Tuesday will start off generally dry and pleasant as high pressure moves to our east and the next weather system approaches from the west. A cold front will move eastward toward the Sunshine State throughout the afternoon and into the overnight hours.

By last Tuesday night, showers will begin to move into the Western Panhandle and around a 40% chance of rain can be expected by early tomorrow morning.

On Wednesday, the front will move closer to the state and showers will become more numerous over the Panhandle and Big Bend area. A few storms may develop in some of the stronger showers and some of these storms may become severe. The main threat with any of the developing storms will be frequent lightning, damaging winds and small hail.

As we head into Wednesday night, these showers and storms will continue to move to the east. Parts of the Peninsula will begin to see a passing shower or two, but the heaviest rain and the storms will remain over the Big Bend and Northern Peninsula. Again, severe weather is possible in the strongest storms as we move into early Thursday morning.

By Thursday, as the front moves into the Peninsula, it will begin to weaken and the showers will begin to taper off. A few lingering storms are possible over Central Florida but the severe weather threat will remain much lower than it was over North Florida on Wednesday. If any storms develop, the main hazard will be cloud-to-ground lightning.

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• By Thursday night, only South Florida should expect a few lingering showers as the front clears the area, but there will only be around a 20% chance of rain to account for a passing shower or two.

• Overall, rainfall amounts will be quite heavy over the Western Panhandle with around 2-2.5 inches expected on Wednesday. This will lead to a slight risk of flooding over the area, especially in low-lying and flood prone areas. Flooding will not be as great of a concern over the Eastern Panhandle and Big Bend region since only around half an inch to an inch of rain is expected. As the front passes southward through the state and begins to weaken, only around a quarter to a half an inch is likely over the Peninsula.

• On Friday, the front will have cleared the area and high pressure will build back into the region for sunny skies and pleasant conditions to start our weekend.

• As the high pressure begins to take control of our weather it will push very dry air into the region. Despite the rainfall we’re going to see this week, the low relative humidity values will allow the wildfire threat to increase across the state. We encourage everyone to have a Lean, Clean and Green landscape to protect your houses and businesses from wildfires.

• Another wildfire threat that we may see this week is dense smoke on roadways. Driving through heavy smoke is similar to driving through heavy fog so we encourage everyone to follow the same safety tips as you would if you would approach fog on the roadway.

• We’re going to see daytime temperatures stay fairly steady over the next two days, but after the cold front passes through an area, highs will

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plummet to below normal levels. On Tuesday and Wednesday, expected highs to stay in the 70s across North Florida, near 80 in Central Florida and in the low 80s throughout South Florida. By Thursday, these high temperatures will decrease to be in the 60s across North Florida and the 70s in Central Florida. On Friday the entire state will see a dip in daytime temperatures with most locations over North Florida seeing highs in the 60s, Central Florida in the low 70s and South Florida near 80.

- It will be the same story for the overnight low temperatures with tonight being the warmest night. Lows will stay in the 50s across many areas of North and Central Florida, generally north of Lake Okeechobee. South Florida will stay in the 60s. By tomorrow night, lows will begin to fall over the Western Panhandle with temperatures expected to dip into the 40s. The Eastern Panhandle, Big Bend and Northern Peninsula will see lows in the 50s while Central and South Florida stay in the 60s.

After the front passes through on Thursday night, temperatures will plummet statewide. Lows are expected to dip into the 30s in inland locations of Northwest Florida both Thursday and Friday nights while coastal areas and Northeast Florida stay in the 40s. Central Florida and most of South Florida will see lows dip into the 50s while coastal locations of Southeast Florida stay slightly warmer with temperatures expected to stay in the 60s.

- While temperatures in the early part of this week may seem warm and great for going to the beach, we want to remind everyone to watch out for dangerous and life-threatening rip currents. We expect to see a moderate risk of rip currents along all Atlantic Coast beaches and Panhandle beaches today and tomorrow so everyone should be sure to
look for warning flags and signs on the beach before entering the surf.

You can check the rip current forecast before heading out by going to www.RipCurents.noaa.gov and always remember that swimming within sight of a lifeguard is the safest way to swim.

- For your statewide weather forecast, and to learn more about the wildfire or rip current threat for your area, be sure to visit www.FloridaDisaster.org.