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Rubio to speak at climate summit in Punta Gorda

Staff Report
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RUBIO

PUNTA GORDA — U.S. Sen. Marco Rubio will be among the keynote speakers at next week's Southwest Florida Climate Summit.

Hosted by the Coastal & Heartland National Estuary Partnership, the event will be held from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Feb. 28 and Feb. 29 at the Charlotte Harbor Event and Conference Center.

“With the past year being the hottest year on record globally and the region being hit with Hurricane Idalia on the heels of Hurricane Ian the year prior, it is imperative that we accelerate our efforts to build more resilient communities,” CHNEP Executive Director Jennifer Hecker.

Hecker said the summit will give information “needed to better protect our communities and exceptional natural resources in the face of changing climatic conditions.”

Topics covered at the summit will include regional climate science, Hurricane Ian resiliency, water management and planning.

“The summit will feature experts with interactive audience question and answer sessions to exchange ideas on expanding the region’s capacity to respond to climate challenges and to build climate resilience in our communities,” a news release stated.

Presenters include the [U.S. Geological Survey](#), the [U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service](#), the South and Southwest Florida water management districts and the [Florida Gulf Coast University](#) Water School. Arcadia will be among the municipalities making presentations.

Aside from Rubio, other keynote speakers will include Shannon Estenoz, the U.S. Department of Interior assistant secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks, and Wesley Brooks, Florida’s chief resiliency officer.

The event's sponsors are WGCU Public Media, Resiliency Florida, the Central Florida Regional Planning Council, and the American Water Resources Association.

The event is free and open to the public, but advance online registration is required.

To register, visit www.chnep.org/climate-summit.
