



Analysis: Trump-Putin bromance flowered, soured

NEWS, 3A

PANAMA CITY NEWS HERALD

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An aerial view shows flash flood damage along the banks of the Guadalupe River in Kerrville, Texas, on July 11.

CHIP SOMODEVILLA/GETTY IMAGES

Another forecasting tool is scrapped

Experts: Government cuts damage U.S. status as global science leader

Dinah Voyles Pulver
USA TODAY

The heart-wrenching July 4 flooding in Texas served as a stark reminder of the importance of accurate and timely weather forecasts.

As extreme rainfall events grow more intense, such tragedies are expected to increase. Further improvement to forecasts is critical, but meteorologists worry that with the additional cuts planned by the Trump administration, the nation's weather and climate research pro-

grams won't be able to keep up.

The latest blow was the announcement by the U.S. Navy that it would no longer transmit data from aging satellites past June 30, roughly 15 months earlier than expected. Later, the department extended the deadline to July 31.

Without those satellite images, hurricane forecast accuracy could be compromised, say current and former scientists with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Polar researchers, who use the images to measure the extent of sea ice, hope to acquire the same data through a Japanese government satellite instead.

In any other year, the satellite snafu might not have gathered much attention. But this summer, it exacerbates mounting concerns about the accuracy

of weather prediction amid contract cancellations, staff reductions and other Trump administration efforts to reduce the federal bureaucracy.

"You can't keep taking tools away from people and expect them to get the same result," said Andy Hazelton, a hurricane scientist at the University of Miami. Hazelton had been hired as a NOAA scientist last October and was dismissed in the Trump administration's widespread agency layoffs.

USA TODAY interviewed more than a dozen industry veterans, including a half-dozen former NOAA scientists, as well as independent researchers, who all fear that forecasts for hurricanes and other extreme weather events may

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BAY COUNTY

A look at start, end times for each school

DeonTay Smith
Panama City News Herald
USA TODAY NETWORK

The 2025-26 school year is coming quicker than you think. The first day of classes is Aug. 11.

In preparation, take a look at the start and end times at each school in Bay County. This information comes from a chart provided as part of the July 8 Bay District Schools board meeting.

Elementary schools

- **A. Gary Walsingham Academy:** 7:30 a.m.-2 p.m.
- **Callaway:** 7:30 a.m.-2 p.m.
- **Cedar Grove:** 7:30 a.m.-2:15 p.m.
- **Deer Point:** 7:30 a.m.-2 p.m.
- **Hiland Park:** 7:30 a.m.-2 p.m.
- **Hutchison Beach:** 7:30 a.m.-2 p.m.
- **Lucille Moore:** 7:30 a.m.-2 p.m.
- **Lynn Haven:** 7:30 a.m.-2 p.m.
- **Merriam Cherry Street:** 7:30 a.m.-2 p.m.
- **Northside:** 7:30 a.m.-2 p.m.
- **Oscar Patterson Academy:** 7:30 a.m.-2 p.m.
- **Parker:** 7:30 a.m.-2 p.m.
- **Patronis:** 7:30 a.m.-2 p.m.
- **Southport:** 7:30 a.m.-2 p.m.
- **Tommy Smith:** 7:30 a.m.-2 p.m.
- **Waller:** 7:30 a.m.-2 p.m.
- **West Bay:** 7:30 a.m.-2 p.m.

Middle schools

- **Jinks:** 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m.
- **Merritt Brown:** 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m.
- **Mowat:** 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

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Donations to Gulf Coast State will aid nursing students

DeonTay Smith
Panama City News Herald
USA TODAY NETWORK

PANAMA CITY — The Gulf Coast State College foundation has announced three significant gifts totaling more than \$98,000.

The grants will support the nursing students in Bay County, according to a news release.

The contributions come from the HCA Florida Gulf Coast Hospital and the Edward F. Hickey Memorial Fund.

Students pursuing nursing careers will have access to emergency financial assistance and long-term scholarship opportunities designed to strengthen the healthcare workforce across Northwest Florida.

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Gulf Coast State College. NEWS HERALD FILE PHOTO

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