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FOLEY AND BALDWIN COUNTY

DECEMBER 2023

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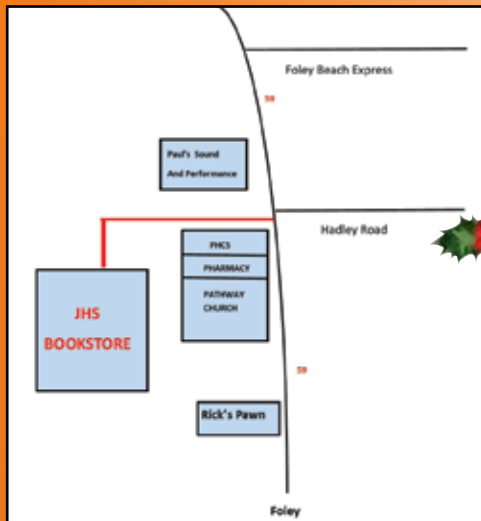
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# Inside *{local}* December '23



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## **6** HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS

The holiday season is here and there are so many events

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## **14** PECAN TIME

Family business rooted in the community

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## **LOCAL FOCUS**

**FAITH & WORSHIP PAGE 12, 13**  
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**ON THE COVER:** *It's holiday time on the Gulf. Local businesses are busy finding just the perfect gifts for their customers, children are planning for Santa, relatives are visiting, and the colors of the season are everywhere, even in our palm trees! Photo by Jeff Bryant*

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**David Williford, Foley Local General Manager, at 615-243-3031, or email David at [dwilliford@wilcolocal.com](mailto:dwilliford@wilcolocal.com).**

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# LOCAL HOLIDAY EVENTS

## THE ANNUAL CHRISTMAS LIGHTED BOAT PARADE

SATURDAY DEC 9, 4:30 PM (DUSK)  
LULU'S 200 E. 25TH AVE. GULF SHORES

Come by LuLu's for a magical night on the Waterway Village with LuLu's Lighted Boat Parade! Celebrating the Holidays "Gulf Coast Style" with brightly decorated boats to light the night! Arrive early for a table and stick around for the festivities. The boats will leave LuLu's Gulf Shores at dusk and head to the Wharf in Orange Beach. Boats will be visible along the canal from Gulf Shores or Orange Beach.

## FOLEY KIWANIS CLUB CHRISTMAS PARADE

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2, 10:00 AM - 11:00 PM  
FOLEYKIWANIS.CLUB/2023-CHRISTMAS-PARADE

The annual Foley Christmas Parade returns for 2023. This favorite event is loved by all and features floats, boats, kids and much more. The parade starts at 11 am (lining up between the Foley Library and the Old Armory/behind City Hall).



## THE 4TH ANNUAL HOLLY DAYS ON MAIN FESTIVAL AT THE WHARF

SAT SATURDAY & SUNDAY, DECEMBER 9 - 10  
THE WHARF 4550 MAIN STREET ORANGE BEACH  
ALWHARF.COM/

Join a Christmas tradition in the heart of the Alabama Gulf Coast! Join us for two days of vendors lining Main Street at The Wharf, music and dance performances, a Santa Pub Crawl, and the perfect viewing spot for the Annual Lighted Boat Parade!

## DOWNTOWN FOLEY CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2, 11 AM - 2 PM  
DOWNTOWN FOLEY

Join Downtown Foley's merchants and enjoy some Christmas Cheer! Wander around and visit the businesses in Downtown Foley for their Christmas Open House - right after the Foley Christmas Parade! There will be holiday surprises scattered around downtown.



## ELBERTA NIGHT TIME CHRISTMAS PARADE & TREE LIGHTING

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2, 4:30 PM - 7:30 PM  
ELBERTA FACEBOOK.COM/EVENTS/812374227105169/

Join the Town of Elberta for the annual nighttime parade, tree lighting, pictures with Santa, cookies and hot chocolate, and movies in the park. The parade will line up on Illinois St. South to Hwy 98 East then turn North on Co. Rd. 83 to Oak Street West to Chicago and back towards the school. Then, join everyone in the park to light our town tree. BRING A FAMILY Ornament to hang. Get your family photos with Santa and enjoy some hot chocolate and Christmas movies for the evening.

Please call, text, or message Vicky Norris at 251-232-5393 to be entered into the parade or if you have any additional inquiries.





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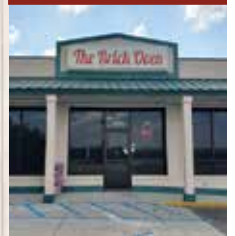
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# LOCAL HOLIDAY EVENTS

## THE BALDWIN POPS FOLEY CIVIC CENTER CHRISTMAS CONCERT

MONDAY, DECEMBER 4, 7 PM - 8:30 PM  
FOLEY CIVIC CENTER  
1001 EAST PRIDE BLVD., FOLEY  
BALDWINPOPS.COM

Start the Christmas season with a free concert of holiday classics, including a special guest from the North Pole! The Baldwin Pops plays a wide variety of holiday selections, from religious to holiday classics to a fun sing-along for the whole family. All Baldwin Pops Christmas Concerts are collection sites for the U.S. Marine Reserve, Toys for Tots Program. Please bring a new unwrapped toy as a donation at our concerts.

The Baldwin Pops logo features the text "The Baldwin Pops" in a white serif font, centered within a white rectangular border on a dark grey background. A red triangle points upwards from the top center of the logo.

## ELLA AND LOUIS SING CHRISTMAS: A TRIBUTE TO LOUIS ARMSTRONG AND ELLA FITZGERALD

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9, 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM  
OWA THEATER FOLEY  
VISITOWA.COM/ELLA-LOUIS-SING-CHRISTMAS

Experience the magic of the holiday season like never before as Ella Fitzgerald and Louis Armstrong come to life in "Ella & Louis Sing Christmas: A Christmas Tribute to Louis Armstrong & Ella Fitzgerald" at OWA Theater on December 9 at 7 pm. Step into a winter wonderland of jazz and joy as you're transported back in time to the golden era of music. For group reservations, please contact Group Sales at [GroupSales@VisitOWA.com](mailto:GroupSales@VisitOWA.com) or 251-923-3490.

The logo for OWA Theater Presents features the text "OWA THEATER PRESENTS" in white, bold, sans-serif font against a dark blue background with a subtle bokeh effect. A red triangle points upwards from the top center of the logo.A promotional poster for the "Ella & Louis Sing Christmas" concert. It features a photograph of Ella Fitzgerald and Louis Armstrong performing on stage. The text at the bottom reads "Ella & Louis Sing Christmas" in a large, stylized font, with "Tribute to Louis Armstrong & Ella Fitzgerald" and "December 9 | 7PM" in smaller text below it.

## HO HO HOMICIDE - A CHRISTMAS MURDER MYSTERY DINNER SHOW

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 7, 6:30 PM TO 09:00 PM  
BRANDON STYLES LIVE THEATER AT OWA  
1501 SOUTH OWA BLVD., FOLEY  
RESERVATIONS.WAVEREZ.COM/BRANDONSTYLES  
OR CALL 251-237-3330

The competition for the "Winter Throne" is on, but who will be crowned? Santa, Ms. Clause, Jack Frost, and the "Snow Queen" (who is definitely not modeled after a well-known Disney character), and other Winterland characters play naughty and nice in this holiday whodunnit to see who will reign. Enjoy a delectable plated dinner around an up-close interactive show that will take everything you have to solve the case.

This family entertainment features actors in a live, interactive, and comedic experience with audience members as they work to solve the "murder" through physical clues, spoken dialogue, and inferred character motives.

There is no dress code or age restrictions, but we encourage holiday attire, so get out your suit, fancy dress, or ugly sweater! Learn more and get tickets at [reservations.waverez.com/brandon-styles](http://reservations.waverez.com/brandon-styles) or call 251-237-3330







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316 SOUTH MCKENZIE ST, STE 100 | FOLEY AL 36535



The Holiday season is in full swing here at EXIT Realty Landmark, located in charming Foley, AL. This month we get to kick-off our favorite time of the year with the announcement of a new agent within the EXIT Realty Landmark family, **Ms. Rachel Begic**, and the annual **U.S. Marine Corps. Toys for Tots Christmas Toy Drive** campaign. Rachel, our newest REALTOR®, has made it her mission to infuse the real estate industry with her warmth and welcoming nature. She is thrilled to join our team of dedicated professionals who share her commitment to excellence. EXIT Realty's outstanding training opportunities have equipped her with unique resources that set her apart from others in the industry. Rachel's engaging personality also parlays well into her commitment to the community and she eagerly looks forward to being an active member of the Foley area. The annual Toys for Tots Campaign is a perfect way to engage with the locals and serve Baldwin County. Having five children of her own, Rachel understands the importance of having something special to open on Christmas morning. This is even more meaningful this year as her oldest son is a recent recruit to the U.S. Marine Corp. Stop by our office and let Rachel or one of our other highly trained real estate agents help you, and from October to mid-December, bring along a toy donation for this very important cause. **EXIT Realty Landmark has been a local drop off spot for 3 years** and you can find us in the Historic Landmark Building, at 316 S. McKenzie St., Ste. 100, Foley, AL 36535. **Rachel Begic** can be reached at **812-595-9200** or text **rachelbythebeach** to **85377**.



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**FOLEY** ★



# LOCAL HOLIDAY EVENTS

## FLORA-BAMA CHRISTMAS POTLUCK

MONDAY, DECEMBER 25, 2023  
12 PM FLORA BAMA

Whether you've been naughty or nice, Christmas is a time for family and friends to gather and celebrate. The Flora-Bama wants you to eat, drink, and be merry for its traditional Christmas Potluck Dinner! The turkey and ham will be provided by the Flora-Bama, and we encourage our patrons to bring a covered dish to share. Beginning at 12 pm on Christmas Day, patrons are encouraged to bring a covered dish, with serving at 1 pm. Live music will be playing all around the bar to help spread Christmas cheer for all to hear. Typically, sides are the most needed items (side note - "we have plenty of desserts every year, so anything other is much appreciated... though, we're not picky, so anything you bring is welcomed!") There will be two service lines open for a buffet-style plate filling. We request that all those bringing side dishes have their dish in the Tent by 12:30 pm.



## CHRISTMAS RADIO THEATER IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE: A LIVE RADIO PLAY

SAT FRIDAY, DECEMBER 15 - SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17  
SOUTH BALDWIN COMMUNITY THEATRE  
2022 W. 2ND ST., GULF SHORES (251) 968-6721

It's a Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play based on the beloved classic holiday movie with a clever twist: the story is staged as a live radio broadcast. Actors portray numerous characters, and sound effects are done by Foley artists. Admission: \$13.00 including fees.

## LULU'S NOON YEAR'S EVE CELEBRATION

SAT SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31, 10 AM  
LULU'S 200 E. 25TH AVE., GULF SHORES

LuLu's NOON Year's Eve is a fun-filled day for kids and adults on December 31 at 10 am. Crafts, Kid Safe Fireworks (bubble wrap,) and a Sand Castle Building Contest are only the tip of the iceberg. When the clock strikes NOON, there will be a Beach Ball Drop! Hundreds of colorful beach balls will flood LuLu's Beach, but the excitement doesn't stop there. Face Painting, Balloon Animals, Inflatable slides, and More will be at LuLu's to start your New Year's celebration. It's fun for all ages to ring in the New Year!







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**615-495-8812** FOR MORE DETAILS.



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with a fellowship meal to follow  
November 18, 2023 @ 11:00 am.

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# A Message from Church of the Shores

In the heart of the holiday season, nestled beneath the glow of twinkling lights and the warmth of family gatherings, lies the real reason we celebrate Christmas. We don't celebrate Christmas because of Black Friday, Bing Crosby, or the smell of baked goods. We celebrate Christmas because of the birth of Jesus.

## MAKING ROOM FOR GOD

The journey of slowing down to make room to remember the birth of Jesus is known as the season of Advent. The word "Advent" comes from the Latin word "adventus," which means "to wait with expectancy."

Yet, if we were honest, we all struggle at some level with waiting. We don't like waiting at red lights, gas stations, or check-out counters. We don't like waiting for promotions at work, people at home, or promises from political leaders. We don't want to wait, but we find ourselves waiting for someone or something in every season of life.

I thought waiting was a waste of time for most of my life, but I have learned that waiting is one of the most significant ways God shapes and transforms our lives. As my good friend Rich Villodas says, "The good news about Advent is not that we are faithful in our waiting but that God is faithful in his coming."

## AT JUST THE RIGHT TIME

While God rarely comes at our desired time, He always comes at the right time. For centuries, God's people had to wait patiently, painfully, and prayerfully for the Messiah, the Savior of the World. On the right day, in the right place, at the right time, Jesus was born. Christmas reminds us that God comes through on His promises in His perfect timing.

We often wonder if God has forgotten about us or abandoned us. In your waiting, let the birth of Christ and the story of Christmas encourage you. Hold onto the words the Angel said to the Shepherds on that night, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David, a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord." (Luke 2:10-11) Merry Christmas,

**Pastor Shawn Kennedy**

## CHURCH AT THE SHORES - A CHURCH TO CALL HOME

If you do not have a church home, I invite you to join Church at the Shores. Times: 8:30 am (Family Style) & 10:00 am (Full Kids Ministry)

[churchattheshores.com](http://churchattheshores.com)

## CHRISTMAS EVE AT 3:30 PM & 5:00 PM

I invite you to join us for our Christmas Eve services. You can expect candlelight, hot chocolate, and an encouraging message.



Candlelight + Hot Chocolate  
Photo Station + Family Style

## CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

3:30PM & 5:00PM



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FB: Grace Lutheran Gulf Shores. [glcgs.org](http://glcgs.org) 251-968-5991

## All are Welcome

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SUNDAYS | 8:15, 9:30 & 11AM

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Brett with Grand Parents Sandra and Clarence Bishop. Photography by Linda Williford

# TIS THE SEASON FOR PECANS

**BY LINDA WILLIFORD**

B & B Pecan Company is gearing up for its busiest time of the year. Their new harvest of shelled pecans is ready for those holiday pies, cookies, and candies. The B & B Pecan Company store has a variety of pecans, including natural or roasted and salted, chocolate covered, rum pecans, mini pecans pies, candies, gift tins, and many ideas for the holidays and gift giving.

Clarence and Sandra Bishop started their pecan business in 1956 with 120 acres of 1100 pecan trees. Although Clarence and Sandra aren't so active in the day-to-day operations anymore, they

still make their rounds at the store daily, visiting their family and long-term employees. Their son, Doug Bishop, is a partner in the business, and their grandson, Brett Bishop, does the day-to-day operations. Brett works in retail and mail orders. This year, the Bishops are celebrating their 67th year in business.

In 1982, the pecan was named Alabama's official State nut. Pecan trees are grown across the southwestern part of the state. According to statistics, Alabama ranks 8th in pecan production in the United States, with the highest concentration in Baldwin and Mobile Counties.

Hurricane Sally in 2020 delivered a devastating blow to the

**PAGE 16 >**





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Owner Doug Bishop



Photography by Linda Williford

#### < FROM PAGE 14

pecan farmers, including B & B Pecan Company. Brett can attest that their family orchard lost 338 trees to Sally. He says, "Sally has changed it all for us. Our volume will never be the same." Brett said that Sally has cut their volume by almost half. He continued, "At one time, we had an orchard of 1100 mature trees. We have replanted our loss, but replanted trees will take 10-15 years to start producing." He said, "We went from a mature orchard to now a young orchard."

Brett stated that many pecan farmers who have lost their trees during a bad storm or hurricane decide not to replant because of the wait time involved. Unless they have a next generation in the family who wants to continue the pecan business, they usually sell their property.

The harvest season in the Baldwin County area is generally from October 1st to November 1st. Brett said, "We harvest them, grade them, put them in sacks that will be loaded on an 18-wheeler, and then ship them to a shelling plant." After the shelling

process, the pecans are shipped back to B & B Pecan Company fresh and ready for the customers.

The pecan orchard has always been the center spot for the family. They have all their family gatherings there at the homeplace on the farm. "This is where we all grew up." He added, "We have a big family, totaling 30, including grands and great grands."

The weather does play a big part in the pecan trees and their production. Brett said that this year has been way too dry. As a result, the trees produce less, and the nuts are smaller. One year, Brett recalls a season of snow. "We had enough snow to build snowmen, which melted the next day. But no harm to the trees."

B & B Pecan Company specializes in gift-giving for corporations and businesses. "You just call us, tell us what you want, and we do everything else. We do the "Christmas shopping" for our customers," he said. During the holiday season, the company store is open Monday-Saturday from 9am-5pm at 16151 Greeno Rd. in Fairhope. You can also place an order online at [pecangifts.com](http://pecangifts.com). 251-928-9031 or 1-800-732-6812. See their ad on page 20.





**KEITH KOWAL, MD**



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