Date May 27, 2021

Attorney General Moody's Week In Review - May 28, 2021



The 2021 Hurricane Season starts next week, and with a possibly active season approaching, now is the time to make sure preparations are in place. Earlier this week, my office released the 2021 Hurricane Preparedness Guide—full of information about storms and tips to help Floridians get ready. Last year, we experienced a record-breaking 30 named storms, including six major hurricanes. This year, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is predicting an active season with 13 to 20 named storms developing—and six to 10 of those storms becoming hurricanes.

As Floridians, we have all seen the damage that tropical storms and hurricanes can cause. That is why, it is so important to prepare now rather than scramble later should a storm rage towards your community. Our preparedness guide can help you get ahead.

It details the latest information about major storm events, suggestions for preparing your home for a hurricane strike and tips for avoiding scams in the aftermath of destruction. The guide also features information on one of the most common consumer complaints reported during hurricane season—price gouging.

To access the 2021 Hurricane Preparedness Guide, click here.

The safety of your family, pets and property may depend on the preparations you make today, so I want to urge all Floridians to use this resource to make a plan now—ahead of hurricane season.

Stay safe, Florida.



In The News

Florida Attorney General Moody Issues 2021 Hurricane Preparedness Guide, CBS4 Miami

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Florida AG releases 2021 Hurricane Preparedness Guide, WINK News

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FL Attorney General Delivers Hurricane Prep Message in Tampa, WIOD Florida News

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Ashley Moody urges Congress to pass Fraud and Scam Reduction Act, Florida Politics

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Operation Thou Shalt Not Steal nets church theft suspects, News 4 Jax

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Ashley Moody Hopes to Reach Floridians Through Working With Tax Collectors, Florida Daily

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Protecting Floridians

Attorney General Moody Leads Effort to Pass the Fraud and Scam Reduction Act



Attorney General Ashley Moody is leading efforts to pass the Fraud and Scam Reduction Act. The act, comprised of the Stop Senior Scam Act and the Seniors Fraud Prevention Act of 2021, will assist stakeholders in training employees to recognize the warning signs of elder fraud and to prevent irreversible damage to elderly victims. Attorney General Moody is joined by a bipartisan group of 47 other attorneys general writing in support of the bill to congressional leaders.

Attorney General Ashley Moody said, “Florida is home to more than 5 million seniors and they deserve to enjoy their golden years free of worry from scammers trying to target them. That is why I am urging our congressional leaders to pass this important legislation. Senior protection has always been an important mission of my office and I will continue to fight to protect Florida seniors.” Read More

FDLE arrests six in 'Operation Thou Shalt Not Steal'



Agents with the

Florida Department of Law Enforcement arrested four suspects who traveled throughout Florida and across the country stealing donations from hundreds of churches and parochial schools. Two suspects, Catalin Trandafir and Simona Trandafir remain at large.

The FDLE investigation began in December 2020 after Cape Coral Police Department identified 24 victim churches within Lee County plus additional victims outside their jurisdiction.

Investigators determined the suspects, all Romanian citizens, traveled to churches and stole donation checks from church mailboxes. The suspects operated out of Orlando but traveled throughout Florida and the United States, sometimes to as many as 85 churches a day. Many churches were victimized multiple times.

Florida Attorney General Ashley Moody said, “Churches depend on donations from generous members of the community to operate and serve those in need. It is despicable that this crime ring would exploit the selfless acts of kindness displayed through these donations for selfish greed. Thank you, to the law enforcement agencies that worked with my Office of Statewide Prosecution to bring these criminals to justice.” Read More

Events

This week, Attorney General Ashley Moody announced the release of the 2021 Hurricane Preparedness Guide at a series of news conferences across the state.



Attorney General Moody with Tampa law enforcement officials.



Attorney General Moody with Miami Police Department Chief Art Acevedo.
Attorney General Moody speaking virtually to members of the Marion County Bar Association.


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Attorney General Moody speaking virtually to the Florida Elder Justice Conference on senior protection efforts.

