

June 2024

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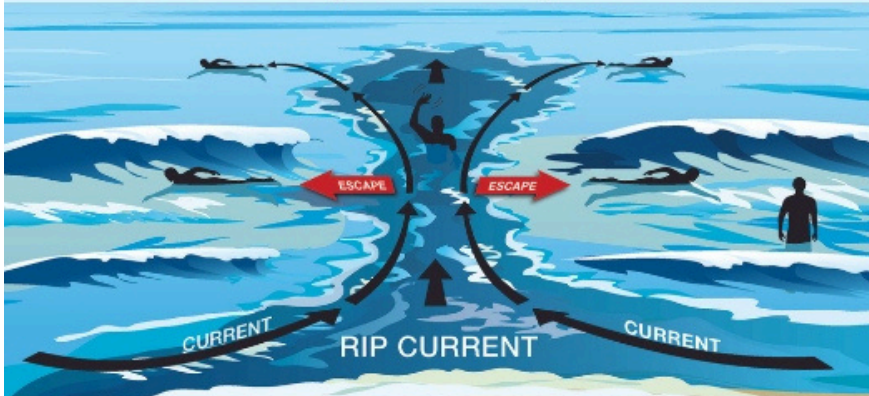
BALDWIN COUNTY

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June 2024

RIP CURRENTS

Know your options



Rip currents are powerful currents of water moving away from shore. They can sweep even the strongest swimmer away from shore. If at all possible, swim near a lifeguard.

IF CAUGHT IN A RIP CURRENT

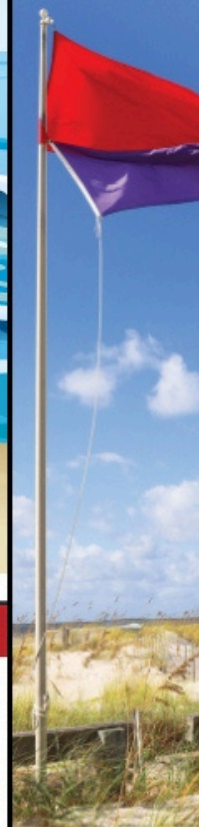
- ◆ Relax, rip currents don't pull you under.
- ◆ Don't swim against the current.
- ◆ Swim out of the current, then to shore.
- ◆ If you can't escape, float or tread water.
- ◆ If you need help, yell or wave for assistance.

SAFETY

- ◆ Know how to swim.
- ◆ Never swim alone.
- ◆ If in doubt, don't go out.
- ◆ Swim near a lifeguard.

More information about rip currents can be found at the following websites:

weather.gov/safety/ripcurrent/
usla.org



Beach flag WARNING SYSTEM



YELLOW
Moderate surf
and/or currents



SINGLE RED
High surf
and/or currents



DOUBLE RED
Waters closed
to public



PURPLE
Dangerous
marine life



BEACH SAFE

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO



It's vital to **KNOW BEFORE YOU GO** to the beach. Refresh your memory on what each beach flag represents, and know what to do if you get caught in a rip current. Preparing beforehand can help you **BEACH SAFE** and make it back home to your loved ones at the end of a fun and safe day at the beach.

Sign up for daily Surf Condition Text Alerts by texting "**ALBEACHES**" to **888777**.

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At the May 7th Commission Meeting, the Baldwin County Commission unveiled new Life Jacket Loaner Boxes and recognized the Alabama Law Enforcement Agency (ALEA), the North Baldwin Center for Technology, and the South Baldwin Center for Technology for their partnership on this project.

The County partnered with the North Baldwin Center for Technology and the South Baldwin Center for Technology to construct seven (7) life jacket loaner station boxes. Students from both schools gained practical hands-on carpentry experience and the opportunity to be a part of a community project that could help save lives on our local waterways.

The life jacket loaner box stations and supply life jackets will be installed at the following County maintained boat launch facilities:

- Live Oak Landing**
- Cliffs Landing**
- Mullet Point Park**
- Seminole Boat Launch**
- The Launch at ICW**
- Lillian Boat Launch**
- Marlow Ferry**



Life Jacket Loaner Program
BALDWIN COUNTY, ALABAMA

BALDWIN COUNTY

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BRATS NEWS!

BRATS' bus operators, Steve Huggins and Shannon Dumas, represented the Baldwin County Commission very well at the National Transit Driver "Rodeo" in West Palm Beach, FL June 8-9. This annual event is hosted by the Community Transit Association of America to showcase and recognize the skills of professional transit drivers from across the nation. The participants are scored based on a written exam, vehicle pre-trip inspection, passenger wheelchair loading & securement, ADA compliance, and driving skills. BRATS' driver, Steve Huggins did extremely well earning 3rd place as the 2024 National Driver of the Year!



Congratulations BRATS' driver Steve Huggins for winning 3rd place at the 2024 Community Transit Association of America "Rodeo"



BRATS' Drivers Shannon Dumas & Steve Huggins at the 2024 CTAA National "Rodeo"

Steve and Shannon qualified for the National Rodeo, by finishing 1st & 2nd place, respectively, in the BRATS local rodeo followed by 1st place finishes in the bus and van divisions at the ALDOT State "Rodeo". Steve lives in Perdido with his wife (and fellow BRATS driver) Kathryn, and son Aaron. Steve began his career with BRATS in 2008 and has competed five times at the national level placing 5th in the 2012 CTAA Rodeo in Baltimore. Shannon lives in Perdido with her husband, Billy and has been driving with BRATS since 2017. Shannon has qualified for Nationals three times, placing 2nd in the 2022 event in Louisville, KY. BRATS drivers provide transportation to work, medical appointments, schools, grocery & drug stores, etc., for approximately 400 passengers per day and take great pride in the excellent service they provide.

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BE A HERO! REPORT!

Thank you to all who have recently completed the Phish Alert Button training video! If you have not yet watched it, please visit <https://training.knowbe4.com/> and enter your email address to access the video.

We have received some excellent feedback over the past 2 months. One common question that has been raised is whether it is possible to report phishing emails from a mobile device, as the Phish Alert Button is not visible. Unfortunately, we are unable to install the Phish Alert Button on mobile devices (such as cell phones or tablets) due to the extra security measures in place on our Microsoft platform within a government environment.

However, if you receive an email that you believe may be malicious or a phishing attempt, you can now forward it to our system for review. You can forward these emails from your mobile device to ReportSpam using your address book or by typing in reportspam@baldwincountyal.gov. Please refrain from forwarding these emails to others in your office, as this increases the risk of someone inadvertently clicking on any harmful links.



STAYING SAFE TIPS FOR THIS QUARTER:

You surf the world wide web, you scroll through social media feeds, read articles, shop online, and respond to email through the incredible invention of the internet. We're all driving on the internet superhighway, but are we aware of what it means to be safe when we're online? You know when driving in a car, you need to wear your seatbelts. You need to signal when changing lanes (well, some people do), and at a stop sign, make sure the car comes to a "full and complete" stop before waiting two seconds and proceeding forward if there is no other oncoming traffic.

People driving on the road find shortcuts or easier ways to evade some of the road's safety rules. You might not always signal when turning or changing lanes, and I've seen many people who roll through stop signs, where they slow down, and if traffic is not coming, they make the turn. While these aren't dangerous, people get comfortable with unsafe driving habits, which is very similar to unsafe internet surfing habits.

1. *Double Check Links and Attachments Before Clicking*

When you're driving and the need arises to change lanes or turn onto another road, you have a flashing orange light on either side of the car to signal to other drivers your desire to change position. Like signaling a lane change or turning, users want to check any links or attachments they receive in their email. The email will not be malicious most of the time, like not signaling will not result in an accident. However, like not signaling, you run the risk the email is not malicious and could lead to a cybercriminal gaining access to your computer, the organization's network, or worse, leading to data theft and damage to the brand.

Cybercriminals will send phishing or socially engineered emails to thousands of email accounts with a message that may be too good to be true, like winning money or striking curiosity with an attached file containing information the user needs to see. The cybercriminal's expectation is not for everyone, but to get several people to open the email and click the link. When you receive emails, it's essential to be aware of proper thought processes, like "am I expecting this email?" or "do I know the sender?" or "why do I need to click the link?" Stopping and making sure the lane is clear or stopping to ensure the link is safe will provide a safer experience for you when surfing online.

STAYING SAFE TIPS FOR THIS QUARTER:

2. *Make Sure That Clickbait Isn't Malicious*

Coming to a "full and complete" stop in the car allows you to take a moment and check for oncoming traffic before proceeding into the intersection or making a turn. This action is a moment to stop and verify traffic. When surfing the web, you will come across links, advertisements, or memes, which are humorous images with a saying that spreads rapidly online. All of these encourage you to click and follow the story -- otherwise known as clickbait. These clickbait links help marketing companies track clicks of users interested in seeing the material. However, these advertisements may come from other third-party sources, which may not be vetted by the marketing service and can expose you to malicious code loading onto your device.

This code can allow cybercriminals to steal personally identifiable information, credit card numbers and other sensitive information. To guarantee a safer internet experience, when you see those "too good to be true" or enticing messages about a celebrity's latest escapade, you may want to ignore it, or if it's really of interest, do an additional Google search to make sure that it's valid. This step provides the chance to get a reputable link and site to read about the story further and avoid the unnecessary opportunity to have malware installed on your system.

3. *Think Before You Click!*

Whenever you're online, you assume a risk that you could experience a data breach or hack by cybercriminals. This risk is like driving on the road, and we're alert to other drivers to avoid a car accident and suffer the potential increased costs of our driver's insurance. Unless you're a large organization, you can get cyber insurance, but not for individuals. You must implement your risk measures to protect yourself online on an individual level. Whether that's checking email links to avoid a phishing attack, verifying clickbait articles that seem too good to be true or even putting tape over your webcam, these measures can provide you with an overall safer internet experience.

Stay safe my friends



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BE A HERO! KNOWBE4 ~ USE THE PHISH ALERT BUTTON!



LET'S PLAY SPOT THE PHISH

Defeat cybercriminals by looking for warning signs, and don't fall for a phish!

-  Does it trigger an **emotion**?
-  Are you asked to take **action**?
-  Can you **verify** who it is from?
-  Are you **expecting** the message?



Report any messages that do not seem legitimate!



Popcorn
Training

ARCHIVES UPDATES

Digitization Progress: Our team continues to make significant strides in digitizing historical records, photographs, and artifacts. This ongoing effort ensures that valuable pieces of Baldwin County's history are preserved and accessible to future generations.

New Additions: We're excited to announce the addition of several new collections to our online archives. Explore fascinating documents, photographs, and ephemera that shed light on different aspects of Baldwin County's past.

Announcement: Baldwin County Historic Tours App
We would like to remind everyone about the Baldwin County Historic Tours app! This innovative app offers a unique way to explore and appreciate the rich history of our region.

Benefits of the Baldwin County Historic Tours App:

- **Interactive Learning:** Discover detailed information about historical sites across Baldwin County with engaging multimedia content.
- **Convenience:** Access tours anytime, anywhere, making it easy to plan visits and learn on-the-go.
- **Personalized Experience:** Customize your tours based on your interests, whether it's local landmarks, cultural heritage, or natural wonders.
- **Community Connection:** Share your experiences and insights with fellow history enthusiasts, fostering a sense of community and shared appreciation.

Download the Baldwin County Historic Tours app today and embark on a journey through our county's fascinating past, right at your fingertips!

Access Historical Records from Home!

Great news for history buffs and researchers! You can now explore Baldwin County's rich historical records right from the comfort of your own home.

Easy Access to Digitized Records:

We've digitized a vast collection of historical documents, photographs, and artifacts, making them easily accessible online. Simply visit the following links to begin your journey into Baldwin County's past:

- [Baldwin County Historical Archives](#)
- [Baldwin County Open Archives](#)

ARCHIVES UPDATES

Discover the Past at Your Fingertips:

Whether you're curious about local landmarks, genealogy, or the evolution of our community over time, these online archives provide a treasure trove of information waiting to be explored. Don't miss this opportunity to delve into Baldwin County's history without leaving your home. Start your digital journey today and uncover the stories that shaped our county's identity.

Bicentennial Park News:

Bicentennial Park – We are pleased to announce the official mission statement of Bicentennial Park:

Mission Statement

"Bicentennial Park encourages appreciation of the rich cultural heritage of North Baldwin County, interprets its inextricable connection to the Mobile-Tensaw Delta, and provides a recreational and event space for the greater Baldwin County region."

We invite everyone to visit and experience the history, natural beauty, and community spirit that Bicentennial Park has to offer. Thank you for your continued support and participation in making our park a vibrant hub for cultural heritage and recreation.

Community Engagement: We encourage community members to share their stories, memories, and historical materials with us. Your contributions help enrich our understanding of Baldwin County's diverse heritage and ensure that it is accurately documented for years to come.

Keep an eye on our website and social media channels for the latest updates and announcements from the Archives. Thank you for your continued interest and support!

This summary provides a snapshot of the activities and initiatives currently underway in the Archives, keeping the community informed and engaged with our efforts to preserve and promote Baldwin County's history.

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ARCHIVES UPDATES

Upcoming Events:

Olde Time Days - Significance to the Baldwin County Story!

This event is one way to actively engage with the surrounding communities, build strong relationships, and raise awareness about our services.

Olde Time Days is a celebration of Baldwin County's farming industry. October 12th is National Farmers Day, a day for everyone to acknowledge the hard work it takes to supply a nation with food. We encourage everyone to thank the farmers and to pay tribute in some way to the individuals who plow, sow, raise, feed, and harvest to provide the food and materials our country needs to succeed.

We have set aside this event to say "thank you" to our farmers for their hard work and economic contribution. Agriculture is believed to be one of the world's oldest industries, and the economies of many countries still rest squarely on the shoulders of the agricultural sector.

October was chosen because it is after the traditional harvest times of many crops—back before the advent of cultivars and modern technology. This is the time of year when farmers can join in the festivities because they have completed the harvest.

If you miss the Olde Time Day festival, please make time, whenever possible, to thank those in the agricultural industry for their efforts.

There is a common spirit across Baldwin County's agricultural community: a respect for tradition, a drive to innovate, and a commitment to never giving up, even when the going gets tough. Through this event, we call upon surrounding communities to reaffirm our commitment to appreciating our county's farmers, farmworkers, fishermen, foresters, and all those working in the county's agriculture sector.

Stay tuned for upcoming events and virtual exhibits showcasing highlights from our archival collections. These events provide opportunities for the community to engage with history in innovative and meaningful ways.

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OLDE TIME DAYS



BALDWIN COUNTY BICENTENNIAL PARK

51233 HIGHWAY 225 • STOCKTON, AL 36579

OCTOBER 5, 2024
9AM-4PM **FREE ADMISSION**
DONATIONS ACCEPTED

DEMOS

Plowing
Demonstrations
Buzz Sawing
Peanut Threshing
Corn Picking &
Shelling
Grist Mill & More

LIVE MUSIC

The Chestangs
Unknown Bluegrass
The Jollies
Other Artists
Local Choirs

ACTIVITIES

Vendors
Food
Exhibitors
Hay & Train Rides
Carriage Rides
Face Painting
Balloon Art
Carnival Games
Kids Rides
Petting Zoo
& MORE!

TRACTOR & ENGINE PARADE @ NOON
CRUISE-IN ANTIQUE CAR & TRUCK SHOW
NO ENTRY FEE (MOTORCYCLES WELCOME)



BALDWIN
COUNTY, ALABAMA

HOSTED BY:

SOUTH ALABAMA ANTIQUE TRACTOR & ENGINE CLUB
BALDWIN COUNTY COMMISSION'S ARCHIVES & HISTORY



251.580.1897 • ARCHIVALRECORDS@BALDWINCOUNTYAL.GOV

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EASTERN SHORE MPO NEWS!

Spring Walk and Roll to School Day was a huge success with over 1,000 participants across 9 schools: Bay Minette, Summerdale, Florence B. Mathis, Fairhope West, Orange Beach, Gulf Shores, Daphne and Daphne East. This event was organized by the Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Coalition to promote community involvement and highlight the benefits of physical activity for children, as well as important topics like pedestrian safety, traffic issues, and environmental concerns. SRTS Coalition is excited to announce the next walk and roll event will be held on October 2, 2024.

Jessica Mayo with the MPO serves at the Safe Routes to School Coordinator for Baldwin County and leads the SRTS Coalition.



Summerdale



Mathis



St. Patrick



Bay Minette

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EASTERN SHORE MPO NEWS!

Eastern Shore MPO, Highway Department, and BRATS staff joined the City of Fairhope and local elected officials on May 10th to cut the ribbon on the long-awaited Arts Alley project in downtown Fairhope. The project is a revitalization effort for the area around the public parking garage in the heart of Fairhope's downtown. In addition to a transit hub for the Baldwin Regional Area Transit System (BRATS), the alley features parking and a public restroom facility. Arts Alley showcases murals, sculptures, and various artistic installations, featuring contributions from local artists and community members.

The 2 million dollar project was primarily funded through the Eastern Shore MPO/Federal Transit Administration.



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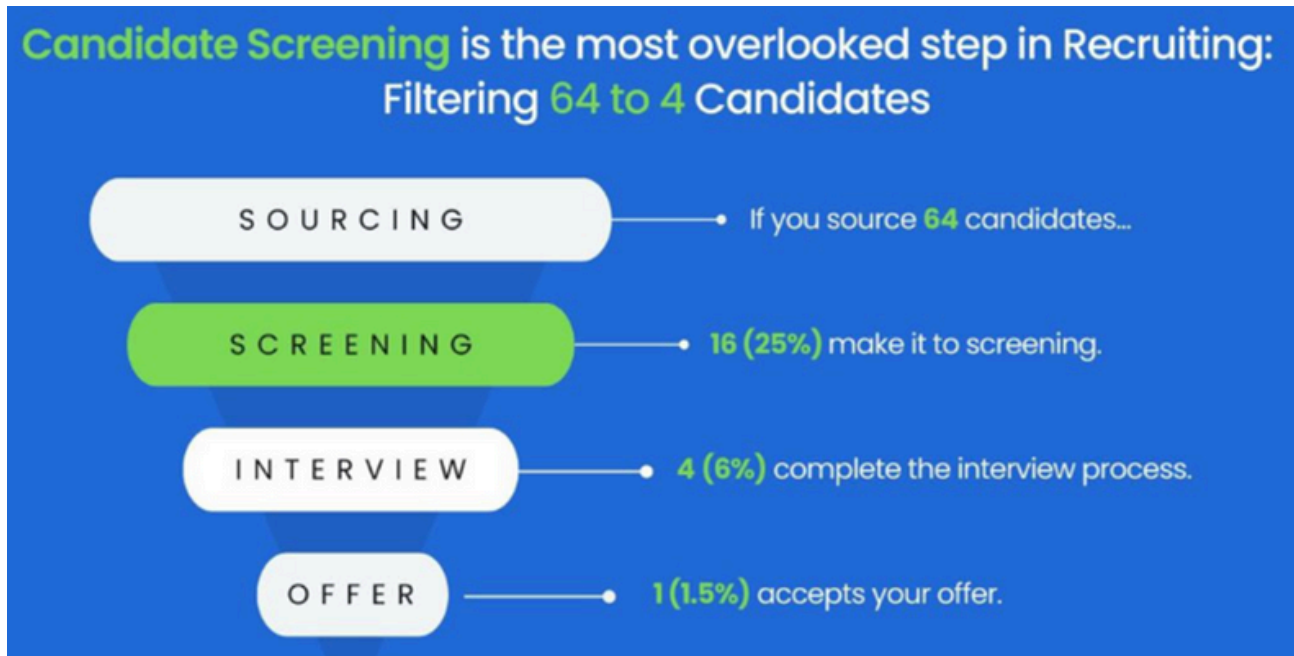
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UPDATES FROM YOUR PERSONNEL TEAM!

Hey Baldwin County Team!!

We hope you all are enjoying your Summer so far!!!

Kristina has been putting the work in and has created a new process for sifting through interview candidates!



SUPERVISORS/HIRING MANAGERS - **ATTENTION!!!** NOW CONDUCTING OPTIONAL CANDIDATE PHONE SCREENINGS!

If you are having trouble sifting through applicants for a job, reach out to our recruiter Kristina Harris about allowing her to complete phone screening interviews with all your top candidates to help narrow your interview pool down.

By allowing Kristina to do this, you can get a feel of the applicant's level of eagerness and enthusiasm, what kind of work ethic they may have, and allow them to ask any questions they may have about County employment.

At the end of these interviews, Kristy will send the responses – as said by the applicant – to the hiring managers for review. Along with any additional input she may have regarding how the screening went.

Giving hiring managers the choice to move forward with a formal interview or not.

Questions for screening can be discussed and created together with Kristy before the screening process begins.

Additionally, Personnel is here to help in the interview process. If you would like an extra set of ears and eyes to help, contact Personnel to see how we can help with behavioral-based interviews.

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FIRST AID TRAINING - THIS TRAINING IS LED BY KRISTINA HARRIS

The training gives an overview of 911 the information dispatchers need in an emergency, tips on how to handle events like strokes, allergic reactions, diabetic emergencies, tourniquet usage, snake bites, and much more!



7 HABITS- PART 2 IS OUT!

We are excited to be starting part 2 of thee 7 Habits!

In order to attend this second training, you will need to have completed Part 1 first!!

Because Part 2 is heavily team-based, we require attendance to Part 1 which is YOU-based. Since you're the foundation of your success, we don't want to build on a foundation that hasn't been laid yet.

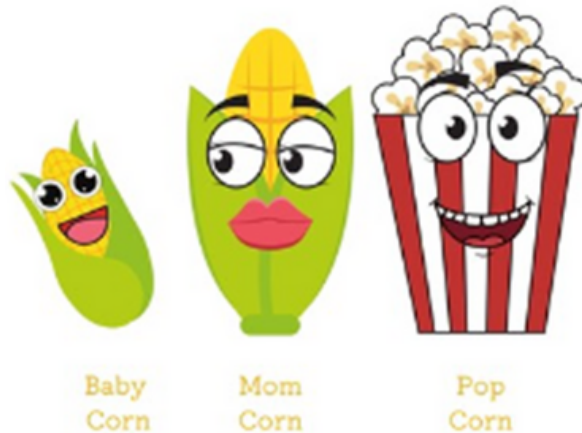
If you have questions or concerns regarding this process and how it works, please do not hesitate to reach out to Brittany Swartz (B1).



DAD JOKES WITH JUNIUS LONG!

(Building Maintenance Department Head)

What did the Baby
Corn, say to the
Momma Corn?



Where is Pop-Corn?

Happy Belated Father's Day!

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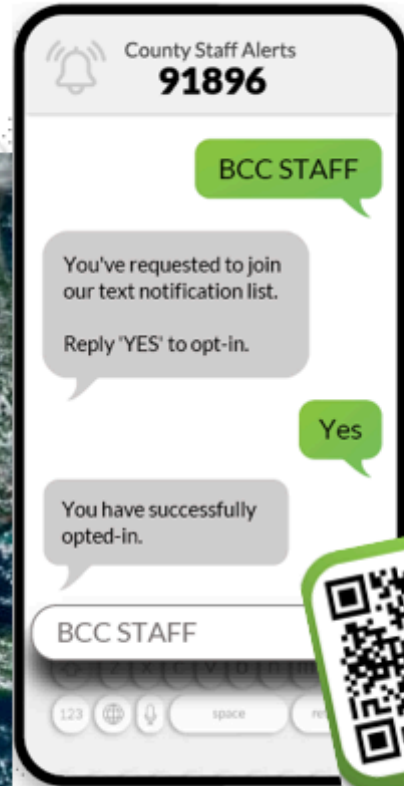
Baldwin County Staff **Text Alerts!**

Get important Personnel Department alerts via text message.

TextMyGov™

HURRICANE SEASON IS HERE.

Stay Informed of Closures
By signing up for TextMyGov



WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

COASTAL ALABAMA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

As always, we are so thankful for our partnership with Coastal Alabama Workforce Development.

We had 11 employees successfully complete the online coursework and the hands-on lab portion of the program **and are now certified for Mini Excavators!**

- **Jesse Ikner - Parks**
- **Micheal Curry - Parks**
- **James Swearingen - Parks**
- **Cecil Weaver - Parks**
- **Hunter Long - Parks**
- **Bruce Peturis - Shill Highway**
- **Jacob Daniels - Shill Highway**
- **Logan Davis - Shill Highway**
- **Dustin Moore - Foley Highway**
- **Anthony Salter - Foley Highway**
- **Robby Marshall - Foley Highway**



Shoutout to the supervisors of these departments for investing in their employees by utilizing these free opportunities!

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OUR COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR, ROGER RENDLEMAN HAD A BIRTHDAY!



**BALDWIN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
CITIZENS ACADEMY**

APPLY NOW! DEADLINE
AUGUST 25

**SIX WEEK ACADEMY
TUESDAY EVENINGS
6:00-8:30PM**

SHERIFF HOSS MACK INVITES YOU TO ATTEND
THE FIRST-EVER BALDWIN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE CITIZENS ACADEMY!

TO APPLY FOR THE CITIZENS ACADEMY, FOLLOW THE LINK BELOW!

<https://sheriff.baldwincountyal.gov/community-programs-details/citizen-academy>

GAME:

"Antics with Anthony!"

The first employee to find Anthony hidden in the newsletter **AND** email **Brittany Swartz** where he was found, will get a tiny prize! Don't be shy, you may have to **ZOOM IN!**

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CONGRATULATIONS ARE IN ORDER!

Thank you for your **OUTSTANDING** Service, Tammy Mason!



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CONGRATULATIONS ARE IN ORDER!



Members of the Baldwin County EMA Staff were recognized for earning various levels (Basic, Intermediate, Advanced, and Masters) of Emergency Management Certifications from the Alabama Association of Emergency Managers during the 2024 Alabama Disaster Preparedness Conference.

Congratulations to LT Michael Davis for being awarded the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal due to his outstanding contributions to our squadron. We will truly miss his unwavering dedication and his passion for guiding our junior flight officers. Wishing him all the best after a remarkable tour!



Michael Davis, son of Susanne Spears with Sales Tax has joined the physical education department for the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, MD!



Tammy Mason, License Revenue Administrator for Baldwin County Probate/Foley welcomed her new granddaughter, Harper to the family on February 16th!

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CONGRATULATIONS ARE IN ORDER!



Congratulations to Betty Fitkin as she's retiring this month as a Central Annex Custodian after 11 years of service.

Left to Right - Betty, pictured with Custodian Supervisor Rhonda Ryals, at her retirement party thrown by the Central Annex building.

Congratulations to Taisto Gary on Graduating from Daphne High School! Taisto is the son of Anu Gary, Baldwin County Commission Administrative Services Manager.



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FREE GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEE DISCOUNTS ~ GOVX

Are you interested in discounts on items like YETI, Benchmade, Vortex Optics, Oakley, Costa, and Disney?!!?

Save 10% - 20% on Yeti items, 40% on sunglasses, up to \$100 on gate prices at Disney World! And up to 20% on hotels and car rentals!

Sign up for your FREE GOVX account!!!

- Visit <https://www.govx.com/>
- Click "Create My Free Account"
- Enter in your email address
- Select "Government Employee"
 - Select "State/Local"
 - Select the type of department you work in
- Enter in name and date of birth
- Upload a photo or PDF of your ID badge
- Verify your photo

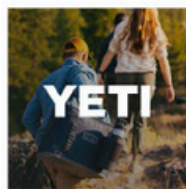
Once the photo is submitted, it takes up to 48 hours to be approved. Then start saving!!

TOP BRANDS

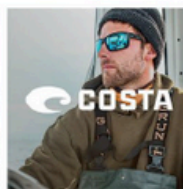
SHOP THE ELITE >>



SAVE 25%



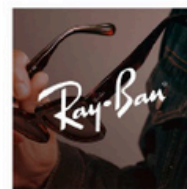
SAVE 10%



SAVE 40%



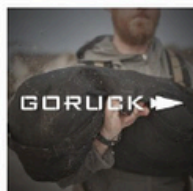
UP TO 40% OFF



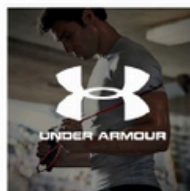
SAVE 40%



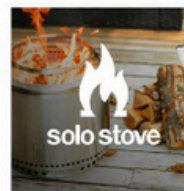
SAVE 35%



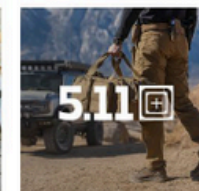
SAVE 15%



SAVE 30%



SAVE 35%



SAVE UP TO 20%

FREE Government Employee Discounts on items like YETI, Costa, Oakley, Under Armor, and much more. All you need is your information and a clear picture of your ID Badge to get started.

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UPCOMING HOLIDAYS / BALDWIN COUNTY COMMISSION FACILITY CLOSURES

INDEPENDENCE DAY

Thursday, July 4, 2024

LABOR DAY

Monday, September 2,
2024

To View All Upcoming Holidays/Baldwin County Commission Facility Closures

<https://baldwincountyal.gov/facility-closures>

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To submit content for the
Stay Connected 2024 - Issue 3 Newsletter
please email:
newsletter@baldwincountyal.gov
NO LATER than Wednesday, September
18th at Noon.

SUBMIT

