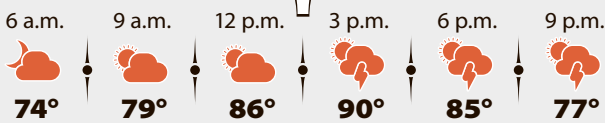




BEFORE THEY WERE VILLAGERS | D5
Stan Thal was a volunteer firefighter who helped relief efforts on Sept. 11, 2001.



DAY TRIPS WITH DINAN | C1
Meet capybaras and go on monster truck rides at the Showcase of Citrus in Clermont.



WORLD NEWS | A3

**CO-PILOT IN
FLYDUBAI ATTACK
IS IDENTIFIED AS
OMANI NATIONAL**

Hamam al-Hammami was named as the co-pilot suspected of stabbing the captain of an Israel-bound flight before passengers stopped the attack, said three people with knowledge of the situation, including a Gulf and a Western diplomat.

SPORTS NEWS | B1

**NO. 8 FLORIDA GETS
ROUGHED UP IN
BLOWOUT LOSS**

Missouri breaks nine-game losing streak against teams in the Top 25, and the Gators' suffer their first loss of the season.

ONLY IN
THE VILLAGES

By Taylor Strickland

**Residents flocked
to Spanish Springs
Town Square on
Saturday for the
first day of the
Spanish Springs
Arts and Crafts
Festival.**

The event featured nearly 90 different food, arts and crafts vendors, ranging from textiles to jewelry, ceramics to plants, woodworking, food, soaps, lotions, books and traditional art.

Some of the vendors, such as Gabriela Nunez and Fabia Massaro, never sold art in The Villages before Saturday.

"I came to the (Brownwood Hometown) market and I really liked the vibe and the energy, so I decided to participate in this and see how it goes," Nunez said.

Born and raised in Peru, Nunez moved to the United States when she was 19 years

Please See **FESTIVAL, A7**

Top of the News

**How Floridians Can
Prepare for El Niño**

With an increased risk of severe weather from the strong El Niño, power outages are likely this winter.

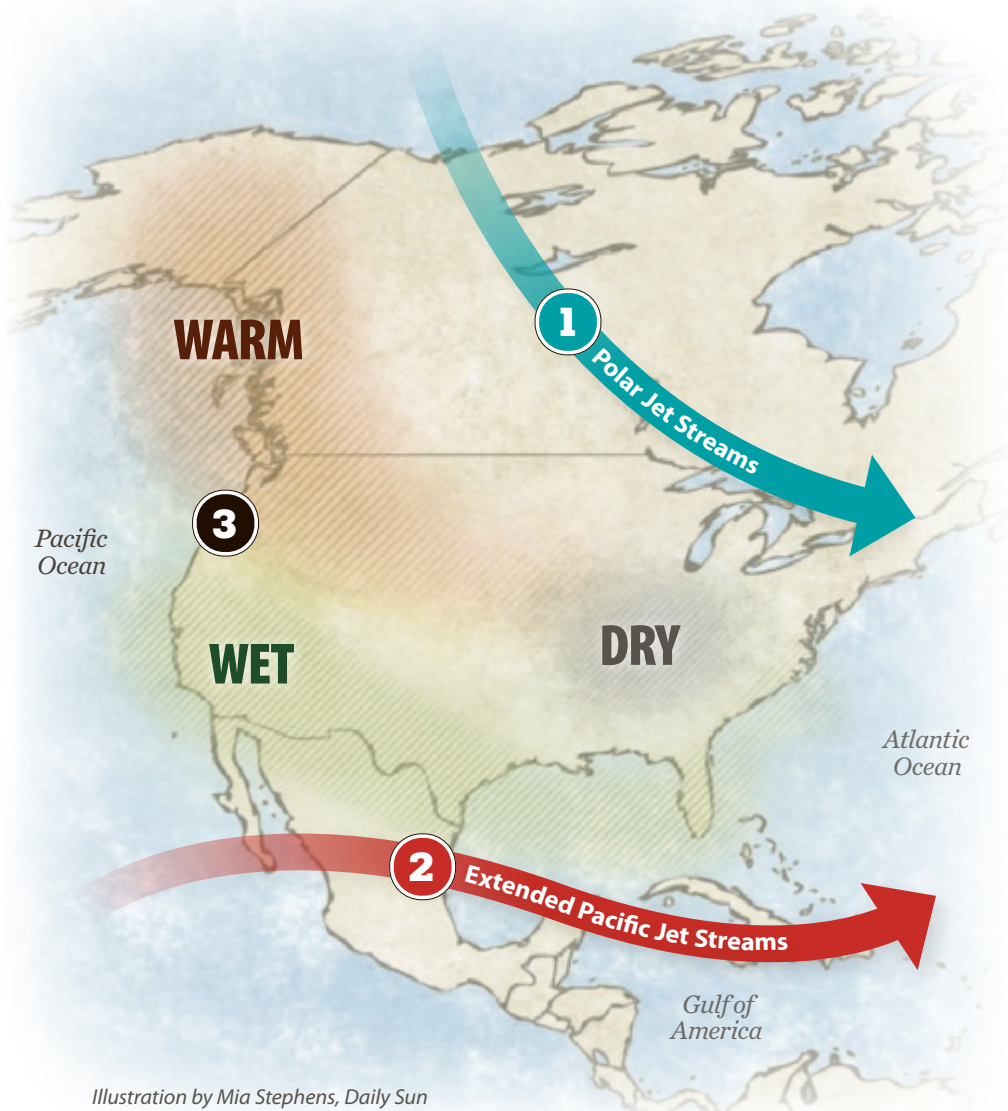


Illustration by Mia Stephens, Daily Sun

By ALLYSA LAUFERSKY | Daily Sun Staff Writer

While the end of hurricane season isn't until Nov. 30, a milestone was reached Thursday when Oct. 1 arrived without any hurricanes forming in the Atlantic so far this season, which never has happened since satellite tracking began 60 years ago. The reason: An extremely strong El Niño is underway. While the record high ocean temperatures caused by this weather pattern are credited with limiting hurricane formation, they may have the opposite impact on Florida this winter by increasing the threat of tornadoes, heavy thunderstorms and other severe weather. "We're potentially looking at the strongest El Niño since the 1850s," said Ashley Baylor, meteorologist for The Villages Media Group. "During a strong El Niño winter, we average about 15 to 20 tornadoes." El Niño strengthens the subtropical jet stream over the Gulf of America, pushing a lot of moisture and storm systems across Florida. This increases the risk of wet weather, and along with that, severe weather.

Please See **EL NIÑO, A6**

**1 POLAR JET
STREAMS**

During El Niño, the northern polar jet stream shifts farther north. It can act as a barrier to Arctic weather conditions, reducing the number of cold outbreaks across the central United States, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. It can also leave the northern U.S. with warmer and drier conditions.

**2 EXTENDED
PACIFIC
JET STREAMS**

The pacific jet stream is a fast, narrow current of air flowing from west to east. El Niño causes the southern jet stream to strengthen, steering more wet storms into the southern U.S. Florida may see wetter conditions and cooler temperatures as El Niño strengthens throughout the winter.

**3 SHIFTED
WEATHER**

El Niño can affect our weather significantly. Areas in the northern U.S. and Canada are drier and warmer than usual. But along the U.S. Gulf Coast and in the Southeast, these periods are wetter than usual and have increased flooding risk. El Niño also suppresses Atlantic hurricane formation due to the increased wind shear that tears the storms apart before they are fully organized.

EDUCATION NEWS

**Sumter
Schools
Prioritize
Leadership
Habits**

By GARRETT SHIFLET
Daily Sun Staff Writer

The Sumter County School District is ensuring every child in its schools not only learns Florida's education standards but what it takes to be a leader.

The district has entered its second school year utilizing the Leader in Me Program at all of its public schools from kindergarten through 12th grade.

Superintendent of Schools Logan Brown continues to champion the program after bringing it to the county last year.

"We really needed something that educates the entire child, not just academically," Brown said.

Leader in Me is an international education model created by Franklin Covey Education and modeled on two books by educator and speaker Stephen Covey called "The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People" and "The 4 Disciplines of Execution."

Please See **SCHOOLS, A7**

FLORIDA EXTRA | C8

**DRY TORTUGAS NATIONAL
PARK OFFERS A REMOTE
STARGAZER'S PARADISE**

The Florida 100-square-mile park is so remote that the only ways to get there are by ferry, private boat or seaplane.

LOCAL NEWS | D9

**HUMANE SOCIETY OF
SUMTER COUNTY CLOSE
TO FUNDRAISING GOAL**

An anonymous donor will match donations from Oct. 14-28 for the nonprofit's campaign of raising \$2 to \$3.5 million.

HEADLINES & DATELINES

TEST YOUR NEWS I.Q.

1. Pay-in-four plans accounted for about half of the _____ in buy now, pay later spending last year. Use of those plans has increased nearly _____ since 2023, economists say. **Page A10**

- a) \$160 billion, 80%
b) \$120 billion, 94%

- c) \$190 billion, 84%
d) \$205 billion, 90%



2. The wild population of critically endangered mountain yellow-legged frogs dwindled to fewer than 200 of the amphibians by 2021. **Page A21**



3. A dozen artworks that have sat unseen in a private collection for decades is up for sale and includes works from which famous artist? **Page A23**

- a) Pablo Picasso
b) Vincent van Gogh
c) Claude Monet
d) Michelangelo

4. How many jobs did U.S. employers add last month, according to a Labor Department report? **Page A12**

- a) 29,000
b) 17,800
c) 30,100
d) 41,600

5. Which country's public debt has climbed to a record during its president's two terms? **Page A27**

- a) Lithuania
b) El Salvador
c) Dominican Republic
d) France

ALSO FEATURED
INSIDE TODAY

World News	A2
Lottery	A2
Coast to Coast	A4
Government News	A5
Sports	B1
Florida Extra	C1
Local News	D1
Weather	D2-3
Recreation	D10-11
Lifestyle	E1
On The Squares	E3
Puzzles	E5-6



**TODAY'S TOP PICK:
TAKE A TRIP TO THE
MARKET OF MARION**

Browse aisles filled with jewelry, toys and auto parts at the flea and farmers market in Belleview.