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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Meteorologist Tyler Allender Joins Library for Hurricane Opal 20th Anniversary

(PANAMA CITY, FL) – The Bay County Public Library will mark the 20th anniversary of Hurricane Opal on October 3 at 11 a.m. with a special presentation by WJHG Meteorologist Tyler Allender.

Hurricane Opal was a hurricane that formed in the Gulf of Mexico in September 1995. Opal crossed the Yucatán Peninsula while still a tropical depression on September 27, then strengthened as it headed northward in the Gulf. It became a strong Category 4 hurricane before making a second landfall as a Category 3 storm on October 4 in the Florida Panhandle. Sustained winds were 115-mph. Opal devastated the Panhandle area with an 8 to 15 foot storm surge and travelled up the entire state of Alabama, finally becoming a tropical storm in Tennessee. There were 9 fatalities reported in the mainland United States, including 1 local fatality in Crestview, FL due to an F2 tornado. Insured property damage was estimated to have cost \$2.1 billion.

Throughout the month of October, aerial photos of the damage will be on display at the library. The Bay County Public Library is located at 898 West 11th Street in Panama City.

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