

# Explore

the Shoals



**Time to Eat**  
Great Local Restaurants

**Family-Friendly**  
Municipal Parks

**Couple Ties the Knot**  
at Muscle Shoals Sound Studio

**10 Must-See Sites**  
while visiting the Shoals

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Florence • Muscle Shoals • Sheffield • Tuscumbia

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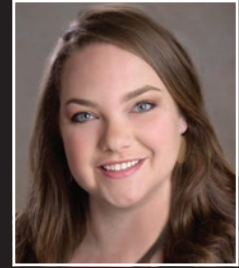
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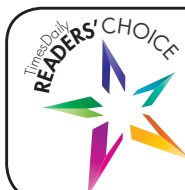
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2021-22

the Shoals

## INSIDE this issue

### ABOUT US

[16]

#### THE SHOALS

Distinguishing the four cities:

FLORENCE  
MUSCLE SHOALS  
SHEFFIELD  
TUSCUMBIA

### ATTRACTIONS

[22]

FAMILY FRIENDLY MUNICIPAL PARKS



[30]

MOVIE THEATERS

[31]

COMMUNITY THEATERS

[32]

MUSEUMS



[30]

### FESTIVALS AND EVENTS

[48]

CELEBRATE WITH US



### LODGING

[56]

MARRIOTT SHOALS HOTEL & SPA

[58]

GUNRUNNER BOUTIQUE HOTEL

[60]

THE STRICKLIN HOTEL

[62]

OTHER PLACES TO STAY  
Colbert & Lauderdale counties



[36]



## **MUSIC**

**[66]**  
COUPLE TIES  
THE KNOT  
at Muscle Shoals Sound Studio

**[68]**  
HUNTSVILLE  
VENUE EXPECTED  
TO BOOST SHOALS  
MUSIC TOURISM

**[70]**  
SHOALS FEST  
October 2019

**[72]**  
SONGS RECORDED  
IN THE SHOALS



## **TRIVIA**

**[74]**  
FAMOUS  
SHOALS FACES

**[80]**  
MYTHS & LEGENDS

## **OUTDOORS**

**[86]**  
CAMPGROUNDS

**[88]**  
THE BEST  
18 HOLES  
IN THE SHOALS



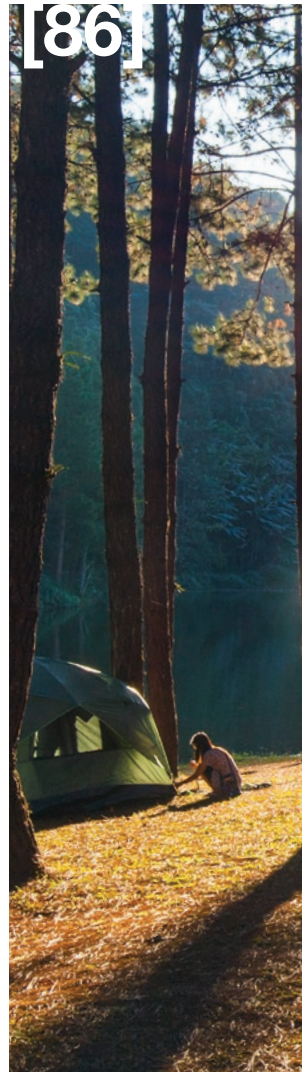
**[97]**  
SHOALS AREA  
GOLF COURSES

**[100]**  
TAKE A HIKE

## **PLACES TO SEE**

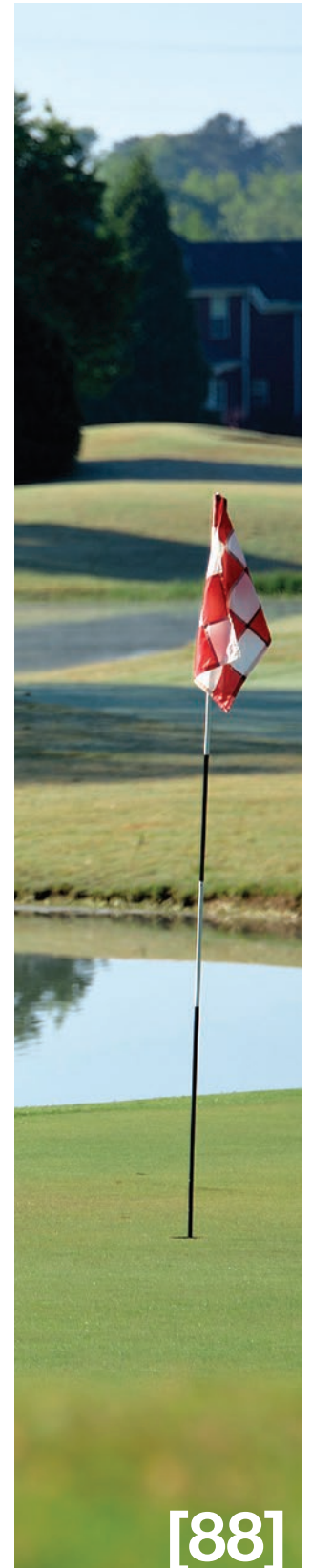
**[108]**  
10 MUST-SEE SITES  
while visiting the Shoals

**[118]**  
DAY TRIPS  
Natchez Trace Parkway,  
U.S. Space and Rocket Center,  
Dismals Canyon, Pond Spring,  
Jesse Owen Memorial Park,  
Cook Museum of Natural  
Science



## **TIME TO EAT**

**[122]**  
TIME TO EAT  
Shoals area places to dine



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## ON THE COVER



Photograph by Dan Busy - TimesDaily

The Harrison fountain is located on the campus of the University of North Alabama in Florence.

# Welcome to the Shoals!

True Southern hospitality among our residents has shined its brightest over the past year during the COVID-19 pandemic. Even today people are remaining cautious to further help to eliminate the deadly disease. Some may still wear masks, but it seems everyone's eyes are brighter because we all see the light at the end of the tunnel. And we all can't wait to get there.

Inside this magazine, we'll give you a glimpse of the four cities which comprise the Shoals: Florence in Lauderdale County, Muscle Shoals, Sheffield and Tuscumbia in Colbert County. Visit them all and the surrounds areas. You'll find family-centered parks and museums and one of the most stunning campuses in the state: the University of North Alabama. Take advantage of a beautiful day or even a star-filled night to drop by and see the new Harrison Fountain on campus. The fountain has long been the center of a time-honored tradition on campus where each year students dip a pencil into the water for good luck at the start of another semester.

Make sure you turn to the music section of this magazine to check out the rich history of the noted artists who have recorded or written songs in the Shoals. Music buffs have even taken their love for the Shoals to another level. Muscle Shoals Sound Studio has been the host to a number of wedding ceremonies. We also take a look back to remember 2019 Shoalsfest. We can only imagine how exciting it will be to have it back this year!

The Shoals has a rich history, but it also has a few myths and legends. Long before the first track was recorded here, the American Indians fittingly nicknamed the Tennessee River the "Singing River." You'll also find that one of the most notorious criminals in our nation's history paid a visit to the Shoals.

Take your time to absorb all that the Shoals has to offer. You'll understand why countless visitors return because just being here gets better and better.

We're confident you'll agree that the Shoals should be added to your travel plans every year.

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# Love Where You Live!



Lewis & I would love to show you around, and answer all your real estate questions. We look forward to working with you!

Picturesque landscapes, intriguing history, and reasonable cost of living are just a few reasons the Shoals' river towns are sought after places to make home. Experience diverse offerings of music, art, culture, dining, and unparalleled outdoor attractions for walking, hiking, cycling, boating, fishing, water sports, and sailing, to name a few.

The market is strong, sustained by historically low mortgage rates, creating a unique opportunity to list, purchase, relocate, retire, or invest in the Shoals. It's time to truly love where you live.

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## distinguishing the four cities

Our name comes from the rocky shoal of the Tennessee River that flows east to west, making a northward turn to join the Ohio River at Paducah, Kentucky. The treacherous shoals are now under water, tamed finally by the Tennessee Valley Authority dams. Meanwhile, our distinct four cities were born.



### **Florence**

Population: 40,797

When founded: 1818; incorporated, 1826

Florence, the county seat of Lauderdale County, was established on the northern banks of the Tennessee River in the years immediately after the Louisiana Purchase and the War of 1812.

The town's site was surveyed in 1818 by Ferdinand Sannoner for Cypress Land Company. Sannoner, who was a native of Italy, named the new town after his favorite city in his homeland.

Florence became a textiles town and was home to some of the earliest mills in the region.

Music is a key element of the city's heritage. W.C. Handy, the "Father of the Blues," and Sam Phillips, the "Father of Rock 'n' Roll," were born in Florence. The Muscle Shoals music industry got its start in Florence, as well. The University of North Alabama has its roots in the first state-chartered university in Alabama.

*florenceal.org*



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## Muscle Shoals

Population: 14,575  
When founded: 1923

Muscle Shoals was unincorporated farm land until the early 1920s when automotive tycoon Henry Ford visited the area and proclaimed his vision of turning the flat land into a metropolis. Ford offered to purchase Wilson Dam, but was turned down by the U.S. government. Instead, the government established the Tennessee Valley Authority. In 1923, the people living in unincorporated Muscle Shoals voted 361-6 for incorporation.

Disagreement continues about the origin of the name Muscle Shoals. Some claim the muscle portion of the name is a misspelled reference to mussels found in the Tennessee River, while others say it refers to the hard work and strength used to establish the area.

In the 1960s and 1970s Muscle Shoals became known as a hit maker in the music industry. Rick Hall and his FAME Recording Studios, and talented back-up musicians, The Swampers, put Muscle Shoals on the music map.

*cityofmuscleshoals.com*

*Florence*



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## Sheffield

Population: 8,901  
Founded: 1884

Gen. Andrew Jackson recommended that a town be established on the bluffs overlooking the Tennessee River after he and his troops camped in the area in 1817. The town was later laid out on that site and called York Bluff. The name was changed to Sheffield, after the city in England, which is on the River Sheaf.

Sheffield is the home of both locations of Muscle Shoals Sound Studios, where artists such as The Rolling Stones, Paul Simon, Boz Scaggs, Lynyrd Skynyrd, Willie Nelson, Rod Stewart and Bob Seger recorded albums in the 1960s and 1970s.

Sheffield is the home to Tuscumbia Landing, which was a debarkation point for Native Americans who were uprooted from their homes and forced to migrate west to reservations in Oklahoma under the Indian Removal Act of 1830 under President Andrew Jackson. In 2013, the city formed the Sheffield Port Authority at Tuscumbia Landing to work with groups that want to develop the site into an interpretive center.

*sheffieldalabama.org*



## Tuscumbia

Population: 8,461  
Incorporated: 1820

The French settled the land in the 1700s, but the town was destroyed. The Chickasaw Nation moved in next, establishing a town near the spring. The first white family arrived about 1815.

The town, which is the county seat of Colbert County, was renamed in 1822 in honor of the Chickasaw chief who lived there.

Tuscumbia is best known as for Ivy Green, the birthplace of Helen Keller. It had the first railway west of the Alleghenies.

*cityoftuscumbia.org*





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# FAMILY-FRIENDLY MUNICIPAL PARKS

The Shoals has numerous parks, three of them on the Tennessee River, with a variety of amenities. Residents and visitors to the Shoals can find plenty of outdoor activities.

## FLORENCE

Park information:  
256-760-6416  
[www.fpard.com/Park](http://www.fpard.com/Park)

### COX CREEK PARK

Where: corner of Alabama 17 (Chisholm Road) and Alabama 133 (Cox Creek Parkway); hours 8 a.m. to dark; free; wear your protective and safety gear

Got your skateboard with you? This is the park for you. Florence Skate Park is located here featuring equipment manufactured by Spohn

Ranch and made out of SkateLite Pro, a surfaced used by professionals and amateurs. The surface stays consistent in hot, cold, wet or dry weather, with frames of galvanized steel welded rather than bolted to prevent movement, and two banked wedges. Other park amenities include 12 lighted tennis courts, a billiard building, a playground, and horseshoe pits.

### DEIBERT PARK

Where: Cox Creek Parkway and Darby Drive; hours: daylight; cost: free

This park offers tranquil nature walks along a 2.85-mile trail that winds through open areas, woods and around three ponds. A playground, picnic shelter and restrooms also are on site.

### MCFARLAND PARK

Where: Alabama 20, west of O'Neal Bridge;

hours: daylight; most services are free

This park gives you the best view and access to the Tennessee River and is a favorite among boaters, anglers, campers, joggers, bicyclists, disc golfers, bird watchers and other outdoor enthusiasts. There is a playground with picnic tables, and picnic tables dot the park with unobstructed views of the majestic river. A lighted walking trail and floating restaurant are irresistible draws,



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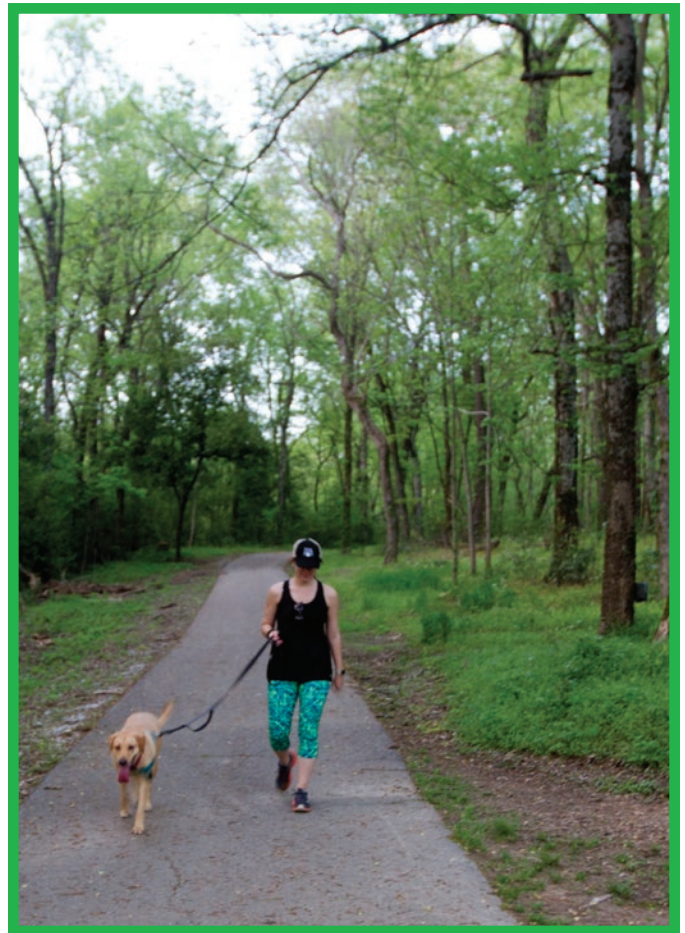
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as are the swings and benches that overlook the river. Other amenities include boat ramps and slips, a baseball field, and camping area. The Florence-Lauderdale Visitors Center is located here.

**RIVER HERITAGE PARK**

Where: 800 Cox Creek Parkway; 256-760-6416  
 This park, located near the Marriott Shoals Hotel and Spa, features a playground and large splash pad that's open May to September from 11:30 a.m. to 9 p.m. A large pavilion offers a cool place to sit when it's not rented for special events.



Walking Trail at TVA in Muscle Shoals.



Gattman Park in Muscle Shoals.





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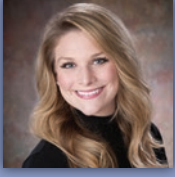
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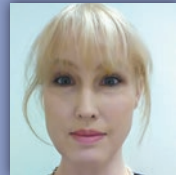
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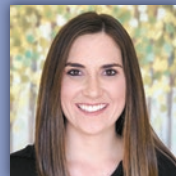
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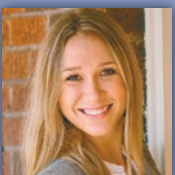
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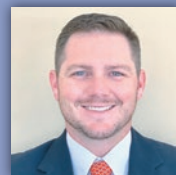
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**Briana Dolan**  
256-483-9759



**Tiffany Green**  
256-710-5321



**Daniel Hayes**  
256-275-1079



**Michael Styles**  
256-221-8531



**Jason Isbell**  
256-443-2836



**Shylee Bradford  
Bevis - Owner**  
256-335-0272



**Mary Lord  
Owner**  
256-394-9495



**Bryan Austin  
Broker/Owner**  
256-335-2277



**Jeannie Rogers  
Owner**  
256-366-0580

**WILDWOOD PARK**

Where: Waterloo Road, west of Florence; hours: daylight; free

It's all nature here, with picnic tables, a nature trail, a pavilion, and beginner and advanced mountain bike trails.

**MUSCLE SHOALS**

Park information: 256-386-9270  
www.cityofmuscleshoals.com/Default.asp?ID=26&pg=Facilities

**GATTMAN PARK**

Where: 901 Gattman Park Drive; see website for hours

The park has two gymnasiums, one with an indoor walking track; pavilions (two large, one small), and numerous picnic tables. Also

featured is a playground, outdoor walking track, and a splash pad that opens Memorial Day weekend.

**SHEFFIELD**

Park information: 256-386-5616  
www.sheffieldalabama.org/attractions

**RIVERFRONT PARK**

Where: 1416 Alabama Ave., Sheffield; Open daily 6 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Riverfront Park overlooks beautiful Pickwick Lake and features a boundless playground and splash pad for children. It is a lovely spot for fishing, picnics and has a walking trail with a stunning view of the water.

**TUSCUMBIA**

Park information: 256-386-5655  
www.facebook.com/Tuscumbia-Parks-Recreation-491863214257810/

**SPRING PARK**

Where: South of downtown; hours: varies; some costs for park attractions

Spring Park serves as a centerpiece for the town of Tuscumbia and dates back to the 1800s. It features a man-made stone waterfall, called Coldwater Falls. The park also features a mini-amusement park for children and a splash pad. The rides, including a kid-sized roller coaster, a carousel and a train that takes passengers throughout the park,

operates daily. Spring Park also offers a splash pad. More information, including operational dates, is available online at Tuscumbiarailway.com.

**TVA**

**TVA ROCKPILE RECREATIONAL AREA**

The TVA Rockpile Recreational Area is home to the "coolest" playground in America, according to Play Across America. The website and iPhone app named the TVA playground the coolest in America for the month of April in 2016. Play Across America is a crowd-sourced directory of playgrounds in the country. The Rockpile Playground



Spring Park in Tuscumbia.



McFarland Park in Florence.



Cox Creek Park in Florence.



River Heritage Park in Florence.



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Wildwood in Florence.

was applauded for its river theme, taking its inspiration from the Tennessee River it is situated next to and Wilson Dam just a short walk away. Children can slide down blue slides that mimic water flowing out of the Wilson Dam spillways; climb on a turtle and fish that pop out of the ground; climb and slide through a tree house; or swing on swings attached to poles fashioned to look like tree trunks. An interactive soundboard that plays animal sounds

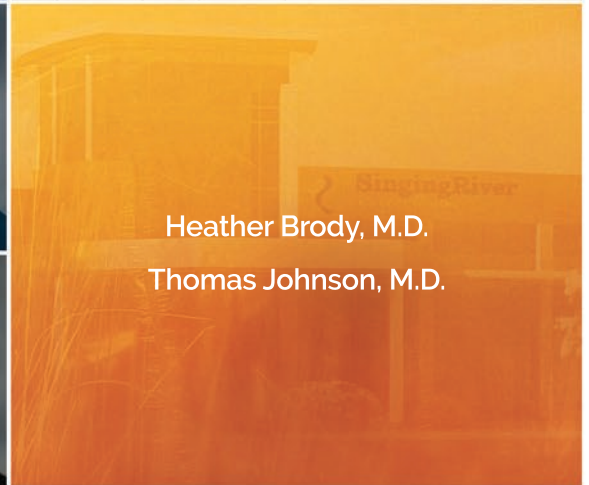
is popular with children. The board is decorated with animal tracks and pictures. The playground is just one attraction in the recreation area. There is a paved pedestrian path that follows the river to the rockpile waterfall for a closer view of Wilson Dam. The recreation area also has campsites, hiking trails and a boat launch. The 17 miles of paved and primitive hiking trails are Americans with Disabilities Act compliant.



Riverfront Park in Sheffield.

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# MOVIE theaters

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Ritz Theatre, Sheffield.



King Drive-In, Russellville.



The Roxy, Russellville.

# COMMUNITY theaters

## **Shoals Community Theatre**

123 N. Seminary St., Florence  
256-764-1700  
theshoalstheatre.org

## **Historic Roxy Theatre**

208 N. Jackson Ave., Russellville  
256-332-1760  
historicroxytheatre.com

## **Ritz Theatre**

111 W. Third St., Sheffield  
256-381-8370  
www.tennesseevalleyarts.org

## **Zodiac Theater**

416 N. Court St., Florence  
256-764-1700  
facebook.com/pages/  
Zodiac-Theater



Zodiac Theater, Florence.



Shoals Community Theatre, Florence.



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# museums

## **TENNESSEE VALLEY MUSEUM OF ART**

511 N. Water St., Tuscumbia

256-383-0533

[www.tennesseevalleyarts.org](http://www.tennesseevalleyarts.org)

9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday-Friday; 12-3 p.m. Saturday

This regional art center has a permanent exhibit of the Martin Petroglyph, a 3,000 pound boulder depicting human footprints and snakes, carved by the prehistoric people of northwest Alabama. Also among the museum's displays is the rare and historic Chickasaw beaded and embroidered bandolier strap that belonged to Chief George Colbert, for whom the county is named.



Tennessee Valley Museum of Art, Tuscumbia.



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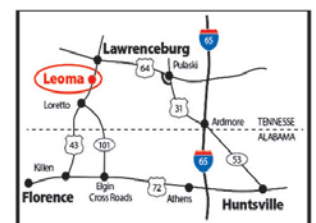
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### TUSCUMBIA DEPOT AND ROUNDHOUSE

204 W. Fifth St., Tuscumbia  
 256-389-1357  
 tuscumbiarailway.com  
 Hours: call

It's only fitting that since Tuscumbia was the site of the first railroad west of the Allegheny Mountains – built in the 1830s – it would have the area's premiere railway museum. The museum is in the former Tuscumbia Depot, which was built in 1888 and served as division headquarters for the Memphis and Charleston Railroad. The fully restored depot features rail and train memorabilia including a photo gallery. There is an interactive train simulator and telegraph demonstrations. Keeping with the historic architecture of the depot, a roundhouse was built in 2013.



Tuscumbia Depot and Roundhouse, Tuscumbia.

### ALABAMA MUSIC HALL OF FAME

617 U.S. 72 W., Tuscumbia  
 256-381-4417  
 Hours: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday-Friday  
 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday  
 admission charged  
 alamhof.org

This is the place to learn the rich history, ever-changing present, and bright future of the Shoals music scene. The renowned achievements of music artists who live, have passed through and continue to record in the Shoals are found here. Exhibits include a 12-foot jukebox, a wax figure of Nat King Cole, recording equipment used in Sam Phillips' Memphis Music Service, apparel and instruments from many artists.



Alabama Music Hall of Fame, Tuscumbia.

### BELLE MONT MANSION

1569 Cook Lane, Tuscumbia  
 256-381-5052  
[ahc.alabama.gov/properties/bellemont/bellemont.aspx](http://ahc.alabama.gov/properties/bellemont/bellemont.aspx)  
 Hours: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Wed.-Sat.; admission charged

Belle Mont Mansion is one of Alabama's best examples of the styles of the Jeffersonian-Palladian style architecture. The two-story structure was built in the early 1800s by Dr. Alexander Williams Mitchell, a native of Virginia, and one of the area's largest slaveholders. The house was sold in 1833 to Isaac Winston, who was the uncle of Alabama first's native born governor, John Anthony Winston. Winston was also the cousin of Patrick Henry and Dolly Madison. The structure was sold again in 1941 and donated to the Alabama Historical Commission.



Belle Mont Mansion in Tuscumbia.

## EDITH NEWMAN CULVER MUSEUM

501 Main St., Waterloo

256-767-6081

Hours: call

The museum is nestled on a hillside overlooking downtown Waterloo and the path that thousands of Indians took during the 1800s removal as a part of the Trail of Tears. The two-story structure is the town's museum and features many military memorabilia, as well as Civil War relics and Native American artifacts. On the grounds is a barn housing a collection of horse-drawn carriages. The museum was the home of Joseph Marion Newman and his wife, Sarah. Newman, a Union soldier from Ohio, purchased the house in 1918 after opening a sawmill north of Waterloo.



Tuscumbia Depot and Roundhouse, Tuscumbia.

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# W.C. Handy Museum and Library

ATTRACTIONS



W.C. Handy Birthplace, Museum and Library, Florence.

W.C. Handy became famous in the music world for his compositions such as “Memphis Blues” and “St. Louis Blues” and as a band conductor and author. He is heralded as the “Father of the Blues.” But before his famous life, he was born in a small log cabin in Florence on Nov. 16, 1873. The museum in his honor houses a collection of memorabilia, including his famous trumpet and his personal piano, as well as personal papers and original sheet music.

## WHERE:

**Location:**

620 W. College St., Florence

**Hours:**

\*10 .am. to 4 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday

**Admission:**

admission charged

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\*Closed for COVID right now.



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# Kennedy-Douglass Center for the Arts

ATTRACTIONS



Kennedy-Douglass Center for the Arts, Florence.





Southall-Moore House



Kennedy-Douglass Annex

Florence's Center for the Arts includes the Kennedy-Douglass Center, Kennedy-Douglass Annex and Southall-Moore House. There is an arts gallery and museum that serves as an educational center and cultural hub for the area. The center has numerous exhibits throughout the year and rotating exhibits from artists of the Southeast. The three buildings are former homes, with the main center built in 1918 and named for the Rev. Hiram Kennedy Douglass who willed the house to the city in 1975 to be used for the arts. Charles Moore donated the historic Southall-Moore home to the city in 2006. It was built in 1894.

### WHERE:

**Location:**  
217 E. Tuscaloosa St., Florence

**Hours:**  
9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday-Friday

**Admission:**  
Free

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# Pope's Tavern

Pope's Tavern Museum's façade harkens to the time in the 1800s when it was a stagecoach stop, tavern and inn. It is one of the oldest buildings in Florence and its location pinpoints the military road that once ran through the area, connecting Nashville to the Natchez Trace, and on to New Orleans. Andrew Jackson is said to have stayed at the tavern during his march to the Battle of New Orleans. The inn was a hospital for both the Confederate and Union during the Civil War before later becoming a private family home until the city bought it in 1965. It is housed with antiques and artifacts from the 18th and 19th centuries, as well as artifacts from the Civil War and local history.

## WHERE:

**Location:**

203 Hermitage Drive, Florence

**Hours:**

10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday

**Admission:**

admission charged

Call: 256-760-6439



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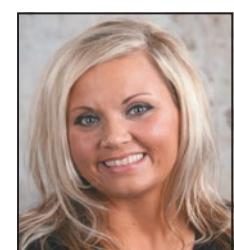
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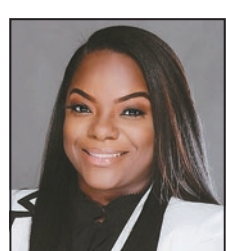
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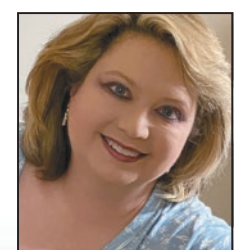
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# Children's Museum of the Shoals

ATTRACTIONS



Children's Museum of the Shoals, Florence.

The Children's Museum of the Shoals is the area's go-to place for child development and fun through educational games and activities. It features hands-on exhibits that encourage children to play while learning about the area's culture, history, and about the Tennessee River. Deibert Park, which is adjacent to the museum, hosts a nature walking trail and a playground.

## WHERE:

### Location:

2810 Darby Drive, Florence  
(Near the entrance to Deibert Park)

256-284-7107

[facebook.com/cmsal](https://www.facebook.com/cmsal)

# Ivy Green The Birthplace of Helen Keller



ATTRACTIONS

Ivy Green, Tuscumbia

The site of the birthplace of Helen Keller features the home and grounds, including the famous pump where teacher Annie Sullivan showed a young Keller how to spell w-a-t-e-r in sign language. That single lesson opened the outside world to the child.

## WHERE:

**Location:**

300 N. Commons St. W, Tuscumbia

**Hours:**

8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday-Saturday

**Admission:**

admission charged

Call: 256-383-4066

[helenkellerbirthplace.org](http://helenkellerbirthplace.org)

# Frank Lloyd Wright Rosenbaum House and Museum

Frank Lloyd Wright is among the most prominent and revered American architects of the 20th century. He designed approximately 1,000 structures spanning a 70-year career. He preferred construction where buildings blended into the landscape rather than

being obviously perched to rise independently of the ground on which it was constructed. His famous architectural designs include the Prairie, Concrete Block and Usonian, of which the Rosenbaum House in Florence is included. Horizontal lines connect

the home with the land, as do its flat roofs with overhangs, natural materials like cypress, glass and brick, access to the outside from every room, and board and batten walls. The house has its original Wright-designed furniture.

## WHERE:

**Location:**

601 Riverview Drive, Florence

**Hours:**

10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday; 1-4 p.m. Sunday.  
For large group tours, call 256-718-5050

**Admission:**

admission charged

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# Indian Mound and Museum

The Florence Indian Mound Museum is in its third year since its rebuild and reopening.

The museum's mission is to interpret the prehistoric culture of the Shoals area for education while preserving the Woodland period landscape of the site and fostering a community dialogue about environmental stewardship

and Native American history, according to its mission statement.

The 42-foot-high mound near the museum is one example of the work of early Native Americans who lived in Alabama before the Cherokee, Chickasaw and Creek nations inhabited the region. The mound is quadrilateral, with a

summit that's 145-by-94 feet. Early settlers found steps on the east side and there was evidence the mound was enclosed by a semi-circular earthen wall.

Inside the museum are artifacts dating back to more than 10,000 years. Displays are arranged in chronological order from Paleo to Historic periods.

## WHERE:

**Location:**

1028 S. Court St.

**Hours:**

10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday;  
1-4 p.m. Sunday

**Admission:**

charged



Indian Mound and Museum, Florence.

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# celebrate with us

The Shoals is popular for its celebrations and festivals that are a continuous flow of entertainment from spring until winter.

That is, unless there's a pandemic.

While some festivals have announced dates for this year's events, it's best to go to the website or Facebook

page listed, or call the phone number provided with the information to double check that the event will still take place.

## ARTS ALIVE

Florence's Wilson Park plays hosts to a myriad of artists and craftsmen who flock to the downtown park to sell their arts and crafts and compete in the juried Arts Alive exhibit at the Kennedy-Douglass Center for the Arts.

Anything from paintings to sculptures to clothing and woodwork can be found at Arts Alive.

The 2021 festival is May 15-16. For details about the festival or exhibits, visit [alabamaartsalive.com](http://alabamaartsalive.com) or call 256-760-6379.





# W.C. HANDY MUSIC FESTIVAL

Every year, the Shoals honors W.C. Handy, who was born in Florence and built his legacy as “Father of the Blues.” There will be some abbreviations to this year’s 10-day event, scheduled for July 17-26. Visit [wchandymusicfestival.com](http://wchandymusicfestival.com) or call The Music Preservation Society Inc. at 256-766-7642.



FESTIVALS

## FULL LIFE WELLNESS CENTER

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**Front row from left:** Russell Bien, MSN, CRNP; Douglas Woodford, MD

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# TRAIL OF TEARS COMMEMORATIVE MOTORCYCLE RIDE

Motorcyclists honor the Trail of Tears by riding from Chattanooga to Waterloo. The riders always ride on the third Saturday in September, this year Sept. 18.



# COON DOG CEMETERY LABOR DAY CELEBRATION

FESTIVALS



Not many places have a cemetery for coon dogs. Even fewer have a Labor Day celebration at a coon dog cemetery.

But the annual Coondog Cemetery Labor Day Celebration has become one of the most popular, if quirky, events in the Shoals.

Graves will be decorated and live music and barbecue will be available.

The Coondog Cemetery is at 4945 Coondog Cemetery Road, off U.S. 72 and Alabama 247.

For more details, visit [coondogcemetery.com](http://coondogcemetery.com) or call 256-383-0783.

# ALABAMA RENAISSANCE FAIRE

The Fountain on the Green, better known the rest of the year as Wilson Park in Florence, hosts nobility, knights and kings as the city of Florence celebrates the annual Renaissance Faire on Oct. 23-24.

The 2021 faire is Oct. 23-24. For details about the fun and educational event, visit [alrenfaire.org](http://alrenfaire.org).

FESTIVALS



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# SHOALS SPIRIT OF FREEDOM CELEBRATION

The Shoals celebrates Independence Day with food, music and, of course, fireworks. It starts at 10:30 a.m. and continues through 11 p.m. July 4 on the banks of the Tennessee River at McFarland Park, Florence. For details, call 256-740-4141.



FESTIVALS

The life and accomplishments of one of the Shoals' most famous natives, Helen Keller, is celebrated each year with a summer festival.

The weeklong festival takes place in Spring Park in Tusculumbia, not far from Keller's birthplace, Ivy Green.

The festival includes live bands and music, a 5-mile and 23-mile family bike ride, a 5-mile and 1-mile fun run, a car and truck show, a golf tournament, arts and crafts, educational displays, and a parade and street party.

Of course, no Keller festival is complete without a rendition of "The Miracle Worker," and the Helen Keller Art Show of Alabama.

The 2021 festival is June 24-27. For details, visit [helenkellerfestival.com](http://helenkellerfestival.com) or call 256-383-4066.

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# Other Celebrations & Festivals

## MONTHLY CELEBRATION

### FIRST FRIDAYS

The First Friday of every month June through December from 5-8 p.m., downtown Florence sidewalks are lined with vendors, artists and musicians. Court Street is closed off and the area becomes filled with people who love strolling, and shopping among the vendors and in downtown shops before or after having dinner in some of Florence's best-loved restaurants.

## YEARLY FESTIVALS

### RECALL LAGRANGE

Civil War re-enactments exhibits and entertainment. May 1. LaGrange College Site, 1491 LaGrange College Road, Leighton. Visit [lagrangehistoricsite.com](http://lagrangehistoricsite.com).

### NORTH ALABAMA AFRICAN HERITAGE FESTIVAL

Explores African art, fashions, culture, crafts, music and food; 2019 festival June 4-5 at the Willie Green Recreation Park, 609 S. East St., Tuscumbia. 256-383-0783

### FRONTIER DAY CELEBRATION

Re-enactors showcase how early Shoals residents lived at Pope's Tavern, Florence; June 1-2. For details, call 256-740-4141.

### MUSCLE SHOALS STREET CAR SHOW

June 5, Spring Park, Tuscumbia

### SADDLE UP FOR ST. JUDE TRAIL RIDE

July 15-17, Gardiner Farm in Tuscumbia. 25th Anniversary event this year. Concerts begin Thursday with Shenandoah, headliner Saturday is Clint Black. Over \$2.5 million has been sent to St. Jude Hospital. This is the largest of their trail rides in the country.

### FRANKLIN COUNTY WATERMELON FESTIVAL

It's not summer in the south without watermelon. The people of Russellville celebrate this Southern, summer fruit with music and more Aug. 20-21. For details, call 256-332-1760.

### NORTH ALABAMA STATE FAIR

The state fair is an American tradition, and that's no different in the Shoals. Rides, booths, exhibits and entertainment abound at the fairgrounds in Muscle Shoals; Sept. 21-26. Visit [northalabamastatefair.com](http://northalabamastatefair.com) or call 256-383-3247.

### OKTOBERFEST

St. Florian's German heritage is celebrated in the fall as the downtown area is host to live music, arts and crafts, antique tractor shows and German food. For details, call 256-767-3960. [townofstflorianal.com](http://townofstflorianal.com)

### ROGERSVILLE HERITAGE DAYS

Rogersville celebrates fall with antique cars, trucks and tractors, an art show, chili cook-off, children and pets parade and vendors; Oct. 9, 10, downtown Rogersville. For details, visit [rogersvillealabama.com](http://rogersvillealabama.com) or call 256-247-9449.

### CHRISTMAS AT BELLE MONT

It's an Old South Christmas at Tuscumbia's Belle Mont Mansion, with traditional ornaments, period holiday music, ballroom dancing. Built in 1828, the plantation is at 1569 Cook Lane, off U.S., 43 S, Tuscumbia. Contact Ninon Parker at Belle Mont for info on event. 256-381-5052 [ninhpark@comcast.net](http://ninhpark@comcast.net)

### IT'S A DICKENS CHRISTMAS Y'ALL

Dickens Christmas Y'all, is a holiday festival reminiscent of the classic "A Christmas Carol"; Carriage rides, snow falling, music, arts and crafts and food vendors. STS Top 20 Event. For more information, call Fiddledee D at 256-383-9797 for updates.



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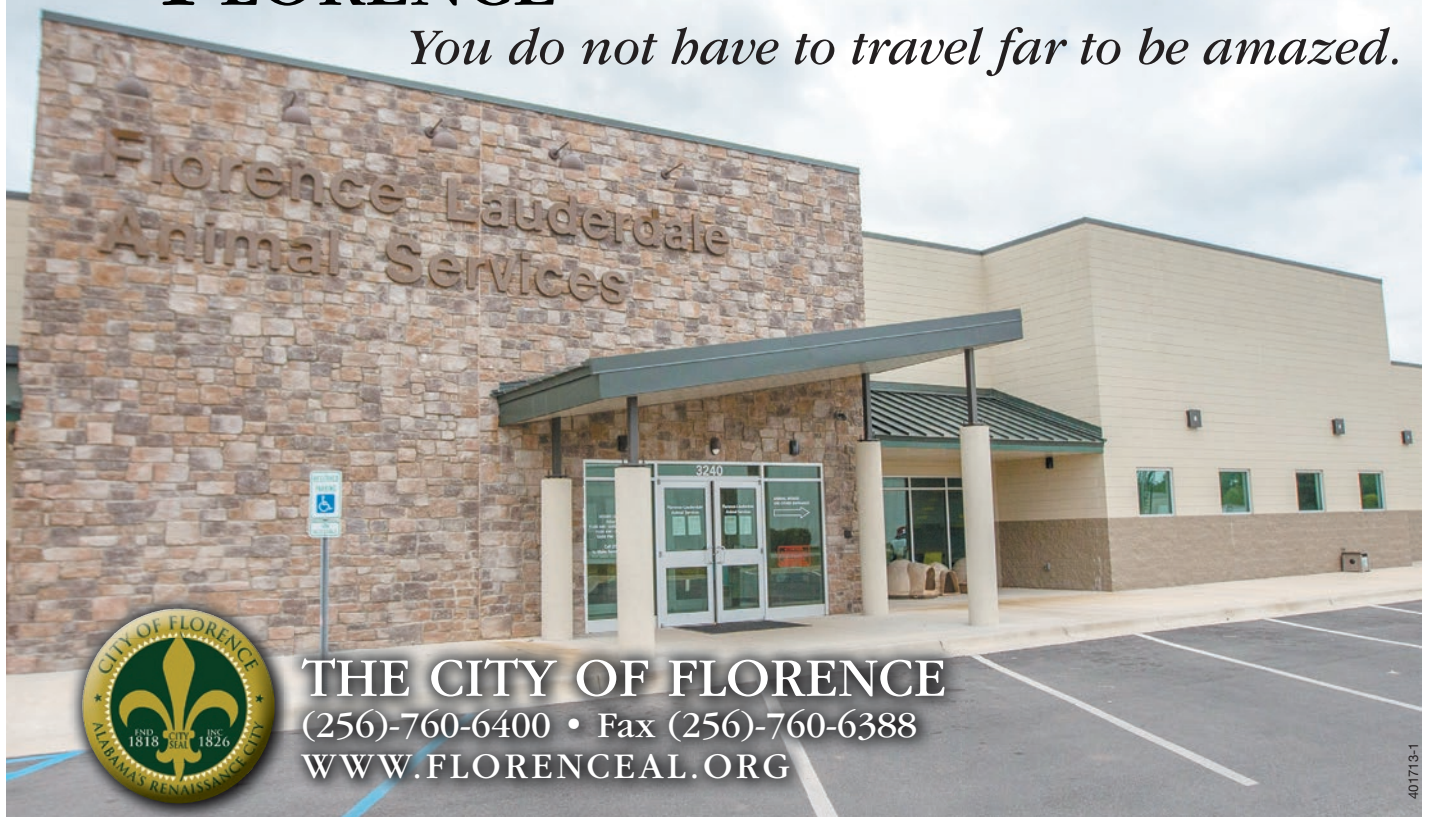
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*other*  
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MEET OUR COVER PHOTOGRAPHER  
DAN BUSEY





The beautiful photograph of Harrison fountain that graces the cover of Explore the Shoals and the photos on this page were taken by Dan Busey.

Busey is a North Carolina native who has been a staff photographer with The TimesDaily since 2020. He earned an associate's degree in photojournalism from Randolph Community College in Asheboro, North Carolina.

He has been awarded various Associated Press awards, as well as many in the Nation Press Photographers Association's monthly clip contest.

The photos on this page are from the this year's "Light the Fountain" event. The event is a tradition at the University of North Alabama that began in 2016 when President Dr. Ken Kitts woke to lights in the spring and thought of how students could enjoy what he awoke to.



# Couple ties the knot

## at Muscle Shoals Sound Studio

Story by Russ Corey  
Photography by Russ Corey

**It's not often you see wedding guests dressed in rock 'n' roll band T-shirts, but John Weimer and Stephanie Atkins wanted to exchange their wedding vows in an off the wall, musical way.**

So instead of being married in the traditional church or at the courthouse, they decided to get married at a place

they've come to know and love, Muscle Shoals Sound Studios at 3614 Jackson Highway.

Originally from Indiana, Weimer said he and Atkins moved to Athens from Maryland about five years ago. He said they both work at Redstone Arsenal in Huntsville. Atkins, he said, is originally from New Jersey.

More into motorcycle drag racing than music, Weimer said that changed after they watched the "Muscle Shoals" documentary that chronicles the birth of the Muscle Shoals music scene.

"Music was a background thing for me," Weimer said. "We watched the documentary and started



Friends and family of John Weimer and Stephanie Atkins stand outside and take the iconic photo in front of Muscle Shoals sound after their wedding in 2020.

coming over here.”

He attended some Paul Thorne concerts and started listening to southern rock icons Lynyrd Skynyrd, who did some early demos at Muscle Shoals Sound with the late Jimmy Johnson.

Their original idea involved getting married at the courthouse, then come to the studio, and then travel to Jamaica with some friends.

Plans evolved and the couple decided to have the ceremony at the studio, then go to Jamaica with a smaller group of friends.

He said the couple has toured the studio “eight or 10 times.”

“But I learned something new every time,” Weimer said.

When friends came from out of town to visit, Weimer said they always brought them to Muscle



Judy Hood watches as John Weimer and Stephanie Atkins kiss after completing their wedding vows at Muscle Shoals Sound Studio.

Shoals Sound and FAME Recording Studios in Muscle Shoals. Weimer said his friends have all watched “Muscle Shoals” in the last week or so.

Dressed in black with a black and silver cape, Judy Hood said it’s the first wedding she’s ever presided over.

“There’s been a lot of beautiful things born in

this room,” Hood said.

The wedding of John and Stephanie was just one more, she said.

The bride wore a full length off-white gown, while the groom wore a white shirt, black slacks, and black “Jack Daniels” Chuck Taylor style Converse high-top sneakers. Many of the guests, at the request of

the bride, wore T-shirts of rock bands like Kiss and Metallica.

As the bride, groom and guests exited the studio for photos outside, family friend Ben Short played The Rolling Stones’ classic “Wild Horses” on the keyboard. The track from “Sticky Fingers” was recorded at Muscle Shoals Sound in 1969.

Weimer said the wedding party stayed at the Stricklin Hotel in Florence and enjoyed a meal at Big Bad Breakfast.

Wedding guests traveled to the Shoals from Tennessee, Maryland and New Jersey.



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# Huntsville venue expected to boost Shoals music tourism

Story by Russ Corey

Ben Lovett's love of music goes beyond his role as a multi-instrumentalist for the award-winning British folk rock band Mumford and Sons.

He and his brother, Greg, own Venue Group, a multinational entertainment and hospitality firm which operates five music venues in the United Kingdom.

The company is in the process of building a state-of-the-art 8,000-seat amphitheater in Huntsville that is expected to open in April 2022.

Because Lovett is a fan of Muscle Shoals music, the new venue is expected to have a

positive impact on Shoals music and its musicians.

"I'm actually hoping if we can do it right, we can build a cultural partnership between the rockers that perform at the amphitheater and the Shoals," Lovett said. "Give them the first-hand experience, let them learn a little about the history as they come through on tours."

Being a musician, he was familiar with the many artists who recorded over the years at places like FAME Recording Studios, Wishbone Recording Studios, Muscle Shoals Sound Studio and others.

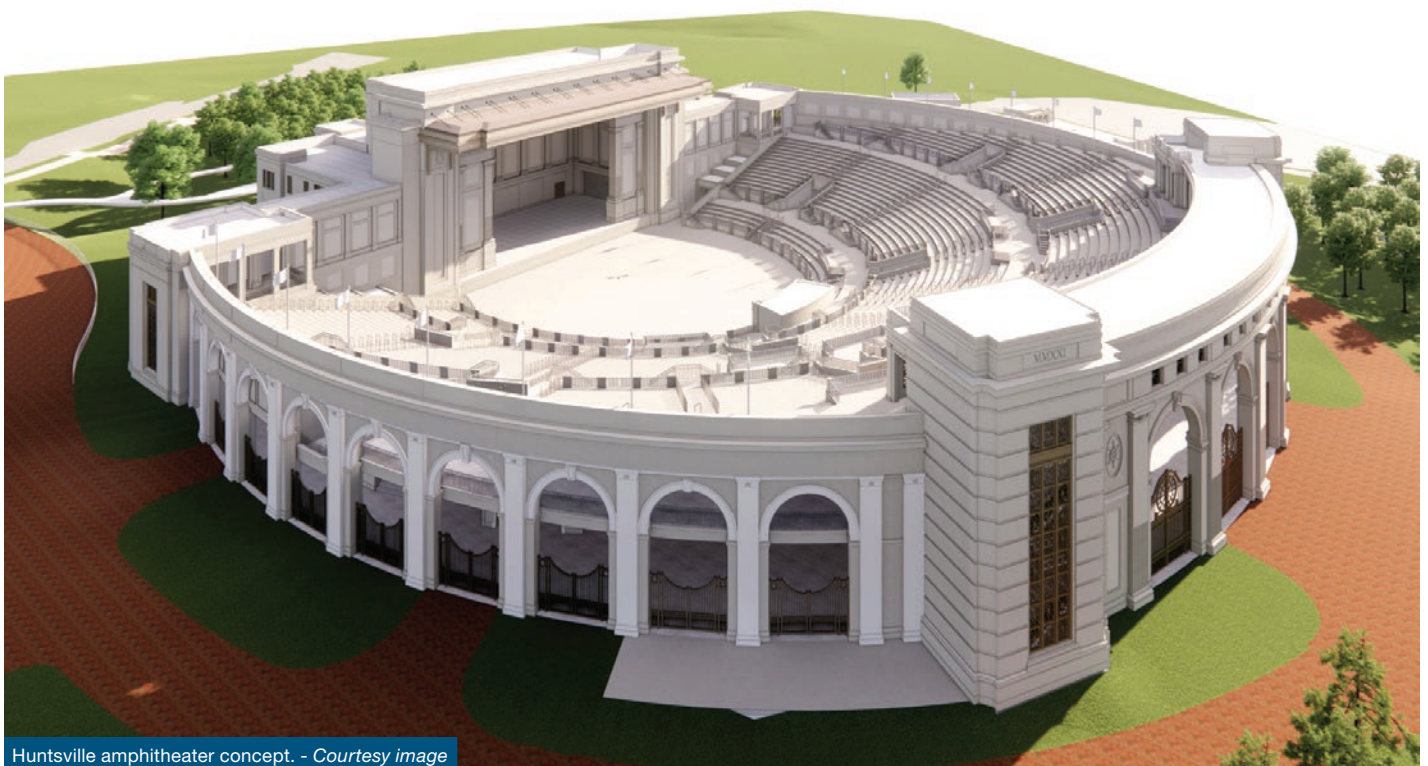
He also learned a lot from noted men's fashion designer and music fan

Billy Reid.

"We met about 10 years ago and became fast friends," Lovett added. "We stayed in close contact. Billy is a huge music fan. He was always just feeding me information and being a great ambassador for the Shoals, Florence and the area."

Judy Hood, who is serving as a Shoals liaison for the developers, believes the amphitheater will have a significant impact on music tourism locally.

"When 8,000 music fans from all over the country attend a show in Huntsville, you can be sure that some, if not many, of them will make the short drive to Muscle



Huntsville amphitheater concept. - Courtesy image

Shoals to explore the magic," she said.

Hood said the venue team plans to celebrate the area's musical history by incorporating the Shoals into its marketing plans, including videos and social media.

"This is the kind of publicity that we would never have been able to afford on our own," she said. "It's priceless, and it's coming at a time when our music and tourism industries are in dire need."

The new amphitheater will provide opportunities for young people who want to learn about stage production, lighting, sound engineering and concert logistics, she said.

"The economic impact will be enormous when you factor in other elements, such as construction jobs, vendors and support staff," Hood said. "This will provide employment opportunities for people throughout north Alabama, including the Shoals area."

Lovett said work on the site has already begun.

In addition to hosting live music, the venue will provide daily community building opportunities for local groups, businesses and government organizations to hold both small- and large-scale gatherings.

Lovett's group is also in talks with regional chefs and local vendors to bring to life their prized food village that will operate year-round, serving as an additional amenity and social space for Mid-City, the fast growing neighborhood to the west of downtown Huntsville.

The food village will also allow fans to park, have a meal, then attend a show without making

multiple trips.

"One of the biggest trends in the past 10 years has been an elevation of the quality and variety of food offerings, especially around music," Lovett said. "We believe there is a huge amount of opportunity in the hospitality side of entertainment to deliver food and drinks of such excellence that they stand on their own two feet as an offering, not simply as a way to 'tide you over,' quench the thirst or satiate the hunger temporarily. We have to aspire for higher standards than that."

Lovett said the amphitheater could help convince young musicians in north Alabama that they don't have to move to Nashville or Memphis, Tennessee, to be able to have a career in the music industry.

"The amphitheater will literally provide a new stage for our local musicians and will serve as a portal to attract top acts to visit and potentially record in Muscle Shoals," said Debbie Wilson, executive director of the Muscle Shoals Music Foundation, which operates Muscle Shoals Sound Studio at 3614 Jackson Highway.

"On the tourism side, music aficionados plan trips to places with multiple music-related activities and attractions," Wilson said. "Since Huntsville is just an hour away, it would be easy to combine a concert experience with a short road trip to Muscle Shoals."



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MUSIC

# Shoalsfest

OCTOBER 2019

Story by Russ Corey  
Photography by Russ Corey &  
Patrick Hood

Like the siren call of the Singing River, music fans were drawn to ShoalsFest by the area's rich, musical history, and the music of artists like Jason Isbell, Amanda Shires, Mavis Staples and Sheryl Crow.

Doors for the inaugural festival curated by Isbell, a Greenhill native, opened at 1 p.m. and fans started seeking whatever shade they could find. The Rogers High School Marching Band opened the festival and marched around the grounds playing marching band versions of Isbell songs.

By 3 p.m. the grounds started to fill up as Shires began her set.

Mark Maphis of Ashland, Virginia, said he came down with four friends, and his son, Marcus, drove down from Nashville, Tennessee, to join the party.

Maphis said he's familiar with the music that came out of the area, and he has seen the Muscle Shoals documentary that has brought so many visitors to the area.

"I've never made the pilgrimage," Maphis said. "This is Muscle Shoals. All I had to do was hear 'Mavis Staples' and we're there."

Maphis said they came in early and attended the Donnie Fritts memorial concert on Thursday at the University of North Alabama's Flowers Hall Thursday, and the Jason



Mickey Buckins and Jason Isbell.



Mavis Staples and David Hood.



Jason Isbell and Friends.

Isbell and Friends show Friday at the Shoals Theatre.

They also visited Muscle Shoals Sound Studio, FAME Recording Studios and Cypress Moon Productions, which is the second incarnation of Muscle Shoals Sound.

He thanked Shoals music historian George Lair for showing him around and introducing him to several artists after the Donnie Fritts memorial concert.

"We had a great tour guide," he said. "Everybody here has been warm and great."

His son said he was looking forward to Isbell's closing set.

"He always brings a lot of good people with him," Marcus Maphis said.

While much of the festival grounds was in the sun, fans found shady spots to set up their chairs. Sometimes shade was more important than a clear line of site to the stage.

Johnny Hare of Nashville said he recently saw Isbell, Shires and Crow at the Ryman Auditorium and decided to drive down for the festival.

He was especially taken by the festival's location along the Tennessee River in the shadow of O'Neal Bridge, which offered plenty of photo opportunities.

"I think it's incredible," Hare said, wearing a shirt bearing the nickname of

MUSIC

the late Duane Allman, "Skydog."

Ranelle Marchitto drove in from Hartselle to see Isbell and Mavis Staples.

Dennis Parker and his wife, Terri, were trying to cool off in a sliver of shade by the soundboard. Parker is in the production end of the entertainment business and normally is working a music festival.

"It seems very organized," Parker said. "We had no problem getting in."

"It looks well planned, even better than we expected," Terri Parker said.

The Parkers said they attend "a lot of festivals" around the world.

"It's great to be here for a day off," he said. "It's on the river. This is incredible."

They were both looking forward to



seeing Isbell and Shires. "I love Amanda Shires," Terri Parker said.

Shoals resident Kerry Shapiro attended the festival with his wife, Sara. He was looking forward to seeing Sheryl Crow.

He was glad to see ShoalsFest come to Florence.

"I think it's fabulous," Shapiro said. "It further cements the Shoals as a powerhouse of music, and we all know the Shoals is a powerhouse of music."



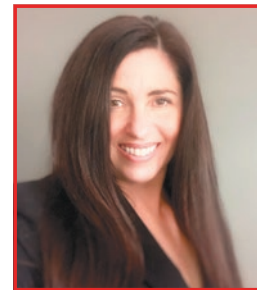
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# SONGS: Recorded in the Shoals

Here is a partial list of hit songs that were either recorded at studios in the Muscle Shoals area, written by Shoals songwriters or recorded with studio musicians from the Shoals:



Carter



Rimes



Seger



Sledge



McGraw



Franklin

## AIR SUPPLY

“Even the Nights Are Better”

## ALABAMA

“Once Upon a Lifetime”

## ALABAMA

“Old Flame”

## ARETHA FRANKLIN

“Chain of Fools,” “I Never Loved a Man (the Way I Love You),” “Respect”

## ART GARFUNKEL

“Watermark”

## ARTHUR ALEXANDER

“You’d Better Move On”

## ARTHUR CONLEY

“Sweet Soul Music”

## BACKSTREET BOYS

“Never Gone,” “No One Else Comes Close”

## THE BAND PERRY

“Don’t Let Me be Lonely”

## BILLY RAY CYRUS

“Achy Breaky Heart”

## BLAKE SHELTON

“Sure Be Cool If You Did”

## BLOODSTONE

“Do You Wanna Do a Thing”

## BOB SEGER

“Against the Wind,” “Night Moves,” “Rock ’n’ Roll Never Forgets,” “Old Time Rock and Roll”

## BOBBY WOMACK

“Harry Hippie,” “Lookin’ For Love”

## CARRIE UNDERWOOD

“Before He Cheats”  
“Blown Away”

## CLARENCE CARTER

“Patches,” “Slip Away”

## CLARENCE CARTER

“Too Weak to Fight”

## CRAIG MORGAN

“That’s What I Love About Sunday”

## DARRYL WORLEY

“Awful, Beautiful Live”  
“I Miss My Friend”

## DELBERT MCCLINTON

“Givin’ It Up For Your Love”

## THE DELLS

“Give Your Baby a Standing Ovation”

## DONNY OSMOND

“Go Away Little Girl,”  
“Sweet and Innocent”  
“Hey Girl”

## DR. HOOK

“Sexy Eyes,” “Sharing the Night Together,” “When You’re In Love with a Beautiful Woman”

## EARL THOMAS CONLEY

“Holding Her and Loving You”

## FLORIDA-GEORGIA LINE

“Round Here”  
“Get Your Shine On”

## GEORGE JONES AND TAMMY WYNETTE

“We’re Gonna Hold On”

## GLENN FREY

“Smuggler’s Blues”  
“Sexy Girl”

## HEARTLAND

“I Loved Her First”

## HOLLIS DIXON AND THE KEYNOTES

“Paper Boy”

## JAMES & BOBBY PURIFY

“I’m Your Puppet”

## JIMMY BUFFETT

“Bama Breeze”

## JOE TEX

“Hold What You Got”

## JOHN MICHAEL MONTGOMERY

“I Swear”

## JOHNNY TAYLOR

“I Believe in You (You Believe in Me)”

## KENNY CHESNEY

“Ain’t Back Yet”

## KENNY CHESNEY & TIM MCGRAW

“Feel Like a Rock Star”

## LEANN RIMES

“Commitment”

## LENNY LEBLANC AND PETE CARR

“Falling”

## LONESTAR

“I’m Already There”

## LUKE BRYAN

“Drunk on You”

## LUTHER INGRAM

“If Loving You is Wrong (I Don’t Want to Be Right)”



**MAC DAVIS**

"Baby Don't Get Hooked on Me," "Stop and Smell the Roses"

**MARY MACGREGOR**

"Torn Between Two Lovers"

**MILLIE JACKSON**

"Feelin' Bitchy," "Get It Outcha System"

**MINDY MCREADY**

"Guys Do it (All the Time)"

**OAK RIDGE BOYS**

"Bobbie Sue," "I Guess it Never Hurts to Hurt Sometime," "American Made"

**THE OSMONDS**

"One Bad Apple," "Sweet & Innocent"

**PAM TILLIS**

"Deep Down"

**PAUL SIMON**

"Loves Me Like a Rock," "Still Crazy After All These Years," "Kodachrome"

**PERCY SLEDGE**

"When a Man Loves a Woman"

**R.B. GREAVES**

"Take a Letter Maria"

**REBA MCENTIRE**

"The Fear of Being Alone"

**ROD STEWART**

"Tonight's the Night"

**THE ROLLING STONES**

"Wild Horses," "You Gotta Move," "Brown Sugar"

**RUSHLOW**

"I Can't Be Your Friend"

**SAILCAT**

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**TYLER FALL**

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**WAYLON JENNINGS**

"We Had it All"

**WILLIE NELSON**

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"Don't Knock My Love," "Land of 1,000 Dances," "Mustang Sally"

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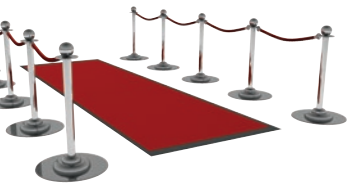
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# FAMOUS Shoals Faces

Shoals boasts many well-known celebrities.



From Grammy-award winning musicians, songwriters and producers to world-known fashion designers to sports figures to history changers and politicians, many influential personalities have ties to the Shoals area and can be seen from time to time in the area.



Natalie Chanin



Stewart Cink



Rick Hall



Howell Heflin



George Lindsey

## GARY BAKER

The Grammy-winning singer, songwriter and producer works and lives in the Shoals.

Baker won a Grammy in 1994 for co-writing the No. 1 crossover hit, "I Swear," and then in 2001, co-wrote Lonestar's No. 1 country hit, "I'm Already There."

He also has worked with pop stars Nick Lachey, Jessica Simpson and the Backstreet Boys, and country stars Reba McEntire and LeAnn Rimes.

His Florence recording studio, Noise Block, has entered into a partnership with the University of North Alabama to teach students recording arts.

## NATALIE CHANIN

Chanin, a Florence native, is a renowned fashion designer whose line of clothing, Alabama Chanin, is highlighted by uniqueness and hand-sewn detail.

The clothing line continues to have a focus on the environment. Many of her projects come from recycled T-shirts.

She returned to Florence to work on the fine, hand-stitching that's a signature of her clothing line.

Her clothing sells to high-end stores such

as Barney's in New York. Her clothing has also been featured in various national and international fashion magazines.

## STEWART CINK

Cink, a mainstay among the professional golf ranks and 2009 British Open winner, fine tuned his skills on the golf courses of the Shoals. The Bradshaw High School graduate and Florence native, turned professional in 1995 after graduating from Georgia Tech University. He joined the Professional Golf Association Tour in 1997.

On tour, Cink has won four major tournaments and has been a part of the 2000 Presidents Cup and two Ryder Cup Teams. He has earned more than \$28 million on the tour.

The 36-year-old lives in Duluth, Ga., but has family in Florence, and he and his family routinely visit here. He sponsors an annual charity golf tournament at Turtle Point Yacht and Country Club for the Healing Place, a local non-profit organization that helps children deal with death. The event attracts many of Cink's PGA tour friends to the area.

## JASON ISBELL

A native of Greenhill and a former member of the Drive-By Truckers, Isbell's star began to rise after the release of "Southeastern" in 2014, the same year he won three awards from the Americana Music Association.

Isbell credits a stint in rehab for alcohol addiction for making him a better songwriter and performer. He said sobriety has also given him more time to work. After leaving the Truckers, Isbell released "Sirens of the Ditch," which was followed by "Jason Isbell and The 400 Unit," "Here We Rest" and "Live From Alabama." In 2011, Isbell relocated to Nashville and is married to violinist Amanda Shires. The couple are expecting their first child.

## RICK HALL

The founder of FAME Recording Studios is the acknowledged "Father of Muscle Shoals Music." Hall and the Muscle Shoals music scene was featured in a film that appeared at the Sundance Film Festival. In 2013, Hall received the Grammy Trustees Award by the Recording Academy, which recognized his 60 years of success in the music

business. Hall was also featured in the 2013 documentary “Muscle Shoals” about FAME Studios and Muscle Shoals Sound Studio in Muscle Shoals. Beginning in 1961, Hall produced and/or engineered some of the most memorable songs of the second half of the 20th century, including Wilson Pickett’s “Mustang Sally,” Clarence Carter’s “Patches,” Etta James’ “Tell Mama” and Aretha Franklin’s “I Never Loved a Man (the Way I Love You).” In the 1970s, he moved into pop and country, and scored hits with the Osmonds, Mac Davis, Bobbie Gentry, Shenandoah and others. FAME (Florence Alabama Music Enterprises) is still an active studio and music publishing company. Kent Records

of England issued a four-disc boxed set of Hall’s 1960s and 1970s FAME recordings in 2011. Hall’s autobiography, “The Man From Muscle Shoals: My Journey From Shame to Fame,” was released in March 2015.

**W.G. HANDY**

William Christopher Handy was born in a log cabin in west Florence in 1873. The man who became known as the “Father of the Blues” left the area at a young age and went on to compose the “St. Louis Blues” and other jazz songs such as “Beale Street Blues” and “Memphis Blues.” Handy’s talents and efforts helped create and popularize the blues.

**HELEN KELLER**

Most likely the most famous resident of the Shoals is Helen Keller, “The First Lady of Courage.” Keller, who was born and raised in Tuscumbia, became blind and deaf at a young age from an illness that many believed to have been scarlet fever. In 1887, her family hired Anne Sullivan to teach Keller. The association with Sullivan changed Keller’s life from a wild and unruly child. She went on to accomplish many things in her life, graduating from Radcliffe College and becoming famous worldwide. People from around the world visit her birthplace, Ivy Green in Tuscumbia.



Mitch McConnell



Ozzie Newsome



Sam Phillips



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## HOWELL HEFLIN

The Tuscumbian, who died in 2005, served as an Alabama U.S. senator from 1979 to 1997. He was a member of the Judiciary Committee and was heavily involved in hearings on nominees to the U.S. Supreme Court, including the famous Clarence Thomas hearings. Heflin also served as chief justice of the Alabama Supreme Court and wrote a judicial article that modernized Alabama's courts. Known as "the judge," he was one of Alabama's most popular senators, winning three elections with wide margins of victory. He was also known as a storyteller who could hold his audiences rapt with humorous, down-home tales that often reflected his political thoughts.

## GEORGE LINDSEY

Lindsey, who will always be best known for his role as Goober on "The Andy Griffith Show," died in 2012.

The Jasper native and former quarterback on the football team for Florence State Teachers College (now University of North Alabama), where he graduated in 1952, has performed on stage and screen throughout his professional career. The annual George Lindsey/UNA Film Festival is named in his honor by his alma mater, where he also established the George Lindsey Academic Scholarships.

## MAC MACANALLY

The Red Bay native and current Sheffield resident

and recording artist has been recognized as the Country Music Association's Musician of the Year in consecutive years. He has recorded 10 albums, all for major labels. A member of Jimmy Buffett's touring Coral Reefer Band, MacAnally has produced several of Buffett's albums, including the No. 1 "License to Chill," and has written many songs for Buffett. Numerous singers have recorded MacAnally's songs, and the group Alabama took his "Old Flame" to No. 1 in 1981. McAnally has won seven consecutive "Musician of the Year" awards from the Country Music Association, which is an association record for consecutive awards.

## MITCH MCCONNELL

A native of Sheffield, McConnell moved to Kentucky, where he serves as a U.S. senator. He was unanimously chosen as Senate Republican Leader in 2006. He was first elected to the Senate in 1984. His wife, Elaine L. Chao, was President George W. Bush's secretary of labor.

## OZZIE NEWSOME

He gained the nickname "The Wizard of Oz" for his ability to make circus catches on the football field.

Newsome, a native of Leighton, and graduate of Colbert County High School and the University of Alabama, is a well-respected businessman and general manager of the Baltimore Ravens of the National Football League. He was

the first African-American to become a general manager in the NFL. Newsome, who played professionally for the Cleveland Browns, is a member of the NFL Hall of Fame.

## SAM PHILLIPS

Phillips enjoyed the ins and outs of radio for a lifetime as a station owner and on-air personality.

However, the Florence native will forever be known as the "Father of Rock 'n' Roll" and the founder of Sun Records in Memphis.

In 1953 at Sun Recording Studios, Phillips discovered a talented kid from Mississippi, Elvis Presley, who would change the makeup of the music industry.

He is also credited for launching the careers of Johnny Cash, Jerry Lee Lewis, B.B. King, Carl Perkins and Roy Orbison.

The Sam Phillips Music Celebration is held annually in the Shoals to honor Phillips and his legacy.

## QUEEN

The grandmother of Alex Haley was the illegitimate and unacknowledged daughter of James Jackson III and his slave, Easter.

Queen lived and worked for several years on the Forks of Cypress Plantation, which was owned by the Jackson family, just north of Florence. The house was given its name because Big Cypress Creek and Little Cypress Creek border the plantation and converge near the

site of the main house, which was struck by lightning and burned in 1966.

Queen was highlighted in a 1993 CBS movie, "Alex Haley's Queen." Haley, the award-winning author of "Roots," began writing the book about his grandmother but died before it was finished. The book was completed by David Stevens, a friend of Haley's.

## BILLY REID

Reid, an internationally recognized fashion designer known to give classic American designs subtle modern twists with nods to Southern gentility, owns and operates his headquarters and design studio on Court Street in Florence.

Reid has stores in New York City, Dallas, Houston, Nashville and Charleston, S.C., and has partnerships with Bergdorf Goodman and Bloomingdale's, two upscale retailers that carry his clothing line. After living in New York, Reid, a native of Amite, La., whose wife is from Florence, moved to north Alabama in 2002. He opened his flagship shop and studio, Pickett Place, before moving into the Court Street location in 2009.

## DRED SCOTT

The man whose name is synonymous with the earliest civil rights battles, lived in Florence as a slave in 1820 with Peter Blow and worked in a hotel that Blow owned. Scott lived in Florence until 1830 when he and Blow moved to St. Louis.

In 1846, Scott sued for

his freedom, claiming he should be free since he had lived on free soil. The case went to the U.S. Supreme Court, which ruled against him in 1857.

Historians say the Dred Scott case widened the gap between the North and the South, and brought the nation closer to the Civil War.

### **PERCY SLEDGE**

The Leighton native became known worldwide in 1966 when the song "When a Man Loves a Woman" was released and moved up the music charts.

Sledge, who now lives in Louisiana but still has relatives in the Leighton area, recorded other songs such as "Warm and Tender Love," "It Tears Me Up" and "Take Time

to Know Her."

He is recognized as one of the artists who helped make Muscle Shoals music world famous.

### **T.S. STRIBLING**

The graduate of Florence Normal School (now the University of North Alabama) went on to write 16 novels, but is best known for a trilogy of books set in and around Florence. The second novel in that trilogy, "The Store," won the 1933 Pulitzer Prize for fiction. He died in Florence in 1965, and is buried in his hometown of Clifton, Tenn.

### **THE MUSCLE SHOALS RHYTHM SECTION**

The group, made up of Barry Beckett, Roger Hawkins, David Hood and Jimmy Johnson, was

a house band, working backup for music artists coming through the Shoals in the 1960s and 1970s, the heyday of the Muscle Shoals Music Scene.

The group was featured in "Muscle Shoals," a 2013 documentary film about FAME Studios and Muscle Shoals Sound Studio.

The group has appeared on classic recordings by top-named artists. They began their career at Rick Hall's FAME Studios appearing with Wilson Pickett, Aretha Franklin, Clarence Carter, Arthur Conley and Etta James. In 1969, with the support of Atlantic Records and producer Jerry Wexler, they opened Muscle Shoals Recording Studios at 3614 Jackson Highway in Sheffield. There, the

group worked with R.B. Greaves, The Rolling Stones, Paul Simon, Bob Seger, The Staple Singers, Willie Nelson, Leon Russell and Rod Stewart among a list of others. The group was inducted into the Alabama Music Hall of Fame in 1995 and in 2008 into the Musicians Hall of Fame in Nashville. Barry Beckett died in June 2009.

### **FRED THOMPSON**

Born at then Colbert County Hospital (now Helen Keller Hospital) in Sheffield, Thompson lived a short time with his family on Colbert Heights mountain before moving to Lawrenceburg, Tenn., where he was raised.

Thompson, a graduate of Lawrence County

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High School, attended the University of North Alabama in Florence before transferring to Memphis State. He became a U.S. senator, representing Tennessee, from 1994-2002 and ran unsuccessfully as a Republican presidential candidate in 2008.

An attorney by profession, Thompson served on the minority council of the Senate Watergate Committee. He became an actor and has appeared in numerous movies and television series, maybe best known as Arthur Branch, the district attorney in NBC's "Law and Order."

### **JOSH WILLINGHAM**

Willingham is in his second season with the Minnesota Twins after signing a three-year deal with the organization last year.

The Mars Hill and University of North Alabama standout won the America League Silver Slugger Award last year. The award goes to the best offensive player in each position. Willingham was drafted by the Florida Marlins in the 17th round of the 2000 Major League Baseball Draft. He made his MLB debut July 6, 2004, against the Pittsburgh Pirates but did not garner regular playing time until 2006. After three seasons with the Marlins he was traded to Washington during the 2009 off-season before moving on to Oakland and then to Minnesota.

### **ED YEILDING**

The time was 68 minutes 17 seconds. The day was March 6, 1990, a day the Florence native and resident flew a R-17 Blackbird jet coast to coast. The average speed of that short trip was 2,189.94 MPH.

Yeilding shattered the old coast-to-coast record of 3 hours, 38 minutes, set 27 years earlier.

### **BILL YOAST**

Yoast grew up in Florence, attended Coffee High School and loved the game of football. He eventually got into high school coaching and gained national fame in 1971.

That was the year integration combined two schools in Virginia, where Yoast was coaching. Yoast found himself going from head coach at Alexandria High School to assistant at the new T.C. Williams High School.

Yoast, who is white, bonded with black head coach Herman Boone, and that friendship and working relationship led the team to the state championship. The season and the team, along with Yoast and Boone, inspired the 2000 hit movie "Remember the Titans."

### **JOHN PAUL WHITE**

The Florence resident was formerly part of The Civil Wars, teaming with Joy Williams, of Nashville. The duo won Grammy awards in consecutive years. The songwriting and singing partners made numerous television appearances, released the best-selling "Barton Hollow" album, and had surprise concert

appearances with Taylor Swift, one of their most ardent fans.

White continues to write music and some of his songs have been used in the ABC television show "Nashville." White is currently working on an album with noted singer-songwriter Donnie Fritts. He and two other Shoals residents founded the Shoals-based record label Single Lock Records.

### **DRIVE-BY TRUCKERS**

The core songwriters and singers in this Athens, Georgia.-based band hail from the Shoals and perform and record locally from time to time. Florence native Patterson Hood and Tuscumbia native Mike Cooley have been recording together for more than 20 years under various names and band line-ups, but it's with the Drive-By Truckers that they have made their mark. They have also worked and recorded with Booker T. Jones for a Grammy-winning performance, and with Bettye LaVette for a Grammy-nominated work at FAME Recording Studios.

### **THE SECRET SISTERS**

The Greenhill sisters Laura and Lydia Rogers have made a big impression with fans of traditional country and old-school harmony singing. Their seamless harmonies landed them a recording contract after a Nashville audition and a production deal with producer T-Bone Burnett for their debut record. They have appeared on television, toured Europe and made numerous festival performances.



Billy Reid



Dred Scott



Percy Sledge



Fred Thompson



Josh Willingham



Ed Yeilding

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Every community has a legendary tale to tell, and the Shoals is no different. Stories and myths from the Shoals add a unique flavor to the area and make for interesting conversation. Here are a few examples:

### THE SINGING RIVER

If you like music, you've come to the right place. The Shoals has a long history of musical influence, with countless Billboard Top 40 hits recorded in the area throughout the years.

Perhaps a story passed down through the centuries by American Indians who settled in the area foreshadowed that success.

American Indians gave the portion of the Tennessee River that runs through here the nickname "Singing River."

The story goes that the name was created because the shoals in the river were so abundant that a hard breeze would produce a noise as it traveled over them. The noise sounded musical.

It is said that the river continued to "sing" after American Indians fell victim to forced federal government relocations in the 1800s. The singing river was beckoning them back home.

The Legislature was so moved by the tale that it named

the newest bridge across the Shoals the "Singing River Bridge."

### SPOOKINESS

If you like to get spooked, you're at the right place. The Shoals is full of ghost stories to make your spine tingle.

One popular tale is about Mrs. Winston, who was killed in a tornado at her home, which today is a historic building on Deshler High School's campus in Tuscumbia.

Mrs. Winston's ghost has been known to peer out the window at passersby, and it's a tradition to leave her an invitation at the house if you are going to have an event there,

lest she haunt the gathering.

Another ghost story is of a child who was killed after being bitten by a rabid dog.

Today, the home is the location of the Off Campus Bookstore across from the University of North Alabama,

# Myths & Legends



Judith Winston, who died in the Winston Home after an 1874 tornado.



Photo taken on March 8, 1934, by W.N. Manning for the Historical American Buildings Survey, of the Winston home in Tuscumbia. (Photo from HABS)





on North Court Street in Florence.

Many students, employees and owners tell of sightings of the girl's ghost, which sometimes asks, "Have you seen my dog?"

In fact, there are so many stories that historic ghost tours are available in downtown Florence and Tuscumbia in October.

### DETROIT, ALABAMA STYLE

Could you imagine this place as the automobile hub of the world?

Well, in 1921, Henry Ford and Thomas Edison came to the Shoals with a vision of making the area a huge metropolis. Ford said it would become the "Detroit of the South."

He wanted to build a factory that would employ as many as 1 million workers. Ford envisioned a city 75 miles long.

He offered to buy Wilson Dam, but that was turned down by Congress, which later formed the Tennessee Valley Authority to develop the dam and the TVA river system.


At the time, residents were disappointed the Detroit vision didn't work out, but most say today they are thankful the Shoals was able to maintain its small-town traits.

There still is a hint of Ford's visions, however. Many of Muscle Shoals' main streets are named after major Detroit streets.




Henry Ford and Thomas Edison stand on the platform of a train leaving the East Florence train station Dec. 23, 1921. Photo by G.W. Landrum. Courtesy of Jerry Landrum Collection.


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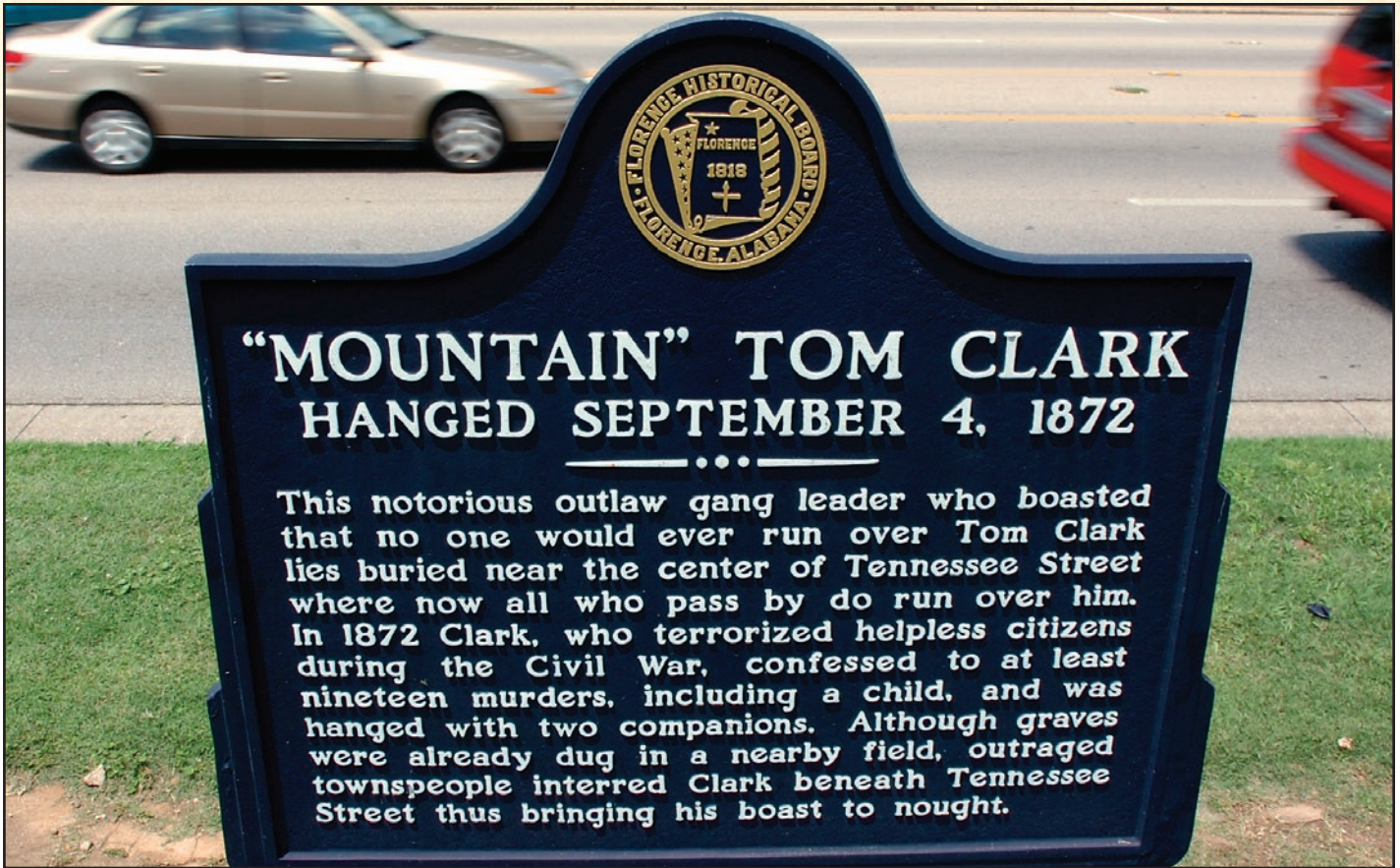
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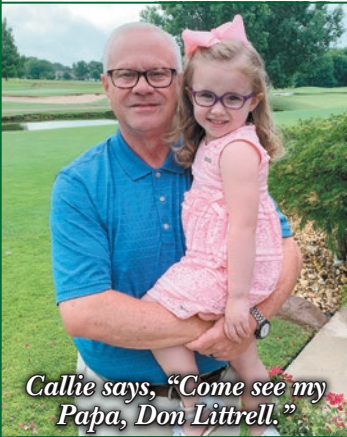


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A historical marker for outlaw Tom Clark is visible on Tennessee Street at Florence Cemetery.

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## “MOUNTAIN” TOM MEETS HIS MATCH

If you find the occasion to drive across the easternmost portion of Tennessee Street in Florence, you supposedly are taking part in a plan hatched in the late 1800s to prove one of the area’s most notorious villains wrong.

“Mountain” Tom Clark had committed about every heinous crime imaginable in the area during those days. The story goes that he finally was captured and scheduled to be hanged, but that wasn’t good enough for local residents, who lynched him and buried him under what became Tennessee Street.

They chose that spot for a purpose: it was and continues to be one of the most-traveled roads in the area, thus making Clark’s well-known boast — “No one will ever run over Mountain Tom Clark” — wrong.

A historic market at the Florence City Cemetery at that stretch of road describes the incident.

## LEGENDARY ROBBER

One of the most infamous criminals in our nation’s history once came calling to the Shoals.

Jesse James and his gang hit the area in and made off with \$5,200 in federal paychecks.

Jesse and Frank James and company robbed a Muscle Shoals Canal paymaster of the checks shortly after the paymaster had gone into Florence for the money. The robbery, near Killen in Lauderdale County, involved three men on horseback who confronted the paymaster and took the federal money.



Jesse James

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## Student of the Year

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April • McFarland Park

The Smoke on the Water Festival is more than just a BBQ cook-off - it's an event for the entire family! Sanctioned by the Kansas City BBQ Society and the Alabama BBQ Association, this cook-off will determine the very best barbeque among entrants participating from throughout the Southeast. Winners will compete for cash prizes totaling more than \$6,000.

## Shoals Dragon Boat Festival

October • McFarland Park

Once you hear about dragon boat racing and become involved in this world of sport, community and fun, there is no turning back. There is much more to it than a great day on the water. There are different and interesting ways to experience the sport for both team members and spectators. Whether you've never paddled in a festival, or you paddle regularly in a dragon boat, you feel connected to it. That's the beauty of it - from the moment you pick up a paddle, you'll love dragon boat racing!



In 2011, the Shoals community, headed by the Florence and Greater Shoals Rotary Clubs, decided that education was the most important gift we could give our children. Because education is the underpinning for success in every endeavor, the community banded together to give every student in the Shoals the opportunity to continue education beyond high school.

For more information or tickets for any of these events check out [www.shoalsscholardollars.com](http://www.shoalsscholardollars.com)



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## MUSSEL/MUSCLE SHOALS

There remains disagreement about the origin of the name Muscle Shoals, one of the "Quad Cities" in the area.

Some say it's another spelling for the river's mussels, which is why the city should have been spelled "Mussel Shoals."

Others claim it honors those whose labor helped build the area through their hard work and muscle, hence "Muscle Shoals."

Either way, the official name remains Muscle Shoals.

## LONG LIVE THE KING

There were plenty of Elvis sightings in Sheffield, even before the singer became a national icon. Elvis Presley was a regular at Sheffield Community Center, where he honed his skills.

The center had a reputation at the time as an important spot to reach in order to achieve stardom. Jerry Lee Lewis, Johnny Cash and Carl Perkins are others who played at the center, which today has been remodeled into Park Place retirement center on North Montgomery Avenue.

It also was common to see Elvis spend leisure time in town, with the old Woody-Mac Drive-In among the spots where he would pull in his pink Cadillac.

## HAIL TO THE VISITORS

No fewer than six U.S. presidents have visited the Shoals. William McKinley, Theodore Roosevelt, John F. Kennedy and Jimmy Carter visited during their presidential terms.

Rutherford Hayes was here as a Civil War Union officer and Andrew Jackson encamped here during the War of 1812.

## SWAMP THINGS

One of rock 'n' roll's best-known anthems, "Sweet Home, Alabama," not only pays homage to the state, but to a group of talented musicians from the Shoals.

When Lynyrd Skynyrd sings the line, "Now Muscle Shoals has got the Swampers," in the song, the band is speaking of the musicians who helped record hit after hit in the 1970s, including some for Skynyrd.

Those recordings helped members of Skynyrd and the Swampers form tight bonds.



The original Swampers, the Muscle Shoals rhythm section, at FAME Studios. From left, David Hood, Jimmy Johnson, Barry Beckett, Roger Hawkins and Junior Lowe.

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# campgrounds



The Shoals offers plenty of sites for primitive and RV camping, many of which are along the beautiful Tennessee River.

Brush Creek Park in Lauderdale County now has 12 new camping sites for recreational vehicles, an additional picnic pavilion, an additional bathhouse, and restroom facilities. All of the facility will be handicapped-accessible. There also are boat ramps at the campground that provide easy access to the water for campers and fishing enthusiasts.

## ■ Brush Creek Park

Lauderdale 14, near Waterloo.  
Open from mid-March through late October. No fee to camp. Thirty-day maximum stay.  
256-760-5878 or 256-760-5750



## Other Parks

### ■ Colbert Alloys Park and Campground

180 Alloys Park Lane, Muscle Shoals  
Located on Wilson Lake, has RV, tent and primitive camping; electricity; water; sewage and dump station; bathhouse; and boat ramp. The park is open year round.  
256-577-9619

### ■ Colbert Rose Trail

9395 Riverton Rose Trail, Cherokee  
Located on Pickwick Lake, the grounds include tent and primitive camping, electricity, water, dump station, piers, pavilion, bathrooms, showers and seasonal boat ramps. Open all year. 256-360-2764

### ■ Heritage Acres RV Park

1770 Neil Morris Road, off U.S. 72, Tuscumbia  
The park offers RV campsites with full hookups, coin laundry, bath house, free cable television, free WiFi. Daily, weekly and monthly rates are available, and big rigs and pets are welcome. 256-383-7368; heritageacresrvpark.com.

### ■ Tuscumbia RV Park

18260 U.S. 72, Tuscumbia  
A park with 24 RV spots located about seven miles west of Tuscumbia. Full hookups with electricity, water, sewage, WiFi, free laundry and shower building. The park is open year round. 256-383-2363 or 800-930-7275, or TuscumbiaRvPark.com.

### ■ Wilson Dam Rock Pile Campground

663 Rock Pile Road, Muscle Shoals  
A self-service campground opens mid-March through mid-November with 23 campsites. Rest rooms with heated showers and flush toilets, picnic tables and grills, boat ramps above and below the dam, lake and river fishing, hiking trail (10 miles), walking trail, nature area, wildlife viewing area, bird watching and bicycling. 800-882-5263; tva.gov/river/recreation/camping.htm#wilson.



Recreational camping at McFarland Park.



A gravel path leads down to the Tennessee River at Wheeler Campground near Wheeler Dam.

#### ■ McFarland Park

Alabama 20, Florence

The park has 60 campsites open year round with electrical and water connections. It also has rest rooms, bathhouse and laundry facilities. The park is conducive to tent camping. 256-740-8817.

#### ■ Joe Wheeler State Park

Rogersville.

This state park offers resort facilities with a lodge, cabins, restaurant, fishing, golf, swimming, tennis, convention and banquet facilities and boat slips and marina. The upgraded campsites offer all amenities and primitive sites as well. 256-247-1184; joewheeler.park@dcnr.alabama.gov.

#### ■ Wheeler Reservation Campground

Alabama 101, east end of Wheeler Dam.

Campground has 30 camping sites open from mid-March through late October. With water and electrical connections, the park has a free dumping station, bathhouse and a fishing pier for campers. Camping fee charged. First-come, first-serve basis with a maximum 30-day stay. No reservations. 256-760-5878 or 256-760-5750.



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# The best 18 holes *in the Shoals*

Story by Gregg Dewalt

Photos by Matt McKean and Patrick Hood

One of Robert Trent Jones Sr.'s integral golf design philosophies was that it should be hard to make a par and easier to make a bogey on any given hole.

That design influence can be found on three of Alabama's best golf courses located in the Shoals — Turtle Point Yacht and Country Club, and the self-named Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail's the Shoals Fighting Joe and Schoolmaster layouts.

Turtle Point, annually ranked among the top five courses in the state, was designed by Jones. Fighting Joe and Schoolmaster were the brainchild of Jones' protégé Roger Rulewich, who did the majority of the architecturally acclaimed Trail designs.

Why is that little bit

of history important?

Because those three courses contain the bulk of what a panel of local experts consider the best 18 holes in the Shoals.

But Jones' philosophy, while perhaps forged from his mentors, isn't the gospel of golf architecture. Every great designer has their own ideas for architecture. So do most players.

So, what makes a great golf hole? Jeff Neuman, editor of *Met Golfer* magazine, offered insight in an email response.

"A great golf hole should be a challenge to the mind and body, and a delight to the senses. It should have a strategic element, offer more than one way to play it, and fit pleasingly in the landscape. Some would say it should look as though it was discovered



Robert Trent Jones at the Shoals has a beautiful clubhouse with stunning views of the Tennessee River.



rather than built; for others, it's like the joke about honesty and sincerity being the key to success in Hollywood ('As long as you can fake that, you've got it made') — artfully manufactured surroundings can serve just as well."

Many of the great holes are what Donald Ross called half-par holes: potentially driveable par-4s, reachable par-5s, long fours where the prudent play might be to lay up on the second shot. Holes that force decisions plant the seeds of doubt in a golfer's mind, and those seeds often sprout at the top of the backswing.

For Tom Doak, "The best holes tend to be the ones that play into the most interesting greens." Whether through size, tilt, contour, or surrounding hazards, they offer challenges that

affect the golfer all the way back to the tee. He once told an associate, "If (you) made the green look as different as possible from opposite sides of the fairway, that would be a great start to an interesting hole."

University of North Alabama golf coaches Cullen Carstens and Neil Self, UNA senior golfer Jackson Wedgeworth, Blackberry Trail's Jason Vaughn, Cypress Lakes' Scott Arndt and Turtle Point's Les Holcombe compiled a list of their favorite local holes from seven courses based on aesthetics, shot value and playability. Panelists were asked to consider each of the holes from the middle tees to reflect where the majority of the general public plays from, although back tees were considered in some instances. The preliminary list featured

48 holes.

From there, the list was pared down to reflect which holes received the most votes. Par-3s were heavily favored among the panelists, with seven among the top vote-getters. However, to more closely reflect a traditional 18-hole, par-72 course, the list was separated into par-3s, par-4s and par-5s, and from there the top holes were selected to form the Shoals Dream 18.

The front nine plays to 3,630 yards from the middle tees and features water on five holes.

**Dream 18: The Back Nine**

After traversing a difficult outward nine holes of the Shoals' Dream 18, the back nine features spectacular views with fun holes and a sprinkling of danger at every turn.

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The yardage on the back nine softens considerably once you get past the front's daunting 3,600-plus yards. The Dream 18's back nine plays to a modest 3,159 yards from the middle tees with multiple chances for birdies. Dial in your iron play and get your putter working, and a sub-par score is easily attainable.

Make a few errors or

get distracted by the scenery and a good round can quickly go south.

The back nine starts with a par-3 — No. 18 on Fighting Joe at the Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail the Shoals. Scott Arndt, the former director of golf at the RTJ facility who now manages Cypress Lakes, calls it the best finishing hole on the trail.

Players need to show off their ability to shape

shots with their driver, needing a draw on one hole and a high fade on the next. The back nine also features a pair of risk-reward par-5s, a long, difficult par-3 and a smattering of fun short par-4s.

It ends with another spectacular view of Wilson Lake and a devilish short iron into the 18th green at Turtle Point.

**Turtle Point, No. 13, Par 4, 336/359 yards**

Neil Self says: I've seen good players hit irons off the tee but I'll always hit driver. If the greens are firm, it's one of the trickiest little wedge shots around. Hit the fairway and a solid little nipper you'll have a good look at birdie. Anything less and you probably won't keep it



The fifth hole on the Fighting Joe is well-guarded by water and bunkers.

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on the green.

Former TimesDaily sports editor Gregg Dewalt, avid golfer, says: This is just a tremendous short par-4 with multiple options from tee to green. You can bomb a driver as close to the green as possible or hit something less and leave a longer, yet more-full shot into a shallow green that is hard to hold. On paper, it looks like a birdie hole. In reality, it's a tough second shot to a green that is tough to hold and par is an acceptable score.

**Schoolmaster, No. 16, Par 3,  
146/157 yards**

Neil Self says: Beautifully carved out little par 3. Interesting green in both shape and severity. Triangle green makes for good variation.

Gregg Dewalt says: This is a hole that really fits a person's eye. Every

time I play this hole with friends, I feel as if I could see a hole-in-one because you have a short iron in your hands. That only adds to the thrill factor.

**Turtle Point, No. 5, Par 5,  
493/566 yards**

Cullen Carstens says: If you enjoy working the ball from left to right, this hole is for you. From the white tees, players can either hit a 220-240 shot straight away, or hit more and try to maneuver a cut around the trees guarding the corner. After the tee shots, the rest of the hole plays downhill with a pond guarding the front of the green. For the big hitters, a well-placed drive will leave you just a little too far to reach the green, but close enough to convince you to try it. Another hole where you have to think your way

through every shot, the downhill elevation must be factored in on the layup shot, making sure you don't run through into the water. Approach shots to the green are usually from 80-120 yards, so make sure to leave yourself a number you are comfortable with. The green has a crown in the middle which will run putts towards both the front and back edges of the green. Such a great hole, I've seen just as many birdies as I have double-bogeys. Three good shots will earn you a par (or better), so if you can, take 5 and be thankful.

**Fighting Joe, No. 5, Par 3,  
175/193 yards**

Gregg Dewalt says: One of the few holes on Fighting Joe with significant elevation change, this is another one of the great par-3s in

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The fifth green at Turtle Point is one of the toughest on the course.

the area. Water can come into play on both sides of the green and also behind it, and bunkers protect the front. Because the tee shot is downhill, you get to track it all the way, wondering as the ball flies toward the green if you pulled the correct club. When the ball lands safely, you can let out a sigh of relief.

**Blackberry Trail, No. 14, Par 4, 303/336 yards**

Gregg Dewalt says: This is a neat little hole that mostly requires a lay-up to 100 yards. The green is divided into two sections by a ridge and is one of the most perplexing on the course. Even though a short-iron approach should leave a player stalking a birdie, the slightest miss-hit can

result in the ball resting in a watery grave and putting double bogey in play.

**Schoolmaster, No. 2, Par 3, 178/196 yards**

Gregg Dewalt says: another really fine par-3 that you face early in the round on Schoolmaster. This deep green can play as much as three more clubs depending

on the wind and the hole location. Water guards the front and right side of the green with bunkers on the left. It's another one of those holes where you'll take par and move on.

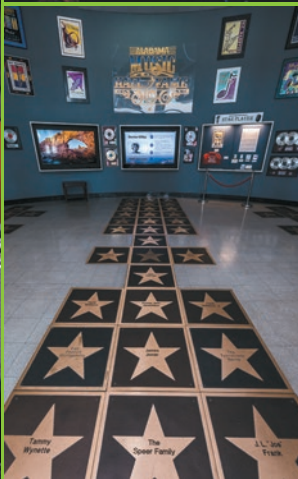
**Cypress Lakes, No. 17, Par 3, 184/224 yards**

Jackson Wedgeworth says: A 230-yard carry over water to a protected



The 10th hole at Turtle Point stretches to 219 yards and has four bunkers protecting the green.

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The second hole on Schoolmaster is a tough par-3 with a deep green that can play much longer than the scorecard yardage.



green can be scary late in a round. This hole requires a great shot and some luck to hit the green. Many balls find the water all around this green. Keeping the ball dry on this hole is a great success.

**Turtle Point, No. 10, Par 3, 188/219 yards**

Les Holcombe says: No. 10 is a great par-3 because of the shape of the green and the

placement of the four bunkers, and it is 219 yards from on the back tee. It can take three different clubs depending on the hole location. And the back left bunker or over the green must be avoided.

**Blackberry Trail, No. 8, Par 5, 493/526 yards**

Gregg Dewalt says: The perfect ending to an emergency nine — the classic risk-reward par-5. A good drive leaves a decision — try to carve a 3-wood or hybrid into a narrow opening for an eagle opportunity or lay up and go for birdie with a wedge or sand wedge. There is no bailout area if you go for it — a pull ends up in a penalty area and a fade ends up in a pond guarding the front and right side of the green. There's always a little indecision in the second shot if you go for the green in two because the pond extends slightly in front of the green.



The 16th hole on the Schoolmaster course at the Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail's The Shoals is another of the area's top par-3s.



The 14th green on the School Master course at Robert Trent Jones Golf Course.

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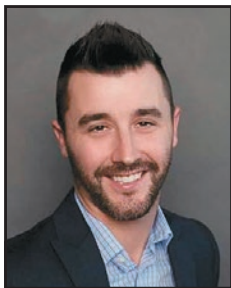
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Long is better than short when playing the 17th hole at Cypress Lakes.



Blackberry Trail's 14th green is bisected by a large ridge.



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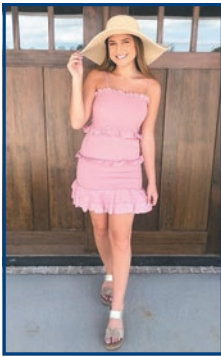
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The 18th green at the clubhouse at Cypress Lakes Golf Course in Muscle Shoals.




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The eighth hole at Blackberry Trail is a good risk-reward par-5.



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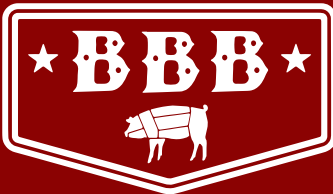
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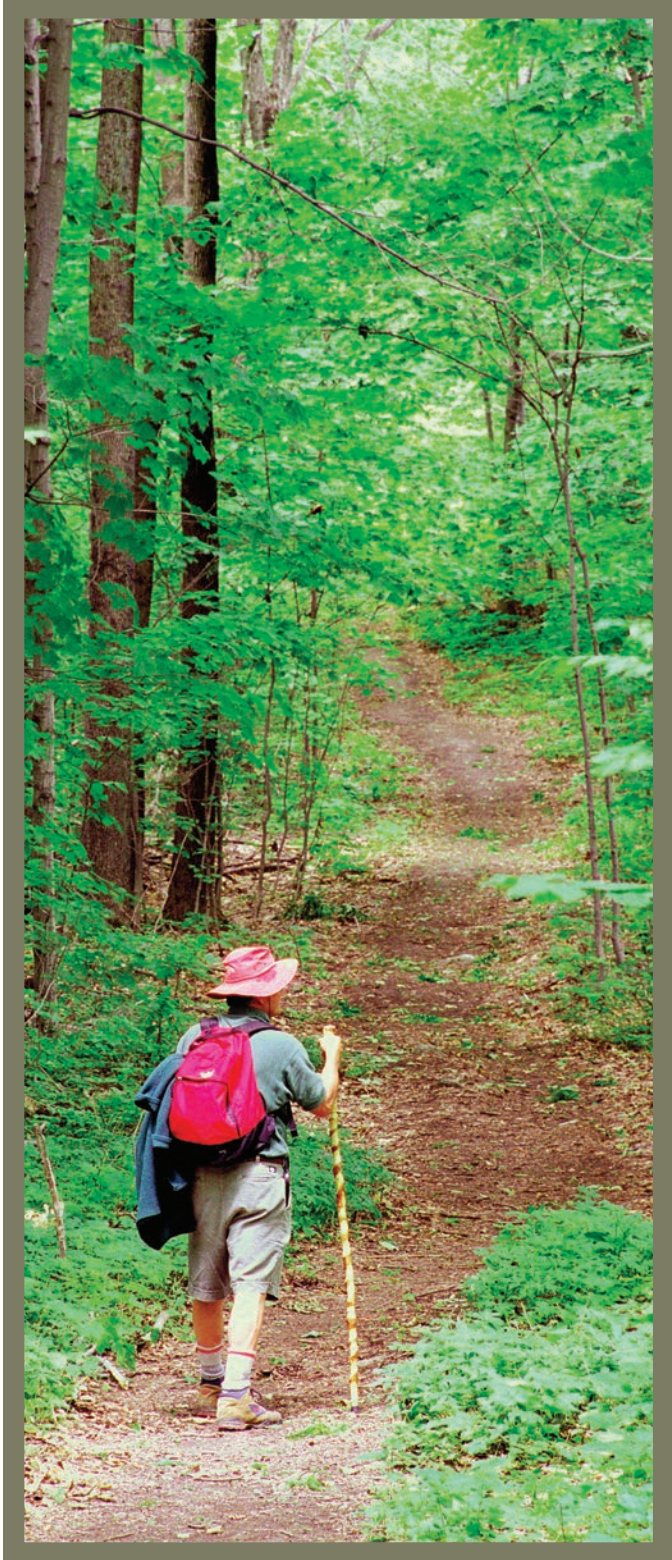
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# take a hike

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If you enjoy hiking, the Shoals has several options with trails that wind through tranquil wooded areas, some of which border the beautiful Tennessee River.

■ Shoal Creek Nature Preserve

This picturesque place is a popular destination for those who enjoy a walk in the woods, horseback riding, bicycling and bird watching. The state-owned, 298-acre nature area features 4.5 miles of trails that provide views of cascading streams, wildflowers, wildlife and Shoal Creek.

The preserve features varying habitats including fallow fields, mature upland hardwood stands and scenic creek bottoms. It also offers opportunities for fishing, canoeing, picnicking, photography and nature study.

Motorized vehicles are only allowed in designated parking areas and access roads.

An additional 2 miles of trails at the nature area are available for horseback riding and bicycling.

The preserve is about 7 miles north of Florence and 2.5 miles north of St. Florian on Lauderdale 61. Access is available via a gravel road off Lauderdale 61.

■ Rock Spring Nature Trail

Located west of Florence, this scenic trail is a part of the Natchez Trace Parkway.

Visitors have an opportunity to see beaver and other wildlife. During the fall, numerous hummingbirds can be seen along the trail, feeding on the jewelweed that grows around Colbert Creek.

A small natural spring bubbles from the rocks near a deep pool where fish dart about. After completing the 20-minute walk around the loop trail, you might be tempted to take off your shoes and dangle your feet in the cool water. Vegetation and trees change as you move along the trail, past the stream, and on to a field and a rocky hillside. Steppingstones that provide access across Colbert Creek limit the opportunities for handicapped access to the trail.

■ Key Cave National Wildlife Refuge

Key Cave National Wildlife Refuge is located southwest of Florence and features more than 2.5 miles of gravel trails that provide opportunities for watching birds and other wildlife. Many of the birds seen there are grassland species that are not commonly found in north Alabama.

The 1,060-acre refuge is on Lauderdale 204. Take Alabama 20 to Lauderdale 2 in Florence. Travel 5 miles west and turn south on Lauderdale 223 for 1.5 miles. Then turn west on 204 for 1/4 mile.

■ Bankhead National Forest

In addition to nature preserves, parks and other outdoor venues in the Shoals, Bankhead National Forest, in Lawrence, Winston and Franklin counties, has numerous trails ranging from narrow paths through wilderness to a multi-use trail where horses and all-terrain cycles can be ridden.

The forest is a popular destination for campers, hikers, wildlife watchers, horse-back riders, canoeists and kayakers. Alabama 33 south of Moulton and Alabama 195 south of Haleyville provide access to the forest. 205-489-5111.



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■ **Old Railroad Bridge**

At one time, this bridge provided access across the Tennessee River for both automobiles and trains. Today, it is used only by pedestrians.

It provides a scenic view of the Tennessee River. Many walkers time their visits to watch the sun setting over Pickwick Lake.

Hikers also can access Tennessee Valley Authority trails from the Old Railroad Bridge.

Access to the bridge is from Ashe Boulevard in Sheffield.

■ **Cane Creek Canyon Nature Preserve, Tuscumbia**

Just a short drive from the city, hikers and nature lovers can find one of Alabama's treasured forests — Cane Creek Canyon Nature Preserve. With more than a dozen waterfalls and 15 miles of trails, opportunity to enjoy the area's natural beauty awaits. Although the trails range from beginner to advanced, all of the real scenery requires some difficulty to see. Visitors are required to sign in to the preserve.

Go about 6 miles north of U.S. 72 on Hawk Pride Mountain Road, turn left onto Loop Road and reach entrance to preserve in about a mile and a half.



The Point at Cane Creek Canyon Nature Preserve.



Cane Creek Nature Preserve.



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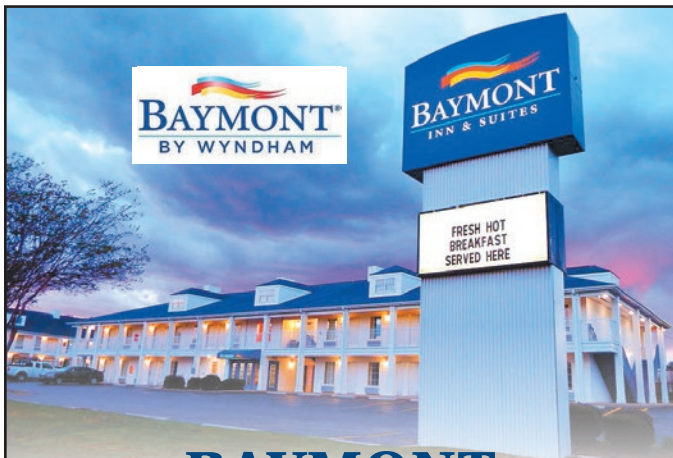


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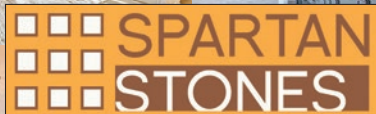


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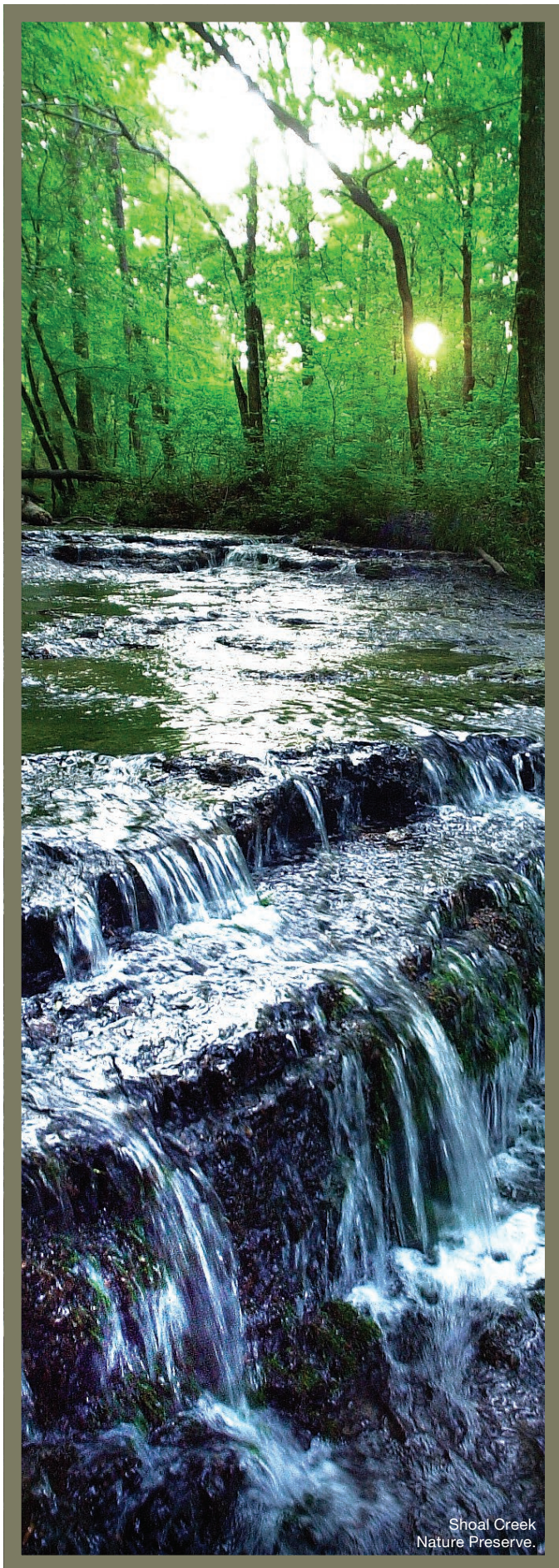
37-B Hughes Rd.,  
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256-248-1991

10303 US Hwy. 31  
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408640-1



Shoal Creek  
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Key Cave  
Wildlife Refuge.



■ **Alabama Forever Wild Shoal Creek Preserve, St. Florian**

This beautiful part of Lauderdale County is perfect for beginning hikers, where scenic creek bottoms and vast woodlands comprise the well-marked trails.

Wooden bridges decorate the 2.4-mile Jones Branch Loop and 1.8-mile Lawson Branch Loop, making them easy to cross and providing a rustic atmosphere. A cave in the area is a great place for spelunking.

From Florence Boulevard, turn left onto Lauderdale 30, take first right onto Lauderdale 47, take second left onto Lauderdale 61, go about 2 miles and entrance road will be on the right.

■ **Wildwood Park, Florence**

Located a short distance from historic downtown Florence and the University of North Alabama, Wildwood Park offers trails ranging from beginner to advanced. The park is also ideal for mountain biking and jogging. The park has a picnic area.

Going south on Pine Street, turn left onto Lion Drive, then turn left onto Circular Road. Continue onto Waterloo Road, turn left after about a half-mile, and the park will be on the left.



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**Dr. George R. Jennings, MD**

While in our 10th year in the Shoals, the staff of Shoals Plastic Surgery and Dr. Jennings strive to give compassionate and competent care on an individual basis. Being able to fulfill a need in this area, and giving patients an option to stay close to home is a great honor. Plastic Surgery is the work of transformation and renewal, and for many patients, this can be life-changing. This is one of the many reasons Dr. Jennings chose the specialty of Plastic Surgery.

Dr. Jennings takes patients' needs very seriously and works diligently to achieve success for his patients, whether it be cosmetic or reconstructive. He is Board Certified by the American Board of Plastic Surgery and a standing member of the American Society of Plastic Surgeons. His goal for Shoals Plastic Surgery is to be the “go to” practice that serves the community in a way that has a positive and lasting impact on the Quad Cities and its people.



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# BOATING LAWS



If you were born after April 28, 1954, Alabama law requires you to obtain a boaters license. The Florence Flotilla of the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary offers several classes each year to help boaters prepare for the boaters license exam.

Children younger than 12 are prohibited from operating boats and personal watercraft in Alabama. Youths 12 and 13 can obtain an Alabama boater safety certificate, which allows them to operate a boat while being supervised onboard by a person 21 years or older who has a valid Alabama boat operators license.

Alabama law requires a U.S. Coast Guard-approved personal flotation device be on board boats for the operators and all passengers.

Children younger than 8 are required to wear a life jacket at all times except when riding inside an enclosed cabin. All boat operators and passengers are required to wear a life jacket while within 800 feet of the downstream side of a hydroelectric dam or navigation lock.

Personal watercraft operators and passengers, and anyone towed on skies, tubes, and wake or knee boards must wear a life jacket.

State law also requires vessels more than 16 feet long be equipped with a flotation device that can be thrown, if needed.

The Alabama Marine Police recommends all boat operators and passengers wear a life jacket at all times.

The local Coast Guard Auxiliary flotilla offers vessel safety inspections at area boat ramps during the spring and summer to help boaters make sure they have all required safety equipment onboard. For more details, call 256-757-4622.



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# 10 must-see sites

## while visiting the Shoals

Let's say you only have a couple of days to visit the Shoals and you need some recommendations as to what sites to visit. Here are our recommendations:

The Rosenbaum House, W.C. Handy home, Pope's Tavern, FAME recording studio, Muscle Shoals Sound Studios Museum, Ivy Green, Wilson Dam, Coon Dog Cemetery, Spring Park and the Railroad Depot Museum in Tuscumbia.

### **1 THE ROSENBAUM HOUSE** - *601 Riverview Drive, Florence*

This is the opportunity to experience the work of Frank Lloyd Wright from inside the walls of one of the homes he designed. The 1,540-square-foot home is the only Wright-designed building in Alabama. It was created in a Usonian style that incorporates organic simplicity by bringing in the outdoors.



## W.C. HANDY BIRTHPLACE, MUSEUM & LIBRARY -

620 W. College St., Florence

2

The small log cabin where W.C. Handy, known as "Father of the Blues," was born is part of an attraction that includes a museum and library containing books on Handy and his music, as well as black history and culture. Handy was born in the cabin Nov. 16, 1873, and died in New York in 1958.



PLACES TO SEE

# Shoals Hospitality

Our doors are always open.

The Colbert County Commission's mission is to promote economic development, support existing industries, and encourage tourism. You will find Colbert County is a wonderful place to live, raise a family, locate a business, or just come for a visit.

## Colbert County Commission

Tommy Barnes - District 1

Tori Bailey - District 4

David Black - District 2

Darol Bendall - District 5

Jimmy Gardiner - District 3

Charles Hovater - District 6

# Colbert County Commission

201 N. Main Street, Tuscumbia, AL 35674 • 256-386-8501 • [www.colbertcounty.org](http://www.colbertcounty.org)



3

**POPE'S TAVERN** - 203 Hermitage Drive, Florence

This building's history is intriguing, being a one-time stagecoach stop that later became a hospital for Union and Confederate troops at different times during the Civil War. Andrew Jackson is said to have stopped here on his march to the Battle of New Orleans. Today, artifacts from the 18th and 19th century are displayed in the home.



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**FAME RECORDING STUDIOS - 603 E. Avalon Ave., Muscle Shoals**

**4**

This is a chance to visit the place where artists such as Aretha Franklin, Wilson Pickett, Etta James, Otis Redding, the Osmonds, Jerry Reed, Alabama and Mac Davis have recorded. All totaled, FAME has been involved in recording or publishing records that have sold over 350 million copies since opening its doors in Florence in 1959 and later moving across the river to Muscle Shoals.



PLACES TO SEE

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410108-1

5

### MUSCLE SHOALS SOUND STUDIOS MUSEUM - 3614 Jackson Highway, Sheffield

This is where The Swampers moved to when they left FAME Recording Studios in 1969. The original studio closed in 1978, but in 1999, it was purchased and brought back to life. It is undergoing renovations even now, but there's nothing like seeing the iconic façade while awaiting its reopening. Artists who recorded here included Cher, Rod Stewart, Lynyrd Skynyrd, Wilson Pickett, Bob Seger, and the Rolling Stones.

PLACES TO SEE



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**WILSON DAM - Wilson Dam Road**

6

The mammoth dam that once was a power supply center for munitions plants in World War I today is a major power source for the Tennessee Valley Authority. It was completed in the early 1920s and considered an engineering marvel for its time.



PLACES TO SEE



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**7** **IVY GREEN** - 300 N. Commons St. W., Tuscumbia  
The birthplace of Helen Keller also is the location where she famously learned sign language as a child when her teacher Anne Sullivan repeatedly spelled out "water" in Helen's hand. The pump where Sullivan drew the water is part of the sprawling indoor and outdoor attraction.



8

**COON DOG CEMETERY** - *Coondog Cemetery Road, Cherokee*  
In 1937, Key Underwood honored his beloved hunting dog, Troop, by establishing the cemetery as his burial site. Today, it remains a unique attraction, where coon-dog owners continue the tradition of burying their pets there, beneath markers that range from small stones to large monuments.



PLACES TO SEE



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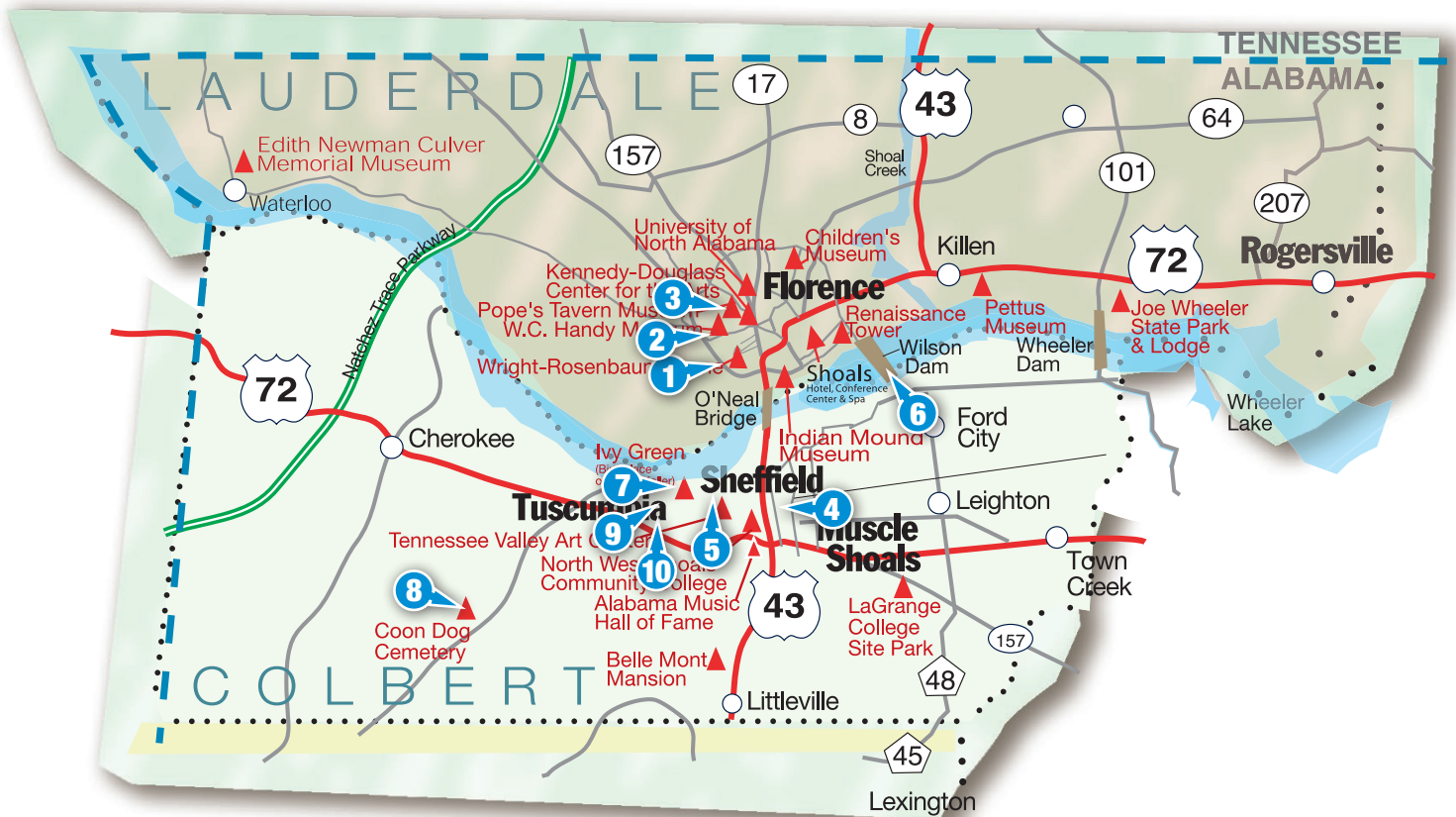
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1401 Huntsville Rd, Florence (at the roundabout) • 256-712-5142

## TUSCUMBIA RAILWAY DEPOT MUSEUM - 204 W. Fifth St., Tuscumbia

9

This train depot was opened in 1888 and today has been renovated to precise specifications to make certain it retains its original look. It includes memorabilia inside the depot and train cars, a roundhouse and operating turntable on the grounds.

PLACES TO SEE



10

**SPRING PARK - Off Main Street, Tuscumbia**

The park, which draws its name from a large spring, features a small roller coaster, carousel, and train that travels throughout the park and waterfall leading into the spring. It also features a two-story open air shelter, several single-story pavilions with lights and power outlets, public restrooms and open spaces.



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PLACES TO SEE

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# Tuscumbia



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- Katie Logan District 1
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- Scott Smart District 4
- Mike Isom District 5

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# Day Trips

check out these nearby places

## NATCHEZ TRACE PARKWAY

Nature is always on display with a visit to the Natchez Trace Parkway. Driving the parkway is a way to enjoy the beautiful colors of autumn, and the spring offers a peek at the first colors of a new year. The Trace connects Nashville with Natchez, Mississippi and attracts more visitors each year than any U.S. National Park except the Statue of Liberty. Access to the Natchez Trace is on Alabama 20, northwest of Florence, and on U.S. 72, near Cherokee, in Colbert County.



## U.S. SPACE AND ROCKET CENTER, HUNTSVILLE

Here's your opportunity to learn about the U.S. space program with space travel simulators and hands-on exhibits at the Space and Rocket Center. The center is recognized as one of the most comprehensive U.S. space museums in the world. Visitors can learn about north Alabama's role in putting man on the moon, the space race, the Apollo missions, the Space Shuttle program as well as the International Space Center. The facility is just off Interstate 565 at One Tranquility Base, Huntsville. 1-800-637-7223; rocketcenter.com.



## DISMALS CANYON

The Dismals Canyon is a privately owned 85-acre natural conservatory that was designated a National Natural Landmark in 1975 by the National Natural Landmarks Program. Its natural formations awe visitors and the secluded trails and woodlands feature a variety of vegetation and rock formations. Features also include a hiking trail, waterfalls, cabins, campsites and a country store. And if you visit during Alabama's sweltering summers, you'll immediately notice the cooling drop in temperature. Open weekends. 205-993-4559; dismalscanyon.com



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The home of Gen. Joe Wheeler, a former Confederate officer and longtime U.S. congressman, is a good day trip. The Wheeler home features many items of the family's clothing and furniture. Besides the home, other buildings on the site include original slave cabins, an old ice house, log barn and other plantation outbuildings. 256-637-8513; facebook.com/GeneralJoeWheelerHome



**JESSE OWENS MEMORIAL PARK**

In 1936, Jesse Owens made his mark in Olympic history by winning four Olympic Gold Medals in Berlin, Germany. His performance in those Olympic Games and his life were the basis of the movie, "Race," which opened in theaters in 2016. Owens was born and grew up in rural Lawrence County, in the Oakville community, south of Moulton. The Jesse Owens Museum and Park is near his birthplace and houses many photos, videos and memorabilia of his life. The museum is about 40 minutes from the Shoals. Take Alabama 157 south through Moulton and turn left on Lawrence 187. Reservations: 256-974-3636; jesseowensmemorialpark.com



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It is one of the winners of the USA Today 2020 10 Best Readers' Choice Travel Award contest for Best New Museum. Cook Museum finished second out of 20 nominees across the United States and Canada.

The museum features at least 60,000 bees, a multitude of bugs and more than 260 other animals. It has seven aquatic tanks, including a 15,000-gallon saltwater tank. 256.351.4505; cookmuseum.org



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## time to Eat

The Shoals has plenty of variety when it comes to the dining experience. Following is just a sample of local restaurants that offer great menus.

### FAMILY

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Where: 462 Lane Drive,  
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to 2 p.m. Monday through Friday;  
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Think fresh – as in organically  
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the day, sandwiches, quiche,  
daily plate, beer and wine, and  
other yummy items that change  
regularly. It's all served on  
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and produces her signature  
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from the lovely food, take  
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#### BIG BAD BREAKFAST

Where: 315 N. Court St.,  
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seven day a week

The aprons were designed  
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of cutlery against plate, and  
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just camp out there – if they'd  
allow you. But if breakfast past 9  
a.m. is not your thing, there are  
salads, sandwiches and wraps,  
too. Ingredients are locally  
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Where: 220 N. Nashville Ave.,  
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Diners can sit inside the glassed  
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summer months, the glass is  
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signature dish.

#### COLDWATER CAFÉ

Where: 3810 Hatch Blvd,  
Sheffield; 256-381-9633

Hours: Mon-Tue 10:30am-3pm,  
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#### GARDEN GATE

Where: 701 Avalon Ave.  
Muscle Shoals; 256-383-6905;

Hours: Mon-Thu, 10:30 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Fri, 10:30 a.m. to 8 p.m.  
 Garden Gate serves home cooking in generous helpings that include fare like fried chicken, beef tips and rice, slow cooked pork roast, chicken and dumplings and home-style veggies like grandma used to cook: turnip greens, potatoes and gravy, green beans, corn, fried okra, purple hull peas or white beans.

**ODETTE**

Where: 120 N. Court Street, Florence; 256-349-5219; odettealabama.com

Hours: Monday-Thursday, 11 a.m. to 11 p.m.; Friday and Saturday, 11a.m. to 1p.m.

Odette bills itself as serving "elevated American fare with Southern and international influences." Menu items feature locally- and sustainable-sourced ingredients. The atmosphere is contemporary and relaxed. It's a local favorite

**THE PIE FACTORY**

Where: 106 N. Court St., Florence, 256-275-3248; 3312 Woodward Ave., Muscle Shoals, 256-314-2622; pizzapiefactory.com

Hours: 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Sunday-Thursday; 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. Friday

How about a handmade-when-you-order, fresh ingredients 16-inch or 14-inch pizza with an array of topping options?

The dough is made in-house. Or maybe you're in the mood for one of the half dozen calzone offerings on the menu. Also offered are wings, side and dinner salads. But you've got to try the fresh, handmade pizzas – there are more than 20 gourmet pizza creations to choose from. Also offered are craft and small-batch beers in bottles and on tap – many made right here in Alabama.

**RATTLESNAKE SALOON**

Where: 1292 Mount Mills Road, Tuscumbia; 256-370-7220; Reservations must be booked before 4:45 p.m. by calling 256-370-7218; rattlesnakesaloon.net

Hours: 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Thursday through Saturday (Feb.-Nov.); 11 .m. to 3 p.m., Sunday (April-Sept.)

You've got to see this restaurant. There's a reason it bills itself as "the watering hole under the rock." This is a very popular restaurant. See the website for reservation rules.

**RAY'S AT THE BANK**

Where: 1411 Huntsville Road, Florence; 256-275-7716

Hours: 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday

Good regional fare in this new restaurant in east Florence. The building has been renovated to expose brick walls that adds warmth and charm to the dining experience, which features



2134 Helton Drive • Florence



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**256-366-2218**

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sandwiches (smoked gouda pimiento cheese sounds good), slow smokes pork brisket, ribs and chicken, and soups and salads.

## RHODA P'S

Where: 500 N. Montgomery Ave., Sheffield; 256-978-5179; rhodapscatering.com

Hours: 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Tuesday through Friday; 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sunday

Rhoda P's has been a favorite among locals and visitors for decades. How about succulent fried pork chops, corn casserole, pinto bean and fried okra. That's the kind of mouthwatering menu items found here. Open buffet.

## SOUTHERN FARM TABLE

Where: 4160 County Road 200, Florence 256-577-7009

Hours: Fri. & Sat. 3:30pm-8pm; Sunday 11am-2pm

## STANFIELD'S RIVER BOTTOM GRILLE

Where: Florence Harbor; 256-768-1721; riverbottomgrille.com

Hours: 10:30 a.m. to 9 p.m. Sunday-Thursday, 10:30 a.m. to 11 p.m. Friday-Saturday

It's the only floating restaurant in the Shoals. The view of Florence Harbor surrounds you in this casual dining spot. When the weather permits, take a table on the deck and drink in the ambiance of the Tennessee River lifestyle. The menu is long and varied. The Stanfield's Steamer Bucket of seafood is a favorite.

## STEW SHACK

Where: 4728 Hwy 207, Anderson, 256-247-7988

Hours: Tue.-Sun. 10:30am-9pm

## SUPERHERO CHEF'S

256-320-7502  
104 S Main Street  
Tuscumbia, Alabama 35674  
www.superherochefs.com

Superhero Chefs is the brain child of celebrity chef Darnell Ferguson. Serving urban eclectic american dishes with a twist. From our amazing Sub-Zero blueberry pancakes with lemon-marscapone cheese to our 1-inch thick handcrafted burgers, you are sure to find something to love at Superhero Chefs!

## SWEET BASIL CAFÉ

Where: 1627 Darby Drive, Florence; 256-764-5991; Facebook

Hours: 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Mon-Fri, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sat

Choose from an assortment of sandwiches or opt for the lunch plate special. Or order a "super foods salad" featuring kale, Brussels sprouts, cabbage and chicory, carrots, dried cranberries and all kinds of yummy ingredients with a hone-lime dressing. The eatery is also a market, so take advantage of its leisurely atmosphere and browse.

## SWAMPERS BAR AND GRILL

Where: One Hightower Place, inside Marriott Shoals Hotel and Spa; 256-246-3600

Hours: 6:30 a.m. to 11 p.m. Monday - Friday, 7 a.m. to 11 p.m. Saturday and Sunday

This Florence eatery features casual dining in an elegant setting with a comfortable lounge and outdoor patio for diners to enjoy. Swampers serves breakfast, lunch and dinner featuring classic American fare. The interior honors Alabama's rich cultural heritage.

## THE COTTON TRADERS

Where: 5420 County Road 15, Florence 256-284-7108

Hours:  
Lunch: Mon.-Sat. 11am-2pm  
Store: Mon.-Sat. 7am-7pm

## BAR AND GRILL

### ON THE ROCKS

Where: 110 N. Court St., Florence; 256-760-2212; florenceontherocks.com

Hours: 4 p.m. to 2 a.m.

Full menu for lunch and dinner includes pub-like menu items like hot wings, nachos, burgers and sandwiches, grilled mahi mahi, and steak. It is a favorite spot for live music and for dining and late socializing in the heart of historic downtown Florence.

### FLOBAMA

Where: 311 N. Court St., Florence; 256-764-2225;

Hours: 11 a.m. to 2 a.m. Monday through Saturday

Another of downtown Florence's dining and late socializing venues, FloBama's menu features hickory smoked beef and pork as well as chicken, salads, wraps. There's Tuesday karaoke, open mic, and live music.

### SAM'S SPORTS GRILL

www.samssportsgrill.com  
256-349-2300

339 Seville St, Florence, AL

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## FINE DINING/ STEAKS/ SEAFOOD

### 360 GRILLE

Where: 800 Cox Creek Pkwy S., Florence; 256-246-3600; reservations required

The 360 Grille, located atop the Renaissance Tower at the 4-star Marriott Shoals Hotel and Spa, offers spectacular views of the Tennessee Valley and hails as Alabama's only revolving restaurant.

The menu features regional American cuisine with a commitment to locally grown produce, sustainable farming practices and seasonality. A five course chef's tasting offers innovative takes on some classics, while the a la carte menu presents refined renditions of Southern favorites.

### DISTILLERY

High Ridge Spirits-The Distillery  
Where: 1401 Huntsville Road (at the roundabout) 256-712-5142  
Hours: Tue.-Sat. 2pm-until  
Handcrafter Cocktails in a comfortable casual environment.

### GEORGE'S STEAK PIT

Where: 1206 Jackson Hwy., Sheffield; 256-381-1531; georgessteakpit.com  
Hours: 4:30-10 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday  
Known throughout the Shoals, this establishment remains an area classic. Diners enjoy a selection of fine wines to complement their meal of choice. Menu appetizers include Oysters Rockefeller, Fried Calamari and the Greek Tray. Steaks are cooked over a wood-fire grill.

### JACK'S PLACE

Where: 118 W. Mobile St., Florence; 256-349-5429; jacksplacebistro.com  
Hours: 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday; 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and 5-9 p.m. Tuesday-Thursday; 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and 5-10 p.m. Friday and Saturday; 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sunday  
You've seen Chef Jack White's work. The actor turned food stylist has worked in more than 100 movies and TV shows including "The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo," "Saving Grace," and "The Hunger Games" series. For brunch or lunch, you'll find mouth-watering selections that include Eggs Benedict three ways, frittata or quiche of the day, Belgian waffles and French toast, or maybe you would prefer a spinach salad or tarragon chicken salad. "Sandwiches and such" include Panini, wraps, a meatball hoagie or burgers, with the "such" including brisket, panko encrusted pork tenderloin, pasta and flatbreads. The dinner menu includes main courses of

hand-cut ribeye and braised pork shank among many dishes that will please all appetites.

### RED CLAY TABLE

Where: 307 N. Montgomery Ave, Sheffield, 256-320-5500  
Hours: Mon.-Thur. 11am-8pm  
Friday-11am-9pm  
Saturday-5pm-9pm

### SHEF'S KITCHEN

Where: 1700 Lee St., Rogersville; 256-247-3336  
Hours: 10:30 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday-Thursday, 10:30 a.m. to 10 p.m. Friday and Saturday  
Steaks, burgers, catfish, chicken and sandwiches are served at this Rogersville eatery. There is a lunch menu available for orders placed before 4 p.m.

### STANFIELD'S STEAK HOUSE

Where: 4838 Hatch Blvd., Sheffield; 256-446-5588  
Hours: Tue.-Thur. 10:30am-9pm  
Fri.-Sat. 10:30 am-10 pm

### FISH

#### CURTIS'

Where: 8050 Hwy 43, Florence, 256-757-9066  
Hours: Tue.-Sun. 10am-9pm

#### FISH CREEL

Where: 7367 Hwy 207, Anderson, 256-247-0969  
Hours: Sun.-Thur. 10:30am-8pm  
Fri. and Sat. 10:30am-9pm

#### NEWBURN'S

Where: 3406 Florence Blvd., Florence; 256-766-6866  
Known for the best catfish in North Alabama.

#### WALTON'S RESTAURANT

Where: 1205 Hwy 101, Rogersville, 256-247-0696  
Hours: Tue.-Sat. 10am-9pm

### BARBEQUE

#### BUNYAN'S BARBECUE

Where: 901 W. College St., Florence; 256-766-3522; bunyansbarbeque.com  
Hours: 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday-Tuesday and Thursday-Saturday; 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Wednesday

This is a favorite among locals for pulled barbeque pork sandwiches and hotdogs with Bunyan's famous slaw, hot or mild. Chicken is also on the menu. Order ahead and pack a picnic lunch. Eat in or take out.

#### DICK HOWELL'S BBQ

Where: 1350 N. Pine St. Florence; 256-767-5830;  
Hours: 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Thursday;



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In addition to a smoked barbecue sandwich, try the rib plate, smoke turkey sandwich or stuffed baked potato with meat. The mouthwatering menu has something for every taste.

**306 BBQ**

Where: 322 N. Court St., Florence; 256-766-5665; 306bbq.com/Florence

Hours: 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Sunday through Thursday; 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. Friday and Saturday

Hickory wood smoked barbecue featuring pork, ribs, chicken, turkey, ham, and plates with a choice of sides. There are salad, potatoes and wings, too.

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www.ricksbbq.com  
Alabama Locations  
Muscle Shoals-2405 Woodward Ave, Muscle Shoals, AL 35661

Florence-212 Cox Creek Pkwy, Florence, AL 35630  
Sky Park-4260 Florence Blvd, Florence, AL 35634

Madison-7929 Hwy 72 W Madison, AL 35758

Wilson Dam-2408 S. Wilson Dam Rd, Muscle Shoals, AL 35661

Tennessee Locations  
Lawrenceburg-1507 N. Locust Ave Lawrenceburg, TN 38464  
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Fayetteville-1419 Huntsville Hwy, Fayetteville, TN 37334

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**THE PALACE ICE CREAM AND SANDWICH SHOP**

Where: 100 S. Main St. Tuscumbia; 256-386-8210

Hours: 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday-Saturday

Former home of the Railroad Hotel in 1833, then the location of Palace Drug Store in 1906, this eatery specializes in milkshakes, ice cream, burgers, sandwiches and triple scoop, tri-flavored banana splits.

**SOUL WINGERY & RECORDS**

Where: 1055 Poplar St., Florence; 256-275-7434

Hours: 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Thursday, 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Fri and Sat

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referred to, is tucked in on a side street and has limited space, but you won't mind at all once you taste their wings. There are 10 flavors on the menu – you'll want to work your way through them all and start over again.

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256-980-6963  
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Tue-Fri 10am-5:30pm  
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Cakes: Carmel, Coconut, Chunk Chocolate, Strawberry, Red Velvet, Butter Yellow, Italian Cream  
Gluten Free Vanilla Cake and Cupcakes. Now carrying Blue Bell Ice Cream. Chicken Salad to go!

## TROWBRIDGE'S

Where: 316 N. Court St., Florence; 256-764-1503  
In the heart of historic downtown Florence, this shop features handmade shakes, sundaes, and sandwiches.

## MEXICAN

### CASA MEXICANA

Where: 11000 Jackson Hwy., Sheffield; 256-381-5397; 550 Brighton Ave., Muscle Shoals, 256-383-4434; 2801 Mall Drive, Florence; 256-767-2750  
Traditional Mexican food with starters of chips and salsa are served upon being seated. There is a wide variety of delicious Mexican fare. Popular dishes include taco salads and fajitas.

### EL POLLITO LOCO-THE CRAZY LITTLE CHICKEN

www.thecrazylittlechicken.com  
256-275-3851  
1403 Chisholm Road  
Florence, AL 35630  
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Sunday 11am-4pm

### LA HACIENDA MEXICAN RESTAURANT

Where: 153 Cox Creek Parkway, Florence; 256-764-3532  
Munch on chips and salsa as you choose a meal from the extensive list of offerings or order a drink from the full bar.

### FIESTA MEXICANA (SEVERAL LOCATIONS)

1550 Florence Blvd., 256-766-0100; 3364 Cloverdale Road, Florence, 256-178-6843; 3721 Florence Blvd., 256-272-8444; 41 Market Square, Rogersville, 256-247-6180; 517 Avalon Ave. E., Muscle Shoals; 256-389-8282; 4001 N. Jackson Hwy, Sheffield; 256-248-4279

### ROSIE'S MEXICAN CANTINA,

302 N. Court St., downtown Florence; 256-767-5599; rosiesmexicancantina.com  
Hours: Monday-Thursday, 11 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Friday and Saturday, 11 a.m. to 10 p.m.

The go-to for Mexican food and a fun atmosphere in historic downtown Florence. Create your own custom combo platter or order from the long and varied menu of traditional fare, or soup, salads and appetizers.

## TACO MAMA

Tacomamaonline.com  
256-712-4434  
121 Cherry Street, Florence, AL  
Mon-Sat 11am-9pm  
Sunday 11am-8pm  
At Taco Mama, we believe that our guests eat with all of their senses which is why we hand-pick the music you hear in the restaurant. So, it always made sense that Taco Mama would find a home in The Shoals. Whether it's the special sound of Fame Studios in Muscle Shoals, or W.C Handy's genre-defining blues, or Jason Isbell and The 400 Unit's brand of Americana-Southern Rock-Alt Country – Florence and The Shoals area has always kept the rhythm of its Southern Soul.

## ASIAN

### ICHIBAN

Where: 1207 Jackson Hwy., Sheffield; 256-389-9888; iloveichiban.com  
Hours: 11 a.m. to 9:30 p.m., Sun. through Thur.; 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Fri. and Sat.  
Japanese dishes featuring Sushi, a variety of rolls, soups, salads and appetizers.

### UMI JAPANESE STEAK HOUSE

Where: 201 N. Cox Creek Pkwy., Florence; 256-718-6868; umijapanesesteakhouse.com  
Hours: 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., then 4:30-10 p.m. Monday through Friday; 11 a.m. to 10:30 p.m. Saturday; 11 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. Sunday  
Traditional and exotic Japanese cuisine including sushi, sashimi, teriyaki, tempura and hibachi food.

### RICE BOX

Where: 1529 N. Wood Avenue, Florence; 256-767-6752  
Hours: 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Sunday-Thursday, 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. Friday and Saturday.  
Asian cuisine in a casual setting, specializing in Chinese and Japanese food, the menu items reflect the tastes and traditions of both countries.

### YUMM

Where: 117 N. Court St., Florence; 256-349-2074; yumythaisushiandbeyond.com  
Hours: 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., then 5-9 p.m. Monday through Thursday; 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., then 5-10 p.m. Friday and Saturday  
Sushi and Thai cuisine and everything beyond – mild or spicy and artistically prepared. Eat indoors or alfresco in historic downtown Florence.



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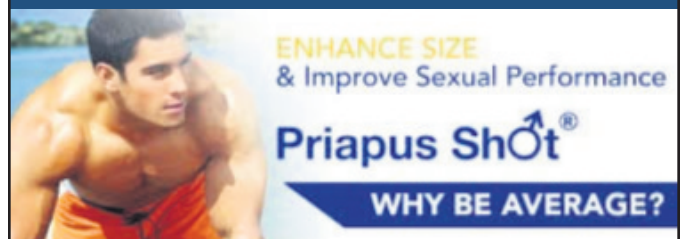
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### CAJUNS

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### HOMETOWN PIZZA

Where: 104 W 6th St,  
Tuscumbia; 256-978-5507

Hours: Mon-Sat 10am-9pm,  
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### RICATONI'S ITALIAN GRILL

Where: 107 N. Court Street,  
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### THE PIE FACTORY

Where: 106 N. Court St.,  
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Woodward Ave., Muscle Shoals;  
256-314-2622; pizzapiefactory.com

Hours: 11 a.m. to 10 p.m.  
Sunday through Thursday; 11  
a.m. to 11 p.m. Fri and Sat

They make their own dough in  
house and you can choose from a  
variety of savory sauces, cheeses  
and toppings or choose one of  
their specialty pizzas and a craft  
beer brewed in Alabama.

### THE CHICAGO CAFÉ

Where: 106 E. Mobile St.,  
Florence; 256-710-3607

Hours: 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.  
Monday through Thursday;  
11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Friday and  
Saturday; 4 p.m. to 2 a.m. Sunday

Great, quick lunch place in  
historic downtown Florence

-serving black angus beef hot  
dogs, locally sourced organic  
bratwursts, and flatbread pizza  
made to order sandwiches.

### VERTILLO PIZZA & GRILL

256-314-2323

312 N Montgomery Ave  
Sheffield, AL 35660

Tue-Thur 11am-8pm

Fri & Sat 11am-9pm

*Moving to new Florence location  
on Florence Blvd., July/August 2021.*

## COFFEE HOUSE/ BISTRO

### ALABAMA BLISS AND BISTRO

Where: 1206 Woodward Avenue,  
Muscle Shoals, 256-248-4530;

Hours: 10:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.  
Monday-Friday

How about a picnic lunch  
while you're here? Try the grilled  
triple cheese pimento cheese and  
bacon, or the roasted chicken  
salad, or one of salads with a cup  
of soup or slice of homemade  
quiche. You can enjoy a Bliss  
meal there or take it with you  
knowing it has been prepared  
fresh onsite. Staying with family  
or friends and want to contribute  
to the home meal? Bliss offers a  
variety of take-home dishes ready  
to just pop in the oven.

### RIVERTOWN COFFEE COMPANY

Where: 117 N. Seminary  
St., Florence 765-7128;  
rivertowncoffee.co

Hours: 7 a.m. to 10 p.m.  
Monday-Thursday, 7 a.m. to 11  
p.m. Friday, 9 a.m. to 11 p.m.  
Saturday

Muffin or breakfast wrap  
with a cup of Mule Town Coffee  
shipped in weekly from Columbia  
Tennessee are favorites. Also serves  
lunch that includes their famous  
Panini and soup of the day.

### THE ROCK 310

Where: 310 N. Montgomery  
Ave., Sheffield, 256- 320-7653;  
therock310.com

Hours: 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.  
Monday-Saturday

This charming bistro offers  
gourmet sandwiches and yummy  
pastries that include scones,  
muffins, Danish, cinnamon roll  
and desserts like blueberry white  
chocolate cheesecake, along  
with a selection of coffees. The  
beautiful interior is also houses  
Christian literature, Bibles and  
gifts.

### TURBO COFFEE

Where: 310 E. Tennessee  
St., Florence; 256-483-1501;

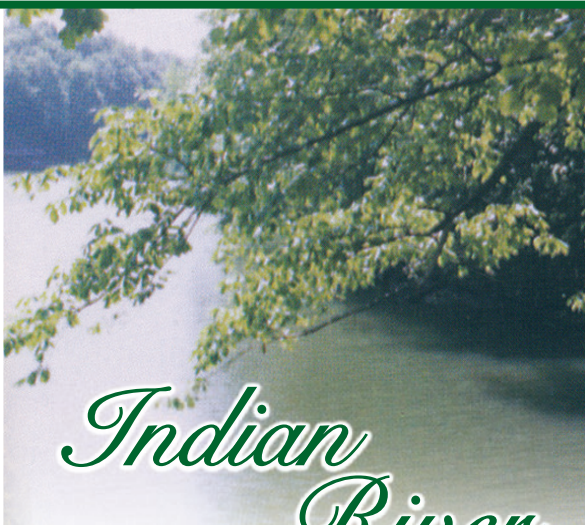
Facebook page

Hours: 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Monday through Friday; 8 a.m. to  
5 p.m. Saturday

Coffee shop that also serves  
food and smoothies.

TIME TO EAT



## Indian River A Place to Call Home...

Nestled in a quiet slough, Indian River features wooded lots on private coves. Ideally located and carefully planned, this is a neighborhood of distinction. Indian River has the feeling of country living with the closeness of downtown. When it comes to quality of life, Indian River is the place. It's a neighborhood that's quiet, restful and uncrowded - the way neighborhoods should be. The gently rolling terrain with breathtaking hardwood trees is the perfect setting for your home of distinction.

Becky Mauldin **VALLEY PROPERTIES**  
For more information on available lots go to valleypropertiesal.com



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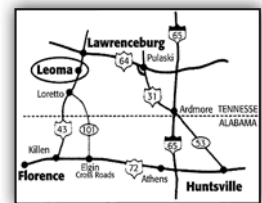
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