy rain. However, Debby 2012 dumped more than a foot of rain with max amounts exceeding 28 inches across southwestern portions of Wakulla County! The Sopchoppy River went on to experience record flooding.

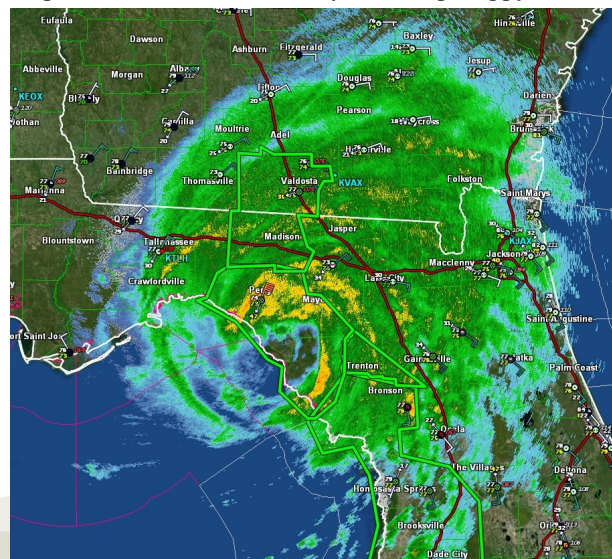


Hurricane Debby Overview




- ☞ Landfall near Steinhatchee, FL around 700am ET on August 5th as a category 1 hurricane.
- ☞ Max estimated winds at landfall were around 80 mph with a minimum central pressure estimated to be around 979 mb.
- ☞ Brought widespread power outages to the southeast Florida Big Bend and southern Georgia.
- ☞ Heavy rainfall was the most significant impact from Debby. Additionally, an estimated 3 to 5 ft of storm surge occurred along the southeast Big Bend and the Florida Nature Coast from Steinhatchee to Cedar Key.
- ☞ Heavy rainfall caused significant freshwater flooding across the Suwannee River Basin. Some of this flooding developed and persisted several weeks after landfall.

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Summer Highlights *By Israel Gonzalez*

June was defined by hot weather, bouts of storminess & heavy rain, and a late-month long-duration high rip current risk across our local beaches. We issued our first Heat Advisory of the year on June 22nd for much of the FL Panhandle & Big Bend. An additional 3 were issued in subsequent days, which is double the amount from last June. Unfortunately, the most noteworthy local story this past June was the 6 confirmed rip-current-related fatalities in Bay County. Conditions were favorable for frequent rip currents along the NE Gulf Coast thanks to a combination of onshore flow and long-period swells generated by Tropical Storm Alberto over the Bay of Campeche.

Anomalously warm conditions (especially overnight) with bouts of strong to severe thunderstorms mostly defined July. Instances of minor and flash flooding occurred in various parts of the Tri-State area, in addition to occasionally observed waterspouts off the Emerald Coast. Early in the month, long-period swells generated by distant Hurricane Beryl, which made landfall along the Middle-Texas coast, produced an extended duration of high rip current risk at our local beaches.

The main highlights from August were Hurricane Debby significantly impacting the Eastern FL Big Bend/Suwannee Valley/South-Central GA on the 5th, the first Excessive Heat Warning of the year issued on the 8th, a severe weather event on the 18th, and brief bouts of relatively cooler/drier weather late month. Severe weather affected parts of the Tri-State area on the 18th when potent thunderstorm clusters ahead of a diving front from the NW produced instances of damaging wind gusts that led to power outages and downed trees/powerlines. The most impacted locations were SE AL, SW GA (west of I-75) and near the FL state line around the I-10 corridor, excluding much of the Big Bend. Wind gust reports of at least 40 mph were most concentrated along the Emerald Coast.


Summer 2024: Warmest on Record for Tallahassee

June 1, 2024 through August 31, 2024

Records date back to 1892

Ranking	Average Mean Temperature	Ranking	Average Min Temperature
1st	84.9° (2024)	1st	75.0° (2024)
2nd	84.4° (2011)	2nd	74.6° (2010)
3rd - tied	84.2° (2016)	3rd	74.2° (2016)
3rd - tied	84.2° (2010)	4th	73.9° (2015)
3rd - tied	84.2° (1998)	5th	73.8° (2023)

Climate Normal Period: 1991-2020



WEATHER FORECAST OFFICE
Tallahassee Florida

Updated: September 4, 2024

Tallahassee Sees its Warmest Summer on Record by both average mean (84.9°) and minimum temperature (minT, 75°). The highest and lowest temperatures were 101° on 6/25 and 66° on 6/9. All three 100° days this summer (matches the 30-yr normal) were in June. Each summer month individually set new records for warmest by average minT! Tallahassee had the 2nd warmest August on record this year and any month overall, trailing only August 2023! The capital city saw nine 98° August days (2nd most on record). Contributing to these extreme values were a record eleven consecutive 77° minT days from July 1st-11th, three 78° minT days (3 separate times), most number of 75° minT days at 24 (eclipsing 21 from 2015), and most number of consecutive 75° minT days from June 23rd-July 12th at 20. As for seasonal rainfall amounts, Tallahassee measured only 16.59", which is well below normal and 7th driest summer over the last 25 years! The wettest single day was 2.68" on 8/10.

Autumn Climate Normals: From September 1st-November 30th, the normal average mean temperature for Tallahassee is 69.9° with a autumnal accumulation of 11.25". Last year, the numbers were 70.5° and 11.62", respectively (both above average). The normal average high/low temperature drops from nearly 89°/70° in September to about 73°/48° in November. Climatologically, meteorological fall is the driest season and 2nd coolest on average.

Staffing Updates *By Israel Gonzalez*

In the wake of meteorologist Eric Bunker's departure from our office in August, our 6th Lead Forecaster position has become vacant and will be filled internally in the near future. Speaking of, Lead Forecaster, Karleisa Rogacheski (*bottom-right picture*) accepted a lateral position at the NWS Monterey, CA Weather Forecast Office. We are happy for this exciting change to her career. She joined us in 2021 from the NWS Sacramento Office with strong aviation and fire weather background. Karleisa played a significant leadership role in Tallahassee where she fought to foster positive work culture, while giving general meteorologists opportunities to advance their careers with occasional larger-than-normal roles in operations. Karleisa's last day with us is unofficially October 20th. Thank you for all that you did for us during your time here. You will be missed, KR.

In other news, our 2nd Electronics Technician (ET) position has finally been filled by Jeff Borosky, an ET with nearly 2 decades of experience. Sixteen of those years were in the engineering laboratory at Tobyhanna Army Depot in Eastern Pennsylvania. We welcomed him to our office on September 30th. Lastly, there were three recent notable career milestones amongst the staff: 25 years of service for Science & Operations Office, Parks Camp, 15 years for Lead Forecaster Don Van Dyke, and 10 years for Forecaster Lance Franck. Congratulations to all of them!

IS THERE A TOPIC YOU'D LIKE US
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FSU Fall Student Volunteers Spotlight

By Israel Gonzalez

Although, our FSU student volunteers are not official employees, they are very much involved in the operational meteorology experience to know what it's like to have a career with NOAA/NWS. This year's Fall semester features 5 chosen students (*4 pictured below from left to right*): Melody Geiger, Anna Walker, Ian Mutschler, Justin Gonzalez, and Melina Davis (*not pictured*). The former two are familiar faces who return from the previous semester. Melody is a Master's student who graduated in early 2024 after successfully defending her Undergraduate Honors Thesis on Model Error and Predictability of Upper-Level Troughs in Numerical Weather Prediction. Anna is a senior meteorology major doing senior honors research who had a summer 2023 stint at the NWS Tampa, her hometown office. Ian hails from West Palm Beach, FL and aspires to work for the NWS and/or National Hurricane Center with a research interest in various aspects of tropical cyclones to kick off his first year of graduate school. Justin is a former transfer from Miami, FL who earned his B.S. in Meteorology last year at FSU, and is now a second-year Master's Student focusing on tropical cyclone research. Lastly, Melina Davis is a sophomore from Orlando, FL in a mentor-styled track. We are glad to have each of these individuals be a part of our student volunteer program and hope they get as much out of it as possible with each visit.





Summer Outreach Efforts

By Mark Wool & Jasmine Montgomery

Management-Admin Team

Felecia Bowser, MIC
Mark Wool, WCM
Parks Camp, SOO
Doug Sherrick, ESA
Jennifer Nichols, ASA
Brian Coats, ITO
Kelly Godsey, Hydrologist
Ricardo Humphreys, OPL

Lead Forecasters

Don Van Dyke
Blair Scholl
Andy Haner
Karleisa Rogacheski
Molly Merrifield
Vacant

Forecasters

Lance Franck
Wright Dobbs
Israel Gonzalez
Kristian Oliver
Jasmine Montgomery
Cameron Young
Joe Worster
David Reese

Student Volunteers

Melody Geiger, Ian Mutschler,
Anna Walker, Justin Gonzalez,
Melina Davis

Electronic Technicians

Aaron Basti
Jeff Borosky

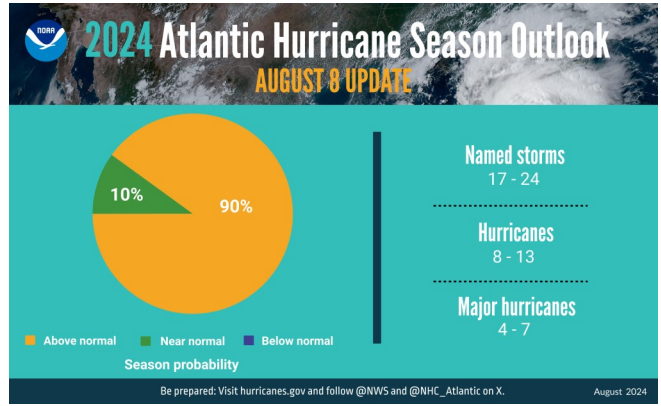
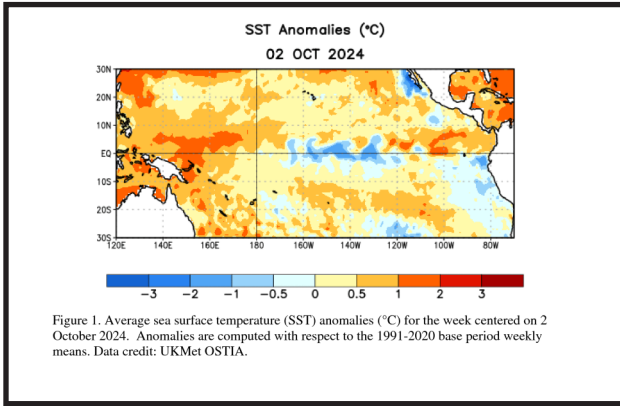
On June 1, Warning Coordination Meteorologist, Mark Wool, spoke to the Apalachee Bay Yacht Club on the hurricane season outlook and marine forecasting. On the 4th, Senior Service Hydrologist, Kelly Godsey, conducted Flood Exercise in Walton County, FL. Mark spoke about hurricane season preparedness to GA Public Health on the 5th, the Big Bend Healthcare Coalition on the 11th, a Tallahassee PREP event in northeast Tallahassee late that day, the Monticello Kiwanis Club on the 12th, FSU on the 18th, and the ALEPC on the 26th. Meteorologist Jasmine Montgomery staffed a booth at the Wakulla County Preparedness Expo on the 15th.

In July, Mark and Jasmine conducted an office tour for a group of cub scouts. On the 16th, Mark led a similar tour for the FSU Boys & Girls Club Geosciences Camp. On the week of July 29th, NWS offices and the state of Florida conducted four days of public-oriented hurricane preparedness webinars. Each day offered four sessions that covered preparedness best practices from the pre season to the recovery phase.

In August, Mark spoke about hurricane preparedness at the 2nd Saturday Sharing event at the Museum Fred George Greenway. Our Senior Service Hydrologist Kelly Godsey and meteorologist Jasmine Montgomery (*pictured below*) headed up to Early County, Georgia to facilitate a table top exercise of a severe weather event impacting the school district. They provided the participants with a weather forecast and briefings leading up to the event. Our team provided information and warnings as if it were the real-time event and observed the decision making processes that the participants would have to make prior to and during the severe weather event. Overall, it was a very successful experience for both our TAE team and Early County. This is all for expanding the knowledge of what the National Weather Service can provide to our partners and how to be better prepared for when severe weather approaches.

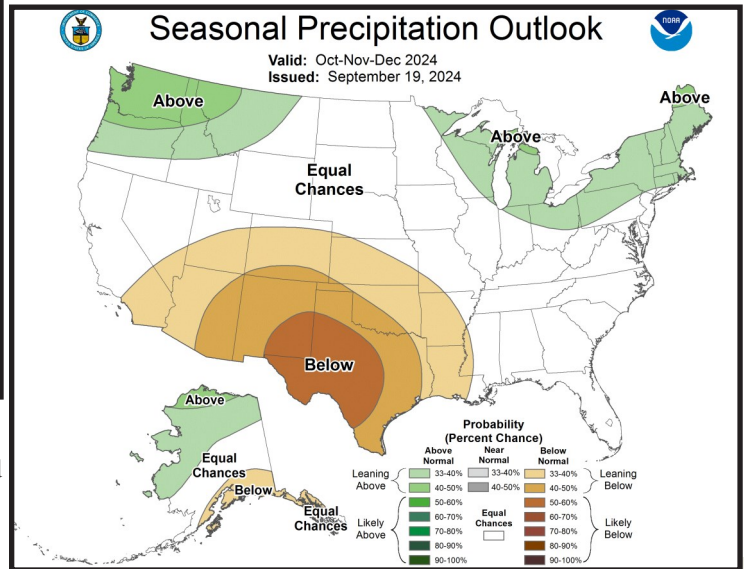
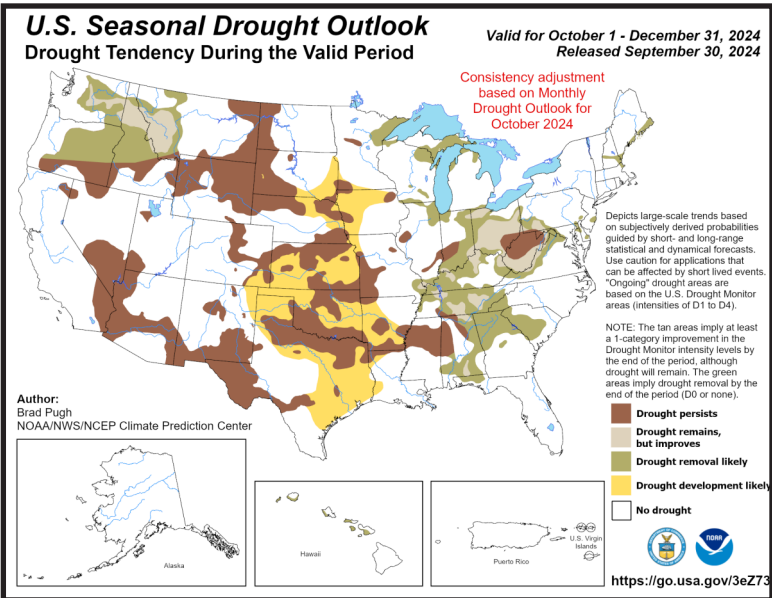
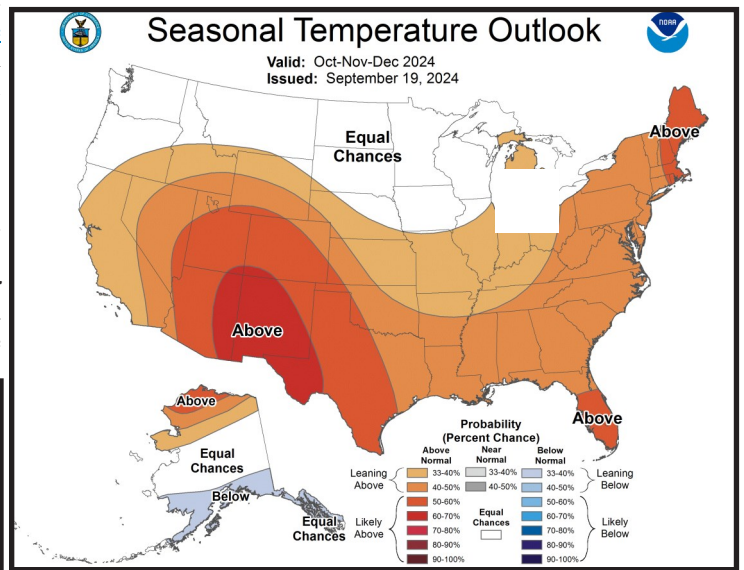


State of ENSO and Hurricane Season Mid-Season & Remainder of 2024 Outlook, by Israel Gonzalez



La Niña Watch Remains in Effect (October 10, 2024): Near average sea-surface temperatures (SST) across most of the equatorial Pacific Ocean (*upper-left fig*) confirmed the continued ENSO-neutral conditions as of early October. La Niña (albeit weak) is [favored to emerge in September-November](#) (60% chance) and persist through Northern Hemispheric Winter. La Niña tends to favor enhanced Atlantic tropical cyclone activity in the basin by lowering vertical wind shear, whereas winters in the Southeast US are usually drier and warmer than normal, albeit less likely if the event turns out weak.

Hurricane Mid-Season 2024 Outlook: On August 8th, NOAA released an update to their [Atlantic Hurricane Mid-Season Outlook](#). Their forecast shows a 90% chance of an above-average season (*upper-right fig*) thanks to near-record SSTs and the possibility of La Niña emerging this autumn as key factors. Through early October, there



have been 13 named storms, 9 hurricanes, and 4 major hurricanes. The 30-year climatological average is 14 named storms, 7 hurricanes, and 3 major hurricanes. The US has already experienced 5 landfalling hurricanes (all in the Gulf, 3 in FL), which is 3.4 more than the seasonal average and quadruple for major hurricanes! In fact, only 3 other years on record (since 1851) have had 5+ Gulf hurricane landfalls: 1886, 2005, 2020. The only other seasons having 3+ FL landfalls were 2004 & 2005.. Hurricane Season officially runs through November 30th.

Remainder of 2024 Climate Outlook: The Climate Prediction Center shows chances favoring warmer than-normal temperatures and near-normal rainfall (*middle-right figs*) through the end of this year. Meanwhile, drought removal is likely over the next 3 months across parts of the FL Panhandle and Southern AL, thanks in part to recent beneficial rains in September.