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2025

BBB

# Loud sounds have hidden health risks



When using power tools, lawn equipment or other machinery, wear properly fitted earplugs or earmuffs from the start, rather than waiting until the noise becomes uncomfortable. PHOTOS BY GETTY IMAGES

## Noise pollution a serious but often forgotten hazard

Laura Coco  
San Diego State University | THE CONVERSATION

The human body is remarkably good at getting used to the environment around it. You’ve probably experienced this if you’ve ever gone to a matinee and emerged from the dark theater into sunshine. Your eyes sting, so you squint and shield your face until they adjust to the bright sunlight. • In the same way, the body can grow accustomed to constant noise. With repeated exposure to traffic, leaf blowers, construction, loud music, crowded restaurants, fitness classes and sporting events, you can become accustomed to loud environments. Over time, what once seemed unusually loud may barely register.

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Hearing damage is only part of the story. Noise acts as a stressor, activating the autonomic nervous and endocrine systems and affecting heart rate, blood pressure and other physiological processes.



Citizens Field in Gainesville is shown on Aug. 27. The city wants to sell it to the Alachua County School Board so it can renovate the stadium. ALAN YOUNGBLOOD/GAINESVILLE SUN

## School Board OKs stadium proposals

Elliot Tritto and Noah Ram  
Gainesville Sun  
USA TODAY NETWORK

The Alachua County School Board during its Oct. 6 meeting approved a plan that will give Buchholz High School its own football stadium while purchasing and renovating Citizens Field as the home venue for Gainesville and Eastside high schools.

School Board members Thomas Vu, Leanetta McNealy and Janine Plavac voted to move forward with plans for a new stadium at Buchholz. Board members Sarah Rockwell and Tina Certain voted against the project.

The decision came after Plavac introduced a last-minute amendment calling for the construction of a stadium at Buchholz, a project estimated to cost between \$15 million and \$16 million. If built, Buchholz would no longer rely on Citizens Field, leaving Gainesville and Eastside as the primary users of the historic venue, which opened in 1948.

Plavac said she supports addressing facility needs throughout the district but believes Buchholz should have a stadium of its own and that the district should act now rather than delay the project.

“I hate to see division in this town but I believe GHS and Eastside should play there (Citizens Field.) That’s their stadium,” Plavac said. “It is Buchholz’s stadium, but I also believe Buchholz should have their own stadium like Newberry High School, like Hawthorne High School, like Santa Fe High School.”

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# Hurricane threat rises in northern Gulf

 WeatherTiger  
Ryan Truchelut  
Guest columnist

Exploding with the force of a Tallahassee manhole cover, Tropical Storm Isaias has developed in the southern Gulf as of Wednesday morning.

And while conditions remain only marginally favorable for Isaias to intensify, the undeniable trend towards a higher peak strength means increasing

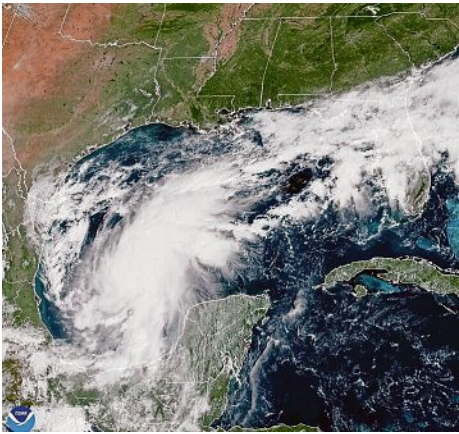
chances of yet another Gulf Coast hurricane landfall late Friday into early Saturday. As such, Hurricane and Tropical Storm Watches are up on the northern Gulf Coast.

As of the NHC’s 11 a.m. advisory, Tropical Storm Isaias is located about 700 miles southwest of Pensacola, moving slightly north of east at about 8 mph. Isaias’s movement over the last day has deviated a little east of the NHC’s initial forecast, which has resulted in a slight but notable shift eastward in the storm’s most likely path to the Gulf Coast.

## Tracking Isaias: Where is a hurricane landfall possible?

The Wednesday morning NHC track forecast and model consensus suggests landfall is most likely between Mobile and Destin, centered on Pensacola. A Wednesday morning Hurricane Hunter pass through the storm’s center shows Isaias continues to glide eastward, with no northward component to its movement at the moment.

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Satellite imagery of Tropical Storm Isaias as of 11 a.m. Oct. 7. PROVIDED BY NATIONAL HURRICANE CENTER