

U.S. & WORLD

Classy

Newly formed Hurricane Imelda leaves Bahamas, Florida behind, to take aim at Bermuda

RICHARD TRIBOU
Orlando Sentinel

Hurricane Imelda formed Tuesday as it moved away from Florida and the Bahamas with a path that could make a direct hit on Bermuda, according to the National Hurricane Center.

As of the NHC's 2 p.m. Eastern time advisory, the fourth hurricane of the season had maximum sustained winds that had grown to 85 mph, making it a Category 1 hurricane. It was located about 690 miles west-southwest of Bermuda moving east-northeast at 12 mph.

Hurricane-force winds extend out 45 miles and tropical-storm-force winds extend out 185 miles from its center.

"On the forecast track, the center of the hurricane should continue to move away from the Bahamas today and be approaching Bermuda Wednesday afternoon," forecasters said. "Additional strengthening is forecast during the next 48 hours."

A hurricane warning is now in place for Bermuda.

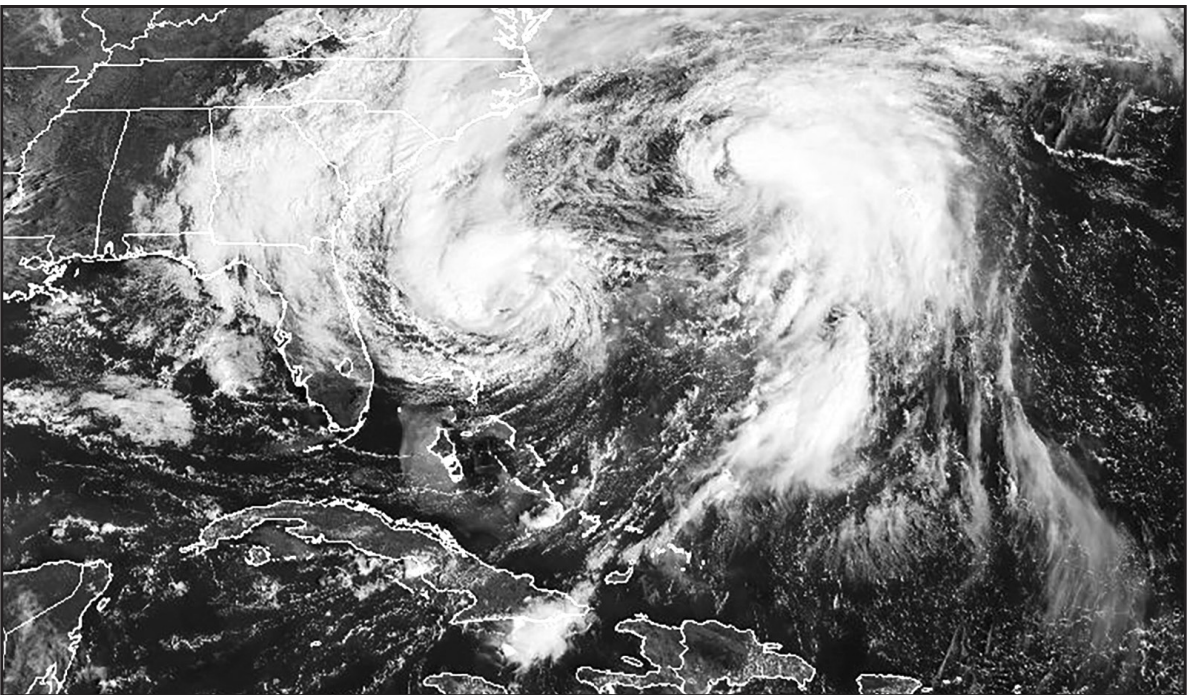
The storm slogged through the Bahamas on Monday and will continue to bring high surf and dangerous marine conditions to the Florida coast through the week, according to the National Weather Service in Melbourne.

"A high risk of rip currents, dangerous surf, moderate beach erosion, and hazardous boating conditions are forecast," the NWS stated.

Surf heights will be 6 to 10 feet north of Cape Canaveral and 4 to 8 feet to the south.

Nearshore boating would be dangerous as well with 10-to-14-foot seas north of Cape Canaveral, 8 to 11 feet south and 11 to 18 feet offshore.

The NHC said 1 to 2 feet of surge could run from the Volusia/Flagler county line north to the South Santee River, South Carolina.



This satellite image shows newly formed Hurricane Imelda off the southeast U.S. coast on Tuesday, Sept. 30, 2025. (NOAA/TNS)

Outer bands from the system could bring 1 to 2 inches of rain with areas getting as much as 4 inches to the Carolina coast before the storm moves away from the U.S. mainland entirely.

Bermuda can expect 2 to 4 inches beginning Wednesday into Thursday.

Farther out in the Atlantic, the season's third hurricane, which had reached Category 5 status Saturday with 160 mph winds, had lost its major hurricane status.

As of NHC's 11 a.m. advisory Wednesday, Humberto had maximum sustained winds that had dropped to 80 mph, making it Category 1. It was located about 300 miles west of Bermuda moving north-northwest at 18 mph.

Hurricane-force winds extend out 70 miles and tropical-storm-force winds extend out 205 miles.

"On the forecast track, the center of Humberto will pass west of, and then north of Bermuda today and Wednesday," forecasters said. "Continued weakening is forecast and Humberto is expected to become a strong extratropical system on Wednesday."

So far the 2025 season has had nine named cyclones, all of which have grown to tropical-storm strength. Four have now become hurricanes, with all but Imelda having grown into major hurricanes.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration in early August updated its season forecast to call for 13 to 18 named storms, of which five to nine would grow into hurricanes. Two to five of those would develop into major hurricanes of Category 3 or higher.

Hurricane season runs from June 1 to Nov. 30.

Sierra Space Dream Chaser's NASA deal upended, 1st flight pushed to late 2026

RICHARD TRIBOU
Orlando Sentinel

Sierra Space had been looking to join SpaceX and Northrop Grumman as one of three commercial resupply partners for NASA aiming to fly its Dream Chaser spacecraft to the International Space Station.

But now Dream Chaser won't be guaranteed any flights to the space station after NASA and Sierra Space mutually agreed to adjust the contract.

The Dream Chaser spacecraft made it to Kennedy Space Center in spring 2024 and had been aiming to fly on the second-ever launch of United Launch Alliance's Vulcan later that year. But issues after testing forced its ride to space to move on without them.

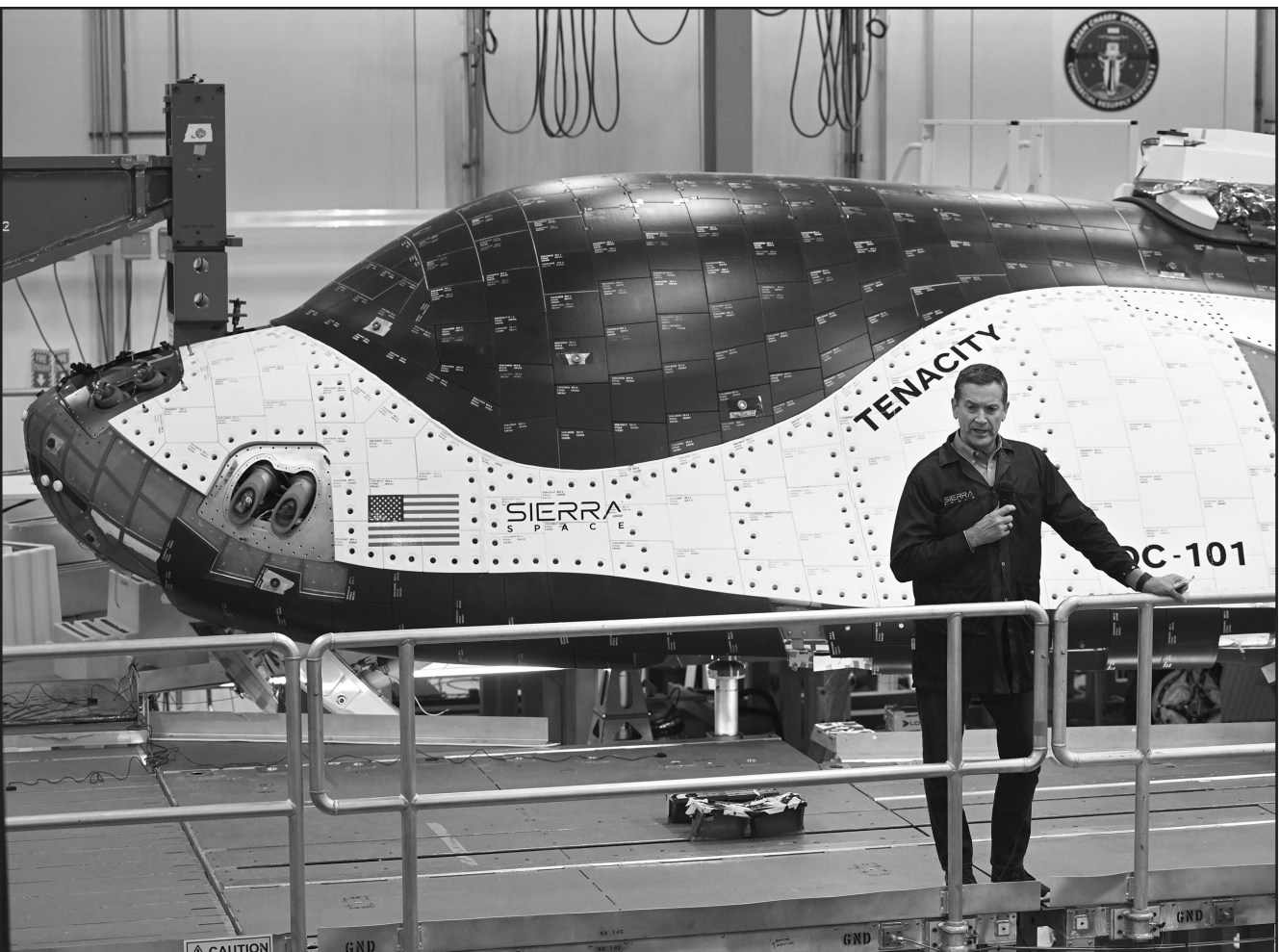
Now, Sierra Space and NASA have changed their deal so Dream Chaser's first flight will be a free flyer, not hooking up with the space station. And because of ULA's growing manifest including priority national security missions, the next available Vulcan won't come until late 2026.

"Development of new space transportation systems is difficult and can take longer than what's originally planned," said NASA's Dana Weigel, manager of the space station program. "The ability to perform a flight demonstration can be a key enabler in a spacecraft's development and readiness, as well as offering greater flexibility for NASA and Sierra Space."

Dream Chaser looks like a miniature space shuttle, but is about one quarter the size. Sierra Space had originally won the NASA's Commercial Resupply Services 2 contract back in 2016 with Dream Chaser awarded seven cargo flights to the space station joining previous commercial contract winners SpaceX with its cargo Dragon and Northrop Grumman, formerly Orbital ATK, with its Cygnus spacecraft.

But now, NASA will provide minimal support to the remainder of Dream Chaser's development and first flight. NASA can still order Dream Chaser resupply flights if the first test flight is successful.

"As NASA and its partners look toward space station reorbit in 2030, this mutually agreed to decision enables testing and verification to con-



Tom Vice, CEO of Sierra Space, talks to hundreds of employees in front of the Dream Chaser at Sierra Space on Oct. 30, 2023, in Louisville, Colorado. (Helen H. Richardson/The Denver Post/TNS)

tinue on Dream Chaser, as well as demonstrating the capabilities of the spaceplane for future resupply missions in low-Earth orbit," Weigel said.

Sierra Space had initially tried to win a contract for a human-rated version of Dream Chaser, but NASA opted to give those commercial contracts to SpaceX for Crew Dragon and Boeing for its Starliner.

The company still aims to develop a human-rated version of the vehicle that could be used to fly to any of the commercial space stations in development that look to replace the International Space Station once it's decommissioned.

Tom Vice, then CEO of Sierra Space, talks to hundreds of employees in front of the Dream Chaser to thank them for all of their hard work at Sierra Space on October 30, 2023 in Louisville, Colorado. (Helen H. Richardson/The Denver Post) The first Dream Chaser is named Tenacity.

Unlike SpaceX, which has Dragon landings in the water, and Cygnus, which burns up in Earth's atmosphere af-

ter the station is done with it, Dream Chaser is designed to land back on Earth in the same way the space shuttle orbiters did.

Its first missions would target a return at Kennedy Space Center at the former space shuttle landing facility.

The spacecraft has been in the works for more than 15 years.

The vehicle to date has only made successful drop tests outside of Florida from high altitudes to show its ability to land safely. In 2024, it completed months of testing at NASA's Neil Armstrong Test Facility in Ohio before it made its way to Kennedy Space Center.

The unmanned, 30-foot-long vehicle can deliver up to 12,125 pounds of supplies and can remain attached to the ISS and become an extension of the workable space. The roadmap calls for a crew version configuration with room up to seven crewmembers and supplies.

Sierra Space had already partnered with Blue Origin to pursue a commercial space station called Orbital Reef,

and the Dream Chaser could become an essential crew and cargo spacecraft for it.

The company also says the pivot to a free-flying demonstration would allow it to be considered for use on future national security and defense demonstrations.

"Dream Chaser represents the future of versatile space transportation and mission flexibility," said Fatih Ozmen, Sierra Space's executive chair. "This transition provides unique capabilities to meet the needs of diverse mission profiles, including emerging and existential threats and national security priorities that align with our acceleration into the defense tech market."

Ozmen touted the spacecraft's adaptability for rapid deployment as well as the ability to land on any conventional runway, allowing for rapid turnaround and reusability.

"Together with NASA, we are seeking to preserve the exceptional potential of Dream Chaser as a national asset, ensuring its readiness for the next era of space innovation," he said.

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Saturday- 3 p.m. Thursday

Minimum Charge- 1 day, up to 15 words, \$8.25

Call the office 620-331-3550 to place your ad. We accept Visa, MasterCard or Discover cards, or you can pre-pay for your ad at our offices at 6th and Chestnut streets.

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104 Notices

AA MEETINGS; 213 W. Oak; Independence; Noon Wednesday, Saturday & Sunday; Wednesday at 7pm. Thursday at 7pm; Sunday at 6pm. Alameda meetings; Tuesday at 7pm

132 Rummage Sale

GARAGE SALE Friday 10/3, 7am to 1pm & Saturday 10/4, 8am-noon, 3785 CR 3870 (604 Tower Drive). Mixture of many things, cheap prices. OCTO3

FRIDAY & SATURDAY, 8am to 5pm. Lots of stuff. 1 1/2 miles east of Independence on 160 Hwy. OCTO3

151 Services

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182 Property For Rent

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200 Public Notice

(First published in the Independence Daily Reporter October 2, 2025)
ORDINANCE NO. 4494

An Ordinance Rezoning Land from R-2, single-family dwelling district to C-1, neighborhood business district located at 604 East Cedar.

BE IT ORDAINED by the Governing Body of the City of Independence, Kansas:

Section 1. The following described real estate is hereby rezoned from R-2, single family dwelling district to C-1, neighborhood business district: Block 2, Lots 6 and 7, South View Addition Subdivision to the City of Independence, Montgomery County, Kansas, commonly known as 604 East Cedar.

Section 2. This Ordinance shall take effect upon its publication in the official City newspaper.

Adopted by the Governing Body of the City of Independence, Kansas, on the 25th day of September, 2025.

s. W.S. SMITH, Mayor

ATTEST: s. DAVID W. SCHWENKER, City Clerk

October 2, 2025

(First published in the Independence Daily Reporter October 2, 2025)
ORDINANCE NO. 4495

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CITY CODE SECTIONS 82-26 REGARDING ADOPTION OF THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

Be it ordained by the governing body of the City of Independence, Kansas:

Section 1. City Code Section 82-26 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Independence, Kansas, is hereby amended to read as follows in its entirety:

The comprehensive plan of the city, adopted by the Board of Commissioners on May 23, 2024, is adopted by reference into this Code. Copies of such comprehensive plan shall be marked or stamped "official copy" and filed with the city clerk to be open for inspection and available to the public at all reasonable hours.

Section 2. This Ordinance shall take effect upon its publication in the official City newspaper.

Adopted by the governing body of the City of Independence, Kansas on the 25th day of September, 2025.

s. W.S. Smith, Mayor

ATTEST: s. David Schwenker, City Clerk

October 2, 2025

