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○ ISSUE 16 | ○ Fall | ○ 2016



# Tallahassee *topics*

NEWS AND NOTES FROM YOUR LOCAL NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE OFFICE.

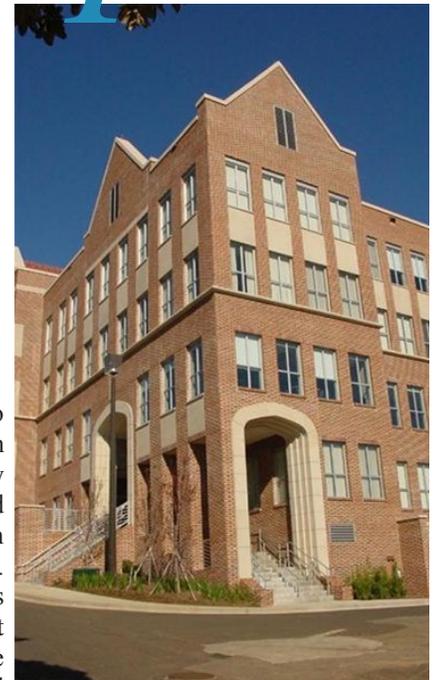
*The National Weather Service (NWS) office in Tallahassee, FL provides weather, hydrologic, and climate forecasts and warnings for Southeast Alabama, Southwest & South Central Georgia, the Florida Panhandle and Big Bend, and the adjacent Gulf of Mexico coastal waters. Our primary mission is the protection of life and property and the enhancement of the local economy.*

## Hurricane Hermine

*By Mark Wool and Jessica Fieux*

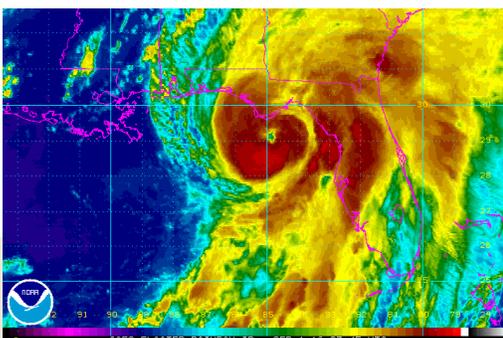
Hurricane Hermine slammed into the Big Bend in the early morning hours of Friday, September 2nd making landfall around 1:30 AM EDT just east of St. Marks, Florida near the Wakulla-Jefferson County line. Maximum sustained winds were near 80 mph with a minimum central pressure of 982 mb. Hermine was the first hurricane landfall in the Apalachee Bay since Alma in 1966! The hurricane brought devastating winds to the Florida Big Bend area and adjacent portions of South Central Georgia. These winds downed trees and power lines and caused significant power outages that lasted for days. The City of Tallahassee and Leon County saw some of the most extensive power outages.

Hermine brought a significant storm surge into the Apalachee Bay where 6-9 feet of inundation was recorded. The storm surge in Dixie County was just a few inches less than that observed during the March 1993 superstorm based on an established water mark in Horseshoe Beach. Although there were likely higher wind gusts during the storm, the highest measured gust was 64 mph at Doak Campbell Stadium on the Florida State University campus. FSU and Leon County schools were closed for several days due to the storm, which will be long-remembered by residents of the Florida Big Bend and South Georgia!



### 2016 Atlantic Basin Names

- |          |          |
|----------|----------|
| Alex     | Lisa     |
| Bonnie   | Matthew  |
| Colin    | Nicole   |
| Danielle | Otto     |
| Earl     | Paula    |
| Fiona    | Richard  |
| Gaston   | Shary    |
| Hermine  | Tobias   |
| Ian      | Virginie |
| Julia    | Walter   |
| Karl     |          |





## Employee Spotlight: *Justin Pullin*

*Journeyman Forecaster Since June 2016*

*By Katie Moore & Justin Pullin*

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### **What sparked your interest in meteorology?**

My curiosity in weather initially developed from my fear of lightning. I witnessed the power of it first hand as a 5 year old when a tree was struck in my neighborhood. From there, my interest grew from watching events like the May 3, 1999 tornado outbreak from afar and experiencing 2 hurricanes in my hometown (Lili and Rita) in a 3 year time-span.

### **How did you start your career in meteorology? How did first join the Weather Service?**

I landed an internship at AccuWeather's Severe Weather Center in Wichita, KS in the Summer of 2012 and was hired full time in January 2013. The timing of the NWS hiring freeze worked out in my favor, as I was able to get a year of experience in at AccuWeather before jumping into the mass bid in the spring of 2014. I received 1 interview from the Las Vegas office and made the most of it. The rest is history!

### **You've brought over "after action reviews" from your last office. Why is it so important to formally assess an event immediately afterwards?**

Assessing operational performance following events is important to identifying and cataloging things that we do well and discussing and finding ways to improve upon things that we did not do as well as we could. Having experienced a year of facilitating AAR's in Las Vegas, I noticed a general increase in awareness before and during events, both operationally and meteorologically. The program has been received with enthusiasm here at TAE, and I'm excited about the possibilities that lie ahead.

### **What are the best and most challenging parts of your job?**

The best part of my job is the freedom for me to take on projects and activities that challenge and interests me. This is something that the private sector lacked, as everything is driven by perfor-

mance, leaving little time to expand my horizons. While I love the challenge of forecasting and making warning decisions, I've grown the most from taking on initiatives like leading after action reviews, interacting with core partners, and providing on-site decision support for large events, such as New Year's Eve in Las Vegas and aviation support for Super Bowl 50. By far the biggest challenge for me is messaging ahead of potentially high impact events. Though I have only been here for a little over 3 months now, I have experienced back to back events that presented memorable messaging challenges.

### **You are also a weather photographer. How did you become interested in that?**

Weather photography is a way for me to tap into my creative side and integrate that into what I do for a living. I'm really drawn to the challenge of trying to capture those fleeting moments from Mother Nature. While my success rate varies, I have walked away with a few amazing pictures that still give me as much satisfaction today as it did in that moment, and that makes the effort worth it. I'm also heavily into landscape photography and enjoy dabbling with aerial photography, cityscapes and sports - all things that are enhanced by an interesting sky!

### **What else do you like to do when you're off duty?**

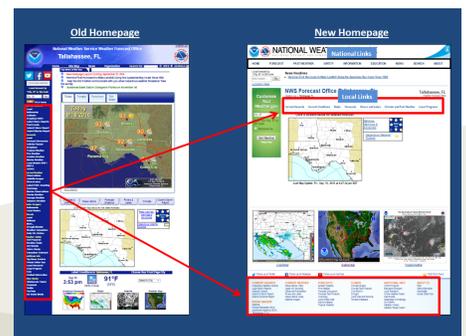
Well, I am a first time home-owner, so a lot of those things take up most of my free time nowadays. Unlike my childhood, I do actually enjoy doing yard work nowadays. I have discovered things that I don't particularly enjoy, including painting and preparing for a hurricane (sandbags come to mind among other things), but I suppose that all comes with being a home-owner! Outside of that, I'm an avid sports fan. Between football (go Broncos!), basketball and racing, I have something to watch year-round. I also enjoy the time I get to spend with my family now that I live closer to them, especially watching my nephew grow up.

## Recent Office Changes

*By Katie Moore*

We had a new arrival to the office this month- Craig Carpenter, our newest electronics technician. Before moving here, Craig was an electronics technician for WFO Lake Charles. Welcome Craig! We also have an upcoming departure from the office- Sid King, one of our volunteer students will be leaving for an intern job at WFO Atlanta/Peachtree City. Good luck Sid!

Another recent change is our website transition. All of the websites for the NWS offices across the Southern Region have a new look! You can find more details on this change here: [http://www.weather.gov/tae/cms\\_transition](http://www.weather.gov/tae/cms_transition).



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## Outreach Efforts

By Mark Wool

The hurricane season begins with a flurry of outreach efforts at NWS Tallahassee. Rep. Gwen Graham visited the office on June 1 (pictured) to discuss the importance of being prepared for a hurricane and concerns over apathy since it had been several decades since the last hurricane landfall in the Big Bend. On the same day as the Congresswoman's visit, Warning Coordination Meteorologist, Mark Wool gave a press conference outside the Leon County EOC about the upcoming hurricane season and the need to be vigilant. Little did we know at the time that our next hurricane was just 3 months away!



Senior Service hydrologist and tropical focal point, Kelly Godsey, briefed officials at the Tallahassee Regional Airport about the upcoming hurricane season on June 2nd. Forecasters Andy Lahr and Justin Pullen staffed a booth and the "Build Your Bucket" event at the American Red Cross on June 18th. This activity brought out many families that wanted to get a head start on supplying their hurricane preparedness kit.

Over the summer, NWS Tallahassee partnered with WMBB-TV (Panama City) and Midland Radio Corp. to hold several NOAA Weather Radio Programming events at various Walgreens locations across Bay County, FL. From July into early Sept., Mark Wool, Emma Weston, Justin Kiefer, and Tyler Eliassen helped hundreds of Florida Panhandle residents program their radios in Panama City proper, Lynn Haven, Callaway, De Funiak Springs and Panama City Beach.

In July, Mark Wool provided instruction to a group of Boy Scouts so that they could obtain their Weather Merit Badge.

In August, Mary Louise Hester, Deputy Director for Outreach for Florida's Sen. Bill Nelson visited the office for a tour and to discuss issues facing today's NWS. Later that month, Katie Moore and Emma Weston staffed a booth at Tallahassee Community College's annual safety event. Finally, as August drew to a close, the entire staff was heavily involved in giving interviews to national and local media from television, radio and print about our impending encounter with Hurricane Hermine!

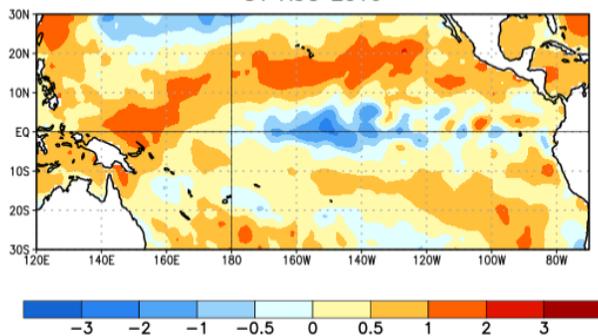
## El Niño Southern Oscillation Update

By Katie Moore

The El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO) is a climate cycle of oceanic and atmospheric conditions in the equatorial Pacific that can influence weather circulation well beyond the Pacific Ocean. El Niño refers to above normal sea surface temperatures (SSTs) in the equatorial Pacific and La Niña refers to below normal SSTs in the equatorial Pacific. More specifically, an El Niño or La Niña episode is declared when the 3 month average SST departure from normal exceeds 0.5C between 5N-5S and 170W to 120W (referred to as the Niño 3.4 region). The Southern Oscillation part of ENSO refers to the atmospheric component of the cycle. During El Niño episodes, higher than average air pressure covers Indonesia and the western tropical Pacific and lower than average air pressure covers the eastern tropical Pacific. This atmospheric pattern is reversed during a La Niña episode. When SSTs and air pressure are near their long-term average values, ENSO-neutral conditions are in place. Our last El Niño episode ended in April and we have since been in ENSO-neutral conditions.

Over the past few months, SSTs in the Niño 3.4 region have become cooler than normal and as of September had reached 0.5C below normal, which is the La Niña threshold. For a La Niña episode to be declared, however, the SST anomalies need to remain at least 0.5C cooler than the long-term normal and climate models are generally forecasting SSTs to warm and return to near normal. Why is that? The changes in the air pressure patterns normally seen in La Niña haven't set up and without this atmospheric response, the subsurface temperatures aren't cool enough to maintain the cooling trend over the sea surface. There is an excellent blog post by Emily Becker of the Climate Prediction Center (CPC) with more details available [here](#). At this time, the CPC forecasts a 60% chance that ENSO-neutral conditions will continue through the fall and winter.

SST Anomalies (°C)  
31 AUG 2016



7 day average SST anomalies (°C)



### Management-Admin Team

Jane Hollingsworth, MIC  
Mark Wool, WCM  
Parks Camp, SOO  
Doug Sherrick, ESA  
Chris Duggan, ASA  
Toan Tran, ITO  
Kelly Godsey, Hydrologist

### Lead Forecasters

Jeff Fournier  
Don Van Dyke  
Donal Harrigan  
Jessica Fieux  
Blair Scholl

### Journeyman Forecasters

Tim Barry  
Katie Moore  
Justin Pullin  
Andy Lahr  
Vacant

### HMTs

Ricardo Humphreys, OPL

### Interns

Claudia (Jeanie) McDermott  
Emma Weston  
Vacant

### Electronic Technicians

Ron Eimiller  
Craig Carpenter

# Summer Summary

By Tim Barry

The summer of 2016 tied 2011 for the hottest summer on record for Tallahassee. The average temperature this past summer (June through August) was 84.3 degrees which was 3.0 degrees above normal. Four of Tallahassee's hottest summers have all occurred since 2011 and eight of the hottest summers since 1998. All three summer months this year experienced above normal temperatures with July being the hottest with an average temperature of 85.0 degrees, 3.0 degrees above normal. The hottest temperature recorded at the Tallahassee International Airport this summer was 100 degrees on June 13<sup>th</sup> and August 23<sup>rd</sup>. The lowest temperature was 67 degrees on June 22<sup>nd</sup>. Despite tying the hottest summer on record, there were no record high temperatures tied or broken at the airport.

Rainfall at the Tallahassee International Airport this summer measured 23.91", which was 1.66" above normal. All three months saw above normal rainfall and June was the wettest with 8.38". The greatest amount in a 24-hour period was 4.19" from June 5<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> which was associated with Tropical Storm Colin. Tallahassee's year-to-date rainfall at the end of August was 47.31", which was a surplus of 3.4". A peak wind gust from a thunderstorm occurred at the airport on June 14<sup>th</sup> measuring 43 mph from the west.

## Fall Outlook

By Tim Barry

The latest outlook for fall (September through November) from the Climate Prediction Center calls for equal chances of experiencing above, normal, and below normal temperatures and an enhanced chance of experiencing below normal rainfall. The average temperature for Tallahassee during fall is 69.3 degrees and the average rainfall is 11.42". Fall is on average our driest season. Early to mid-September is the climatological peak of the hurricane season which runs through the end of November. As of mid-September, there have been 11 named tropical systems with 4 of them reaching hurricane status. Two of the named storms impacted the Tallahassee forecast area: Tropical Storm Colin in early June and of course Hurricane Hermine. See our front page article for more on Hermine. Additional details on the impacts from Hermine can be found here:

[http://www.weather.gov/tae/hurricane\\_hermine2016](http://www.weather.gov/tae/hurricane_hermine2016)

## See a Flash, Dash Inside

By Katie Moore

Over the years, you may have seen or heard our lightning safety campaign- *when thunder roars, go indoors*. This slogan may be helpful to many people, including the blind, but isolates the deaf and hard of hearing community. What if you can't hear thunder? In that case, what is the best signal to take shelter?

This June, NOAA released an additional lightning safety campaign- *see a flash, dash inside*. This complementary slogan uses a visual cue, instead of an audible one, to signal the need to take shelter indoors. Now, depending on who you are communicating the safety information to, there are accessible slogans for both the blind and the deaf communities! Visit <http://www.lightningsafety.noaa.gov/> for more information on lightning safety.

Did you know? If you're deaf or hard of hearing, there are adapters for the NOAA Weather Radio available that can alert you by text, light, or vibration instead of an audio alert. Visit [http://www.nws.noaa.gov/com/weatherreadynation/dhh\\_safety\\_nwr.html](http://www.nws.noaa.gov/com/weatherreadynation/dhh_safety_nwr.html) to learn more.

**When Thunder Roars, Go Indoors!**

**STOP all activities.**

Seek shelter in a substantial building or hard-topped vehicle.

Wait 30 minutes after the storm to resume activities.



[www.lightningsafety.noaa.gov](http://www.lightningsafety.noaa.gov)

