

# State & World News

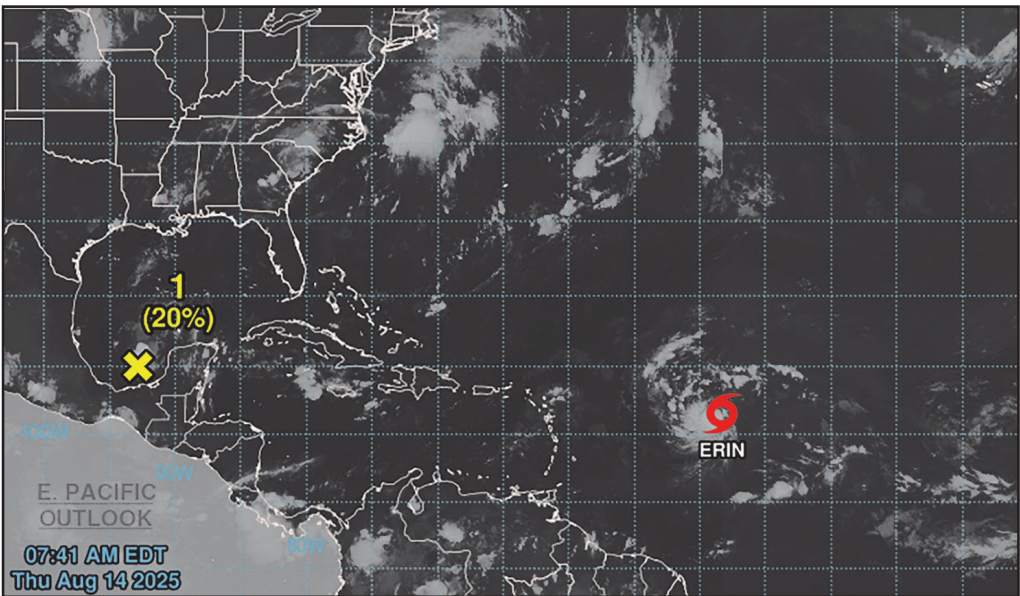
## Tropical Storm Erin intensifies, projected to grow into 125 mph Cat 3 hurricane, NHC says

RICHARD TRIBOU  
Orlando Sentinel (TNS)

ORLANDO, Fla. — Tropical Storm Erin on Thursday began to intensify with the National Hurricane Center projecting it to become the season's first hurricane on Friday and grow into a major Category 3 hurricane this weekend, but its path looks to steer it clear of landfall for now.

As of the NHC's 5 a.m. advisory, the center of Erin was located about 990 miles east of the northern Leeward Islands in the Caribbean moving west at 17 mph with maximum sustained winds of 50 mph. Tropical storm-force winds extend out 60 miles.

"This general motion is expected to continue today, with a west-northwestward motion beginning tonight and continuing into the weekend," said NHC hurricane specialist Larry Kelly. "On the forecast track, the center of Erin is likely to move near or just north of the northern Leeward Islands over the weekend."



This satellite image shows Tropical Storm Erin in the Atlantic on Thursday morning, Aug. 14, 2025. (National Hurricane Center/TNS)

The system, which passed by the Cape Verde Islands earlier in the week, causing flash floods that were blamed for nine deaths, has been moving quickly across the Atlantic.

"Gradual strengthening is forecast during the next day or so, with more significant intensification possible on Friday and Saturday," Kelly

said.

The forecast track show Erin developing into a Category 1 hurricane by Friday afternoon with 80 mph winds, and growing further to major hurricane strength early Sunday with 115 mph winds and 140 mph gusts. By early Tuesday, that strength is forecast to grow to 125 mph sustained

winds with 155 mph gusts.

The system will be moving across warmer waters and models show it will face less wind shear allowing for more development.

"This increasingly favorable environment could result in a period of rapid intensification," Kelly said. "There continues to be confidence that Erin will be a

large and powerful hurricane over the southwestern Atlantic Ocean this weekend."

The cone of uncertainty continues to favor its center remaining away from land, although the storm's breadth could still affect the northwest Caribbean islands and Bahamas.

While there are no watches or warnings in place, the NHC advised the northern Leeward Islands, Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico to monitor Erin's progress.

Tropical-storm-force winds could begin to be felt by Friday night and into the weekend in the Leewards and by Sunday in the Bahamas. Swells from the storm will soon begin to hit the islands.

"While there is still uncertainty in what impacts might occur in portions of the Bahamas, the east coast of the United States, and Bermuda next week, the risk of dangerous surf and rip currents across the western Atlantic basin next week is increasing," the NHC

## • City Commissioners

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offerings to the Coffeyville community. She went on to explain that workers have created a more personalized experience for those looking for help thanks to a sizable grant they received. "It's everything we ever hoped it would be," Follett emotionally expressed. The grand re-opening will be held Saturday, August 23 at Genesis, located at 1312 West 8th Street from 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. There will be a dedication and naming ceremony honoring Richard Keck, who gave Genesis 22 years of service.

James Hazen, Board President of the Senior Center was next to speak to the Commission regarding the ideas for the park that have been sent out to residents. His main concern though is the parking area around the lot and City Hall, as the gravel is rather large and older folks with mobility issues find it hard to walk on. Hazen suggested installing a blacktop parking lot with proper lines and went on to share his vision as to what he felt the park should look like.

Coffeyville resident Marcus Castle came forward next, asking when the railroad crossings throughout Coffeyville would be getting fixed, noting that talks had been



held about the condition of the tracks throughout town, but nothing is being done about the situation as of yet. City Manager Ben Brubaker spoke on the matter, stating that it "literally takes an act of congress to get the railroad to do anything." He went on to explain that the city has turned in pictures and video in to both Senator Peck and Representative Ron Bryce to see if they could grease any wheels to hurry the process along. He did note that the crossing at Willow should be worked on soon, as they were waiting to get all the materials necessary for the repairs.

The last of the commenters, Max Williams, asked Commissioners what they planned to do to those residents living in Coffeyville that had Oklahoma plates on their vehicles. Brubaker reiterated that it all boils down to changing ordinances with the County and having to lean on the Sheriff's department to enforce any violations. "From a

legal standpoint, we can't do anything about it," he said.

Moving on, Commissioners heard from Neil Phillips with the City of Coffeyville yearly audit summary. Phillips went over the audit briefly, touching on various points and noted that the city had received an unmodified opinion, which merely means that there is no modification needed at this time.

The Commission opened a public hearing to authorize the submission of a 2025 Kansas Small Cities CDBG application for rehabilitating the Midland Theater. Amber Dean spoke on the matter, explaining that they were asking for permission to go for this grant in order to begin work on the auditorium, electrical work, HVAC and more. The Commission also approved a resolution giving the mayor the authority to sign and submit the application and to declare the Midland "blighted" in respect to the grant fund-

ing program.

The following items were approved in new business:

- A grant of \$5,000 to support the Montgomery County General Transportation Initiative SEK-CAP. The program provides transportation services to residents throughout Montgomery County. In 2024, the City of Coffeyville awarded the group with a \$3,000 grant as initially, they were operating through Coffeyville just three days a week. Now, SEK-CAP operates five days a week.

- A four-month extension on the CDBG multi-use trail project as they are needing to add guardrails at Woodland and Buckeye for safety reasons.

- The acceptance of a grant for the 8th Street and Buckeye Intersection. Jim Wright, executive director of Public Works, explained that the intersection of 8th and Buckeye has a number of obstructions at the intersection that impede visibility for drivers. The project would redesign the intersection to allow traffic to flow through the area safely. It is a 90/10 grant that only covers construction and engineering, leaving the city \$95,534 to chip in.

- Awarding a roofing contract to A-Lert Roofing for three different roof replacements including the Hillcrest Golf Course Pro Shop totaling \$95,435; Water Treatment Raw Water Pump House totaling \$51,930 and the Airport Hanger totaling \$185,230. All roofs come with a 20-year water tight material and workmanship warranty and, since this is a combined bid, the company gave the City a discount of \$7,400.
- An ordinance vacating an easement at Patterson Square.

- The creation of an ordinance amending the Model Zoning Ordinance and adding definition and regulations for tiny homes and establishing a tiny home overlay district. The ordinance also establishes permitting, design and construction standards for the placement of tiny homes within the district.

- The first reading of an ordinance establishing a registration system, minimum maintenance standards and a fee structure for abandoned or chronically vacant commercial buildings within the city limits. The Commission spoke at length on this issue, finding out at one

point that 100 buildings would be placed on the register, 22 of which are within the downtown area. The new ordinance provides clear definitions, registration procedures, enforcement mechanisms and maintenance expectation for property owners.

- The donation of property that the City owns located at 1309 West 10th Street to Kimberly Calloway and Morgan Barbee to construct a new single-family residence. The home will have a minimum value of \$100,000. The contractor hired must begin work within six months and be completed within 18 months in order for the \$10,000 mortgage note on the land be forgiven.

- The planing of 20 Oklahoma Redbud Trees downtown. City Staff hope that with the addition of the trees, which bloom in the spring and provide ample shade in the summer, would bring more visitors downtown since the removal of the awnings. TLC Nursery and Outdoor Living won the bid, coming in at \$43,089.

- The approval to develop three dog parks, including fencing, at spots located downtown, at Sycamore Park and at Walter Johnson Park. Dean explained that residents had long time expressed an interest in having a dog park, or parks, within the city limit. It is estimated that the Sycamore Park will cost the city \$1250; the Walter Johnson Park would set the City back \$11,000 and the downtown park would cost around \$6,000.

- An issuance of a purchase order for circuit breakers for the B-Sub transformer upgrade project. Chris Weiner, director of Electric Services explained that the machine had been needing new breakers and the new 2,000 Amp ones will fill the spot nicely. The resolution provides a \$26,653.15 contingency and will be 100% reimbursed by CRNF.

- The demolition and replacement of the southwestern entrance stairs at the Steam Plant as the current steps are a safety hazard when entering or exiting the plant from the southwest side, as they are crumbling an allowing water into the basement.

- The purchase of 6,500 gallons of Mycelia S3 N 40 engine oil for the generating units at the Electric Utility Gen 2 plant totaling \$82,030.

# Classifieds

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### Helpful Tips

#### Did you know?

Outdoor living is wildly popular, as more and more homeowners are bringing elements once reserved for home interiors into their backyards. When designing outdoor living spaces, homeowners may learn about biophilic design, an architectural concept that aims to incorporate natural elements into outdoor living spaces. Proponents of biophilic design say it satisfies an innate human need to affiliate with nature, thereby helping to reduce stress that people may experience after being stuck indoors for much of their days. Biophilic design is often part of a home interior design, but many homeowners also embrace it when designing their outdoor living spaces. For example, surrounding outdoor living areas with noninvasive plants, flowers and trees and using natural materials like wood and stone when building such spaces are great ways to embrace biophilic design and create a tension-free ambiance in outdoor living spaces.



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