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Local shrimp fisherman explains why he loves what he does.



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This cake can be dressed to impress at a fall gathering

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ON THE COVER: *Doug Plash has been shrimping since he was 13. With many experiences and changes, he still loves what he does. Photography 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.

SHRIMPING IN THE OLD DAYS WITH CAPTAIN DOUG PLASH



Photography by Chris J Hinton

As I poured a cup of coffee, I reflected on my list of things to do for the day. The first thing on my agenda was to meet Doug Plash to discuss the history of shrimping and what the future holds for small business owners like himself. Little did I know that I would encounter such a joyful person, whose passion for his lifestyle and work is truly inspiring.

Doug Plash has been shrimping since he was 13, earning his first paycheck of \$100. After a brief hesitation, Plash looked at the ground and, with a chuckle in his voice, said, “I’ll never forget my cousins were so mad at me.”

Plash’s father, as well as his family, have been fishing these waters since before the Korean war. But not long after the war, his father, Floyd “Buck” Plash, started shrimping. Despite earning a business degree, Doug Plash realized that following his family’s

legacy and supporting his growing family would mean returning to his roots, leading him to the decision to build his own boat and embark on a shrimping journey.

In the summer of 1999, he started building the hull in his backyard with the help of his family, completing the project in just 14 days. The boat was named Melissa Jenn Kris, he shared that he has three girls, and the name fits it just fine.

“By the time I finished it, I was broke, and times were stressful,” said Plash.

The house that Plash and his wife live in today is the same one they lived in when they married. The 120-year-old home has weathered many storms. I have seen a lot of beautiful sunsets, sunrises, and some rough storms that hit us. It is all beautiful if you know who created it,” said Plash.

Plash has seen several storms while on his boat as well. He



Photography by Chris J Hinton

related, “One night, a storm blew in with 78 mph winds and lasted for over an hour. The waves were coming over the bow, and I was stuffing pillows in the windows to keep them from being blown out.” He survived that night while another shrimper he knew, used a five-gallon bucket to keep his boat afloat. Thankfully, they both survived. He said when he came into the dock the next morning, pale face and exhausted, that his dad said what he was known to always say, “If you come back alive, that’s a good day.” Plash said,

“You would be surprised as to how many didn’t make it back to the docks in the old days.

Plash shared that he will probably not be shrimping in another ten years due to the change in the economy and the people. Hurricane Katrina wiped out many cold storage units, disrupting the supply chain and causing a significant loss in the shrimping industry. “We have nowhere to take the shrimp because no one

will buy them,” said Plash.

“In the old days, the shrimp could be sold to markets up and down the river where one would see as many as 68 boats in the Bon Secour fisheries. Today, the markets do not exist, and the imported farm-raised shrimp sell cheap; therefore, companies buy them in large quantities. The little man has been pushed to almost extinction.”

In over 57 years of shrimping the Gulf Coast,” said the captain, “I still love it, and it never gets old, so that’s why I keep doing it.”

Regardless of how times have changed, people still do what they love and are fortunate enough to continue to make money at what they are passionate about.



< FROM PAGE 7

If you are ever in the Bon Secour area on Plash Island, go by and see an old shrimp boat captain named Doug Plash and buy some shrimp. You can buy shrimp off the boat at 4368 Plash Rd. Gulf Shores (251-752-1379) You will be glad you did! Doug Plash embodies the spirit of resilience and passion in shrimping, reminding us that even in the face of change, a genuine love for one's craft can weather any storm, inviting everyone to share in the bounty of his enduring legacy.

Photography by Chris J Hinton



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EXCITING UPCOMING EVENTS

Downtown Foley Turkey Hunt

November 1 – Thanksgiving

Info: www.facebook.com/foleymainstreet/

Rest your eyes, get your binoculars out, and leave your shotgun at home. Downtown Foley is having its 4th Annual Turkey Hunt Contest. No, not where you hurt the turkey!

Beginning Friday, November 1, through Thanksgiving, every day, there will be a picture on Facebook and Instagram from one of our downtown businesses and hidden in that picture will be a turkey. Like and MESSAGE Foley Main Street telling us where the turkey is – BUT DON'T TELL IN THE COMMENTS!

6th Annual American Legion Post 99 Open Car Show

November 2, 8 am – 2 pm

2101 S. McKenzie St., Foley

Info: www.mikesamericanmusclecars.com

American Legion Post 99, Foley, AL, is hosting their 6th Annual Open Car Show and Marine Corps League Toys for Tots Drive! The Cpl Joseph Whitehead Marine Corps League, Det #1370, will be collecting unwrapped new toys for the annual Toys for Tots. This year, the event will feature the "Fill the Truck" Toys for Tots Event! (*Mike will give you one free door prize raffle ticket for each new toy donation)

Registered car show participants will receive a complimentary breakfast 'biscuit and gravy' breakfast meal (additional plates available for purchase.

Burgers, Brats & Beer Fest

November 9, 10 am – 6 pm

Heritage Park - 200 N McKenzie St. Foley

Info: www.beachlifeevents.com/burgersbratsbeer.php

Tasty burgers, brats, beer, wine, mixed drinks, great live music all day, arts & crafts, home decor, and unique vendors. Contests throughout the day and a huge kids' entertainment/activity area. Petting zoo, exotic animals, bounce houses, and more.

57th Annual Trim-A-Tree Sponsored by The Foley Arts Center

November 8 – December 23, Mon – Sat, 10 am – 6 pm

211 North McKenzie St., Foley

Info: foleyartcenter.com/trim-a-tree

Local Artists and artisans have created quality, unique, one-of-a-kind ornaments, decorations, floral, pottery, jewelry, wood carvings, and fine artwork to be sold on consignment.

Sponsored by the Foley Art Center.

31st Annual Foley Rotary International Oyster 5K Run/Walk/ Wheelchair Event November 9, 9 am

Orange Blossom Square, 121 West Orange St., Foley

Info: Send questions to foleyoysterrun@gmail.com or visit runsignup.com/Race/AL/Foley/FoleyRotaryOyster5KRunWalk

Foley Rotary Club proudly presents the 31st Annual Oyster Run held on Saturday, November 9, at Orange Blossom Square. Proceeds from this race will go to the Alabama Sheriff's Boys Ranch, the Jennifer Claire-Moore Foundation, Ecumenical Ministries, and other local charities. As usual, participants will receive an Oyster Run Tee Shirt until shirts run out. Shirts will be given by order of registration. The race after-party will include beer, raw oysters, gumbo, and pizza. Send questions to foleyoysterrun@gmail.com

Swift Presbyterian Church Christmas Market

November 16, 9 am – 4 pm

Swift Presbyterian Church 23208 Swift Church Rd., Foley

Info: swiftchurch.org

Get Christmas shopping done early! Bring your kids to have their picture taken with Santa and Mrs. Claus, buy a coffee from Holy Grounds Coffee and Candle Co, shop arts and crafts, home goods, Christmas gifts, church cookbooks, handmade jewelry, baked goods, Christmas decorations and so much more! Everyone is welcomed.

61st Annual St Margaret of Scotland Christmas Bazaar

December 7, 8 am – 3 pm

St Margaret of Scotland Catholic Parish

601 West Laurel Ave., Foley

Info: (215)-943-4009

Food, fun, and holiday shopping while benefiting great local causes, including Mary's Shelter, Women's Shelter, Family Promise, Boy's Ranch, and St. Benedicts Catholic School.

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.



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

Pumpkin Spice Bundt Cake

If your family's taste buds have grown tired of apple-inspired fall desserts, simply look toward another quintessential autumn flavor: pumpkin. Quick and easy to prepare using a spice cake mix that provides all the flavor without the stress, this cake can be dressed to impress at a fall gathering or served after weeknight dinner.

Find more recipes perfect for fall at Culinary.net.



BUNDT CAKE:

1 BOX SPICE CAKE MIX
1 CAN (15 OUNCES) PUMPKIN
1 STICK BUTTER, SOFTENED
2 EGGS

TOPPING:

3 TABLESPOONS CARAMEL SAUCE
2 CUPS POWDERED SUGAR
1/2 CUP CHOPPED NUTS OF CHOICE

Heat oven to 350 F. Grease Bundt pan.

In mixing bowl, mix cake mix, pumpkin, butter and eggs well then pour into Bundt pan.

Bake 45-50 minutes until toothpick inserted in middle comes out cleanly. Let cool in pan 5 minutes then remove from pan and let cool completely on rack.

Once cooled, mix caramel sauce and powdered sugar; drizzle over Bundt cake. Sprinkle with chopped nuts.

Recipe courtesy of **Cookin' Savvy**



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