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### JUNE UPDATE

# The Sachs Sentinel



As summer begins in South Florida, my staff and I have remained hard at work representing and supporting our constituents and the local community. See what we have been up to recently!

**\*WEATHER ADVISORY\***

**HURRICANE**

# **SEASON 2016**



***Hurricane Wilma Approaching SW Florida  
from the Gulf of Mexico in 2005***



***Senator Sachs surveying flooding due to  
tropical downpours at Kings Point in 2014***

With the arrival of June 1st, the 2016 hurricane season is now officially upon us. While Florida has not been hit by a major hurricane since Hurricane Wilma slammed into South Florida in October of 2005 nearly 11 years ago, forecasters from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration are predicting that tropical storms and hurricanes in the Atlantic will total between 10-16 this season, above average of what is considered normal. Of these named storms, 4-8 are predicted to become hurricanes, with 1-4 hurricanes being classified as Major (Category 3 or above). As such, forecasters are also predicting that three named storms will make landfall somewhere along the U.S. coastline. Florida's return frequency for seeing a hurricane is once every 9 to 13 years; looking back to when Hurricane Wilma hit our state in 2005, we are at the end of our window, and now is the time to prepare for hurricane season, not in August. Remember, it only takes one storm to make it a busy season; back in 1992 there were only seven named storms, but the one major storm that formed was Hurricane Andrew, and it crushed South Florida. To get the very latest news on any tropical development or on storms and hurricanes that threaten South Florida this hurricane season, make sure to check out the National Hurricane Center's website, found here: <http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/>.

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**\*ZIKA VIRUS\*** \_

# UPDATE



*Photo of an Aedes aegyptus mosquito, a species in Florida that can carry the Zika virus*

Since our last update, the number of Zika virus infections has continued to increase in our state. As of early June 2016, the State of Florida has reported 162 confirmed Zika-related cases, including 38 pregnant women. Thus far, all of the cases involve residents infected outside the country, but state officials are warning that the onset of hurricane season and uptick in wet weather will likely lead to the virus being transmitted to mosquitoes domestically. The Zika virus induces mild symptoms like rash and fever, and is mainly spread through bites from infected *Aedes aegyptus* mosquitoes; however, pregnant women who catch the virus are at serious risk of their unborn children developing microcephaly, a serious birth defect characterized by an abnormally small head and brain. In order to help Florida better combat and contain the Zika virus, I have also been strongly supportive of our state legislature's recent efforts in pushing for emergency funding from Congress in Washington, D.C. In the meantime, I urge all Floridians to be extra cautious with respect to significant Zika virus sources such as our state's massive mosquito population and traveling to other territories or countries with a major Zika virus presence. If you have any further questions or concerns regarding the Zika virus in Florida, you can contact the Zika Virus Information Hotline at (855) 622-6735.

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## **COLLEGE AFFORDABILITY AND ACCESS: TRANSPARENCY BILL**



*Senator Sachs (center) showing her support for the new college-affordability transparency bill at Florida Atlantic University*

It is important for Florida's college and university students to fully understand the price of their education. As such, I recently joined several of my fellow legislators and other community leaders for the ceremonial bill-signing of a new college-affordability transparency bill at Florida Atlantic University. This new law will provide our state college and university students with greater clarity on their education-based expenses and will serve to make college education more affordable, a great step towards bringing more graduates to Florida.



# **HONORING OUR VETERANS:**

## **MEMORIAL DAY 2016**



*Senator Sachs (center) speaking at Veterans Park on Memorial Day 2016*

Florida has the third largest population of veterans in the nation after California and Texas. We must never forget our veterans and the enormous sacrifices that they have made for our country. It is a moral obligation of the legislature to assist in providing our veterans with the guidance, information, resources and opportunities they need to be able to improve their lives to the greatest extent they possibly can. As the proud daughter of a World War II veteran, I have always sought to implement legislation and organize events that are beneficial to our veteran community. I pledge to continue my efforts in honoring, supporting and protecting our veterans in this year and the years to come. To all former members of our armed forces: *"Thank you so much for everything that you have done to keep our country safe and free. We are eternally grateful for your service to our nation. You are not forgotten."*

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## **PROTECTING OUR**

# **NATURAL ENVIRONMENT:** **THE FLORIDA LEGACY BILL**



*Jon Steverson (L), Florida Department of Environmental Protection Secretary, discussing the Florida Legacy bill with Senator Sachs (R) showing her support*

Florida has one of the most vibrant and beautiful ecosystems in the country. The preservation of Florida's natural resources is an important part of who we are as a state. In the spirit of my devotion to preserving our state's natural environment, I recently joined Senate President-Designate Negron and a handful of other legislators and local community leaders for the signing of the Legacy Florida bill implementing

Amendment 1, a measure that an overwhelming 75% of Floridian's voted for in 2014, to protect the Everglades and our vital system of springs and aquifers for future generations.

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***Stay tuned for more updates!***

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