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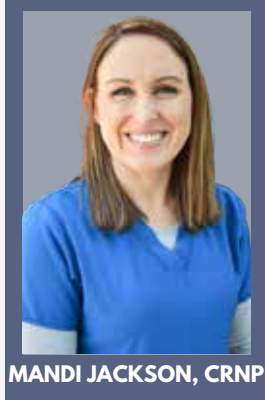
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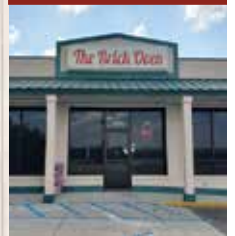
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CALL TODAY 251-943-2728

Inside {local} February '25



6 A SIDE OF TATER TOT

English bulldog becomes a Canine Star to everyone he meets



13 FUN EVENTS

Plan now for these exciting events



14 DELICIOUS ALTERNATIVE

Mocktail recipe combines green tea and juices with fresh fruit

LOCAL FOCUS BUSINESS DIRECTORY 11 FAITH & WORSHIP PAGE 12



ON THE COVER: Adult Brown pelican captured on the ICW off Plash Island. The pelican was perched on a retainer wall after eating a fresh meal. They live along our southern coastal waters. Photo by Chris J Hinton

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



Photography provided

TATER TOT, SOCIAL MEDIA SUPERSTAR

BY LINDA WILLIFORD

Tater Tot, the English Bulldog, is one of the shortest and biggest personalities in the Foley area. He is 10 years old and lives locally with his Dad and Mom, Mike and Donna Vanderburg. The Vanderburgs are from a small town that is a famous ski resort called Mammoth Lakes, California. Donna said, "We were tired of the cold weather and six months of snow, so we decided to retire early to the beautiful Gulf Coast in June of 2023." The Vanderburgs were in property management for 30 years. Donna also had

her own day spa and specialized in manicures, pedicures, and waxing.

Tater Tot's quiet, loving personality, with his unique face, is a delight to everyone who meets him. He's a supermodel. People love to take photos of him. He loves the spotlight of attention from adults and kids alike. You can usually see him as a frequent visitor at the Farmhouse Market in Foley, where his mom sells her handmade hats. This past Christmas, he was the Christmas Mascot for the Farmhouse Market. He has become one of the cutest, lovable local "celebrity mascots" in Foley.

PAGE 10 >



Mike and Donna Vanderburg with Tater Tot. Photography provided

Donna said they got the English Bulldog when he was a pup. She says, “He was the perfect Tater Tot.” He is the second English Bulldog the Vanderburgs have owned. The first Bulldog died at 11 years old. He was a service dog and made hospital visits. His name was Pork Chop. Donna said with a laugh, “We are keeping the naming in the food group family.”

“We are lucky to have Tater Tot,” Donna says. “He is a lovebug who follows his parents around each room of the house. Loves to snuggle and thinks he is a lap dog, even though he is a roly-poly of 50 lbs.”

Donna is busy with crafting and sews and creates hats. Tater Tot loves watching her and tries to get in her lap while she is working. Donna says that Tater Tot is lazy and snores. “He sleeps at the top of my head, often with his jowls covering my eyes, snor-

ing away.” But Donna says that she wouldn’t have it any other way. However, it is hard for her to find any friends who will dogsit him because of the snoring.

So, the Vanderburgs take Tater Tot everywhere they go. Donna says that he travels well. He has been across the United States from California to the Honky Tonks on Broadway in Nashville. Tater Tot loves to sunbathe on the screened porch at home and enjoys “Tiki Time” on the driveway in his neighborhood, where he has his own beach chair and umbrella, along with a flamingo. He greets the neighbors and enjoys their attention. Donna says, “He is quite the ham.”

Tater Tot has his own Facebook page, and you can find him at Tater Tot the English Bulldog. He has about 3,000 fans.

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EXCITING UPCOMING EVENTS



Krewe de Kaoz Foley Mardi Gras Parade
March 1, 11 to 12:30 pm
Downtown Foley
facebook.com/KreweDeKaozofFoleyAlabama

Family friendly parade and everyone welcome. Krewe De'Kaoz! The name says it all. Total Kaoz, the fun kind! This is the City of Foley's annual Mardi Gras parade.



Orange Beach Festival of Art
Coastal Arts Center
26389 Canal Road
Orange Beach, March 8 – 9
Saturday 10am to 5 pm; Sunday 10am to 4 pm
orangebeachal.gov/338/Orange-Beach-Festival-of-Art

For more than 50 years, the Festival of Art has been our island's first rite of spring. It is a celebration of visual, literary, performing, musical and culinary arts. The show has won Best Art Show in Alabama three times in the past five years by the luxury magazine "Alabama" and is currently ranked in the top 100 of national fine art and design shows.

This fine arts festival is completely free with music and entertainment featured on two stages. You can be a part of it by volunteering or purchasing art through our Patron of the Arts program. There are multiple parking options.

Want us to list your event? Please send us the details and let us know what's going on! Send your information to jbryant@wilcolocal.com. Be sure to include dates, times, contact info, and a description of your event.



BBQ & Blues Cookoff
Heritage Park
March 7 - 8 Downtown Foley
foleybbqandblues.net

It is an outdoor food and music event held in Downtown Foley's Heritage Park the second Saturday of March. A Kansas City Barbeque Society sanctioned event, the barbecue cook-off attracts both corporate and individual teams competing for bragging rights in several award categories. Festival goers enjoy great food, popular blues bands and children's activities. All proceeds support the South Baldwin Chamber Foundation.



Ballyhoo Festival
March 1-2
20110 State Park Rd, Hwy 135, Gulf Shores
ballyhoofestival.com

The Ballyhoo Festival is a Fine Art and Culture Festival, located at the Gulf State Park in Gulf Shores, Alabama. Each year locals and tourists alike gather for live music, great art and a celebration of American heritage.

Great RECIPES

GOT A GREAT RECIPE YOU WANT TO SHARE? SEND US YOUR RECIPE AND A COUPLE OF PHOTOS AND YOUR CREATION COULD BE FEATURED HERE! EMAIL to jbryant@wilcolocal.com

Green Tea Mojito Mocktails

SERVINGS: 4 (1 1/2 CUPS PER SERVING)

INGREDIENTS:

4 CUPS WATER

4 SINGLE-SERVING GREEN TEA BAGS

32-40 PRIGS FRESH MINT, PLUS ADDITIONAL FOR GARNISH, DIVIDED

2 CUPS ICE CUBES

1 CUP 100% WHITE GRAPE JUICE

1/2 CUP FRESH LIME JUICE (ABOUT 4 MEDIUM LIMES)

1 MEDIUM LIME, CUT INTO FOUR WEDGES OR LIME ZEST TWISTS (OPTIONAL)

PREPARATION:

- In small saucepan over high heat, bring water to boil. Remove pan from heat. Submerge tea bags. Steep 4 minutes. Discard tea bags. Let tea mixture cool 30 minutes. Pour into pitcher. Refrigerate 2 hours, or until chilled.
- At serving time, add mint leaves to four glasses. Using muddler or wooden spoon, mash mint leaves several times to release juices. Don't mash into pulp. Add ice.
- Stir white grape juice and lime juice into tea mixture. Pour into glasses. Garnish each with lime wedge and mint leaf.
- Tip: To get more juice from citrus, before slicing, microwave fruit on high 30 seconds, or until warm. When cool enough to handle, use citrus reamer or handheld juice press to juice citrus.

Nutritional information per serving: 45 calories; 0 g total fat (0 g saturated fat, trans fat, polyunsaturated fat and monounsaturated fat); 0 mg cholesterol; 7 mg sodium; 13 g carbohydrates; 0 g fiber; 10 g total sugars (0 g added sugars); 1 g protein.



*Recipe courtesy of the American Heart Association
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