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Inside *{local}* February '24

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KEEPING TRACK OF 86,000 ITEMS

Foley library has a lot more than books

14

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ON THE COVER: Valentine's Day is Wednesday, February 14. The holiday is celebrated in many different ways around the world, from feasts, to romance to religious events.

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Photography by Linda Williford

FIND YOUR HAPPY PLACE

BY LINDA WILLIFORD

Have you been to the Foley Library lately? If not, you will be surprised to see how much more the library has to offer than just books.

Kate Norris, the new Library Director, recently gained this title in November 2023, says, “When you come through those doors, you will find a “happy place.” Norris has been with the City of Foley since 2007. She completed her 16th year this past October with nine years at City Hall in Human Resources and seven years at the Foley Library. Norris says, “The library has so much to offer to our community.”

“We have almost 86,000 items for check-out, of which 77,000 of those items are book titles,” Norris said. Other than the wide

range of book titles available, there are books on CDs, DVDs, magazines, and other digital resources for all ages. “We have Hoopla, which allows patrons to access audiobooks, eBooks, comics, and movies. And we have Libby, which also allows access to audio and eBooks.”

Norris shared the opportunities available. To begin with, the library offers printing, scanning and faxing services, and has a notary public service. She said the library has a computer lab with 28 computers for public use, with one-on-one assistance to teach patrons about general computer use and assistance with Microsoft Office and Google Suites. Anything technical, their staff support will be glad to help with. Mae Bryant is Head of Collection Management and oversees the Computer Lab.

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Standing Kate Norris, Library Director, and Mae Bryant, head of Computer Lab. Photography by Linda Williford

Maggie Pearson, Director of Children's Dept.

< FROM PAGE 6

Michele Collins, the Library Cataloger, shared a few statistics for December 2022-November 2023 and found the average daily circulation was 1,168. Collins said, "We gain an average of 3.7 library patrons a day and an average of 2.6 library computer lab users a day."

Foley Library came into existence in May of 1923. A Community Welfare Club (which later became the Foley Women's Club) started a community library. In 1957, the City of Foley took over the library, which has recently celebrated its 100th year in the community.

If you want to learn a language, go to the Foley Library. They offer the Mango Languages, preparing the student for realistic conversations in over 70 languages.

If you need a meeting room, the library has meeting rooms for reservations for groups of up to 40 people, a boardroom for up to 8 people, and a study room for 1-3 people.

The Children's Department is brimming with all kinds of activities and programs. Maggie Pearson is the Children's Department Director. She oversees and plans the activities for the children, including arts and crafts, special events, and characters that visit during the Children's Storytime. Recently, during the Christmas

holidays, she arranged for Santa himself to make a surprise visit to the children's Storytime.

The library has many programs and even arts and crafts for teens and adults. Teen activities include the Teen Create Spaces and the Teen Book Club. There is a Coffee & Donuts with Authors event and homeschool kit programs for adults. Also, recently, the library purchased Stay Sharp Kits, which are cognitive care kits assisting patrons with dementia. These kits contain puzzles, games, and other activities to stimulate the mind.

The History & Genealogy Department on the second floor has cultural and heritage collections for genealogy research. They have a collection of materials on the state of Alabama, county and city histories, and family histories in books, files, and films.

The library is a great asset to the community. It needs more space to adequately provide this wealth of information and services. There are future plans for a new library to begin construction this year. Norris says, "We have a lot of changes coming and our plan is to only get better!"

To learn more about the library, Visit their website, foleylibrary.org or stop at 319 E. Laurel Avenue. Hours: Monday-Thursday 9-7, Friday & Saturday 9-5, Sunday closed, you may also call 251-943-1032.



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Have you ever heard of the "Three Angels' Message" in Revelation 14? The amazing thing is that this message is meant to be shared with the entire world, and it's all leading up to the grand finale – the second coming of Jesus! It's not just another chapter in the Bible; it actually embodies God's final message to humanity. That means it carries such a massive impact on a global scale.

This threefold message may not be commonly heard, and even if some are familiar with it, many often misunderstand or are unaware of what this message is, why it matters, and how it applies to us, yet it touches on creation, salvation, the Christian life, and eschatological hope. The essence of the Bible message is contained there!

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Chris Kendrick, owner of Southern Patio and Screen. Photography by Linda Williford

BRING THE OUTDOORS IN

BY LINDA WILLIFORD

Now is the time of the year to start planning that special outdoor living project. Southern Patio & Screen specializes in building sunrooms, screen rooms, patio covers, pool enclosures, pool fences, carports, wood decks, handrails, and gazebos.

Chris Kendrick, owner of the business, says, "Approximately 50% of the homes in the Baldwin County area have screened rooms or some kind of aluminum outdoor structure." Spring and

early summer are the most popular times for the three biggest projects of the year, which are screen enclosures, screen porches, and screen rooms.

Southern Patio & Screen is locally owned by Chris Kendrick in Summerdale. He and his late father, Larry Kendrick, started the business as a father/son team. The business has been in existence for eight years. Between Chris and his father, they had 27 years of experience in specializing in aluminum construction.

Depending on what the job entails, Kendrick says, "It generally

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Photography by Linda Williford

< FROM PAGE 14

takes about 3 days to get the job done.” He added, “We have a lifetime guarantee on our workmanship.”

Their company is known for taking care of their workers. Kendrick said, “We do not have a high turnover of employees like some construction companies. One of our guys has been with us for 20 years.”

Kendrick was proud of the fact that they have the largest indoor/outdoor showroom on the Gulf Coast. “We love it when people stop and visit our showroom.”

He said, “When Hurricane Sally came through, we only lost two structures out of the 2800 structures they had built, and that was because of trees and debris damage.”

In this line of business, you want to be very cautious of who you hire as your contractor. Kendrick said, “Something to re-

member is any project over \$10,000, you need to have a licensed contractor. You want to be covered in case anything goes wrong.” Kendrick said that there are too many bad situations where the structures were not built right, and there were always problems. “We call that “Chuck in a truck,” he said. “The only work or structure guarantee that you get is a “taillight guarantee.” When you no longer can see the taillight of the truck, your guarantee is gone.”

Southern Patio & Screen is highly recommended by many suppliers (who sell to hundreds of builders). Kendrick said, “We use only premium quality materials and build every job like it was attached to our own home.” They have financing available at 12 months interest-free.

Their service area includes a wide range of cities within Baldwin County, as well as outside of Baldwin County. Visit their website at southernpatioandscreen.com for more information and see their ad on page 19.

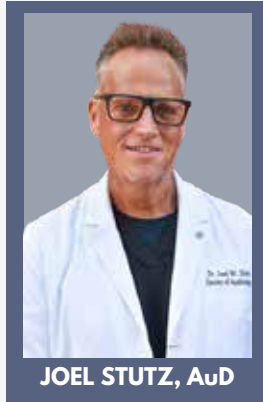


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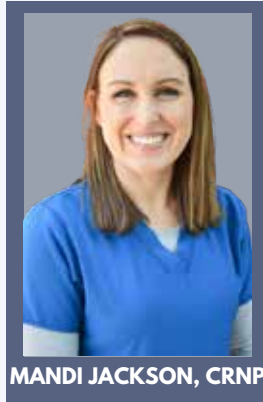
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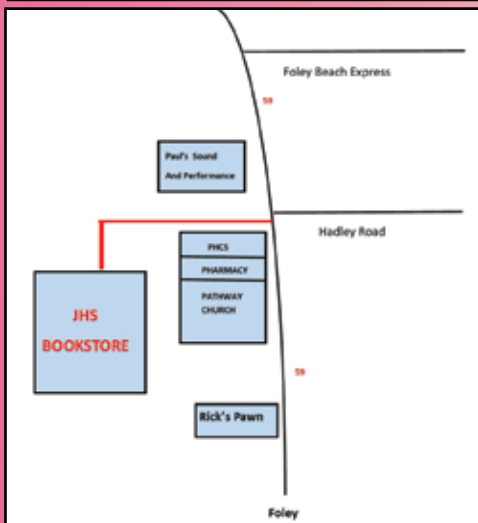
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