

HAPPENINGS

Weekly Edition

Friday, August 18, 2023

2023 Disaster Preparedness Sales Tax Holidays August 26 through September 8, 2023

We've just entered the 60 day period that is usually the most active part of Hurricane Season. While the Sahara sand is still blowing off of Africa and keeping the waters calmer than they might be, it's no guarantee that no storms form.

The second Disaster Preparedness Sales Tax Holiday for 2023 begins on Saturday, August 26, and ends on Friday, September 8. During this sales tax holiday, sales tax is not due on the retail sale of eligible items related to disaster preparedness.

The sales tax holiday does not apply to commercial purchases of eligible pet evacuation supplies or sales within a theme park, entertainment complex, public lodging establishment or airport, or the rental of any of the eligible items listed below.

Eligible Items

Sales price of \$20 or less: Reusable ice (reusable ice packs)

Sales price of \$40 or less: Any portable, self-powered light source (powered by battery, solar, hand-crank, or gas), Candles, Flashlights, Lanterns. Eligible light sources and radios qualify for the exemption even if electrical cords are also included.

Sales Price of \$50 or less:

Any gas or diesel fuel container, including LP gas and kerosene containers

Batteries, including rechargeable batteries, listed sizes only (excluding automobile and boat batteries): AAA-cell, AA-cell, C-cell, D-cell, 6-volt, 9-volt

Portable Radios (powered by battery, solar, or hand-crank), two-way, weather band

Sales Price of \$60 or less:

Coolers and ice chests (food storage, nonelectrical)

Portable power banks

Sales Price of \$70 or less:

Carbon monoxide detectors

Fire extinguishers

Smoke detectors or smoke alarms

Sales Price of \$100 or less:

Bungee cords

Ground anchor systems

Ratchet straps

Tarpaulins (tarps)

Tie-down kits

Visqueen, plastic sheeting, plastic drop cloths, and other flexible waterproof sheeting

Sales Price of \$3,000 or less: Portable generators used to provide light or communications, or to preserve food in the event of a power outage

Eligible Common Household Consumable Items (New for 2023)

Sales Price of \$30 or less: Laundry detergent and supplies, powder, liquid or pod detergents, fabric softener, dryer sheets, stain removers, bleach

Other household supplies: Toilet paper, paper towels, paper napkins and tissues, facial tissues, hand soap, bar soap, and body wash, sunscreen and sunblock, dish soap and detergents, including powder, liquid, and pod detergents or rinse agents that can be used in dishwashers, cleaning or disinfecting wipes and sprays, hand sanitizer, trash bags

Eligible Pet Evacuation Supplies: Sales price of \$10 or less per can or pouch (or the equivalent if sold in a box or case): wet pet food

Sales price of \$15 or less per item or package: Cat litter pans, collapsible or travel-sized food or water bowls, hamster or rabbit substrate, manual can openers, pet waste disposal bags

Sales Price of \$20 or less per item or package: collars, muzzles, leashes, pet pads

Sales Price of \$25 or less per item: vat litter weighing 25 lbs. or less

Sales Price of \$40 or less per item: pet beds

Sales price of \$100 or less per item: bags of dry cat or dog food weighing 50 lbs. or less, pet carriers, portable kennels, over-the-counter pet medications

For more information and/or forms, visit the Department of Revenue's website at floridarevenue.com.

If you don't have access to a computer, you can also call Taxpayer Services at 850-488-6800, Monday through Friday (excluding holidays).



Space Coast Wing Battle

Who serves up the BEST WINGS in Central Florida? Enjoy this 21+, all-inclusive wings event as Florida's best wing makers compete to be champion. Vote for your favorite for People's Choice!

Come out on Saturday, August 19, 6 - 10 p.m. at Wickham Park, 2500 Parkway Drive, Melbourne for a great time. Attendees will stop by each booth to sample what each competitor is serving up. After tasting each wing, be sure to drop your token off with your favorite competitor to give them your "People's Choice" vote. Then continue to enjoy UNLIMITED wing samplings, alcohol, game area, and live music all night long! Entertainment includes:

Live Music All Night Long by HOT PINK!

Game Area + Axe Throwing Sponsored by East Coast Axe Co.

Got a sweet tooth? Desserts will be available for purchase at the event, with 15% of their proceeds going directly to The Children's Hunger Project.

A panel of qualified judges will announce the 2023 SPACE COAST WING BATTLE CHAMPION based on a blind taste-test.

Your admission ticket includes unlimited wing samplings and unlimited domestic beer and hard seltzers for the entirety of the event. VIP Ticket holders also get unlimited local craft draft beer and liquor/cocktails and early entry. This is a 21+ event - A valid id is required for entry.

General Admission event hours are 7 - 10 p.m. VIP hours are 6 - 10 p.m. V.I.P. Admission includes exclusive early entry to enjoy an extra hour of the event with shorter lines and first dibs on wing samplings, unlimited domestic beers, hard seltzers, local craft draft beer and liquor/cocktails

COMPETITORS

Lizzy's Soul Food	Indian River Smokehouse
Fre\$h Wingz and Thingz	Bubbakoo's Burritos
Mamas Mad Munchiez	Tijuana Flats
Ms. T's Kitchen & Tainted Treats	
Pho Wheels Orlando	4th Street Fillin' Station
Cindy B's Simple Life Food	
Fluffies Catering	The B.A.W. House
Dining with Duke & Catering	
Karalyn's Vegan	Beef '0' Brady's
Island Lemonade Shakers	Empanini

Fast Eddie's Wings & Grill

Appliance Warehouse featuring Mr. Delicious Pizzeria
More to be Added Soon!

If you would like to be a Wing Competitor at this large community event partnered with a local non-profit, please email SpaceCoastWingBattle@gmail.com!

This event is put on by Battle Bros., LLC with non-profit The Children's Hunger Project. Attendance is capped - event will sell out - buy early! For more information, visit www.spacecoastwingbattle.com.

COVID Eris Is Here: Now What?

COVID infections and hospitalizations are on the rise in the U.S., Europe and Asia. Health officials are pointing at the EG.5 "Eris" coronavirus, a subvariant of the Omicron lineage that originally emerged in 2021. The World Health Organization (WHO) classified EG.5, which has been nicknamed as "Eris," as a "variant of interest," indicating that it should be more closely watched than others because of mutations that might make it more contagious or severe.

EG.5 had been found in more than 50 countries as of August 8, according to the WHO. It is the most common and fastest growing COVID-19 subvariant in the U.S., estimated to be responsible for around 17% of current COVID cases, according to the U.S. Center for Disease Control (CDC).

Eris appears to be much more contagious than Omicron and other variants. COVID-19 related hospitalizations are up more than 40% off of recent lows hit in June, but are still more than 90% below peak levels hit during the January 2022 Omicron outbreak, according to CDC data. And flu season is still a few months way when COVID strains tend to spread more rapidly.

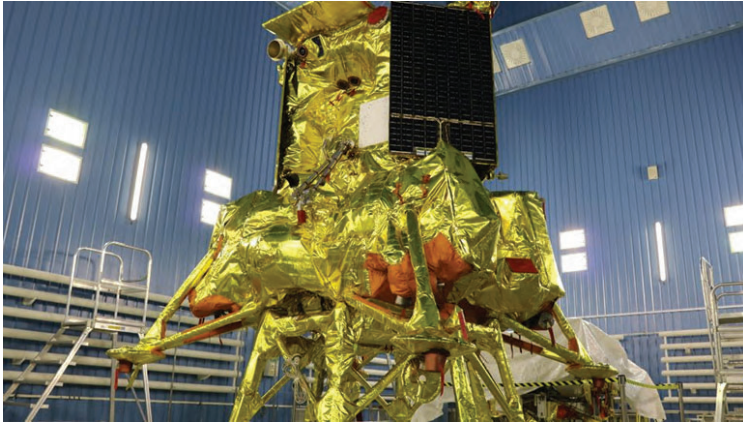
The amount of virus identified in wastewater around the country and the number of weekly prescriptions for COVID treatment Paxlovid have all risen significantly over the past month, albeit from low levels. Still, the WHO said at this time it does not seem to pose more of a threat to public health than other variants and that "there is no evidence of an increase in disease severity directly associated with EG.5."

Pfizer (PFE.N)/BioNTech SE (22UAY.DE), Moderna (MRNA.O) and Novavax (NVAX.O) have all created new versions of their vaccines updated to target another Omicron sublineage - XBB.1.5 - to more closely resemble the various circulating strains of the virus. EG.5 is similar to XBB.1.5 although the newer subvariant carries one mutation to its spike protein, the part of the virus targeted by the vaccine.

XBB.1.5 emerged in late 2022 and was still responsible for more than 10% of infections as of August 5, per CDC estimates. CDC Director Dr. Mandy Cohen said in a recent interview that she expects the new vaccines to be widely available in the U.S. by the third or fourth week in September.

Russia Launches Moon Lander

Russia reignited its moon exploration program last week, sending a lander toward Earth's nearest neighbor. The Luna-25 mission lifted off atop a Soyuz-2.1b rocket from the Vostochny Cosmodrome in Russia's far eastern Amur Region. The launch picked up where the former Soviet Union left off in 1976, when Luna-24 successfully delivered about 6.2 ounces of moon samples to Earth. Luna-25 is the first domestically produced moon probe in modern Russian history.



Russia's Luna-25 moon lander being prepped for launch. (Image credit: NPO Lavochkina)

Luna-25 has already sent back photos as it traveled to Moon. Now it will circle the natural satellite for another five to seven days. The spacecraft will then set down in the moon's south polar region, near Boguslawsky Crater. Two backup landing spots are also in play: southwest of Manzini Crater and south of Pentland A Crater. Once down, Luna-25 will work on the lunar surface for at least one Earth year.

It took longer than expected for Luna-25 to get off the ground; its liftoff was delayed for nearly two years. The European Space Agency (ESA) had been set to provide the Pilot-D navigation camera, built specifically to help Luna-25 make a precision landing on the moon. Due to the Ukraine invasion in 2022, however, ESA canceled a number of collaborative space projects.

Luna-25's main objectives are to test technology for future soft landings on the moon, analyze lunar dirt and rocks, and conduct other scientific research. If its landing is successful, the craft will study the upper layer of the lunar regolith, appraise the ultra-thin lunar atmosphere and search for signs of water ice in the south pole region. The lander carries eight different instruments including a laser mass spectrometer and a device that can zap lunar soil samples then examine the resulting fumes to analyze chemical composition.

Designed, built and tested by Russian aerospace company NPO Lavochkin, Luna-25 consists of two main parts. One is a landing platform outfitted with a propulsion system and landing gear, including a Doppler velocity

and range meter. The other is an unpressurized instrument container loaded with scientific equipment, radiators, electronics, solar panels, a radioisotope heat and power source, antennas and television cameras.

"Now everyone is aiming for the polar regions. This area is intriguing to everyone in the scientific community," Maxim Litvak, a chief scientist for the mission from Russia's Space Research Institute (known by the acronym IKI), said in a posting on the IKI website. "There are signs of ice in the soil of the Luna-25 landing area. This can be seen from data from orbit. In the equatorial regions where we landed earlier, this is not the case."

Luna-25 adds to a growing list of international moon missions aimed at either studying or landing near the lunar south pole region. Luna-25 is slated to touch down around the same time, and in the same general area as India's Chandrayaan 3 probe, which arrived in lunar orbit on August 6 and is expected to touch down near the Moon's south pole on August 23. South Korea launched the Korea Pathfinder Lunar Orbiter (KPLRO) in August 2022 carrying the NASA-operated ShadowCam designed to help hunt for water ice near the moon's south pole. And NASA's Artemis Program aims to place humans near the moon's south pole no earlier than 2025 as part of the Artemis 3 mission.

2023 Space Coast Symposium

The Greater Palm Bay Chamber of Commerce is bringing together cutting-edge and powerful local and international innovators that find much of their success right here in Brevard County. It's an opportunity to hear from them directly regarding their vision for the future in the areas of Sustainability & Artificial Intelligence/Augmented Reality. The event will take place from 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. at the Space Coast Convention Center, 301 Tucker Lane, Cocoa.

The Participant Companies are: Suntrax The National Center for Simulation Lake Nona Hotel Lockheed Martin Firefly Aerospace Vaya Space Republic Services and the Center for Advanced Manufacturing and Innovative Design of Florida Tech. The first panel is focused on augmented reality/artificial intelligence the second on sustainability. Opportunity for Q&A!

Terrance McMahon, founder of AI Business Impact, is presenting on ChatGPT and each attendee will receive his book: "The One Hour Book: How to Write Your Book In Record Time Using Chat GPT."

Tickets for 2023 Space Coast Symposium can be booked at <https://allevents.in/cocoa/2023-space-coast-symposium/>.

**School started back on August 10.
Be alert for school buses and student!**

World Senior Citizens Day

We celebrate World Senior Citizens Day on August 21st every year. This day is dedicated to all senior citizens and aims to promote awareness about elder abuse and age deterioration. On this day, we also appreciate and acknowledge the contribution of senior citizens to the betterment of society.

An individual above the age of 60 is known as a senior citizen. The 2023 World Senior Citizen Day will be the 34th World Senior Citizen Day.

Port St. John Public Library

6500 Carole Ave., Port St. John
321-633-1867

Mary Lena Penna, Library Director

Library Hours: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Wednesday, 12-8 p.m. and Saturdays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

All Brevard County libraries will be closed on Monday, September 4th for Labor Day.

Meeting rooms are available for reservation by calling the library and study rooms are open on a first-come-first-served basis.

Computers are available, and we also offer scanning, wireless printing and faxing. More information on services offered, how to get a library card and events for all the Brevard County libraries can be found at brevardfl.gov/PublicLibraries.

Thursdays, 11 a.m.-noon: **Humanatee Yoga** for Beginners or Intermediate. \$5 Instructor Fee.

Thursdays, 1-3 p.m.: **SHINE Medicare assistance** through the Senior Resource Alliance of Brevard.

8/2 6:30 p.m.: **Bookworms Bookclub**, see the Reference desk for monthly book selection.

8/9, & 8/23 1:30-5 p.m.: **Community Support Advocate** can help with Housing Assistance, SNAP Benefits, Social Security/Medicare Benefits and more.

8/11 10:30 a.m.: **Special Guest Toddler Storytime**. Ages 3-5.

8/15, 8/22 & 8/29 3:00-4:00 p.m.: **STEAM time**. Ages 6-12. Come build & make things with us! Activities centered around Science, Technology, Engineering, Art & Mathematics.

8/18 & 8/25 9:30-10:00 a.m.: **Baby Storytime**. Ages 3 and under.

8/18 & 8/25 10:30 a.m.: **Toddler Storytime**. Ages 3-5.

8/19 10:30 a.m.: **Doorhanger Craft class**. \$40 fee due at sign up. Registration ends 8/16. See Reference Desk for more information and to sign up.

8/23 6:00 p.m.: **Friends of the Port St. John Public Library Membership Meeting**. All are welcome! Come help plan future events, including Santa's Visit.



American
Space
Museum &
Space Walk of Fame

Build A Brain STEM Workshops Presents



What a Bright Idea

August 18, 19, 22, 24, 25 and 26

What a bright idea! This month, we will do many experiments with light and LASERs. Come join our crazy Professor Darin as we learn about mixing colors of light, what IS light, and how to change light. We will be doing polarized light experiments, additive and subtractive light, and more. All the students will also get to help set up a LASER maze to learn about directing light and using it to communicate. It will be lots of fun, as well as educational and it's FREE.

These FREE classes are offered on each of the listed dates at 10:00, 12:00 and 2:00. Be sure to register soon at <https://spacewalkoffame.org/register> to reserve a spot, as class sizes are limited to 12 students per class time.

Classes are limited to 12 children per class, so please register soon. If you have a group of nine or more, contact Professor Darin to schedule private STEM class times.

For more information, please contact the American Space Museum at 321-264-0434. The address of the museum is 308 Pine Street, Titusville, Florida.

American Space Museum & U.S. Space Walk of Fame Foundation is a non-profit, 501(c)(3) charitable organization. The museum is open for public tours on Monday through Saturday, 10 to 5. Located at 308 Pine Street, Titusville. For additional information, please call 321-264-0434 or write info@americanspacemuseum.org.

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