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Alligator Alcatraz argument not over

Both sides are ready to continue fighting

Antonio Fins

Palm Beach Post

USA TODAY NETWORK

OCHOPEE — A day after a judge called for the shutdown of the Alligator Alcatraz detention camp, Gov. Ron DeSantis and the immigration center’s most steadfast critics agreed on this: The fight over the facility and overall

immigration detention policy is not over.

On Aug. 21, U.S. District Judge Kathleen Williams issued a ruling demanding the state depopulate and dismantle the detention center it opened in July in the ecologically sensitive Big Cypress Preserve about 50 miles west of Miami.

The DeSantis administration immediately challenged the ruling in a filing with the 11th Circuit Court of Appeals. On Aug. 22, the governor said during an appearance in Panama City the state has

Inside

FL sisters in the Marines try to get father out of ICE custody. **3A**

no plans to close the detention center. “We had a judge try to upset the apple cart with respect to our deportation and detainee center in south Florida at Alligator Alcatraz,” DeSantis stated. “This is not something that was not expected. This was a judge that was not going to give us a fair shake.”

Miccosukees, environmental groups cheered ruling

But the plaintiffs who sued the state and won the major ruling were equally insistent the “egregious camp,” as one immigration advocate called the detention center, must close.

Talbert Cypress, chairman of the Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida, said in a statement the Everglades is “our homeland” and there would be “no

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Rainy weekend gives area chance to catch up a little



Water moves through a drainage area at the intersection of Summerlin Road and Lakewood Drive in Fort Myers, Aug. 25. It rained a lot over the weekend, causing heavy runoff and standing water in some areas.

ANDREW WEST/THE NEWS-PRESS/USA TODAY NETWORK

SW Florida still far below average for the year, though

Chad Gillis

Fort Myers News-Press | USA TODAY NETWORK – FLORIDA

A heavy band of thunderstorms hovered over peninsular Florida over the weekend and dropped several inches of rain across Southwest Florida.

The National Weather Service in Ruskin says the Fort Myers area got about 3.5 inches of rain Saturday and Sunday, while the storms were slowly making their way through the region.

An average two-day period in late August produces about half-an-inch or rain, according to historical records from the past 20 years.

“We’ve had this southwesterly flow onshore for a while producing these showers and storms and keeping them active throughout the day,” said Matt Anderson, an NWS meteorologist in the Ruskin office, which covers the Fort Myers-Sanibel area. “There’s a lot of moisture out there and there’s also been a stationary front to the north of us that’s helped focus some of that rainfall as well.”

The rain is desperately needed for a region that’s been listed on the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, or NOAA, drought index for most of the year.

“You’re like 11 inches below normal for this time in the year,” Anderson said. “This month we’ve had 8.66 inches of rain and the normal is 7.96, so for the month we’re running a little bit ahead of schedule, but for the

“For the month we’re running a little bit ahead of schedule, but for the year we’re behind.”

Meteorologist Matt Anderson

year we’re behind.”

Rain fell throughout the day Saturday and a little more came Sunday.

Southwest Florida area received about 3 inches on average, and the rain was widespread, according to NWS in Miami, which covers the Naples-Marco Island area.

Anderson said Fort Myers has seen 28.1 inches of rain at Page Field Airport through Aug. 24, which is well below the average of 39.2 inches.

The rest of the week should be pretty typical, with afternoon showers and onshore breezes.

“It looks like we’ll remain in a wet pattern and we see a lower chance on Tuesday, only a 50% chance but the rest of the week is 60 to 70% chance of rain, so there’s a little rain,” Anderson said.

Anderson said Lee County is now completely out of the drought conditions, NOAA has noted.

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DeSantis: Mail-in voting not in danger

Trump’s recent words don’t faze governor

Gray Rohrer

USA TODAY NETWORK – FLORIDA

President Donald Trump wants to eliminate voting by mail throughout the country, but Gov. Ron DeSantis doesn’t think he means it, at least for Florida.

For other, Democratically controlled states that don’t have the safeguards in place to protect against ballot fraud like Florida, a federal crack-down could be warranted, he said.

“He’s a Florida voter and what he means by ‘vote by mail,’ I think, just in my conversations, is the states like California and Nevada and others where they just send all these ballots out into the ether basically,” DeSantis told reporters Aug. 19. “Then they do ballot harvesting where it becomes this total fraud. That absolutely should not be allowed.”

DeSantis’ remarks came one day after Trump said he wanted to squash mail ballots altogether – without the qualifiers offered by the Florida governor.

“Mail-in ballots are corrupt. Mail-in ballots, you can never have a real democracy with mail-in ballots, and we as the Republican Party are going to do everything possible that we get rid of

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Ron DeSantis goes to cast his vote in 2018, accompanied by his family at a Catholic church in Ponte Vedra, where they resided at the time.

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