

Shoals WOMAN

August 2018

Shoals Woman *of the* Year

Jessica
Davenport

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Oils and vinegars

Music

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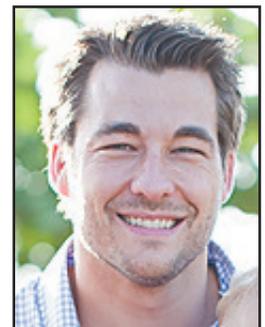
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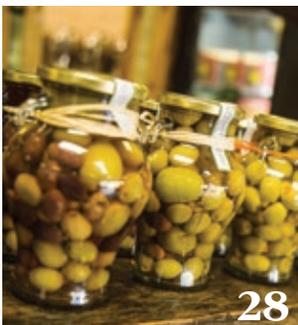
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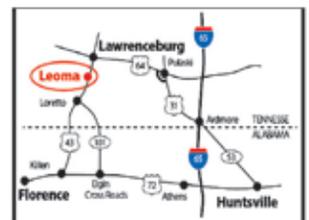
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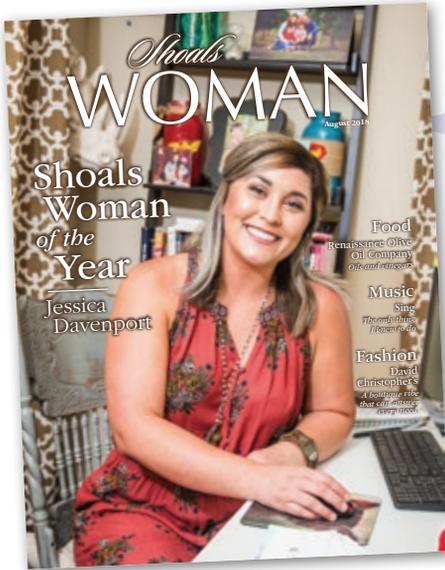
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ON the COVER



Photograph by Heather Sherrill of Create Portraiture

Jessica Davenport could have folded when doctors told her not one but both of her children were born with a rare and fatal disease. And because the disease is so rare, she learned, researchers were doing nothing toward finding a cure or even finding treatments that could lengthen the expected lifespan of 9 to 11 years.

Davenport didn't take the news lying down, and you will read only a brief snapshot of the journey she and her husband Kyle have gone through as they have rallied the community to send \$30,000 a month to Stanford University to kick start researchers and doctors to not only help their children, but to help current and future children who will be born with the disease. Kruzn for a Kure will be forever known as the foundation that tackled this dreadful disease, and we have a feeling it will become a force to be reckoned with among medical researchers for years to come.

It's no wonder that Davenport, who freely shares her family's journey, has been named this year's Shoals Woman of the year.

She has excellent company among the finalists. We don't offer enough accolades to our outstanding teachers, but here we have one of the finalists who has developed a marketing program for her high school class that is so successful it's spreading to other schools not just in Alabama but across the country. Another finalist thought her nursing days were over only to start a second career in her 60s as a counselor who uses horses to help her reach her clients. Then there's a finalist who once upon a time volunteered as a children's advocate and now helps other volunteers continue this important service to our area children who are in foster care. And yet another finalist who picked up her camera to honor and to help cancer survivors feel great about their survival only to have them rally around her when she, too, was diagnosed.

It's people helping people among our finalists and we're honored to honor them. We invite you to get to know a little bit about each one, and to remember the causes and work they do to make our community – our people – better for having them living in this great place we call the Shoals.

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Jessica Davenport
with her children,
Kruz and Paizlee.



2018 SHOALS WOMAN OF THE YEAR

Jessica Davenport

by SHERHONDA ALLEN
Photos by HEATHER SHERRILL
of CREATE PORTRAITURE

JESSICA DAVENPORT

blessed beyond measure

M“Momma’s blessed and momma’s tired” but don’t let that sentiment fool you when you hear it from Jessica Davenport. She and husband Kyle have been fighting for the health and lives of their children, Kruz and Paizlee.

It’s not a private fight, either.

Kruz and Paizlee were born with Schimke Immuno-Osseous Dysplasia, or SIOD for short. Simply put, the children have a rare form of dwarfism that brings with it renal failure and a weakened immune system.

The disease is fatal.

But Jessica isn’t sitting back waiting for the inevitable end of a diagnosis that says her children’s life expectancy is only 9 to 11 years. Kruz and Paizlee are the first documented siblings in the U.S. with SIOD and are two of five known cases in the country with the rare genetic disease. There are less than 50 cases documented in the world.

Davenport wants her children and others like them to have a different inevitable outcome.



Jessica Davenport runs the foundation and keeps people informed on Facebook from a corner of her bedroom she uses as an office.

This year's Shoals Woman of the Year is open and honest about her fight. She founded Kruz'n for a Kure Foundation to raise the money needed to prompt researchers at Stanford to find a cure for SIOD. She needs \$1 million to get the attention of wealthy philanthropists and organizations that can boost the race with a \$6 million kick start of funds to kick the research into high gear.

But first, she had to prove that she and others believe in the importance of the research enough to raise the first million.

Meanwhile, she needed a doctor and a team of specialists taking care of her children. The cost would be enough to dismay the strongest of individuals.



Paizlee and Kruz help mix the formula “shake” he consumes for nourishment.



The feeding and medication routine is part of Kruz's usual day.



“I asked what can I send to hire a doctor, pay for supplies, pay for salaries, and . . . it was \$30,000 a month,” she said.

She has sent that exact amount every month.

Through the foundation, her Facebook updates and her presence in the community, the money has been there.

“I have faith we can do it,” she said. She has taken that faith and inspired others.

It’s very overwhelming, she admits. She knows to the hour when her children were diagnosed.

One doctor said he would partner with them and get the research going.

“It’s great that the community can send \$30,000 a month but can they sustain it?” the doctor asked.

The answer: yes. The doctor personally walks the check over to the university every month.

“Rare diseases are just overlooked,” Davenport said. “You have to have the manpower behind it to really push it.

“We’ve been blessed with the Shoals to get behind us and push it.”

Now, researchers at Stanford are actively investigating SIOD. And Davenport wants to be the one who delivers the \$1 million to wealthy philanthropists and tell them the Shoals is doing its part to fund a cure.



SONJA CROONE

beauty in all stages

by SHERHONDA ALLEN

Photos by HEATHER SHERRILL of CREATE PORTRAITURE

Sonja always had a desire to help people.

The natural fit for her was to become a social worker, a full-time career she had for 18 years and still works part time in the educational system.

But perhaps her greatest work was the day she picked up a camera. It was years ago, but that day has morphed forward to help cancer survivors feel beautiful during and after their treatments.

She wanted to do more than just take portraits at her photography studio, Smiling Faces.

"I said, what can I do to help people, to make them feel good about themselves."

It was 2012 and she noted the designation of October as breast cancer survivor month. Croone decided to offer to take photos of cancer survivors "not just breast cancer survivors," she said.

She would take the photos in September and would post the photos on her business' Facebook page in October.

She posted the invitation for people to have their photos made.

"I immediately started getting responses," she said.

She cleared a day in her schedule.



"I was scheduling them on the same day five minutes apart so they could meet each other," she said. "Then I decided to do one-minute videos on how they're doing now and to say something encouraging for someone else."

Women and men came in and told their story – how they discovered their cancer, their treatments and offering encouraging words to anyone who saw their video.

There were those who hesitated about being before the camera. Many of them didn't feel beautiful.

Until they met Sonja.

"One (survivor) had mouth cancer and was seven years out and she talked about how she wouldn't smile because she didn't have teeth. She couldn't get bridges or anything. She said she felt ugly.

"I said you're beautiful. We're going to make you beautiful. So she smiled. She posed."

There is story after story of how Croone encouraged those in front of her lens not to dwell on missing hair or the effects of cancer treatment and instead celebrate their survival.

Wigs came off. Requests came in from people wanting different locations. Croone would go.

"It made me feel so good that I was helping them feel good," she said.

Then, in 2016, Croone was diagnosed with breast cancer.

When she posted the news, she was deluged with support from the women and men who had come to her studio to celebrate their survival. There was no let up on calls and responses.

"I told them God prepared me through you guys for this," she recalled.

Her surgery was in September, the month Croone always set aside for her survivor portraits. She had had surgery on her lymph nodes and "my arm was in a sling but I said I can't let them down."

She was there with her camera.

She continued to post a person's photo a day in the month of October of the photos she took in September

"I would have so many I would sometimes have to do two a day," she said. "It wasn't about me it was about them, because they helped me."

Croone had 30 radiation treatments.

In 2017 she wanted to do something to recognize everyone, so she formed a committee to help her plan a "pink luncheon" black tie affair. "I didn't want them to have to pay for anything."

Committees were formed to "get on the phone and start begging," Croone said. "Those people were amazing."

Held at Cypress Lakes in Muscle Shoals, the black-tie affair was a life's celebration. Mayors, judges, superintendents and well-known names throughout the Shoals area acted as wait staff to the women, men and their families who attended the luncheon in full dress, black tie included and without any of them paying a dime for the honor.

"I cried the whole luncheon," Croone said. "It was beyond my expectation."

She'll return to her studio this September, photographing survivors no matter how many times or how long they've held that designation. She still marvels at all the years she was soaked in their strength and how much she would need it.

"You never know the reason you're doing things."

APRIL CLARK

teacher with a reach

by SHERHONDA ALLEN

Photos by HEATHER SHERRILL of CREATE PORTRAITURE



April Clark could have been an accountant.

She has a bachelor's degree in accounting, and she worked six years part time as an accountant.

But she's in her third year of teaching, and students not just in her marketing classes at Colbert County High School are benefiting from her career change, but students in other parts of the state and soon, other parts of the country will benefit, too.

It all started with a project Clark developed to give her business and marketing students real world experience.

"I always try to bring in real world experience for my students because I think that's really important for them, for their work to actually mean something instead of it being hypothetical," she said.

The class would do a real world marketing project for a rock group. Clark reached out to several. The Velcro Pygmies said yes.

"(Cameron Flener), the lead singer of the Velcro Pygmies, has the same passion to help young people as I do," Clark said. "So when we first talked, he said he really wanted to incorporate the students into the promotion side of the concert. And I was teaching a sports and entertainment marketing class at the time, so I loved that idea."

The class did all the press releases and promotion. "It was such a huge success. They loved it. They learned so much."

Flener spoke with Clark after the concert and told her he wanted to take the project to other schools. He asked if she would write the curriculum. It took her all summer to develop a curriculum for the project, now called "Reach and Teach" that would become a nonprofit program that other schools could use.

"It needed to be nonprofit because we wanted it to be free for all schools to participate because I know for schools like Colbert County, there's no way we could have paid for a program to come in and do this."

Aside from the educational standpoint of seeing a project through to its end, Clark said she saw a change in some of her students.

"I had one student that really was not engaged - he wasn't participating in class, was very shy, introverted, very quiet. I saw the opportunity - he was very creative - to give him a job throughout this concert process.

"I said why don't you document the whole thing with a video camera. He put together a really great video, and just by doing that he kind of found a passion that he enjoyed and really found his place, his niche.

"I had him again this past year and he was a completely different student. He actually volunteered on the first day of class to give a presentation about himself. I require all my students to talk about themselves and he volunteered to go first."

Clark's curriculum has been presented at Lee and Grissom high schools in Huntsville, and at Wicksburg High school near Dothan, and she has seen the same metamorphosis occur in students at those schools as well.

This year Velcro Pygmies returned for the class project and Colbert County students partnered with Colbert Heights students on the project.

In June, Clark traveled to Carrollton, Georgia to work with the Carrollton County Board of Education to try to get the program into their school system. Word about the unique

program is spreading not just to schools in Alabama but elsewhere in the country.

She has presented the Reach and Teach concept in Buffalo, New York, St. Louis, Missouri, and New Orleans. She was in Baltimore in June at the national FBLA conference to present the program, and in November will travel to San Antonio Texas.

"It's a new idea that's not just changing the students but changing the way teachers teach," she said. "We're used to using the textbook, memorizing definitions and that kind of thing, but this really lets the students take the lead, and the teacher becomes more of a facilitator instead of a lecturer, and they learn better that way.

"I never wanted my classroom setting to be something where they dreaded coming.

"Given the opportunity, these students really step up to the challenge. It really increases their intrinsic motivation because they're invested.

"This past year has been such a whirlwind."

She is now working on a five-year business plan that establishes the program as a nonprofit that would incorporate other genres of music and different industries. It would have to be self-sustaining, since funds are so limited in most public schools.

"We're looking at close to \$5 million over those five years," she said.





REBECCA DAUGHERTY

where there's hope

by SHERHONDA ALLEN

Photos by HEATHER SHERRILL of CREATE PORTRAITURE

Rebecca Daugherty's clients may hear the high-pitch call of the rooster in a pen, the snuffling snort of one of the horses in the pasture, or the soothing song of cascading water from the falls her husband built near a pond where fish ripple its serene surface.

There's beauty, serenity and difficult work that take place at the property in Florence. Daugherty, who knew she wanted to be a nurse at age 3, turned to counseling after becoming involved with a ministry at her church, Woodmont Baptist.

"I worked at my church as social services director, and people come in because they can't pay their utilities or need help with their rent, and they would just pour out their heart."

One path of help she developed was to partner people with a Sunday school class that would help ease part of the individual's financial worry while the person went back to school. It involved more than just giving money to help with utilities, something she likened to



"putting a Band-Aid on a gaping wound. We believe that job training or education is the way out of poverty."

The program has been successful for many people over the years, with this year seeing 14 individuals graduating.

Daugherty said listening to individuals at her church with problems that couldn't be fixed with money caused her to think, "if I were a counselor I could really figure out a way to help them."

It was suggested Daugherty go back to school.

"I said I'm 62 years old!" she said, laughing.

But she went to talk to someone at the university anyway expecting to have her statement confirmed. Instead, she was told to go for it.

So four years ago, Daugherty earned her master's degree in counseling and founded her business, Serenity Counseling.

She had observed training sessions that used horses and decided that's the path she wanted her therapy to take.

"The horse is very intuitive to what's going on inside you. . . .

"We had a group . . . that brought in these two mustangs who just ran around and around. And one of the (young clients) said that horse is just like me. I'm never content. I just go and I look this way and I look that way, and I try to find what will work and just nothing ever works right for me and I just run away from treatment, and I come back.

"It's just amazing how things the horses do, (clients) can relate to."

In the barn that houses a small arena, she asked a young client from drug court to create what represents a safe place. It's a circle of things near a far wall.

"I asked her, you want to take your horse in there, and so a horse would just go in there and just stand there with her."

She tells young clients to pick a horse they'd like to work with.

"I feel like they've had so much in their life that's not their choice, or if it is their choice it's not been good choices. One client picked one horse, but the horse walked away from her and another horse walked up to her in its place.

"She said, well that's my old boyfriend who use to get me in trouble and this is my new boyfriend."

Daugherty said she is often amazed as she watches the horses and clients interact with an inner knowledge of each other that transcends words sometimes.

"They do start to see that they can make different choices . . . and that they can be loved unconditionally. The horse just takes you for who you are."

ANDREA HOLT

we're there for the kids



by SHERHONDA ALLEN
Photos by HEATHER SHERRILL
of CREATE PORTRAITURE

It would suit Andrea Holt just fine if there was never a need for her to do what she has done for more than a decade.

But as long as there are children who are physically or mentally hurt, or who can't live at home because of what's going on in the home, there will be a need Holt will fulfill.

Holt now directs the nonprofit where she once volunteered. She is executive director of CASA, which stands for Court Appointed Special Advocates. She leads a number of volunteers who watch over and advocate for abused and neglected children. They make sure the children are not forgotten while the justice system deals with the adults in the child's life.

Volunteers stay with each child until whatever incident that brought that child into the fray is resolved, and even then, they may keep in contact where they are needed.

It's volunteerism at a personal level and it's where Holt started when she realized she didn't want to work in a corporate office.

"I went into the corporate world about three months and hated it," she said. "I was miserable."

She had worked hard to earn her college degree. She was a single mom, and it took her seven years, but she now draws from what she learned while earning her degree in psychology and from her experiences from working in legal offices.

When she realized corporate work was not her calling, she answered an ad in the paper seeking volunteers for CASA. In August 2008, she became executive director of the nonprofit.

"We are there to advocate in the best interests of the children," she said. "Our volunteers are not part of the system . . . they are just like you and me and they can sit down in the kitchen and just get to know the child.

"Often that's what the child needs to open up, and (judges) have said how they never would have found out certain things they needed to know."

There once were separate CASA programs in Lauderdale and Colbert counties.

"But we were working together, training together, doing fundraisers together . . . to the point we thought this is crazy, so we brought the board of directors together and they worked very hard to make sure we had done all the due diligence, to trust that this was going to maintain itself."

In October 2013, the Colbert County office opened

and now serves children from both Lauderdale and Colbert counties.

It's Holt's job to recruit and train volunteers for the program, and what better person for the job than someone who has come from the ranks.

"Our volunteers are trying as hard as they can to see that the children stay safe as they come into the foster care system, to make sure that while they're in the system . . . we focus specifically, entirely on the needs of the children so that those 250 kids that are out here in foster care are a priority."

She said as long as the children need their services, they'll be there.

"Someone once said, if you enjoy what you do, you never have to work a day in your life," she said. "I enjoy helping children and being their advocate."



Shoals Woman of the Year
luncheon keynote speaker:
Lee Marshall

Fulfilling her calling



The Tennessee Valley met Lee Marshall years ago when she came to the area as a television journalist.

What most didn't know when Marshall arrived in the Valley was that she has a passion to help foster children.

She was a foster child until she was adopted by a loving family.

And while Marshall was still anchoring the evening news, in 2004 she started the Kids to Love Foundation, a 501(c)3 that dedicates its work to meeting the immediate needs of children who are in foster care.

Marshall is from South Fulton, Tennessee, and attended college at Murray State University where she got her first broadcast job at WQTV. She later moved to Yakima,

Washington and KNDO where she worked for a year before making tracks back to the South. She moved to Huntsville in 1998.

She has been named an "Angel in Adoption" by Congress and has been honored by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services for her adoption awareness efforts. She has been honored by the Alabama Broadcaster's Association for her journalism. Her Kids to Love stories and broadcast work where she introduces Tennessee Valley children who are in foster

care and who are waiting for a "forever home" has earned her two community service Emmy's from the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences.

Marshall also is an accomplished singer and songwriter, and a motivational speaker.

She and her husband Jeff have two daughters, Ella and Emma.

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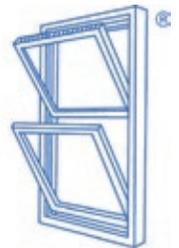
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THE ONLY THING I KNEW TO DO

by JENNIFER CROSSLEY HOWARD
Photos by MATT MCKEAN

Karen Gruber stopped singing publicly in 1984 to raise her daughter, and she has no regrets. But after her sister's death from cancer, Karen decided she had little choice but to start singing in 2000. Around the same time, her daughter got her driver's license and started leaving the nest.

"You kind of have to figure out a place to put that grief," said Gruber, who is 61. "I kind of lost two people, you know what I mean? I felt like everything had been swept out from under me, and I didn't know what to do."

"The only thing I knew to do was to sing. Music was it."

Gruber sings jazz standards from the '30s, '40s and '50s and regularly serenades couples at Swampers Bar & Grille at the Marriott Shoals Hotel and Spa in Florence. For the past few years, she has performed at the Shoals Woman of the Year awards luncheon, a TimesDaily event.

She compares singing to having to cough or sneeze in that it feels almost involuntary. To get through this life, she must sing it out.

She credits Patti Hussey, a former piano teacher in Florence, with giving her the confidence to ease back into the spotlight.

"She kind of took me under her wing probably as her oldest pupil," Gruber said.

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Karen Gruber and Joseph Stallworth
rehearse at Swampers Lounge in the
Marriott Shoals Hotel in Florence.



Gruber began singing with Pete Avallone, a piano player in the Shoals, to find her voice. He played the kind of music she liked. After a while, he urged her to accompany him on his gigs during the W.C. Handy Music Festival. She declined, too shy after being away from the spotlight for so long. One day, he called her out of the blue.

"Kid, you got a black dress?" he asked.

She did. "Well, put it on and be at this address."

She arrived at a home to sing at a party for a newly married couple — her first semi-public performance in nearly 20 years.

The nerves and excitement nearly did her in, but the bug of performing once again bit her hard. She was back.

Karen Gruber's CD, titled "Into My own," is a collection of favorite jazz standards.



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As for her weekly Swamper's gig, "I haven't taken it for granted for one second," Gruber said.

"It is so suited to me. It's my favorite place to sing. I hope I die before they decide to fire me," she joked.

These days, life, as it tends to do, gives plenty for Karen to emote about. Her parents are elderly and live in an assisted living home, after her mother suffered a heart attack. A musician's life is at night, and she's had to decline gigs to ensure she will be near if her parents need her. She

talks of her obligation as a daughter with duty and love.

Gruber's comeback sounded so seamless to local entertainer Edsel Holden, that he never knew she took a break from singing. Holden, who is also a singer, has been hosting annual concerts in the Shoals for years.

"She's not a rock 'n' roller at all. She's more of a pop singer from the '50s."

He compares her singing to country singer Peggy Lee.

"I just adore her singing," he said.

Gruber favors old



jazz songs, but she integrates newer songs into her repertory as well. "One Fine Thing," a newer song penned and performed by Harry Connick Jr., is currently her favorite song to perform.

"It just grabbed me," Gruber said.

In it, the Louisianan sings about his wife, a dancer, being one fine thing.

The lyrics are flirty and playful, "but if you're really into somebody, they're serious and spot on," she said.

Singing and dancing in Holden's locally famous shows boosted her confidence as a performer when she needed it. But the wavy-haired brunette in flowing dresses prefers the slow, almost quiet, dimly lit atmosphere of a piano bar where she can sit on her stool and lose herself.



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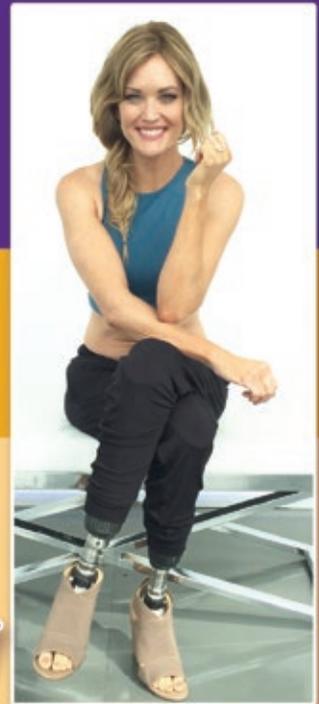


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Food

Olives and grapes

Owner Nickie Campbell stands in her business, Renaissance Olive Oil Company.

Nickie Campbell's Renaissance Olive Oil Company has all anyone will ever need in oils and vinegars

by SHERHONDA ALLEN
Photos by HEATHER SHERRILL
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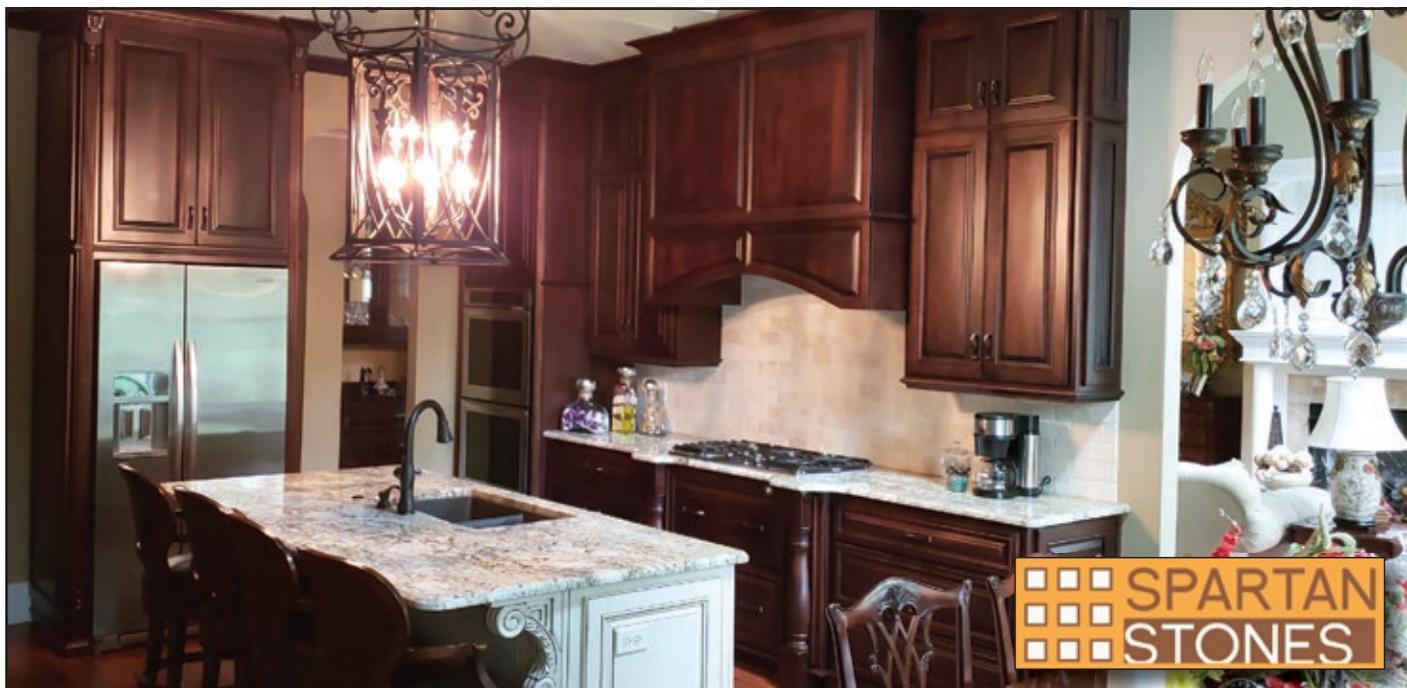
She makes it her business to know because olive oil and balsamic vinegar are the prime focus of her business, Renaissance Olive Oil Company.

The business is not her first. After more than

two decades of running a restaurant with her husband Mike, they ended that endeavor, but Nicki stayed busy in the community with Meals on Wheels and did catering. A granddaughter who came along 20 years after the last grandchild also helped fill her days.

But, still, something gnawed at her.

Campbell and her



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adult granddaughter Morgan enjoyed traveling to different cities and would always bring back unique olive oils they found while shopping.

"She moved to Gadsden ... and called me one day. Gran, she said, there's an olive oil store in Gadsden," Campbell recalled. They both thought it was strange that they had sought out specialty olive oils in stores in larger cities, and here was one in a much smaller city that appeared to be surviving.

Campbell laughs when retelling the journey into her latest business because she said she blames her choice of business, in part, on a couple of glasses of wine.

"After a couple glasses of wine, we're looking

at these bottles ... we've brought home from other places ... and we turn them around and they all ... say Veronica Foods," Campbell said.

An Italian immigrant, Salvatore Esposito, founded the company in New York City in 1924, according to the company's history. In the late 1930s the family of four sons and two daughters moved to Oakland, California. The founder's granddaughter, Veronica, is the company's current CEO and the company is now renowned for sourcing the finest extra virgin olive oil.

"I actually went to California three years ago and walked through the whole process," Campbell said. She had made an initial trip to California for training

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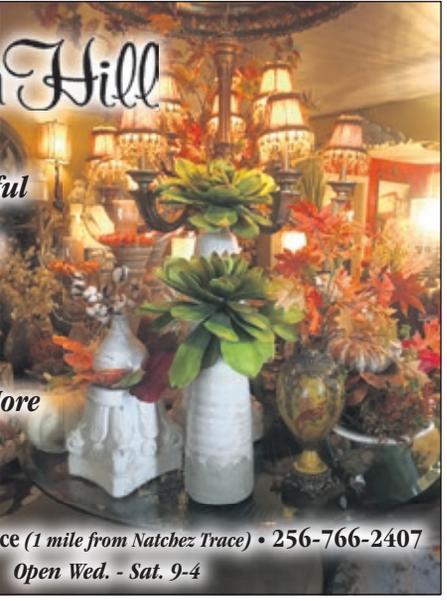


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The smaller bottles are best sellers for favors or gifts.

when she started her business. “We went to an olive farm...it was the first one to be set up in California. They had to . . . process the olives within two hours of harvesting them. That means the plant just about has to be on the farm. The olives can never touch the ground. They will rot. They don’t grow on flat ground. They grow on a hill because they have to have drainage.”

There are a few enlarged photos on the walls of her store that Campbell took while on that trip.

Campbell said she believed if an olive oil store could survive in Gadsden, it could survive

in the Shoals. She set up shop initially at the former Court Street Market in downtown Florence and did a good trade.

“Florence was very receptive,” she said. “My problem over there was strictly parking. People will walk for food (at restaurants), but they just don’t want to carry packages for long.”

The storefront at 711 Woodward Avenue in Muscle Shoals has good parking.

“My first Christmas here was phenomenal,” she said. “We do our best business at Christmas.”

She said it has taken a “few years of educating people” about excellent sourced olives

for premium olive oil, as well as its health benefits.

"I spoke at civic organizations, farmers markets, wherever I could get word out as to what it was," she said.

She stocks about 40 different olive oils and balsamic vinegars. Vinegars, too, required educating customers about authentic, certified balsamic vinegar, which only comes from Modena, Italy, and the potential health benefits of consuming balsamic vinegars of the finest quality.

She now has a social media employee who is making forays into online selling. Her products also include specialty spices, teas, and beauty products that feature olive oils.



Nickie Campbell makes sure her olive oils and balsamic vinegars are displayed with consumer information.

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David Christopher's has a boutique "niche" that offers great wardrobe additions.

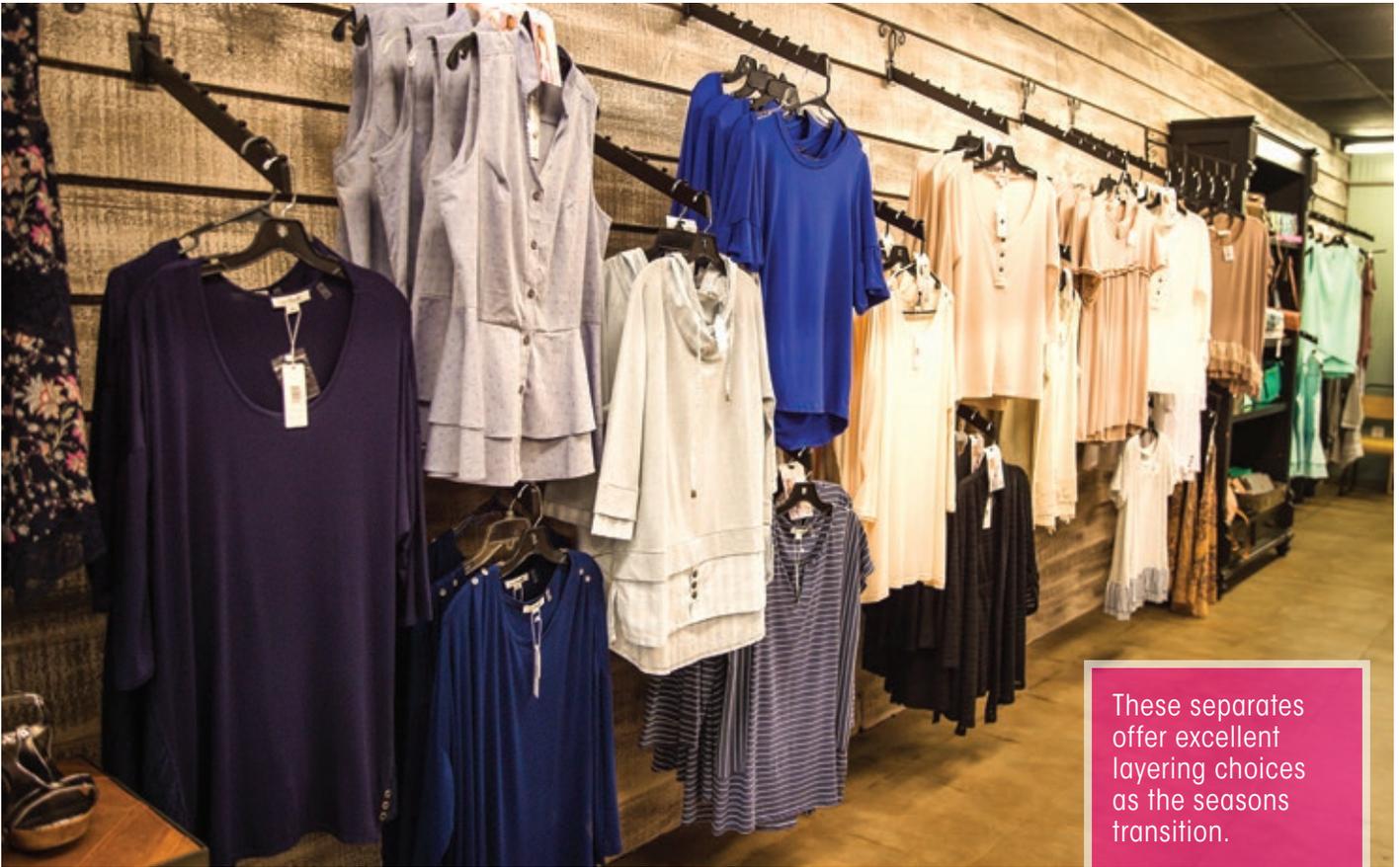
A photograph of a clothing store interior. The scene is dominated by long racks of clothing, primarily in shades of orange and peach. The racks are set against a wall with horizontal wooden planks. In the foreground, there are several metal-framed tables displaying various items, possibly shoes or accessories. The lighting is warm and focused on the clothing. The overall atmosphere is that of a boutique or a well-curated retail space.

There's no
such thing as
an awkward
fashion moment
when you can
turn to David
Christopher's.

The awkward time of year for fashion for many Shoals women occurs when the days are still hot, but the nights begin to cool. We search our closets for outfits that will be cool and fashionable during the heat of the day. But what to do if we have to transition into a cool evening and there's no time to go home to change?

David Christopher's has that boutique vibe that can answer every need. Need a light wrap? Check. Need a pair of leggings that aren't middle-of-summer linen? Check. Need a handbag to pull the ensemble together? Check. Need a necklace, bracelet, earrings to complete your look? Check, check and check. Love to shop for outfits just for the fun of it? Double check.

David Christopher's is located at 411 S. Montgomery Ave. in Sheffield. **But be warned:** *They carry more stunning items than just clothing, so brace yourself for one of the best shopping experiences offered in the Shoals.*



These separates offer excellent layering choices as the seasons transition.

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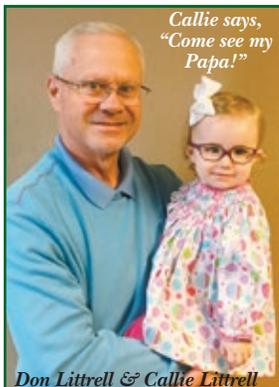
This Kye Mi top can be a good base layer for a seasonal transitional outfit.



Don't forget your socks! These are 100% cotton and are made in the U.S.A.



Both the top and the fringe shoulder bag are by Simply Noelle.



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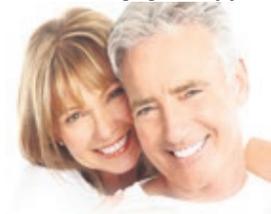
You'll be ready for a cool night of football with this outdoor hooded top and jeans by Simply Noelle. Add boots by Charlie Paige and a blanket by Mud Pie and you're good to go.



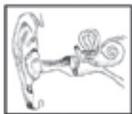


The top on page 40 is paired here with a black sweater wrap and pants, both by Simply Noelle, and sandals by DBA.

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out & about Arts Alive



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Heather Bailey works and displays her chainsaw art.



Lizzie and Cameron Gren.



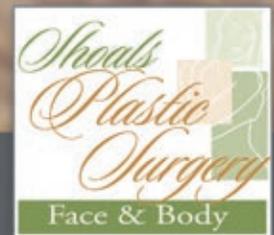
Jenisa Berrios sips a cold drink.



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A child enjoys the festival.



J.R. Mayes



Chavarria Hughes



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A member of the C.O.R.E. Drummers.



A visitor takes a nontraditional way to get around.

out & about TimesDaily and Faye Mann Bridal Show



Paizlee Hammond takes in the sights.



People browse the vendors.



Evelyn Maxey samples some catering.



Faye Mann and Randy Pettus



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out & about Frontier Days



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Participants play music.



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Fran Richardson plays a marinbula.



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out & about Helen Keller Festival



Zoey Horton



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Joan Moore looks at childrens' toys.



Kevin Hindman

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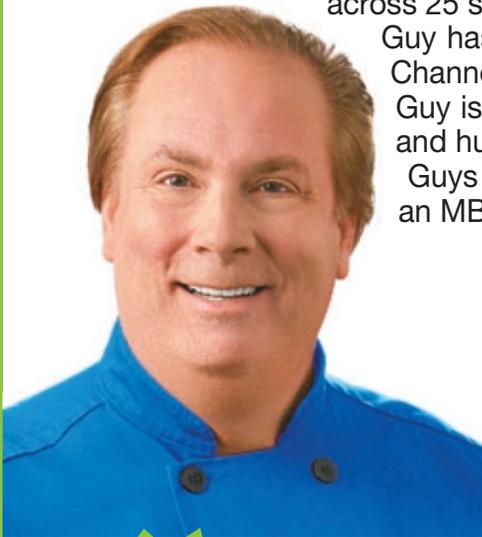
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Guy has also appeared in several Television spots including the History Channel's "Modern Marvels" and the Food Network Show "Unwrapped". Guy is a professional entertainer and vocalist who loves to bring music and humor into his kitchen.

Guy holds a BA in Performing Arts from Northeastern IL University and an MBA from Dominican University.



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A promotional graphic for 'The Marvelous Wonderettes'. It features a teal background with four vinyl records (black, blue, pink, and green) arranged around the text. The text reads: 'The Marvelous WONDERETTES Oct 4-6, 11 & 12 Fun for the whole family!'

A promotional graphic for 'Declarations: An evening with Thomas Jefferson'. It features a black and white image of a bust of Thomas Jefferson. The text reads: 'Declarations: An evening with Thomas Jefferson Oct. 25 - 27'

out & about UNA's Leo & Una Lions 15th Birthday



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Students from Kilby Laboratory School.



Taylor Parker



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Una the lioness leads her brother Leo out into the habitat.



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SEPT. 29
SHOALS DRAGON BOAT
FESTIVAL

McFarland Park, Florence
Free to spectators
Details:
shoalsscholardollars.com

OCTOBER

OCT. 3-31
BELLE MONT QUILT SHOW

1569 Cook Lane,
Tuscumbia
10 a.m. to 4 p.m.,
Wednesday-Saturday
Discussion program, 1
p.m. each Friday
Museum rates
Details: 256-381-5052

OCT. 6-7
OKTOBERFEST

St. Florian City Park
Free
10 a.m. to 7 p.m., Oct. 6
11 a.m. to 5 p.m., Oct. 7
Details:
stflorianoktoberfest.com

OCT. 20
ALABAMA
RENAISSANCE
FAIRE

Royal Autumnal Feast
7-10 p.m.
Florence-Lauderdale
Coliseum
702 Veterans Drive,
Florence
Cost: \$20, advanced
Details: 256-718-5020

OCT. 27
LIFE WITHOUT
LIMITS HALF
MARATHON

5K & Fun Run
for United Cerebral Palsy
of Northwest Alabama
Registration fee
Details:
ucplifewithoutlimits.
itsyourrace.com



Emerson Begay plays a flute during the Oka Kapassa festival in Tuscumbia.

Steven Snyder, M.D.

Steven Snyder, M.D.

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Patrons look at vintage cars during Oktoberfest in St. Florian.

Shoals Lighting
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 256-383-1437
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1589 Darby Dr., Florence

661 Hwy 72, Athens

Fashion Exchange, Inc. fashion_exchange

213039-1



A Shriners club's whimsical vehicle in the Shoals Area Labor Day Parade.

OCT. 27-28

**ALABAMA
RENAISSANCE FAIRE**

Wilson Park, downtown
Florence - Free
10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Oct. 27
Noon to 6 p.m., Oct. 28
Details: alrenfaire.org

NOVEMBER

**NOV. 11
VETERANS DAY PARADE
AND CEREMONY**

Main Street, Tuscumbia
Time TBA
Free
Details: visitTuscumbiaAL.com

**NOV. 20-DEC. 24
TREES OF CHRISTMAS**

Tennessee Valley Museum
of Art
511 N. Water St.,
Tuscumbia
1-3 p.m., Sunday
9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday-
Friday
10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Dec. 24
Details: tvaa.net or
256-383-0533

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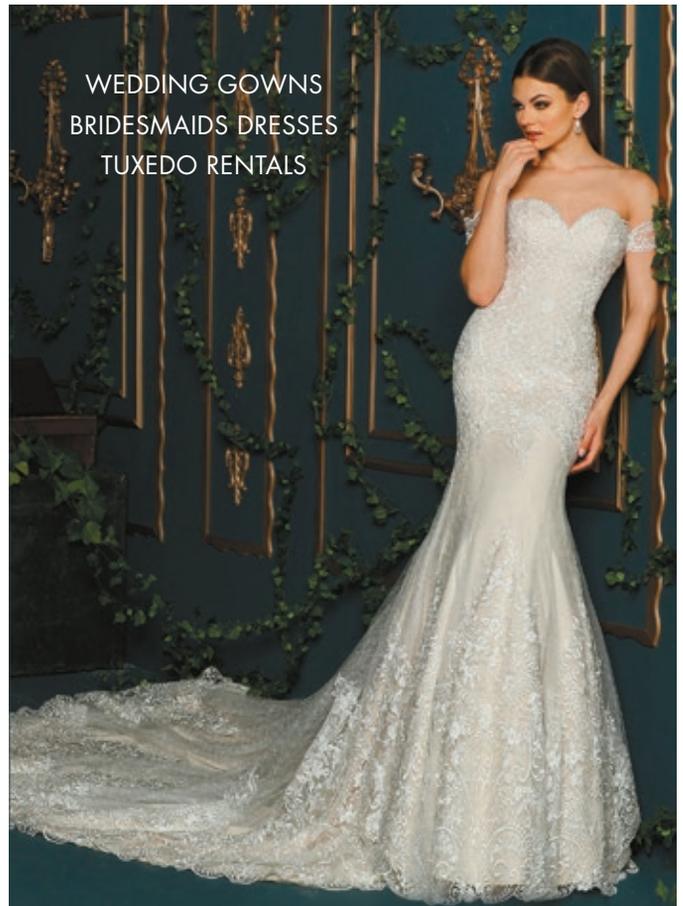
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DECEMBER

DEC. 1 PLANTATION CHRISTMAS

Belle Mont Mansion
1569 Cook Lane,
Tuscumbia
1-5 p.m.
Admission charged
Details: 256-383-0783 or
256-381-5052

DEC. 7 8TH ANNUAL DICKENS CHRISTMAS FEAST

Tuscumbia Depot
Roundhouse, Tuscumbia
7 p.m.
Admission charged
Details: 256-383-9797 or
256-383-0783

DEC. 8 8TH ANNUAL "DICKENS CHRISTMAS, Y'ALL"

Downtown Tuscumbia
Times TBA
Admission charged for
some events
Details: 256-383-0783 or
256-383-9797

DEC. 8 CHRISTMAS AT IVY GREEN

300 N. Commons W.,
Tuscumbia
8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Admission charged
Details: 256-383-4066



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Belle Mont Mansion in Tuscumbia during the Plantation Christmas event.



American Legion Post 31 Tuscumbia members lead the way for a Veterans Day Parade in Tuscumbia.

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NOMINEES

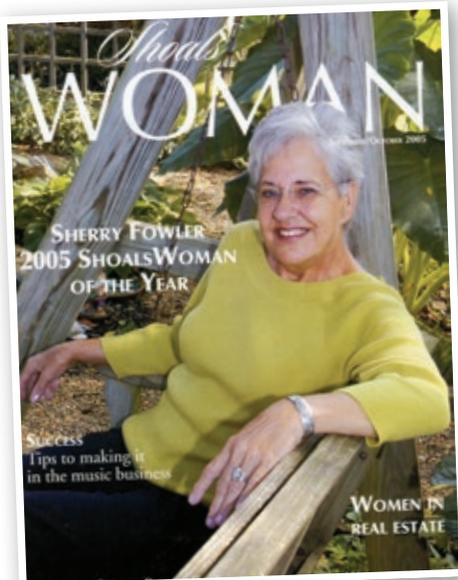
for the 2018 Shoals Woman of the Year

Teresa Booker
Meagan Cody
Harriett Edwards
Gwen Ivey

Sandy Goode Lynch
MaryEllen McIlwain
Mayfield
Jacqueline Parsons

Laura Jane Self
Karmen Somers
Joan Stutts
Tracy Wix

past WINNERS



2005 | SHERRY FOWLER

Fowler was chosen for her work with the North Alabama Head Injury Foundation. Her daughter, Mary Darlene, sustained a debilitating head injury in 1986 when she was struck by an intoxicated driver. Fowler was advised to place her daughter in a nursing facility. She refused. She received the training necessary to care for her 19-year-old daughter at home. Fowler continued working with the foundation after her daughter's death in 2005.

2006 | NATALIE GORDON

Gordon was 24 years old when she battled cancer and underwent a life-saving surgery: the removal of her left arm and shoulder. She was mother to a 7-month-old and a 3-year-old and Gordon said she was not prepared to lose parts of her body. More importantly, however, she said she was not prepared for her children to lose their mother. She said the surgery was traumatic and depressing, but Gordon adjusted and became an inspiration to others. She vowed not to let her loss stop her.



2007 | KAY PARKER

Parker and a friend, Sharon Scogin, developed the idea for The Healing Place after Parker saw a television report about a grief support center in Portland. She believed a similar center was greatly needed in the Shoals. The Healing Place became a haven where adults and children learn to work through their grief after a loved one's death. Parker's goal was to give people a place to be heard and to learn healing thoughts, including learning how to cherish memories and keep them from being debilitating.

2008 | BETTY BURDINE

Burdine has spent her life helping people, first as a nurse, then as coordinator of the Lifewise Seniors program for Eliza Coffee Memorial Hospital in Florence. She didn't stop there, but volunteered in several community endeavors. She helped raise money for the American Heart Association and was instrumental in procuring the monument for Lillian Diebert in Diebert Park in Florence. Burdine's caring nature extended to Lillian Diebert, who she would look in on before Diebert's death in 2011.



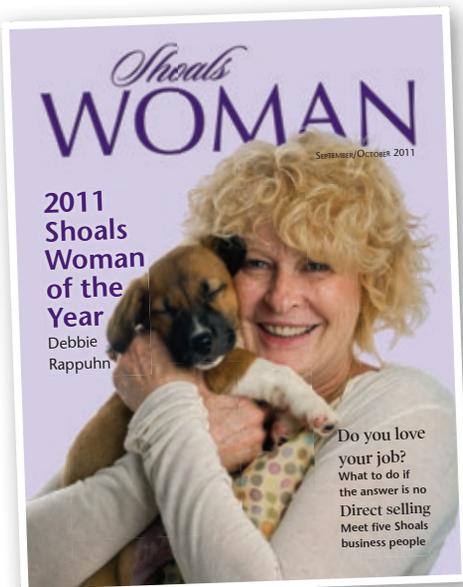
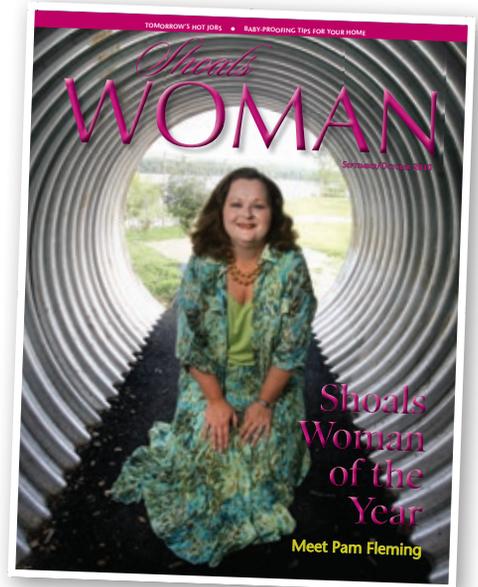


2009 | FELICE GREEN

Green retired from the University of North Alabama in 2003 but didn't sit still. She has a special love for children and will don costumes to read to children at various outlets across the Shoals. Green also expressed her love of art and dance and became a member of the Poza Dance Troupe while remaining active in Delta Sigma Theta sorority, which she helped charter at UNA. She is a known organizer of events during the W.C. Handy Music Festival including the ABCs of Blues & Jazz. She is a volunteer with the Salvation Army and St. Vincent De Paul Society at Our Lady of the Shoals Catholic Church in Tuscumbia.

2010 | PAM FLEMING

Fleming's outgoing personality helped her carry on a tradition she first learned from her parents: help people in need. She was honored for her work in helping to create the boundless playground at Riverfront Park in Sheffield. The playground is play-friendly to any child, regardless of his or her abilities, with a sandbox that wheelchair-bound children can roll up to and play in. Fleming also was instrumental in getting a new home for the Ealy family when their daughter, Shanteki, was diagnosed with leukemia and was told she could not return to her home because of its condition.



2011 | DEBBIE RAPPUHN

Rappuhn took her daughter to the Florence-Lauderdale Animal Shelter for a school project but soon returned to offer her services as a volunteer. She painted and scrubbed and initiated improvements that included a cat habitat room, a puppy room and a laundry room with a sink for bathing animals. She was appalled at the number of animals euthanized and dedicated countless days to finding homes for those unwanted pets – even if it meant sending them to other shelters and homes across the country.



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2012 | ELBA BARNES

Barnes needed to care for her ailing parents and moved from Birmingham to Florence to be near them. She soon realized there was an important gap in available services in the area: there was no place where adults like her parents could go for social interaction, exercise and art activities. Such a place would also offer respite for caregivers. Barnes brought an idea for an adult day care to Westminster Presbyterian Church. In July 2009, Westminster Interfaith Caring Place opened, initially as a Sunday-only program. By November, it was offering a mid-week break so caregivers could go Christmas shopping. Eventually the nonprofit center would operate Monday through Friday.



2013 | SARAH JENNIFER THOMPSON

After Thompson's sister, Sidney, died in January 2006, Thompson honored her sister's memory and founded Sidney's Safe! Foundation. It was a place where other women could learn how to stand strong against domestic abuse and how to seek recovery from addiction. The foundation has branched out to help children, too. It is an outreach that provides hundreds of bags of food a week to local schoolchildren who otherwise would go hungry.

2014 | SUSIE MARTIN

Susie Martin was only required to spend four hours a month with the girl who became her "little" at Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Shoals, but she and 13-year-old Sabrina Carles are together every weekend, all weekend. The program allows Sabrina to be Martin's Little until she is 15, but Martin jokes she will keep her until Sabrina gets married.



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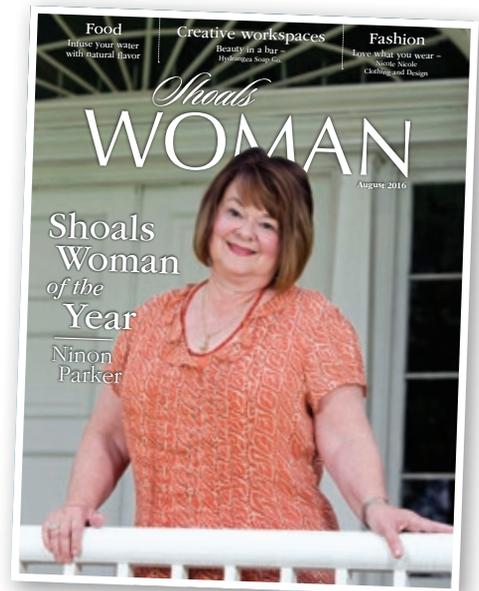


2015 | ANGIE HAMILTON

Angie Hamilton presented the idea for a one-stop center that could streamline help for victims of domestic violence, rape, sexual assault, child sexual abuse and physical abuse, and elder abuse – cases she saw regularly as an assistant district attorney in Lauderdale County. The idea was immediately well received, and One Place of the Shoals was born.

2016 | NINON PARKER

Ninon Parker grew up on the front lines of celebrating the history of the Shoals, including as a member of Ivy Green’s first cast of “The Miracle Worker” – the stage play that celebrates the awakening of Helen Keller to the world around her. Parker’s community involvement is one of historical preservation and business promotion that keeps the Shoals a vital place that recognizes its important past, as well as its exciting future.



2017 | MERCY WINTERS

A member of the Salvation Army Women’s auxiliary, Mercy Winters was instrumental in bringing the successful Empty Bowl Luncheon to the Shoals as a fundraiser for the Salvation Army each year. She is hands-on in her volunteer work, not only in helping to plan the luncheon each year, but leading her “clay mates” group to meet at her and her husband’s ceramic business to make the bowls that are featured at the luncheon. She has even gotten her neighborhood involved in community charity work by organizing an Iron Bowl event that benefits a different charity each year.





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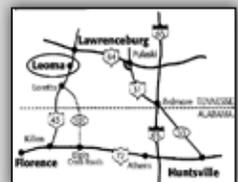
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