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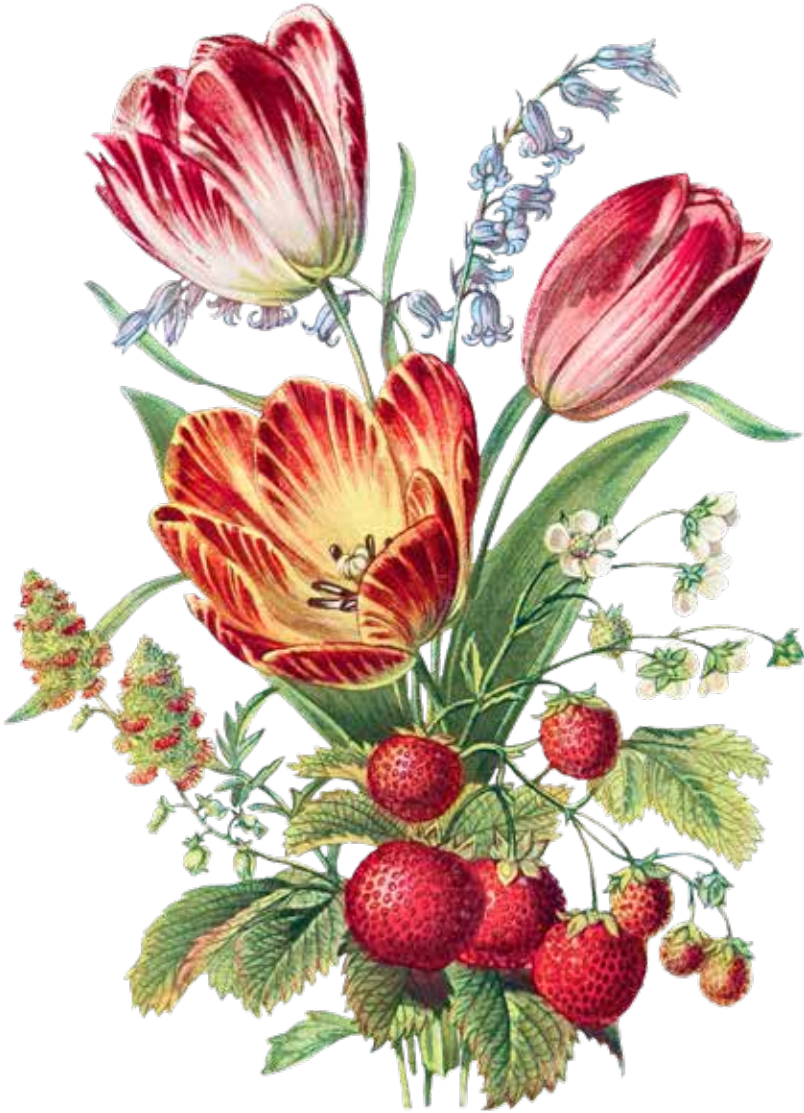


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Inside *{local}* April '24



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APRIL IS PACKED

Many great events coming to Foley this month

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IT ALL STARTED WITH SHORTY THE HORSE

Local resident starts charity with high hopes for horses and kids

LOCAL FOCUS

BUSINESS & SERVICE DIRECTORY 11

FAITH & WORSHIP PAGE 12, 13

ON THE COVER: Shorty's Safe Haven Equine Rescue & Rehab Farm in Foley brings abused and neglected horses, foster kids, and at-risk youth together to a safe place to heal and have hope again. Photo by Chris J. Hinton

ADVERTISING INFORMATION Interested in reaching thousands of homes and businesses in the Foley Baldwin county area through direct mail and social media promotions? We offer creative advertising opportunities to local businesses and organizations. Reach out today for more details. In Foley, contact David Williford at 615-243-3031, or email David at dwilliford@wilcolocal.com.

Foley Local is published by WilcoLocal Media & Marketing, published twelve times per year, and delivered both online and by postal delivery to thousands of homes and businesses in the Foley area. Advertising claims are the sole responsibility of the consumer to check the validity and honesty of the offer made by the business. WilcoLocal Media and Foley Local are not responsible for claims made by the business owners. Please submit any questions or comments to jbryant@wilcolocal.com.

David Williford, Foley Local General Manager, at 615-243-3031, or email David at dwilliford@wilcolocal.com.

SPRING EVENTS

Graham Creek Nature Preserve Guided Tour

APRIL 5, 9 AM | 23030 Wolf Bay Drive, Foley
To reserve your space call **251-923-4267**

Visit Foley's nature preserve. The first Friday of every month tour the Graham Creek Nature Preserve riding on golf carts. The guided tour is limited to eight people each month.



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Mudbugs & Margaritas Festival

SAT. APRIL 6, 10AM - 6PM

Heritage Park 200 N McKenzie St. Foley

Food vendors with unique, crawfish dishes, multiple margarita lines, craft beer from Fairhope Brewing Company, wine, and scrumptious snack vendors. Great live music all day, arts & crafts and home decor, contests throughout the day. There will be a huge kids entertainment/activity area with a petting zoo, bounce houses, and more. beachlifeevents.com/mudbugs_margaritas.php

Spring Home & Garden Festival

APRIL 20, NOON - 6 PM

Downtown OWA, Foley

Spring is here, and it's time to celebrate! The Spring Home & Garden Festival is April 20th! Explore everything from stylish home goods to garden essentials. Come discover the latest trends to refresh your home with a touch of spring. The festival showcases local garden clubs, home décor boutiques, lawn care, and more!

As a family-friendly event, enjoy free kids' activities and live music. It's entirely free to attend! Make your way to Downtown OWA on April 20th to learn the freshest trends for your spring home refresh. Interested in showcasing your products as a vendor? Apply at visitowa.com/home-and-garden-festival



Gulf Coast Hot Air Balloon Festival

MAY 2, 3, 4 visit website for schedule

OWA Parks & Resort | 100 N OWA Blvd, Foley

Foley is the spot for high-flying adventure and family fun at the Gulf Coast Hot Air Balloon Festival. Enjoy the entertainment, arts and crafts displays and more at the festival site daily. Balloon flights, glows and tethered rides (weather permitting) add to the fun at dawn and dusk. Admission is FREE!

gulfcoastballoonfestival.com

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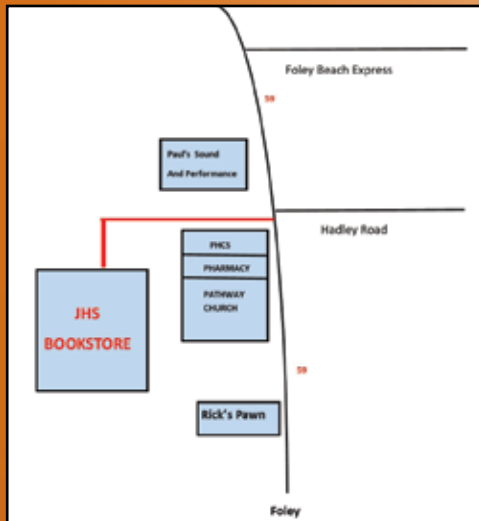
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HORSES, KIDS & HOPE

LINDA WILLIFORD

Shorty was the name of Amber Buswell's horse, which she parted with a few years ago. He went to someone who had a horse farm. Later, she found out that Shorty was starving and was not being properly cared for. She came to Shorty's rescue and took him back to care for him.

Before that eye-opening experience with Shorty, earlier in April 2020, Amber Buswell had just adopted her daughter's best friend, who was living in an abusive home situation. Buswell said, "I had to do something about it, so I was able to adopt her."

Buswell said, "For a living, I transport horses across the coun-

try. One night as I was traveling on I-10 at 2:00 am that morning, I had this idea to bring together foster kids and rescue horses. It was a "God" thing." It was only a short time until Buswell started a non-profit organization in March 2022. Her mission was to bring abused and neglected horses, foster kids, and at-risk youth together to a safe place to heal and have hope again. Buswell is the founder and director of Shorty's Safe Haven Equine Rescue & Rehab Farm in Foley.

Buswell has 35 years of experience in the horse industry. She started riding at age 5 and showing horses at age 7. Later, she studied Special Education.

Her love for foster kids and horses was the perfect scenario.

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Photography by Chris J. Hinton

< FROM PAGE 8

“My focus is to bring kids and horses that have gone through similar situations of abuse and neglect together to heal each other.”

The emotional benefits of the interaction between children and horses help with feeling accepted, building trust, confidence, and self-esteem. Of the rescue and rehab horses at the farm, Buswell says, “We use the quiet ones and those that are trainable to work with the children.” Some of the other horses are available to go out under an adoption contract. But Buswell said, “It states if for any reason the new owners can’t keep the horse, then the horse comes back to us. Hopefully, we can provide a sanctuary or forever home for these rescue horses.”

“Currently, we have 15 Foster Kids in the program and a waitlist,” Buswell said. “We have a certified counselor on board.” There is no charge to the families in the program. They provide counseling services, as well as all riding gear for the children, such as boots, jeans, and helmets.

Right now, Shorty’s horse farm is in urgent need of help moving to its new location. The current farm that it leases has recently

been sold. “We are fortunate and blessed to be able to buy our own 20-acre farm in Elberta. But now we need to raise \$110,000 by May 1st so we can move our 25 horses, a pot belly pig, and a cow to their new home, as well as do some needed work on the new farm.

Buswell said, “My goal for our new farm is to have a disability riding program and also provide meals at Thanksgiving for our lower income families in the community”.

“We are reaching out to businesses and individuals for sponsors, donations, and help with fundraisers. We have a GoFundMe account and are advertising on social media. We will be doing a car wash, lemonade stand, and raffles as some of our fundraisers.” Go to their Facebook page to get up-to-date information about fundraisers and donate or volunteer. Buswell said, “You do not have to have horse experience to work on the farm. You don’t even have to get dirty. We have plenty of jobs, including office work.”

Contact Amber Buswell at 251-213-9634



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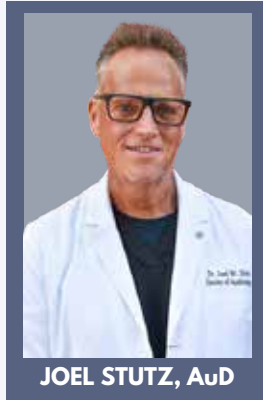


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MAY 2022

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Pizza Casserole... *a.k.a. Spaghetti surprise*

INGREDIENTS:

1 LB GROUND BEEF
3/4 BOX ANGEL HAIR, VERMICELLI OR SPAGHETTI
1 JAR FAVORITE SPAGHETTI SAUCE
1 PACKAGE PEPPERONI
LARGE BAG OF SHREDDED MOZZARELLA CHEESE
OLIVE OIL

DIRECTIONS:

Cook noodles, drain, rinse and toss with olive oil.

Brown ground beef and crumble as cooking. Drain.
Return cooked meat to pan and add sauce. Mix.

Boil SALTED water and drop pepperoni in boiling water
for 3-5 minutes. Drain.

In a casserole dish, layer noodles, a layer of shredded
cheese, meat sauce, pepperoni and a top with a layer of
shredded mozzarella.

Bake at 350 degrees for approximately 45 minutes or
until the top begins to brown and is bubbly. Casserole can
be assembled and stored in the fridge for several days
before baking.



From the kitchen of **Faye Davis**

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