



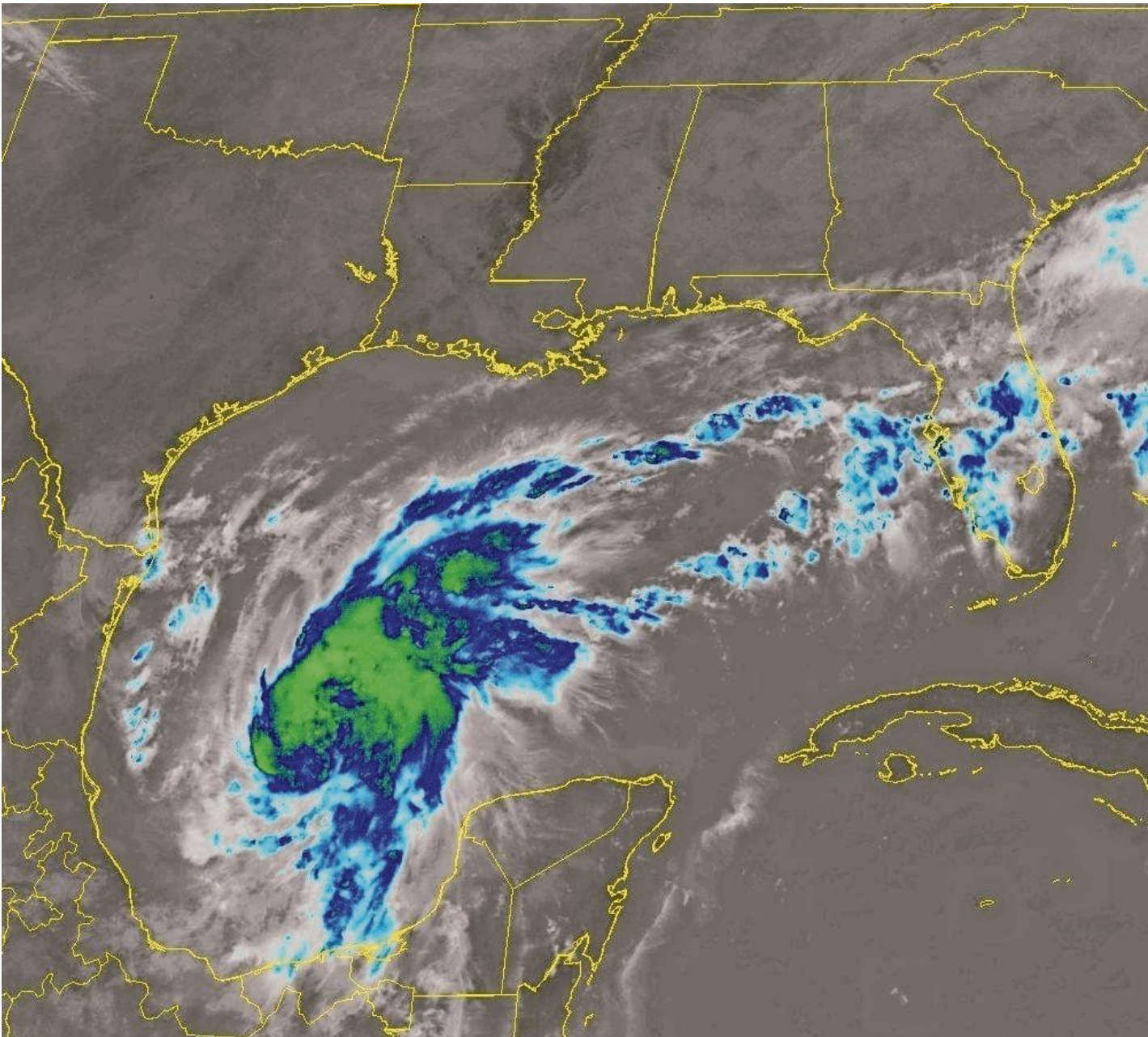
U.S. has some options if yields continue rising

BUSINESS, 4B

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Hurricane threat rises as Isaias strengthens



Satellite infrared imagery shows Tropical Storm Isaias as of 10 a.m. CDT on Oct. 7. PROVIDED BY NATIONAL HURRICANE CENTER

Forecast: Landfall is most likely between Mobile and Destin



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, Oct. 7.

And while conditions remain only marginally favorable for Isaias to intensify, the undeniable trend toward a higher peak strength means increasing chances of yet another Gulf Coast hurricane landfall late Friday, Oct. 9, into early Saturday, Oct. 10. As such, Hurricane and Tropical Storm Watches are up on the northern Gulf Coast.

As of the NHC's 11 a.m. advisory, Trop-

ical 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.

Aircraft reconnaissance data also shows Isaias is intensifying at a measured clip. As of the NHC's 11 a.m. Wednesday advisory, it has strengthened another 5 mph since becoming a tropical storm at 5 a.m., with maximum sustained winds of 45 mph. Minimum pressure is also falling, another sign of steady strengthening.

The 11 a.m. NHC intensity forecast calls for Isaias to intensify to a Category 2 late Thursday, with a peak at or near major hurricane strength early Friday. As discussed yesterday, Isaias' sustained winds are expected to fall from their peak prior to landfall, with the storm expanding east as it interacts with the mid-latitude jet stream while crossing the Gulf Coast.

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Murder trial underway in Ocala

Witnesses recall fatal shooting

Austin L. Miller
Ocala Star-Banner
USA TODAY NETWORK

Nearly 2 1/2 years after Marion County Sheriff's detectives accused Roderick Kelvin Watson Jr. of firing multiple gunshots and repeatedly beating Joseph James Juarez Coles in the North Marion Middle School parking lot – while parents and students were inside attending an award ceremony – Watson is now standing trial.

The jury was selected on Oct. 5. Opening statements were delivered Oct. 6, with Assistant State Attorney Toby Hunt asking jurors to find the defendant guilty of first-degree murder with a firearm.

Hunt told the court that what should've been a joyous, happy, exciting day turned tragic, with the a cold, calculated, senseless killing of a man in front of his children, multiple witnesses, and school staff members. This was in May 2024 outside North Marion Middle, 2085 West County Road 329 in Citra.

The prosecutor said there was a tense discussion between Coles and the children's mother on whether or not the children could stay with their father.

Watson, who was sitting in a nearby vehicle, got a handgun from the vehicle and approached the victim. Prosecutor Hunt said Coles was shot four times: once in the upper body, once in the side and twice in the back. The prosecutor

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Shell casings recovered from the scene of the shooting were shown in court on Oct. 6.

AUSTIN L. MILLER/OCALA STAR-BANNER

What does Brightline's bankruptcy mean for future expansion plans?

Clayton Park
USA TODAY NETWORK - FLORIDA

Now that Brightline is under Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection, does the high-speed passenger railroad still plan to add future stations in Brevard County and the Treasure Coast and extend its line to Tampa?

For now, the answer appears to still

be yes.

The Chapter 11 filing only involved the parent entities for Brightline. Excluded were its real estate development arm in Florida, the entity that actually operates the nation's largest private passenger railroad, and Brightline West, the entity involved in developing a railroad line that will run from Las Vegas to Southern California.

But much regarding all three depends on whether Brightline can continue to grow its revenues and ridership numbers, as well as secure the additional federal funding it needs to cover the costs of its planned future expansion.

Brightline officials did not respond to USA TODAY Network-Florida's request for comment.

What's the status of Brightline's planned stations in Cocoa and Stuart?

In August, U.S. Rep. Mike Haridopolis, a Republican who represents the Congressional district that includes Brevard and Indian River counties as

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