

FOLEY {local}

FOLEY AND BALDWIN COUNTY

MARCH 2026

The background of the entire page is a sunset over a body of water, with a warm orange and yellow glow. In the foreground, there are two tall, dark, vertical posts that look like grill legs. On the left post, two birds are perched on top, one above the other, with their wings spread as if they are about to fly or are in flight. On the right post, a single bird is perched on top. The overall scene is a silhouette of a grill with birds, set against the sunset background.

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Inside {local} March '26

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SERVING THE COMMUNITY OVER 20 YEARS

The local YMCA is focused on the Baldwin community and services over 5,000 members

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SPRING IS COMING

Great events planned for March

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GRILLING SEASON

Fire up the grill for this month's recipe



LOCAL FOCUS FAITH & WORSHIP PAGE 15

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YMCA Pam Anderson, Executive Branch Director and Marissa Rennaker, Director of Development of the South Alabama YMCA. Photography by Linda Williford

ACTIVE, CONNECTED, AND ENGAGED

BY LINDA WILLIFORD

The YMCA is more than another fitness center, and Pam Anderson, Executive Branch Director, says that it allows the community to be active, connected, and engaged. “The John McClure Snook Family YMCA opened its current location in Foley in 2001, following its relocation from North Foley. The facility was named in honor of Mr. John McClure Snook in recognition of his generous gift, which made the construction of the building possible.”

Anderson continued, “After more than 20 years of serving the community, Hurricane Sally came through, causing significant damage to the 26-year-old building.” They were forced to close the doors for 17-½ months. Anderson said that many doubted that it would ever open again. The Snook Family YMCA reopened in March 2022.

Anderson says that they currently serve 5,257 members, including 2,858 active older adults. She said, “We have after-school programs, a summer day camp, exercise classes, swim lessons,

personal trainers, and much more.” Anderson added, “Through programs such as Silver Sneakers, Silver & Fit, and Renew Active, many older adults in our community are able to enjoy the YMCA at no cost, through their insurance.”

Anderson has been with the Snook Family YMCA for 16 years and has been the branch director for 3-1/2 years. She has been a leader in numerous positions at the facility, including group fitness, personal trainer, membership, and the Welcome Center. Throughout the year, they raise funds to ensure that financial barriers do not prevent individuals and families from participating in the YMCA programs. “I don’t think people realize how much we do in the community,” says Marissa Rennaker, Director of Development of the South Alabama YMCA. “We want to bring people together regardless of their ability to pay.” They offer scholarships to those who qualify and meet the criteria. They offer up to 25-75% off membership and programs.

For years, Rennaker’s background has been in sales and serving

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Photography provided

< FROM PAGE 6

on non-profit boards. She says her role now, as Director of Development, is to build relationships with the community through the YMCA.

Their biggest fundraiser event is the annual Golf Tournament, Fore the Kids Golf Classic. This year, it is set for April 6 at the Steelwood Country Club in Loxley. This is their second year at Steelwood,” says Rennaker. “Every dollar raised goes back into the YMCA’s local programming for the kids, families, and seniors.” It empowers the YMCA to have scholarships for those who need it. Rennaker says, “It’s an investment in our children and families who rely on the YMCA.”

“The Snook Family YMCA is incredibly grateful for the generous support from the City of Foley, United Way of South Alabama, and other community partners.” Rennaker said, “We are always looking for local businesses to sponsor or donate to our fundraisers.” They have sponsorship opportunities and are now accepting registrations online for the Fore the Kids Golf Classic. For more information on becoming a sponsor or registering to be part of a

team for the tournament, contact Marissa Rennker at mrennaker@ysal.org.

Anderson says, “Our youth programs continue to be a cornerstone of our mission. In 2025, our summer camp served 158 children, and our afterschool program currently serves 36 children.” This year, a new program for current ninth graders offers free YMCA access during the school year to provide a safe, welcoming place for teens. There are plans to expand the program to include life-skills classes to help prepare them for their futures. Also, Anderson said a long-term vision is to expand our youth service department by adding before-school programming during the school year and creating a dedicated space focused entirely on children—one that would offer preschool programming.

Anderson said, “We are here, present, and ready to serve. We are committed to listening, learning, and responding to the needs of families as they arise, while continuing to live out our mission putting Christian principles into practice through programs that build a healthy spirit, mind, and body for all.” Go to www.ysal.org to learn more and to sign up for the activities available. 2560 S. Pine St., Phone: 251-970-3003.

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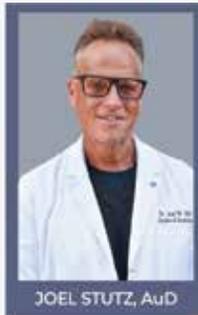


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LOCAL EVENTS



2ND ANNUAL BEN'S RUN FOR RECOVERY SATURDAY MARCH 7, 8 AM GRAHAM CREEK NATURE PRESERVE

5K Fundraiser for Addiction Awareness & Recovery Rain or Shine Event. Packet pickup will start Saturday at 6:30 am at the pavilion before the race. All proceeds benefit The Benjamin Thomas Werner (BTW) Foundation. The foundation wishes to continue to award scholarships to students affected by addiction throughout Baldwin County in their educational endeavors.

For more information bensraceforrecovery.itsyourrace.com

BBQ & BLUES COOKOFF SATURDAY MARCH 14, 10 AM TO 4 PM HERITAGE PARK, DOWNTOWN FOLEY

Sanctioned through The Kansas City Barbeque Society, this barbecue cook-off attracts both corporate and individual teams competing for bragging rights in several award categories. Festival goers enjoy great food, blues music, local vendors' arts & crafts, and children's activities. Proceeds support the South Baldwin Chamber Foundation. Visit: foleybbqandblues.net for more information

AN EVENING WITH SISTER HAZEL THURSDAY MARCH 19, 7:30 PM OWA THEATER

Originating from Gainesville, FL, Sister Hazel is comprised of five gifted, seasoned musicians whose well-spring of natural talent has been called "one of the Top 100 Most Influential Independent Performers of the last 15 years" by Performing Songwriter Magazine. Song "All for You" topped the adult alternative charts during the summer of 1997. For more info: visit owa.com/entertainment/owa-theater/

RMHC RUBBER DUCKY REGATTA SATURDAY MARCH 21, 11 AM OWA

Get ready for a splash-tacular event at the RMHC Rubber Ducky Regatta, featuring exciting activities, games, and the main event... the thrilling rubber duck race across Lake OWA. On March 21st, watch as thousands of ducks paddle to the finish line, with the first three winning grand prizes for their adopters. This event supports Ronald McDonald House Charities of Mobile, which provides vital support for families with seriously ill or injured children. Adopt a duck, enjoy the festivities, and make a difference.

To adopt your own duck: rubberduckyregatta.com/

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Grilled Chicken Bundt



INGREDIENTS (SERVES 4-6)

4 POTATOES
2 CARROTS
8 BRUSSEL'S SPROUTS
OIL
2 TABLESPOONS GARLIC POWDER, DIVIDED
2 TABLESPOONS ONION POWDER, DIVIDED
2 TEASPOONS SALT, DIVIDED
1 WHOLE CHICKEN (4-5 POUNDS)
1/2 STICK BUTTER, SOFTENED

DIRECTIONS

Heat grill to 350 F with one burner off for indirect heat.

Cut potatoes, carrots and Brussel's sprouts into bite-sized pieces. Drizzle with oil and mix in 1 tablespoon garlic powder, 1 tablespoon onion powder and 1 teaspoon salt; set aside.

Rub chicken with softened butter, remaining garlic powder, remaining onion powder and remaining salt.

Place some veggies in bottom of bundt pan. Place chicken on top of chimney or tube of bundt pan. Fill pan with remaining veggies.

Place pan over indirect heat and grill 1 hour, 30 minutes, or until chicken reaches internal temperature of 165 F.

Recipe courtesy of "Cookin' Savvy"

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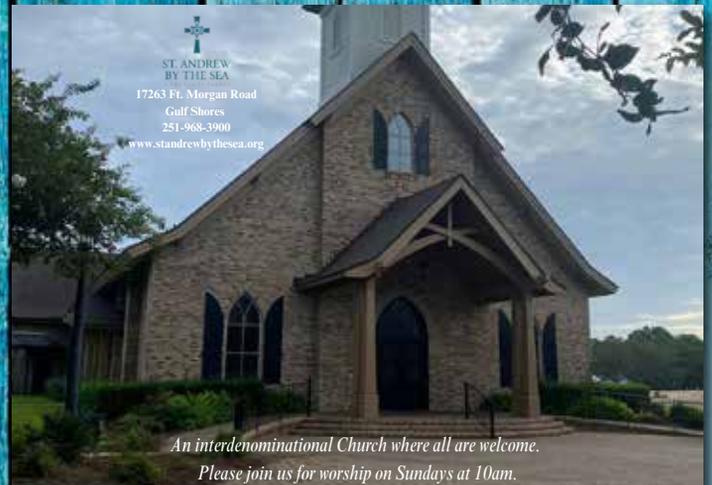
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