

Foley Newsletter

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We are finally getting some relief from the long hot summer. This is a great time of year to get outside and take advantage of Foley's 30-plus miles of walking and bike paths, as well as our numerous parks.

We dodged a bullet with Hurricane Nate, but Texas, Florida and Puerto Rico (Hurricane Irma) were not so fortunate. Our police and fire departments were quick to respond with relief for Texas. Riviera Utilities dispatched crews and resources to assist our friends in Florida with restoring power to their communities. Keep all those impacted by the hurricanes in your prayers, as many areas will continue to struggle in the months to come.

Speaking of Riviera, they have launched a new internet service and are providing internet to existing cable customers as nodes are activated. They will offer internet service to non-cable customers once existing cable customers have been served.

Congratulations to K9 Cpl. Carlos Lizarraga and his dog Saban for the awards they received at the recent National Police Dog Field Trials held in September at Foley's Sports Tourism venue. Lizarraga also received the Tim Heritage Memorial Award for Outstanding Services Rendered as chairman of the event. We are proud of you and the service you provide this community.

We are approaching the holiday season and there will be many opportunities to participate in the coming months. Christmas in the Park will be Friday, Dec. 1, at 6 p.m. in Heritage Park. Come



Mayor's Notes

out for the annual tree lighting and bring the kids to see Santa arrive!

On Saturday, Dec. 2, the Christmas parade will begin at 10 a.m. in downtown Foley, followed by the popular "Let it Snow" event in Heritage Park.

A new opportunity will begin this fall at our Coastal Alabama Farmers and Fishermens Market. Arts and crafts taught by local artists will be featured from 4-8 p.m. on the second Thursday of every month, beginning November 9.

The Foley Art Center will host their 50th Annual Trim-A-Tree Holiday Arts and Crafts Event Nov. 10 through Dec. 21 at the Tanger Outlet Center. They will be located between the Levis and Yankee Candle stores. Come out and catch the spirit!

Foley's Sports Tourism Department is performing well, with archery, soccer, golf, gymnastics and volleyball events scheduled over the next few months.

Also, a great big thank you to David Thompson, our recreation director, for stepping in to keep things running smoothly in our sports tourism department after the departure of Don Staley.

Support your local businesses by
SHOPPING FOLEY FIRST!

Best regards,

Mayor John Koniar

Foley Police K9 Unit receives awards

Foley was honored to host 84 K9 teams from across the nation for the 47th Annual National Police Dog Field Trials held at the Foley Sports Tourism Complex in September. Foley K9 Cpl. Carlos Lizarraga and his dog Saban received awards for 2nd place overall in apprehension work with and without gunfire, and 3rd place in the overall competition. ■



From left to right: K9 Officer Curtis Ricks, K9 Officer Tommy Smith, Chief David Wilson, K9 Cpl. Carlos Lizarraga, K9 Cpl. Daniel Hudson.



Cpl. Lizarraga and Saban

Foley Events Center staying busy

Foley's new events center recently held more than 4,100 visitors for the Columbia Southern University Commencement, where 643 graduates, representing multiple countries from around the world, received degrees. This followed the success of the center's inaugural event, the Bounders Beach Bash, which brought more than 600 participants and their families to town. The momentum shows no sign of stopping in the coming months.

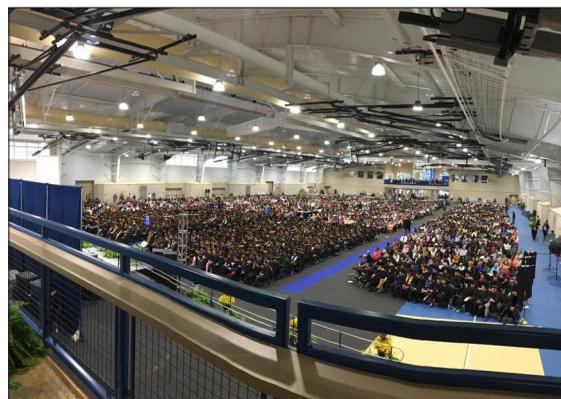
During December 1-3 the center will play host to the USA Gymnastics Alabama State Compulsory meet, which is expected to draw more than 1,000 gymnasts and their families. The month of December will also bring a major soccer tournament to the sports fields, with the College Showcase on the Coast. Not only will participants be able to play in the tournament, but more than a dozen

collegiate soccer programs will also have representatives attending.

Being able to pair major tournaments on the fields and in the event center is the reason the complex was built, said Interim Director David Thompson.

"We would like to stress the new Foley Event Center is being utilized in tandem with our 16 beautiful sports fields to bring tourism dollars to Foley," Thompson said. "We hope to share our unique brand of hospitality with our event participants and encourage them to return to Foley for years to come."

Return visits are already occurring with events like the Sun Belt Women's Soccer Championships, the Alabama Soccer Association State Cup, and the Archer Shooters Association Hoyt ProAm. With the returning events, in addition to several new ones, the fields and event center have tournaments



scheduled almost every weekend January through June of 2018.

Foley businesses and individuals wishing to receive information regarding upcoming events and schedule changes should sign up for the Foley Sports Tourism Complex newsletter at foleysportstourism.com/contact-us. ■

Foley Public Library adds Memory Rock Garden

Foley's painted rock craze - #FoleyRocks - has become so popular that a permanent memory rock garden is being planned. A small rock garden will be made where painted rocks created in memory or honor of someone can remain permanently displayed in a garden setting.

The garden will be located near the drive-through book return on the west side of the library, at 319 E. Laurel Ave.

Melanie Schnieders, head of circulation services and interlibrary loans, is spearheading the project. "This permanent Memory Rock Garden will give the community a way to share

their memories of special people and special events in their lives. Sharing with others can bring both closure and joy. We hope giving the community this unique way to share will be a blessing to many," said Schnieders.

Rock painting is a national craze that grew out of the Kindness Project, which promotes kindness, positive thinking, and uplifting thoughts. People paint rocks with positive messages, colors or images and hide them for others to find. Finders are encouraged to make a photo of the rock and post it on a Facebook page identified on the back of the rock. The finder can keep the rock, or re-hide it.

The #FoleyRocks Facebook page went from fewer than 100 members in July to more than 4,125 in November. Rock painting became so popular that painting parties are now held for people of all ages. Two popular spots for hiding and finding painted rocks in Foley are Heritage Park and the Foley Library.

A ceremony to dedicate Foley's Memory Rock Garden to the community will be held on Dec. 5, at 2 p.m. Everyone is invited to attend. Rocks for the garden will be collected beginning Nov. 6. ■

Shop Small Business Saturday, Nov. 25

Small Business Saturday was created in 2010 to encourage holiday shoppers to support small businesses. It occurs on the Saturday after Thanksgiving, the day after Black Friday.

Small businesses, defined as businesses with up to 500 employees or \$7.5 million in annual sales, have a huge impact on the American economy.

The following statistics are provided by the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA):

- There are 28.8 million small businesses in the country.
- Small businesses account for 99.7% of all businesses in the U.S.
- Small businesses accounted for 64% of new jobs created in the U.S. between 1993 and 2011.

Other studies report that small businesses donate 250% more than larger businesses to non-profits and community causes (Seattle Good Business Network).

If you spend \$100 at a local business, roughly \$68 stays in your local economy. If you spend the same at a large business, only \$43 stays in the local economy (Civic Economics Study in Grand Rapids, Michigan).

The many small-business owners in Foley appreciate your patronage!

For more information, visit <http://grasshopper.com/resources/articles/small-business-saturday-statistics/> ■

Centennial Plaza bricks make great holiday gifts

Purchase an engraved brick to be installed at Foley's Centennial Plaza as a unique gift. Each brick is custom engraved, so ordering and installation take some time.

Beautiful certificates that display the words to be engraved on the brick are included in the price, so recipients will have something to open. Allow a week for the certificate to be created.

Bricks are available in size 4 x 8 for \$50, and 8 x 8 for \$125. Bricks can be purchased at the Foley Welcome Center. ■



Foley Welcome Center Gift Shop

Shop for Foley merchandise at the Welcome Center. T-shirts, hats, ornaments, phone pockets, and other cool Foley stuff is available. Open Mon.-Fri. 8 a.m.-5 p.m. ■

Foley roofing requirements

Did you know your roof is your home's first line of defense and, ironically, it can be its weakest link? Without a strong roof, homeowners are more vulnerable to weather events.

To better protect residents, Foley and other municipalities have adopted the Coastal Construction Supplement. This is a set of requirements that enhance and go above the minimum adopted building codes.

The basic requirements of the supplemental code for roofing are that old roof coverings must be removed, any framing or roof deck problems must be corrected, the roof deck is to be sealed by taping any seams, and wider edge protection and installation of a high tear strength synthetic underlayment is required. By following these rules many problems can be mitigated.

While the standards listed above do not cover every situation, following these guidelines may help homeowners qualify for insurance premium discounts. For information on roof grants up to \$10,000, helpful websites include smarthomeamerica.org, dontgoof.org and aldoi.gov/sah.

For further information, visit the City of Foley Building Department at www.cityoffoley.org or call (251) 952-4011. ■

Garbage and recycling holiday schedules

THANKSGIVING HOLIDAYS (Nov. 23 & 24)

Tues. and Wed. pickups will occur Tues., Nov. 21.
Thurs. and Fri. pickups will occur Wed., Nov. 22.

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS (Dec. 22 & 25)

Thurs. and Fri. pickups will occur Thurs., Dec. 21.
Mon. and Tues. pickups will occur Tues., Dec. 26.

NEW YEAR'S DAY (Jan. 1)

Mon. and Tues. recycling will occur Tues., Jan. 1.

MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY (Jan. 15)

Mon. and Tues. recycling will occur Tues., Jan. 16.

For all holidays, Public Works will pick up limbs/yard debris where we left off. Please have all garbage and recycling out before 6 a.m. ■



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As cooler weather and holidays arrive this time of year, the Foley Fire Department reminds you to practice fire safety with your heating appliances, fireplaces, and decorations. Contact FFD at 943-1266 for fire safety tips and information.

Upcoming Events

Find more events on these websites:

Foley Public Library FoleyLibrary.org

Foley Senior Center CityofFoley.org

Foley Sports Tourism FoleySportsTourism.com

Coastal Alabama Farmers and Fishermens Market

Tues. 2 p.m.–6 p.m. and Sat. 9 a.m.–2 p.m.
Local produce, fresh seafood, homemade goods and more. 20733 Mifflin Rd., Foley.
www.CoastalAlabamaMarket.com

Observe and Explore Days

First Wednesday and third Saturday each month, 10 a.m.–noon. Free activities for children 10 and under. Graham Creek Nature Preserve, 23460 Wolf Bay Dr., Foley.
www.GrahamCreekPreserve.org

Through Dec. 21 50th Annual Trim-A-Tree

Over 150 artists and craftsmen offer beautiful handmade items for holiday shoppers. Tanger Outlet Center, Suite 446
www.FoleyArtCenter.org

Nov. 18 Creek Crawl

8 a.m. Four-mile obstacle and mud race. Benefits Graham Creek Programs. Registration at www.active.com. 23030 Wolf Bay Dr. 251-923-4267
www.GrahamCreekPreserve.org

Nov. 18 Small Business Saturday

Support small, local businesses. Money spent in our community stays in our community.

Dec. 1 Mobile Youth Symphony Orchestra Holiday Concert

7 p.m. Accomplished young musicians from across the Gulf Coast perform a beautiful holiday concert. \$5 suggested donation. Foley Civic Center

Dec. 1 Christmas in the Park

6–8 p.m. Hear Christmas carols, sip hot cocoa, enjoy the lighting of the Christmas tree and visit with Santa. Free admission. Heritage Park
www.VisitFoley.com



Dec. 2 Foley Christmas Parade

10 a.m. Enjoyed by young and old, the parade includes music, floats, tractors and even a glimpse of Old St. Nick. Organized by the Foley Kiwanis Club.

Dec. 2 Let It Snow

11 a.m.–3 p.m. Bring your mittens to Heritage Park after the Christmas Parade. Hear live music, listen to Mrs. Claus tell stories, Children's Art Village, and of course, SNOW! Expect a Santa visit 1–2 p.m. Concessions sold on site. Heritage Park
www.VisitFoley.com

Dec. 2 & 11 Trail Trot Guided Hikes

Guided hike begins at 9 a.m. at Interpretive Center. Participants should wear closed-toed shoes and bring water, if desired.
www.GrahamCreekPreserve.org

Dec. 4 Baldwin Pops Christmas Concert

7–9 p.m. The Pops presents a delightful holiday concert each year. A suggested donation is an unwrapped toy for Toys for Tots. Foley Civic Center

Dec. 5 Memorial Rock Garden Dedication

2 p.m. Foley Public Library

Dec. 9 & 10 The Nutcracker

Saturday 7 p.m. and Sunday 2 p.m. Coastal Ballet Company Presents the 3rd Annual Nutcracker, under the direction of Madame Rio Cordy Barlow. Foley Civic Center

Jan. 9 Foley Snowbird Welcome Coffee

9 a.m.–12 noon. The City of Foley and the South Baldwin Chamber of Commerce will host a Snowbird Welcome Coffee at the Civic Center. Free coffee and doughnuts. Rock & roll in a Foley treasure hunt with prizes.
www.VisitFoley.com
251-943-1300

Keep up with local events and news from Foley right in your inbox. Every other month, we will send you the local news you can use in our e-newsletter. All you have to do is go to www.visitfoley.com and sign up. It's that simple!