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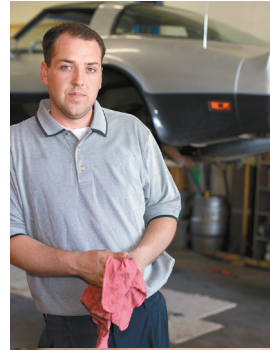
Advertising
Supplement of
the TimesDaily.

Thursday, October 26, 2023

TimesDaily
READERS' CHOICE

2023

TIMES
DAILY



Awards Celebrating Businesses
in the Shoals Area • **2023 WINNERS**

Nine Time Winner of the # 1 Roofing Company in the Shoals



A BBB ACCREDITED ROOFER IN THE SHOALS

If you're looking for a locally owned and operated Shoals area roofer to make repairs or installations, ICS Roofing & Construction Inc is at your service. As a family company, our team of highly trained professionals insists on quality workmanship, and we'll treat your home like our very own. To help you deal with your problems on a timely basis, we can schedule your initial appointment during our convenient hours. Our team can assist you with storm damages, and we have multiple licensed insurance adjusters on our staff. We'll aim to make any of your repairs so that they'll last for years to come. We can help you with a variety of tasks, including:

Gutter Installation, Gutter Guard Installation, & Full Service Insurance Claims Assistance.



ICS Roofing & Construction Inc is an Owens Corning preferred contractor. We can address your questions in English or Spanish, and we aim for excellent services and fast turnaround times. Call us to receive your estimate from a Sheffield, AL, roofer.

Roofing & Construction, Inc.

3312 N. Jackson Hwy. Sheffield, AL 35660

256-383-ICSR(4277)

Fax: 256-383-4210

icsroofingco.com

info@icsroofing.com

Thank You Shoals Area

for voting us your **#1 day spa and hair salon!**



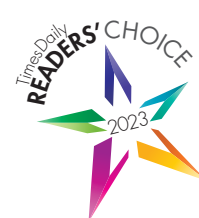
Massage | Pedicures | Derma Plane Facial | Microdermabrasion | Chemical Peels
Acoustic Lipo | Laser Hair Removal | Eyelashes | Full Service Hair Salon

 **OASIS**
DAY SPA & SALON

Mon - Fri 9 to 6 | Sat 9 to 5 | Gift Certificates Available



2471 Mall Road | Florence AL 35630 | 256-766-8085 | www.oasisflorence.com



- Readers' Choice -

The Best in the Shoals Area!

You're a winner and congratulations.

Thank you local TimesDaily Readers. Once again you voted and we listened. The TimesDaily is proudly presenting the 2023 Readers' Choice Award Winners, listed in this special section by categories.

Readers' Choice has become a tradition, providing our readers, your customers, with the opportunity to give kudos, congratulations and thanks to you on the outstanding products, services and staff your business offers the local community.

Since launching our Readers' Choice awards, the response and enthusiasm has grown tremendously!

This promotion gives you an opportunity to brag about your business and tell our readers why you were chosen by readers as

one of the best places in the area to do business with.

Having a great reputation is what businesses need and being able to talk about the positive things you're doing will have a big impact on your business, while allowing us to brag about the quality of businesses in our area.

Your brand is what makes you one of the 2023 Readers' Choice

Award Winners and it defines you among your customer base while helping to drive business through your door throughout 2023-2024.

As an award winner you have bragging rights, you earn the right to use the Readers' Choice logo in all

your advertising, marketing, social media, banners, etc. Don't forget to thank the ones who voted for you. Incorporate your appreciation into your advertising and marketing campaigns.

If you did not win, don't hesitate to run special promotions throughout the year with the TimesDaily and give our readers a reason to talk about you and vote for you next year. We have

many special business promotions to help you tell your story. Let us help you get your business noticed, and build your brand.

The TimesDaily can help you reach the changing marketplace more effectively. You will reach more prospects through our print and digital campaigns.

For more information on how TimesDaily advertising can help you attract more shoppers, call your newspaper account representative today at 256 740-5815.

Again, congratulations and we hope you will get lots of traffic and business. Advertise today and give customers a reason to vote for you next year.



DROKE HEARING AIDS, INC.

Thanks for voting us

#1 Hearing Aid Specialist in the Shoals

We're Proud To Have Served The Shoals For 67 Years! Thanks for your vote.

Call Our Dedicated Staff To Schedule Your Appointment.

Call 256-764-0888, 256-764-0896 or 256-381-9444

215 W. Alabama Street • Downtown Florence • 116 E. 5th Street, Tuscumbia

OPEN MON. - FRI TO BETTER SERVE OUR CUSTOMERS

Thank You

for voting us... **#1**

Primary Care:
Sheffield - Greenhill - Cloverdale Road

Express/Urgent Care:
Tuscumbia - Cloverdale Road

(256) 383-4447

MedShoals.com



#1 Family Physician Group
#1 Urgent Care

Welcoming New Patients

A special thanks goes out to all the Shoals area businesses that advertised in and supported this special section!

You can view these amazing local businesses by turning to the pages listed below.



- 2. ICS Roofing & Construction
- 3. Oasis Day Spa & Salon
- 4. Droke Hearing Aids
- 4. Medical Associates of the Shoals
- 5. Renaissance Eye Care
- 6. Barnett & Brown Home Furnishings
- 6. Bank Independent
- 7. Lauderdale Co Board of Education
- 8. First Bank
- 8. Singing River Dentistry

- 11. Marriott Shoals
- 11. Economy Carpets
- 12. Big Bad Breakfast
- 12. Progressive Lighting & Interiors
- 13. Long Lewis Automotive Group
- 14. North Alabama Bone & Joint
- 14. Lash's Seafood Restaurant
- 15. Listerhill Credit Union
- 16. Helen Keller Hospital
- 16. Dean Clothing Co.
- 17. McDaniel Window & Door
- 18. Sam Newton Insurance

- 18. Roto Rooter Plumbing
- 18. Ava's Place
- 18. Rick's BBQ & Catering
- 18. Lewis Electric
- 19. Bracey Carpet Cleaning Services
- 19. Ringer's Garage Door Company
- 20. A&J Home Improvement
- 20. Vic Porter Insurance
- 20. Jill's Sweet Memories
- 20. Sugar Nails
- 20. Williams Cleaners
- 21. El Reposo Nursing Facility

- 21. Woods Wholesale Flooring
- 21. Bama Pools & Construction
- 21. Center Star Veterinary Services
- 21. Hearts Cry Ministries
- 22. Champy's Famous Fried Chicken
- 22. Elkins Funeral Home
- 22. Shelton Financial Group
- 23. Kaleidoscope Florist & Designs
- 23. Florence Foot Center
- 23. Irons Electric Co.
- 24. McCutcheon & Hamner

Thank you for voting Renaissance Eye Care #1 OPTICAL STORE in the Shoals Area!



RENAISSANCE
EYE CARE
renaissanceeyecare.com

Shop our frame collection from the comfort of your home or Schedule an appointment online at renaissanceeyecare.com
1593 Drive, Florence, AL 35630
256-767-5000

Exclusive UNA Partner



Thank You from our Experienced Team



Dr. Hamp Moore, Dr. Kathy Warner



Optical: Jason Roberson, Cheri Stanfield, Rachel Espinoza



Technicians/Front Desk: Patty Baylis, Kaya Joyner, Lily Miller, Deborah Putman, Not pictured - Wyatt Maclin, Cindy Goodsell and Insurance Specialist Jenny Reedy

BEST PLACES TO SHOP IN THE SHOALS



APPLIANCE STORE

Frederickson's

WINNER
Frederickson's

Finalists
Bob Wallace
Neal's

BOOK STORE

BOOKS-A-MILLION
shop online at booksamillion.com

WINNER
Books-A-Million

Finalists
Coldwater Books

CARPET STORE

Economy Carpets

WINNER
Economy Carpets

Finalists
Woods Wholesale Flooring
The Carpet Store

CONSIGNMENT STORE

Fashion Exchange
CONSIGNMENT+BOUTIQUE

WINNER
Fashion Exchange

Finalists
Home to Home
Blue Door

DRUG STORE

CVS pharmacy

WINNER
CVS

Finalists
Lexington

Tie: Barnett Drugs & Killen Drugs

ELECTRONIC STORE

Electronic Express

WINNER
Electronic Express

Finalists
Best Buy
Game Stop

FLORIST

Kaleidoscope Florist

WINNER
Kaleidoscope

Finalists
Flower's By Shirley
Lola's

FURNITURE STORE

Barnett & Brown

WINNER
Barnett & Brown

Finalists
Lackey's
Story & Lee

GARDEN CENTER

Rudy's

WINNER
Rudy's

Finalists
Porter's
Lowe's

GRANITE & STONE

Frye & Associates

WINNER
Frye & Assoc.

Finalists
Granite Gallery

Tie: House of Marble & Spartan Stone

Thanks! For Voting Us... #1

Barnett & Brown
Home Furnishings
www.barnettbrown.com

Thanks from the Entire Barnett & Brown Team

ASHLEY FURNITURE INDUSTRIES, INC. **Bassett** **catnapper** **TEMPUR-PEDIC**

3020 Florence Blvd. • Florence, AL • 256-767-1995
"Lowest Prices Guaranteed"

Thanks For Choosing Us #1 in Furniture, Rugs & Mattresses

BANK INDEPENDENT

THANK YOU
BEST IN THE
SHOALS VOTERS!

We're proud to be your bank of choice.

BIBANK.COM | MEMBER FDIC | **877.865.5050**

BEST PLACES TO SHOP IN THE SHOALS



GROCERY STORE

WINNER
Foodland

Finalists
Publix
Aldi

HARDWARE STORE

**A.L. Thompson
Builder Supply**

WINNER
A.L. Thompson

Finalists
Lowe's
Peck Ace Hardware

HARDWOOD FLOORING

**Woods
Wholesale
Flooring**

WINNER
**Woods Wholesale
Flooring**

Finalists
The Wood Floor Store
Cornerstone Flooring

JEWELRY STORE

Grogan Jewelers
BY LON

WINNER
Grogan Jewelers
BY LON

Finalists
Jamie Hood Jewelers
Sidelines

**LADIES' CLOTHING
SPECIALTY**

**Dean
Clothing Co.**

WINNER
Dean Clothing Co.

Finalists
Boutique 72
Belk

LIGHTING STORE

WINNER
Progressive Lighting

Finalists
Lowe's
Shoals Lighting

MATTRESS STORE

WINNER
Barnett & Brown

Finalists
Sleep Number
Mattress Country

**MEN'S CLOTHING
SPECIALTY**

Coats Clothing Co.
HISTORIC DOWNTOWN
FLORENCE, AL

WINNER
Coats Clothing Co.

Finalists
Dillard's
Belk

NEW CAR DEALERSHIP

LONG-LEWIS
AUTOMOTIVE GROUP

WINNER
Long-Lewis (Muscle Shoals)

Finalists
Ray Miller Buick GMC
Greenway Honda

PET STORE

WINNER
Pet Smart

Finalists
Petco
Pet Depot



We are extremely grateful to have been selected as the **TimesDaily Best School System** for the 2nd year in a row. It is a direct reflection of the daily efforts and passion displayed by all stakeholders. Our students, employees, and communities are committed to making Lauderdale County Schools the best system we can.

We have had a great start to the 2023-2024 school year and I know our students will have tremendous accomplishments throughout the year. Thank you for sharing your children with us, we are passionate about serving each and every one of them to the best of our ability. We look forward to a great rest of the school year for all Lauderdale County Schools!



Superintendent - Jerry Hill
Chairman - Ronnie Owens
Board Members - Jerry Fulmer, Larry Hill,
BJ Tully, and Daniel Patterson



BEST PLACES TO SHOP IN THE SHOALS



POOL STORE



WINNER
Bama Pools

Finalists
Pool Pro
Tie: Shoals Pool & Poolman

RUG STORE



WINNER
Barnett & Brown

Finalists
Economy Carpets
McCroory's

SHOE STORE

AUSTIN'S
SHOES

WINNER
Austin's Shoes

Finalists
Shoe Carnival
Pam's Shoe Store

SPORTING GOODS APPAREL



WINNER
Academy Sports

Finalists
Dick's Sporting Goods
Hibbett's Sporting Goods

THRIFT STORE

Heart's Cry

WINNER
Heart's Cry

Finalists
America's Thrift Store
Blue Door

UNIQUE GIFT SHOP

Purple Pear

WINNER
Purple Pear

Finalists
Fiddle Dee Dee
The Village Shoppe

USED CAR DEALERSHIP

Bailey's
Used Auto

WINNER
Bailey's Used Auto

Finalists
Price Garner
Long Lewis

WINDOW STORE

McDaniel
Window &
Door

WINNER
McDaniel

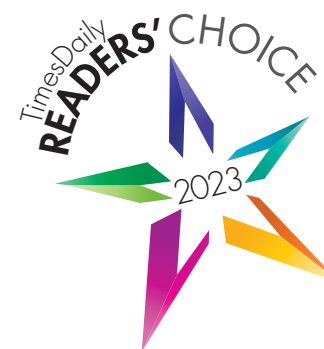
Finalists
Window World
Blinds, Shades & Shutters

WOMEN'S FORMAL WEAR

Promenade
Bridal

WINNER
Promenade

Finalists
Dillard's
Cherry Tree Lane



RAYMOND JAMES®
Kin Taylor & Chris Dixon

THANK YOU
for voting us
#1 Investment Firm
in the Shoals Area.

564751-2

THANK YOU!

VOTED #1 DENTIST IN THE SHOALS



Healthy Smiles for a Lifetime!



SINGING RIVER DENTISTRY

• Tuscumbia • Muscle Shoals
• Florence (Hough Rd & Helton Dr)
• Russellville • Athens • Madison

www.SingingRiverDentistry.com

**TREEHOUSE CHILDREN'S
DENTISTRY**

• Tuscumbia • Killen • Madison

www.TreehouseDentist.com



564651-2

BEST IN THE SHOALS FOR PERSONAL SERVICE



APARTMENT COMPLEX

Copper Creek

WINNER
Copper Creek

Finalists
Stonebrook
Tie: Alexander Village & Alpine Village

ASSISTED LIVING FACILITY

El Reposo

WINNER
El Reposo

Finalists
Columbia Cottage
Brentwood

AUTO BODY REPAIR

Adam's Body Shop

WINNER
Adam's Body Shop

Finalists
Simpson's
Regency

AUTO MECHANIC

Walton's

WINNER
Walton's

Finalists
Frederickson's
Vick's

AUTOMOTIVE SERVICE DEPT.

LONG-LEWIS
AUTOMOTIVE GROUP

WINNER
Long Lewis

Finalists
Walmart
Greenway Honda

AUTO RENTAL

LONG-LEWIS
AUTOMOTIVE GROUP

WINNER
Long Lewis

Finalists
Enterprise
Hertz

BARBER SHOP

GREASY HANDS

WINNER
Greasy Hands

Finalists
Bill's House of Style
Johnny B's

BRIDAL REGISTRY

Dillard's

WINNER
Dillard's

Finalists
Belk
Target

CARPET CLEANER

Bracey Cleaning Service, LLC

WINNER
Bracey Cleaning Service, LLC

Finalists
Bama Clean
Shoals Carpet Cleaners

CAR WASH

Mister CAR WASH

WINNER
Mister Car Wash

Finalists
Tidal Wave
Melvin's on the Spot

CATERER

Jill's Sweet Memories

WINNER
Jill's Sweet Memories

Finalists
Southern Skillet
Alabama Bliss

CHURCH/PRIVATE DAY CARE

Kids of the Kingdom

WINNER
Kids of the Kingdom

Finalists
Calvary
Tie: Highland Baptist & Mars Hill

CREDIT UNION

Listerhill CREDIT UNION

WINNER
Listerhill Credit Union

Finalists
TVA CU
AL Central CU

DAY CARE

Calvary

WINNER
Calvary

Finalists
Mars Hill
Tree House

DENTISTRY

SINGING RIVER DENTISTRY
Healthy Smiles for a Lifetime!

WINNER
Singing River Dentistry

Finalists
Lexington Dental
Ryerson

DERMATOLOGIST

Tennessee River Dermatology

WINNER
TN River Dermatology

Finalists
Dr. Welborn
Dr. Webb

DRY CLEANER

Williams

WINNER
Williams

Finalists
Quality
Coleman

ELECTRICAL COMPANIES

Irons/Lewis

WINNER
Irons -tie- Lewis Electric

Finalists
Rhodes Electric
Coats/Waldrep's

FAMILY PHYSICIAN

Dr. Anthony Horton

WINNER
Dr. Anthony Horton

Finalists
Dr. Amber Olsen
Dr. Jeremy Thompson

MEDICAL GROUP

Medical Associates of the Shoals

WINNER
Medical Associates of the Shoals

Finalists
Full Life Wellness
North Alabama Bone & Joint

FINANCIAL INSTITUTION

BANK INDEPENDENT

WINNER
Bank Independent

Finalists
First Metro Bank
CB&S Bank

FUNERAL HOME

ELKINS FUNERAL HOMES
A TRADITIONAL FUNERAL HOME EMBRACING CHANGING TRENDS.

WINNER
Elkins Funeral Home

Finalists
Rogersville Funeral Home
Morrison Funeral Home

GARAGE DOOR

Ringers GARAGE DOOR COMPANY, INC.
SALES • SERVICE • INSTALLATION
RESIDENTIAL • COMMERCIAL
(260) 764-0635
655 South Poplar

WINNER
Ringers

Finalists
Shoals Overhead Door
Valley Overhead

GOLF COURSE

Blackberry Trail

WINNER
Blackberry

Finalists
RTJ
Joe Wheeler

BEST IN THE SHOALS FOR PERSONAL SERVICE



HAIR SALON



WINNER

Oasis Day Spa & Salon

Finalists

Willows
H&M Salon & Spa

HEALTH/FITNESS CLUB



WINNER

Planet Fitness

Finalists

Doc's Gym
Crunch

HEARING SPECIALIST



WINNER

Droke Hearing Aids

Finalists

Beltone Hearing
Kabel Hearing

HEATING AND AIR CONDITIONING

Birdwell Heating & Air

WINNER

Birdwell Heating & Air

Finalists

Fuller
MPE

HOME HEALTHCARE PROVIDER



WINNER

Keller

Finalists

Home Instead
Visiting Angels

HOME IMPROVEMENT

A&J Remodeling

WINNER

A&J Remodeling

Finalists

Lowe's
White's Remodeling

HOSPITAL

Helen Keller Hospital

WINNER

Helen Keller Hospital

Finalists

NAMC
Shoals

HOTEL



WINNER

Marriott Shoals

Finalists

The Stricklin Hotel
The GunRunner

INSURANCE AGENT

SAM NEWTON

WINNER

Sam Newton

Finalists

Justin Shelby
Brad Tank

INSURANCE COMPANY

VICTOR PORTER INSURANCE AGENCY

WINNER

Victor Porter Insurance Agency

Finalists

State Farm
Alfa

INVESTMENT FIRM

Raymond James

WINNER

Raymond James

Finalists

Morgan Stanley
Edward Jones

LANDSCAPE COMPANY

Quality Lawn Care

WINNER

Quality Lawn Care

Finalists

Grass Life
Fulks

LAUNDROMAT

ROLL TIDE LAUNDRY

WINNER

Roll Tide Laundry

Finalists

Rain or Shine
Seven Points Wash n Spin

LAW FIRM



WINNER

McCutcheon & Hamner

Finalists

Spry Law Firm
Odem

LOCKSMITH

Roman's Lock Service

WINNER

Roman's Lock Svc.

Finalists

Security Lock & Key
Affordable Locksmith

MORTGAGE COMPANY



WINNER

Shelton Financial Group

Finalists

Trustmark
Bank Independent

MOTORCYCLE DEALER



WINNER

Longshore Cycle Center

Finalists

Harley Davidson
Shoals Outdoor Sports

NAIL SHOP

Sugar Nails

WINNER

Sugar Nails

Finalists

Willow's
Serenity Day Spa

NUTRITIONAL HEALTH FOOD

Valley Health

WINNER

Valley Health

Finalists

Killen It, Killen, AL
Shoals Nutrition

OIL CHANGE



WINNER

Express Oil Change

Finalists

Jiffy Lube
Lexington Tire Center

OPTICAL STORE

Renaissance Eye Care

WINNER

Renaissance Eye Care

Finalists

Jody's Optical
America's Best

ORTHOPEDIC PHYSICIAN

Dr. John Young

WINNER

Dr. John Young

Finalists

Dr. Hovater
Dr. Joiner

PEDIATRICIAN

Infants and Childrens

WINNER

Infants & Childrens

Finalists

Dr. Crenshaw
Tennessee Valley

PEST CONTROL



WINNER

Cook's Pest Control

Finalists

Southern Pride
Bohannon

BEST IN THE SHOALS FOR PERSONAL SERVICE



PET GROOMING

Barkstown

WINNER
Barkstown

Finalists
Lucky Dog
Pet Smart

PLUMBER



WINNER
Roto Rooter

Finalists
Barnett Plumbing
Gary Glover

PODIATRIST

Dr. Michael Hames

WINNER
Dr. Hames

Finalists
Dr. J.D. Smith
Shoals Foot Center

PRIVATE SCHOOL

Mars Hill Bible School

WINNER
Mars Hill

Finalists
Covenant Christian
Shoals Christian

PROFESSIONAL PAINTING COMPANY

Edgar's

WINNER
Edgar's

Finalists
Chandler
Forsythe

PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT

LAUDERDALE COUNTY

WINNER
Lauderdale County

Finalists
Muscle Shoals
Tuscumbia

ROOFING COMPANY



WINNER
ICS Roofing

Finalists
Steve Davis
Simmons

SPA



WINNER
Oasis Day Spa

Finalists
Serenity Day Spa
Marriott

TAX SERVICE

Lexington Tax & Accounting

WINNER
Lexington Tax & Accounting

Finalists
Tax Mart
Sparks

URGENT CARE



WINNER
Express Care of the Shoals

Finalists
Hamilton Family Urgent Care
Med Plus

VETERINARIAN

Center Star

WINNER
Center Star

Finalists
Tennessee Valley
West Lauderdale

WEDDING EVENT VENUE

Ava's Place

WINNER
Ava's Place

Finalists
Pickett Place
Camp Creek

WEDDING PHOTOGRAPHER

Beloved Imagery

WINNER
Beloved Imagery

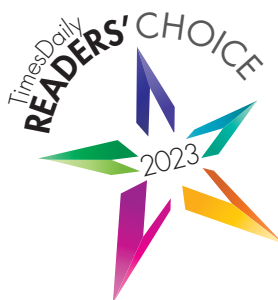
Finalists
Lisa Williams
Tonya Gray

WRECKER SERVICE



WINNER
Simpson's Wrecker Service

Finalists
Tommy Cottrell
Hornes Wrecker



Thank You For Voting Us #1 Carpet Store



Come shop with us today for all your flooring & tile needs

Economy Carpets

Quality Flooring for Over 52 Years

105 Avalon Ave., Muscle Shoals

256-383-6821 • Toll Free 1-877-234-3741

Thank you to everyone that voted Marriott Shoals Hotel & Spa Best Hotel in the Area!



MARRIOTT SHOALS

MARRIOTT SHOALS HOTEL & SPA
10 HIGHTOWER PLACE, FLORENCE, AL 35630
MARRIOTTSHOALS.COM



563830-2



BAKERY

**Yummies
Bakery & Deli**

**WINNER
Yummies**

Finalists
Sweetwater
Publix

BARBEQUE



**WINNER
Rick's Bar-B-Q**

Finalists
Bunyan's
Dick Howell's

BREAKFAST

BIG BAD BREAKFAST



FLORENCE, AL

**WINNER
Big Bad Breakfast**

Finalists
Cracker Barrel
Jack's

BUFFET

**Sweet
Tea's
Restaurant**

**WINNER
Sweet Tea's Restaurant**

Finalists
Golden Corral
Garden Gate

CATFISH



**WINNER
Newbern's Restaurant**

Finalists
Fish Creel
Tie: Walton's & Lash's

CHICKEN



**WINNER
Champy's**

Finalists
KFC
Xaxby's

CHICKEN WINGS

BW3's

**WINNER
BW3's**

Finalists
Sledge's
Voodoo

CHINESE



**WINNER
Rice Box**

Finalists
Umi
Peacock Express

COFFEE SHOP



**WINNER
Starbucks**

Finalists
Rivertown Coffee
Turbo Coffee

COUNTRY COOKING/ SOUL FOOD

**Garden
Gate**

**WINNER
Garden Gate**

Finalists
Momma Jean's
Cracker Barrel

BIG BAD BREAKFAST



Thank you for voting us
**BIGGEST, BADDEST
BREAKFAST**

in town! We will continue to work
hard to serve you the **BEST!**

315 N. Court St., Florence | 256.415.8545 | BigBadBreakfast.com | f | i



*We are Honored to have been voted
#1 Lighting Store
and we look forward to continuing
serving the area.*

Thank you again for voting for us.

**Progressive
LIGHTING, INC**

Open Monday-Friday
9:00 am - 5:30 pm
Sat 10:00 am - 4:00 pm

205 Seville St., Florence • 256-760-9694 • progressivelightingal.com

12 Months Same As Cash

THANK YOU READERS!



3 READERS' CHOICE AWARDS:

Best Automotive New Dealership
Best Automotive Service Department
Best Auto Rental



TODAY'S AUTO BUYING TIP

6 Questions You Should Ask EVERY Auto Salesperson You Deal With

- 1 Will you show me your Best Price up-front that contains NO "Conditional" offers?**
At Long-Lewis, we clearly post that price on the windshields and online for everyone to see.
- 2 Can ANYONE buy this vehicle for less than the price you have given me?**
If they say anything other than "absolutely not", they are playing games.
- 3 Will you add ANY Dealer Fees or anything else back to your price other than tax & title?**
If they say yes, Buyer Beware! This is simply hidden dealer profit!
- 4 Once you've appraised my Trade Will You Buy it From Me For That Amount?** When they say "NO", you know they are manipulating the numbers to trick you into thinking you're getting more for your trade!
At Long-Lewis we will buy yours whether you buy ours or not!
- 5 Can I bring the vehicle back within 3 days & 300 miles if I change my mind?**
At Long-Lewis you can! That puts the pressure on us to get it right, Not you!
- 6 How do you get Paid?** If they say "Commission", that means they keep up to 30% of every additional dollar they can trick you out of. They CANNOT look after your best interest without it deeply costing them. At Long-Lewis we get paid the same on every vehicle we sell regardless of price! Our time is spent looking out for your best interest, not negotiating!

We Do Business Your Way.™

- Our Absolute BEST Price, Up-Front, Every Time.
- NO Dealer Fees, Hidden Fees or Bogus Mark Ups.
- Non-Commissioned Salespeople.
- 3 Day/300 Mile Money Back Guarantee.



LONG-LEWIS™
AUTOMOTIVE GROUP

Ford | Lincoln | Chevy | Mitsubishi | VW | Used | LongLewisAuto.com

BEST IN DINING IN THE SHOALS



FINE DINING/ ROMANTIC RESTAURANT



WINNER

George's Steak Pit

Finalists

360 Grille
Ray's at the Bank

HAMBURGER

FIVE GUYS
BURGERS and FRIES

WINNER

Five Guys Burgers

Finalists

Staggs Grogroery
Smash Burger

ITALIAN



WINNER

Ricatoni's

Finalists

Olive Garden
Lil Capone's

MEXICAN

La Hacienda

WINNER

La Hacienda

Finalists

Casa Mexicana
Rosie's Cantina

PIZZA



WINNER

Pie Factory

Finalists

Marco's
101 Pizzara

RIBS



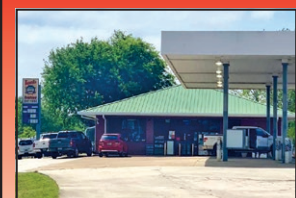
WINNER

Sam's

Finalists

Outback
Mitchell's Smoked Meats

SEAFOOD



WINNER

Lash's Seafood

Finalists

Red Lobster
Juicy's

STEAK



WINNER

Longhorn

Finalists

George's
Outback

SUBS



WINNER

Subway

Finalists

Firehouse
Jimmy John's

SUSHI



WINNER

Umi

Finalists

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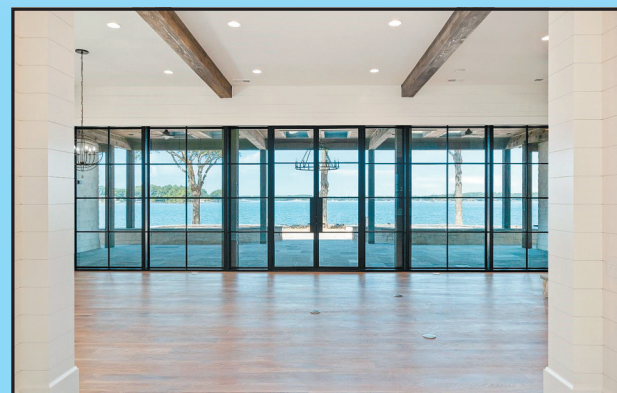
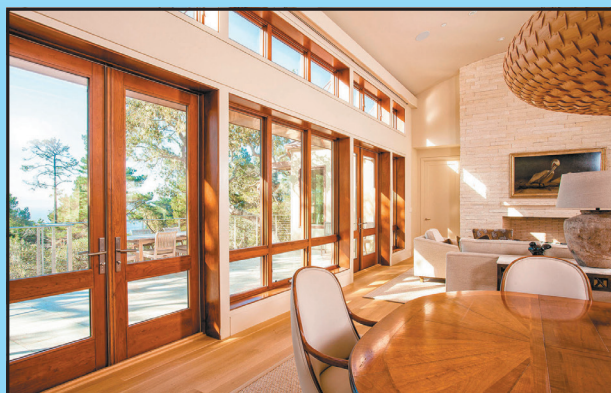
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The benefits to buying local this holiday season

by METRO NEWS

Holiday shopping dominates many people's free time between the day after Thanksgiving and the final days before Christmas. While many people may shop 'til they drop on Black Friday and Cyber Monday, those days still account for a relatively small amount of the hundreds of billions of dollars that are spent each holiday season.

Shoppers now have a bevy of options at their disposal as they embark on holiday shopping season. Traditional in-store retailers are still around, and online shopping continues to grow in popularity with each holiday season. But many holiday shoppers are looking to buy local this holiday season, and such a decision can pay a host of dividends for both shoppers and the communities they call home.

• **Buying local benefits your local economy.**

Studies from Civic Economics, an economics and strategics planning firm, found that independent, locally-owned retailers return a far greater percentage of their revenue into their local economies than national chain stores. One such study examined the disparity between revenue recirculation among independent, locally-owned businesses in Raleigh, North Carolina, versus four major national chains in the city. The former recirculated 51.1 percent of revenue into the local economy, while the latter recirculated less than 14 percent. Similar results were discovered in many cities, indicating that buying local not only benefits local business owners, but also the communities those owners and their customers call home.

• **Buying local creates jobs in your community.**

One of the biggest ways local business owners in Raleigh recirculated their revenue in the local economy



was job creation. While national chains also create jobs, such jobs only benefit your community if the chains are located within your community. If your local mall is a considerable drive away, chances are the chains within that mall are not employing many of your fellow community members. Local businesses in your community are more likely to employ residents of your town.

• **Shopping local may provide access to more unique gifts.** In addition to the economic benefits of buying local, shoppers may find merchandise made by local craftsmen is more unique than mass-produced items found on the shelves of national retailers.

Recipients may cherish more unique items that they cannot find on their own, and that appreciation may even spur them to visit more local retailers after the holiday season has come and gone, benefiting their own communities in so doing.

• **Local business may provide a more personal touch.** Buying from national chains has its advantages, but customer service is not always one of them.

Should your loved ones encounter problems with their gift that requires assistance, they might be forced to wait on the phone for extended periods of time as they and thousands of others wait for customer service representatives to answer their calls. Local businesses do not deal with nearly the volume of customers as national retailers and, therefore, are capable of addressing concerns more quickly and personally than large chains.

Buying local not only benefits small business owners, but it also pays dividends for their customers and the communities they call home.

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5 TIPS to consider before starting a start-up

by METRO NEWS

Building a small business from scratch can be an exciting endeavor that poses some significant challenges. With the right resources and support, entrepreneurs can turn their dreams into successful businesses.

According to Innovation Science and Economic Development Canada, there were 1.2 million small businesses in Canada in 2019. Add that to the roughly 33 million small businesses in the United States, and it's clear to see how small businesses dominate the economic landscape.

The Small Business Administration identifies small businesses as those having fewer than 500 employees, while the Government of Canada lists SMEs (small and medium-sized enterprises) as small (having 1 to 99 paid employees) or medium (100 to 499 paid employees).

The process of starting a small business varies depending on the industry, location and other factors, but here's a generalized look at the steps to be expected early on.

1. Figure out your idea and research it

Coming up with a successful idea is one of the first steps to take when starting a business. It's possible to take an existing type of business and customize it for a given community, or to create something new and innovative.

After the idea is put on paper, it's important to research the potential competition and decide if the business will have a competitive advantage to survive. Market research is crucial.

2. Write a business plan

A business plan helps formalize the ideas of the business and lists the necessary steps to take. By thinking through the process methodically, a potential business owner can figure out where problems may turn up and where to devote the most attention to help make the business profitable. It also helps if one thinks through how he or she will secure the capital for starting the company.

3. Choose the right time

Prospective business owners need to assess whether the time is right for starting a business. While there may never be a perfect time, it's best to engage when there are fewer obstacles in the way. You want to devote full attention to the business. If that's not possible, then it's likely best to delay. Times when starting a business may not be ideal include when battling an illness, during a family move or right after the death of a loved one. Economic factors beyond your control, such as a downturn or recession, also may affect the potential success of a business venture.



4. Pick a business structure

Involving a business attorney in this process would be in a person's best interests. A business can be legally structured in certain ways, and how it is structured will affect registration requirements as well as how much a business owner pays in taxes. The structure also can affect personal liability. Speaking with a lawyer will highlight the pros and cons of structuring and help a person make the best decision possible.

5. Speak to other business owners

A potential entrepreneur can pick the brains of small business owners to figure out what worked and what didn't when they were first starting out. This can help entrepreneurs avoid certain pitfalls and uncover proven paths to success.

Starting a business can be a worthwhile undertaking, especially when entrepreneurs consider a variety of factors before getting started.

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How communities benefit when consumers shop local

by METRO NEWS

Ideas about shopping are never set in stone, and the pandemic illustrated just how quickly consumer trends and opinions can change. Many individuals are now reevaluating how they spend their hard-earned money, particularly since inflation has affected just how far a dollar can be stretched. When consumers think about which stores to patronize, locally owned businesses may be the smartest option for a number of reasons — not the least of which is the way such enterprises benefit the communities they call home.

More money kept in the community

Shopping locally means that more money will stay in the community. According to recent research from Civic Economics, local eateries return nearly 79 percent of revenue to the community, compared to just over 30 percent for chain restaurants. Overall, for every \$100 spent at a local business, around \$73 remains in the community, versus roughly \$43 when shopping at a non-locally owned business.

Get a personal touch

Local business owners typically are inclined to go the extra



mile for their customers and are personally invested in the services and products they are selling. As a result, shopping locally tends to be a personalized experience. Furthermore, a local business owner may be more amenable to ordering products for specific clientele. Such personalized service is typically not accessible when shopping big box stores or other shops where owners are off-site.

Lines are short

Waiting in long lines for checkout or to pick up merchandise ordered online can drain consumers' energy and contribute to stress. Local businesses tend to have short lines and small crowds, which can lead to a more pleasant shopping experience.

Generates tax revenue

Local businesses generate more tax revenue per sales dollar, according to Rubicon, a digital marketplace for waste and recycling businesses. Taxes paid by local small businesses go to support schools, parks, roads, and other programs that benefit the community as well.

Support nonprofits

Local businesses often support good work in the community, such as nonprofit groups. These

can include schools and sports teams, among other groups. According to Dr. Sue Lynn Sasser, professor of economics at the University of Central Oklahoma, studies indicate nonprofits "receive 250 percent more support from small businesses than larger ones."

Support other local businesses

Local business support other local businesses by buying and selling among each other. A local, independently owned restaurant may source its ingredients from local farms, which means visitors to such eateries are supporting multiple local businesses each time they dine out.

Small businesses are a boon to the economy, particularly local economies. These enterprises help their communities in a multitude of ways.

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5 advantages local business have over the competition

by METRO NEWS

Small businesses on Main Street and big box chains have been competing for consumers' attention for decades. Historians say that big box stores were born in the early 1960s when Wal-Mart, Target and Kmart entered the retail landscape. It's been more than 60 years since these chains arrived and they certainly have garnered their share of devotees. Big box businesses have size, inventory and often price on their side. However, when consumers look beyond those factors, it's easy to see all of the benefits small businesses offer that behemoths cannot.

1. Passionate owners and operators

Walk into a big box store or other business and you may find a handful of dedicated employees, but not quite at the level of small businesses. Small business owners prioritize the customer experience because they know they need to work hard to retain customers. This translates into knowing the products well, and sharing as much knowledge as possible with customers. Big box businesses vulnerable to heavy staff turnover often do not have a vested interest in the brand.

2. Work the local niche

What makes big box retailers so familiar



to shoppers is one can stop in a store in the middle of Nebraska and likely find the same items as a store in Hawaii, with only a few subtle differences between the locations. Big box companies work with the same suppliers and ship the same products all over the world. Customers seeking personalized items and services for their particular regions are better off utilizing local small businesses that can bring in regional vendors more readily.

3. Better shopping experience

Big box stores draw customers during peak times when they're home from school or off from work. That often translates to long lines both at checkout and at customer service or return counters. By contrast, there may be no apparent rhyme or reason to when shoppers visit small businesses, meaning there likely will not be crowds. It's much more pleasant to browse wares without having to contend with shopping cart traffic and people blocking aisles.

4. Advanced technology

Big box companies have invested millions of dollars into their point-of-service systems and other technologies, which means it can be a very slow transition to new options as times change. Small businesses generally can shift to newer, better technology more readily because they do not have to do so on the same scale as their larger competitors.

5. General agility

Changing technology on a dime is not the only ways small businesses excel. They can experiment in other ways, such as a home contractor offering a special price deal for a certain period of time, or a clothing store experimenting with new in-store decor. Big chains cannot pivot that quickly, and any changes must be approved by corporate and implemented across all centers.

Although small businesses may have a tough time beating big box retailers on overall price, there are many other advantages such enterprises have over the competition.



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