

The Baldwin Times



Memorial Day events, travel tips and more
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County archivist named Ambassador for 200th anniversary

By **ALLISON MARLOW**
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Baldwin County Director of Archives Felisha Anderson has been appointed to the Alabama Bicentennial Commission as an Ambassador. Ambassadors are advocates for the state's 200th

anniversary by speaking to groups about the upcoming anniversary and encouraging communities to become involved. Baldwin County leads the way in the state's celebration with 14 local committees, the most in any county. Anderson said she is humbled by the appointment.

"I'm a little shocked," she said. "It's something I've been doing all along. It's an honor and a privilege to be named. The Alabama Bicentennial Commemoration officially launched on May 5, 2017 and will conclude on December 14, 2019. Since its inception Anderson has been one of the

celebration's most vociferous cheerleaders and has helped to plan and produce several anniversary events, including the recent History Fair at Daphne High School and production of the Baldwin County Book of Legends.

SEE **COUNTY**, PAGE 2



SUBMITTED PHOTO

EMA officials host hurricane simulation exercise



JOHN UNDERWOOD / STAFF PHOTO

Baldwin County EMA Director Zachary Hood addresses officials before Hurricane Simulation Training held Tuesday, May 9 at the EMA central command in Robertsdale.

By **JOHN UNDERWOOD**
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ROBERTSDALE — It's Tuesday, Aug. 27 and Hurricane Dori is churning in the Atlantic heading for Cuba and the Gulf of Mexico with an expected landfall on Friday, somewhere along the Alabama-Mississippi-Florida Gulf Coast. With expected landfall so

close to the Labor Day holiday weekend, officials in Baldwin County are already gathering at the Emergency Management Agency's central command office in Robertsdale to discuss not only how to coordinate shelters and potential storm damage, but also how to evacuate and/or maximize the safety for the hundreds of thousands of visitors planning to come to Alabama's beaches

for the three-day weekend. Over the next 24 hours, Dori skirts the southern coast of Florida and the northern tip of Cuba, remaining offshore which means that it has steadily gained size and strength on its path toward the Gulf Coast. By Thursday, Dori has shifted its path and is looking to hit the Mississippi coast directly, putting the dangerous

east side of the storm squarely on the shoulders of Baldwin and Mobile counties. Like hurricanes Michael and Katrina before her, Dori is becoming a massive storm, projected to make landfall as a strong Category 2 with tropical force winds stretching out 200 miles. By Thursday, Dori has

SEE **EMA**, PAGE 4

Loxley community mourns loss of mayor

By **JOHN UNDERWOOD**
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LOXLEY — Longtime Loxley Mayor Billy Middleton is being mourned by the community and the surrounding area. Middleton died Friday at home after a brief but hard-fought battle with cancer. He was 78.



Middleton

Visitation for Middleton was held Thursday, May 23 at the Loxley Church of God and will be held Friday beginning at 9 a.m. with funeral services at 10 a.m. at the church. Burial will follow at Greenwood Cemetery in Loxley. Middleton was first elected to serve as Loxley's mayor in 1988 and was serving his seventh term. He ran unopposed in the 2012 election, while no elections were held in Loxley in 2008 and 2016 because all incumbents ran unop-

SEE **MAYOR**, PAGE 7

Baldwin County Public Schools' Class of 2019 graduates record number of students

Submitted

Superintendent Eddie Tyler is "Baldwin Proud" to release impressive numbers from Baldwin County Public Schools' 2019 graduating class. More than 2,200 graduated last week from our eight high schools, with the official total number of graduates being 2,264 students. The largest graduating class came from

Foley High School, with 450 seniors walking across the stage. Baldwin County Public Schools supports students' college and career ambitions. These students will go on to two and four-year colleges and universities, straight into the workforce, and others have joined the military to serve our country. The Baldwin County Public

School System's estimated graduation rate is 91 percent for 2019, a rate which continues to climb every year for the school system. Individual schools also continue to improve, with Robertsdale High seeing a nearly 20 percent increase in graduation rate. Over the past three years, Superintendent Eddie Tyler has placed Baldwin County's focus on academic improve-

ment, and it shows in this year's seniors. Ninety-two percent of this year's graduating class took the ACT during their 11th grade year. Also, the superintendent is proud to report 154 of this year's seniors made a 30 or better on the ACT. In the days to come, the school system will be releas-

SEE **STUDENTS**, PAGE 2

✓ BALDWIN FAST FACTS

During the summer Orange Beach balloons to the fifth largest city in Alabama with the help of visiting tourists. There are only 6,000 permanent residents the rest of the year.

Deaths Page 6

- Glenda Katherine Allen
- Ruth E. Davis
- James Anthony Grago
- Evelyn Sue Keith
- Billy J. Middleton
- Jessie Wrenn



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About 30 forest landowners and property managers attended the meeting. Pictured is Mike Shelton, training program coordinator for the Weeks Bay Reserve and Pat Richeson with the Alabama Forest Owners Association.



JOHN UNDERWOOD / STAFF PHOTOS

Certified Wildlife Biologist J.J. McCool addresses forest landowners and property managers on the topic of managing property to increase wildlife habitat quality May 17 at the Weeks Bay Reserve in Fairhope.

Forest landowners learn about plant and wildlife management

COMBINED REPORT

FAIRHOPE — Wildlife biologist J.J. McCool touched on a wide variety of topics in front of about 30 forest landowners and property managers Friday, May 17 at the Weeks Bay Reserve in Fairhope.

His presentation, "How to manage property to increase wildlife habitat quality while increasing timber stand production," focused primarily on exotic plant and animal control with a significant amount of the lecture focusing on controlling wild hogs.

"I hesitate to call any animal smart, but these animals are smart and highly adaptable to their environment," he said. "The main way to control them is by not focusing on any one method and to use a variety of methods to achieve the best possible result."

The presentation also focused on dealing with a variety of other invasive animals, such as beavers, coyotes, armadillo, racoons, foxes, snakes and alligators.

"An area of particular concern here has been a potential for the outbreak of rabid animals in the area," he said.

"We went from having none over a long period of time to three in less than two years in the Fairhope area, two gray foxes and one raccoon. It's something we all need to keep an eye on."

McCool also touched on dealing with invasive plant species, such as Cogongrass and Chinese Tallow Trees.

"The main thing we want to express is the need for using control burns to deal with in-



Pitcher plants are in full bloom at the Weeks Bay Wildflower Bog.

vasive plants," he said. "This is a method that was used for 150 years, but we have gotten away from it. The fact is, it works and it's something that needs to be explored."

McCool also touched on a variety of commercial herbicides used to control invasive plant species. He also discussed wetlands and wetland management during the presentation, which was followed by a trip to the Weeks Bay Wildflower Bog.

This forestry field visit was sponsored by

the Bradley/Murphy Forestry & Natural Resources Extension Trust. The trust was established in 1992 by an initial gift from forestry consultant, Harry Murphy. Its mission is to encourage, promote, and develop through education and the free market system the stewardship of forest and related natural resources in the private sector.

The Alabama Forest Owners' Association is a non-profit, self-supporting association, dedicated to providing management and owner-

ship assistance to current and future owners of forested land. Forests cover 71 percent of Alabama, producing clean water, clean air, diverse wildlife habitat, and raw materials for thousands of jobs. Most forestland



J.J. McCool addresses forest landowners and property managers at the Weeks Bay Wildflower Bog.

in Alabama is privately owned by individuals and families.

Information for this

report provided from an AFOA press release with additional reporting by Onlooker co-editor John Underwood.

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Readers depend on Gulf Coast Media's Wednesday local week-long television listings to guide their television viewing and recording. Starting **June 7**, readers are about to get a whole lot more!

Our TV listing grids will move out of the Wednesday newspapers into an all-new entertainment magazine, Baldwin Entertainment Weekly, with the same local TV listings and a whole lot more.

Now, readers will get long articles about the week's bets on TV, plus tips on Netflix, hulu, puzzles, celebrity profiles, home and garden shows, food television, sports breakouts, documentaries and more.

The new magazine is designed for readers to pull out of the Friday Baldwin Times and save all week to get the most from television offerings and plan ahead to catch or record the best shows.

Be watching for Gulf Coast Media's newest magazine, Baldwin Entertainment Weekly, coming in your Friday paper each week starting **June 7**. You're about to get a whole lot more entertainment!

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