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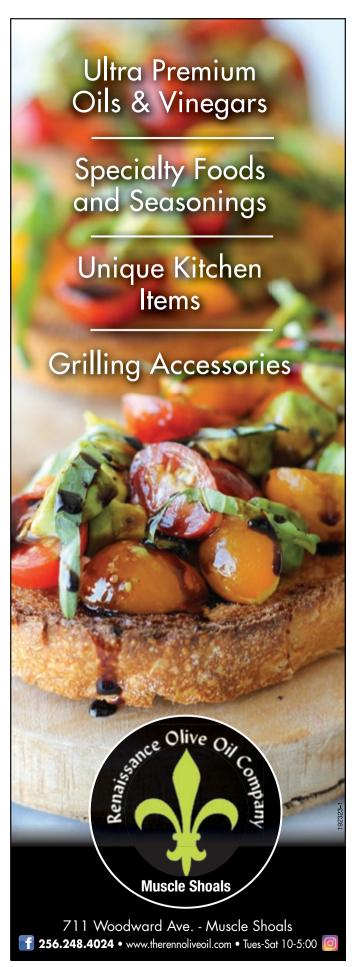
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TIME TO EAT

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Explorethe Shoals

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ON THE COVER

Photograph by Heather Sherrill of Create Portraiture

Belle Mont mansion is rich in history. Construction was commissioned in 1828. It is believed to have a strong connection to Thomas Jefferson. It is located in Tuscumbia.

Welcome to the Shoals!

We're proud of our entire heritage, from music to our founding fathers, and are delighted to share it with you.

The Alabama Music Hall of Fame featured on the cover of this year's publication, is a special point of pride, and we hope you will take the time to visit this state treasure. For the second time, the Alabama Music Hall of Fame honored artists in the music industry at a banquet that took place in Florence. Four musicians with ties to the state were inducted. It was a marvelous celebration of the musical talent that has come from our area and the state.

But, it was a bittersweet night, too.

We have had to say goodbye to our own Rick Hall, founder of FAME Recording Studios in Muscle Shoals and a major player in the recording industry starting from the 1960s and continuing until his death last year. He recorded almost every form of American music from soul to rock to pop and country, and had hits in each genre. He has been named a Billboard magazine's Producer of the Year, is featured in the 2013 music documentary "Muscle Shoals" that debuted to rave reviews and continues to be successful, and has received the Recording Academy's Grammy Trustee Award for 60 years of success in the music business. That's just a small portion of the highlights of Hall's remarkable career. He will be greatly missed by us all, and we'll be forever grateful he allowed us to sit and visit with him.

As you meander through our communities this year, you'll see signs that we're proudly celebrating with the state as Alabama recognizes its bicentennial this year. Florence, too, is celebrating this milestone, and there are historical sites we'd love for you to see as we show off a bit, not only our history, but our present and future, too.

And don't worry about where to dine. We have restaurants, bistros and sandwich shops to please every palate.

You'll find the best hospitality anywhere, right here, in the Shoals. We're so glad you're here!





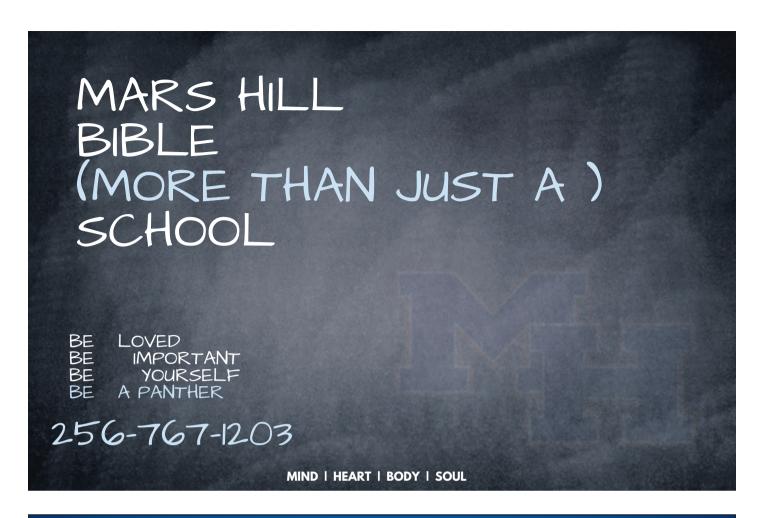
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the Shoals distinguishing the four cities

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: 40,059

When founded: 1818; incorporated, 1826

Florence, the country 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



Florence City Schools ranks in the Top 3% of School Districts in America by U.S. News & World Report.



























96% - Graduation Rate

74 - Career Technical Courses

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20 - Advance Placement Courses

14 - Average class size

10 – Top Ten District in Alabama



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Muscle Shoals

Population: 13,506 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.

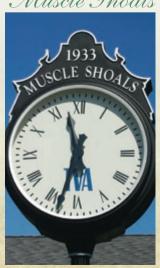
Disagreement continues about the origin of the name Muscle Shoals. Some claim the muscle portion of the name is a misspelled reference to mussels found in the Tennessee River, while others say it refers to the hard work and strength used to establish the area.

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





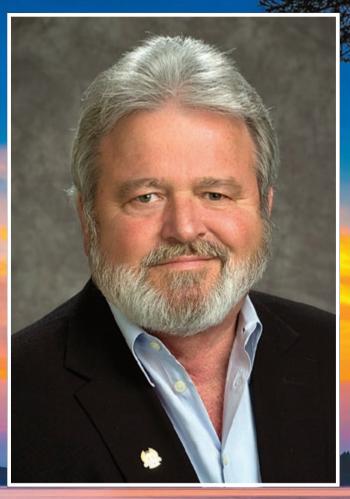


Sheffield



Tuscumbia





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Sheffield

Population: 9,107 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: 8,578 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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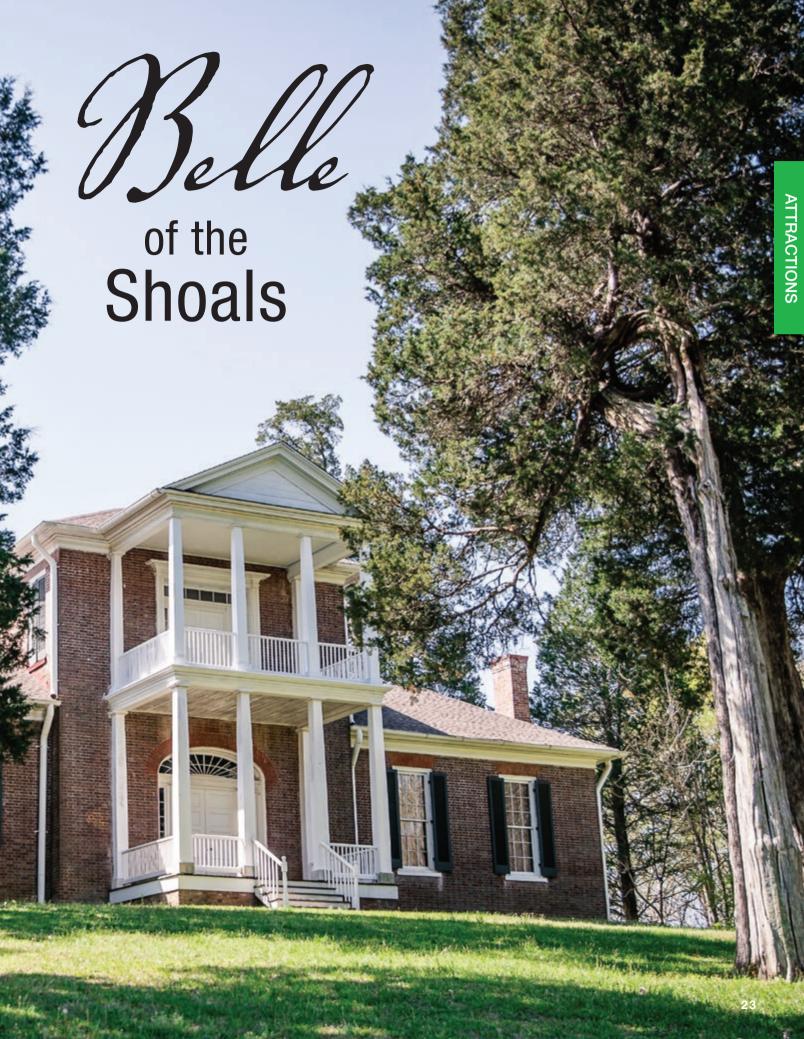
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" ... and our own dear Monticello, where has Nature spread so rich a mantle under the eye? Mountains, forests, rocks, rivers, with what majesty do we there ride above the storms! How sublime to look down into the workhouse of nature, to see her clouds, hail, snow, rain, thunder, all fabricated at our feet! And the glorious Sun, when rising as if out of a distant water, just gilding the tops of the mountains, and giving life to all nature!"

That quote from Thomas Jefferson to Maria Cosway, who was among his intimate circle of friends in Paris, is taken from a letter Jefferson wrote to Cosway dated Oct. 12, 1786, according to Monticello's website of archived letters.

It's easy to imagine Dr. Alexander Williams Mitchell or Isaac Winston expressing the same sentiments while standing on the balcony of the upper salon at Belle Mont mansion in Tuscumbia. Mitchell commissioned construction of the home in 1828, but only lived in it a few years. He sold it to Winston in 1833, who lived there with his family for half a century.

Belle Mont is believed to have a strong connection to Jefferson, who was a noted architect as well as a statesman. Traits of Palladian architecture devised by Jefferson is clearly evident at Belle Mont.

Like Jefferson's Monticello, Belle Mont has a hilltop setting, a raised two-story central section that's flanked by single-story wings and intricate quality brickwork of its era with





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Visitors can now see the tapered square columns that support the twotiered portico. And if vou believe faux finishes are a current rage, look closely at the columns - they were painted to resemble marble. Examine the walls of the gallery surrounding the courtyard and you'll see that they are plastered and "penciled" to imitate limestone. The columns out here were painted to resemble granite. There are even faux chimneys to give the roofline symmetry - an feature

Jefferson often employed in many of his designs.

Though the marble mantels in the main rooms were practically destroyed during the era when vandals inhabited the house, restorers found large original pieces that are display, and rebuilt the mantels with marble from the King of Prussia Quarry in Pennsylvania.

There are many details of architectural interest. Take note of the "eyebrow" windows – or oval-shaped windows – in a side door that





is believed to have led to the original kitchen located to the east. Faint outlines of a roofline can be seen on the exterior wall. And when you walk through the bedrooms don't look for elaborate armoires that would have held the inhabitants clothing – Belle Mont's bedroom were fitted with closets, some of which show the original shelving and shiplap.

The hardwood floors are unfinished, deliberately. Ninon Parker, who is a long-time volunteer at the mansion explains to visitors that affluent families often had wall-to-wall rugs covering the

floors, especially in main rooms and saw no need to refinish the wood.

Significant details like these abound in this important structure that invites the visitor to walk slowly and view carefully.

Unlike the affluence of its origin, Belle Mont's survival is dependent upon the kindness of strangers, legislators and benefactors who believe in its architectural significance. But it is an jewel undergoing a slow polish – and well worth the drive to its columned beauty.



Early settler of the Tennessee Valley, John Murray Hood.



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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

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-mail trail that winds through open areas, woods and around three ponds. A playground, picnic shelter and restrooms also are on site.

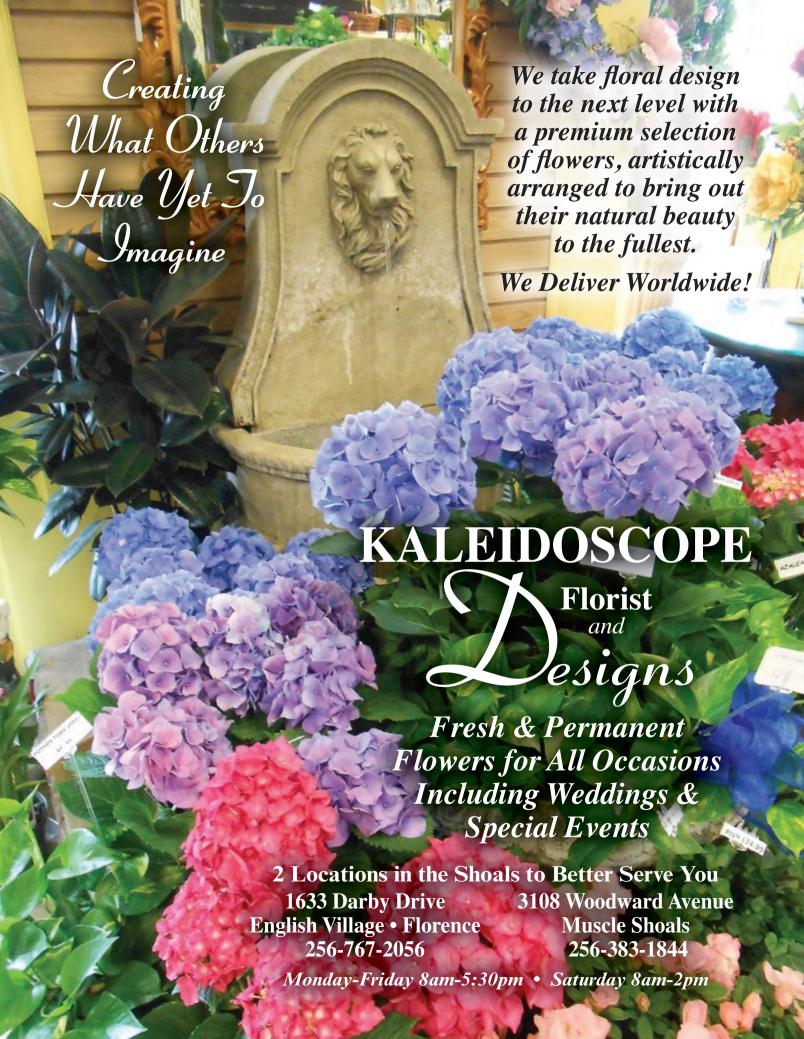
MCFARLAND PARK

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,



Deibert Park in Florence.





River Heritage Park in Florence.

bicyclists, dis 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, 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.

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 manmade 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.



Riverfront Park in Sheffield.



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 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.



TVA Rockpile Recreational Area in Muscle Shoals.



Gattman Park in Muscle Shoals.



McFarland Park in Florence.



Spring Park in Tuscumbia.



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King Drive-In, Russellville.



Ritz Theatre, Sheffield.

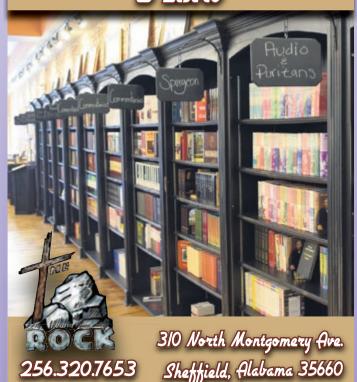
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museums

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511 N. Water St., Tuscumbia 256-383-0533 tvaa.net 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday-Friday; 1-3 p.m. Sunday

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.

BELLE MONT MANSION

1569 Cook Lane, Tuscumbia 256-381-5052

ahc.alabama.gov/properties/bellemont/bellemont.aspx Hours: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; 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.

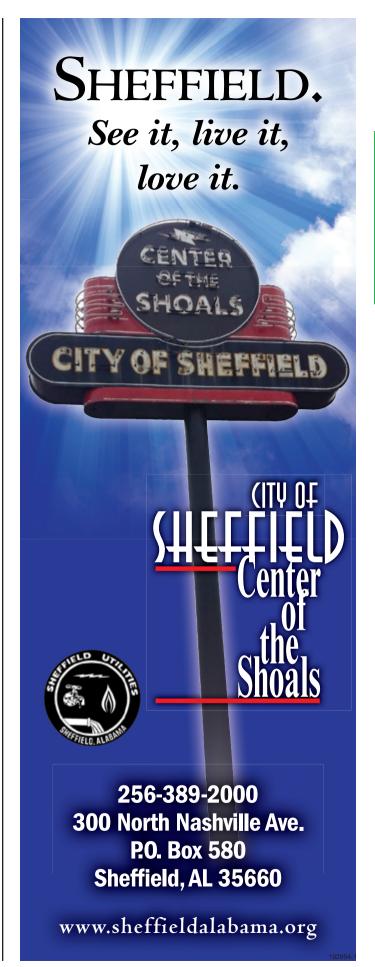
TUSCUMBIA DEPOT AND ROUNDHOUSE

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.

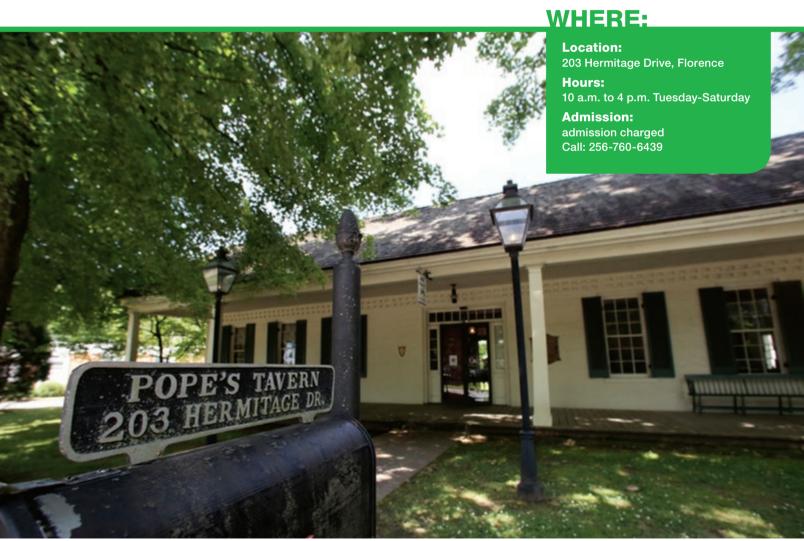


Tuscumbia Depot and Roundhouse, Tuscumbia.



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.



Pope's Tavern, Florence.

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.



Edith Newman Culver Museum, Waterloo.

ALABAMA MUSIC HALL OF FAME

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

This is the place to learn the rich history, everchanging 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.

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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 70year 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 overhands, 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:

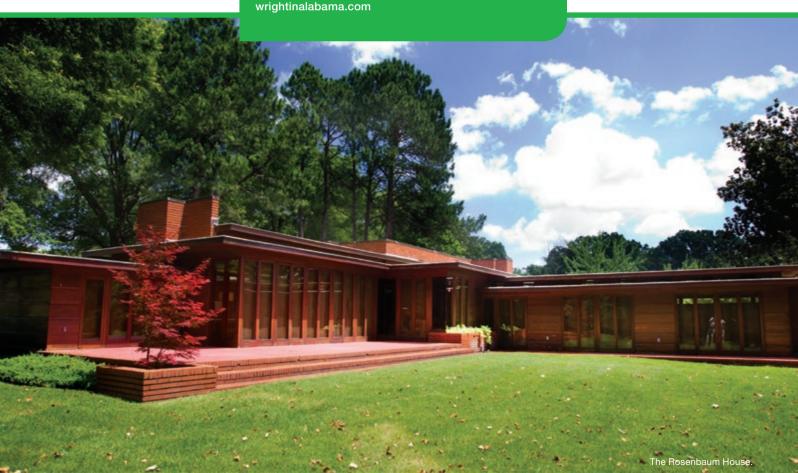
601 Riverview Drive, Florence

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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Ivy Green The Birthplace of Helen Keller



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

W.C. Handy Museum and Library



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 Call: 256-760-6434

Kennedy-Douglass Center for the Arts



Kennedy-Douglass Center for the Arts, Florence.

Known as the cultural center for Florence, the center has an arts gallery and museum that serves as an educational center and cultural hub for the area. There are annual exhibits and rotating exhibits from artists of Southeast. Workshops and classes for all ages also take place here. The annual Arts Alive juried fine arts and crafts festival is sponsored by the center's volunteers in May at the center an in Wilson Park across from the center.

WHERE:

Location:

217 E. Tuscaloosa St., Florence

Hours:

9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday-Friday

Admission:

Free

256-760-6379

Children's Museum of the Shoals



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)

256-765-0500

https://www.facebook.com/cmsal/

Plan a visit to the 14 area attractions on the ALABAMA BICENTENNIAL PASTPORT PROJECT

Alabama is celebrating its bicentennial, and we're inviting you to join in the fun.

Part of the commemorations was the launch this year of the Alabama Bicentennial PastPort Project. The PastPort is the official bicentennial publication that serves as a guide to Alabama's historic places. It includes sites of interest from all 67 Alabama counties.

The PastPort is a 174-page book available at welcome centers, the Alabama Department of Archives and History, various commercial outlets and online at shopalabama200.com. Cost is \$10 each.

Locally, 14 sites are listed in the PastPort:

COLBERT COUNTY

LaGrange College
Belle Mont Mansion
FAME Recording Studio
Ivy Green (Helen Keller's birthplace)
Key Underwood Coon Dog Memorial Cemetery
Muscle Shoals Sound Studio
Alabama Music Hall of Fame

FRANKLIN COUNTY

Dismal's Canyon Red Bay Museum

LAUDERDALE COUNTY

Sacred Way Sanctuary
Frank Lloyd Wright Rosenbaum House Museum
Indian Mound and Museum
Pope's Tavern Museum
W.C. Handy birthplace, museum and library



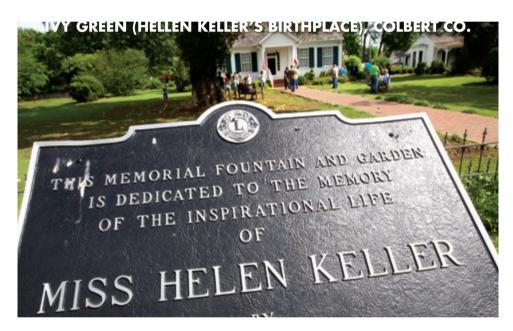






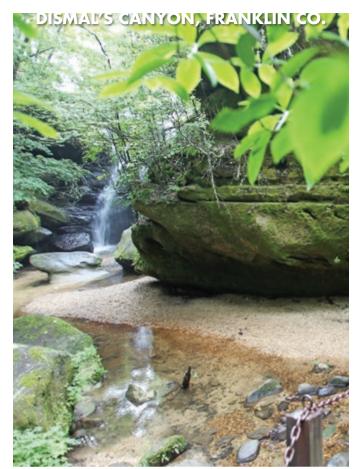
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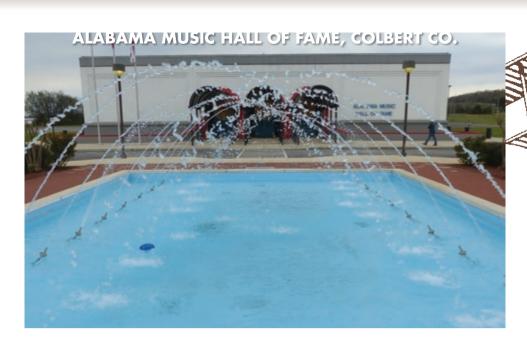




















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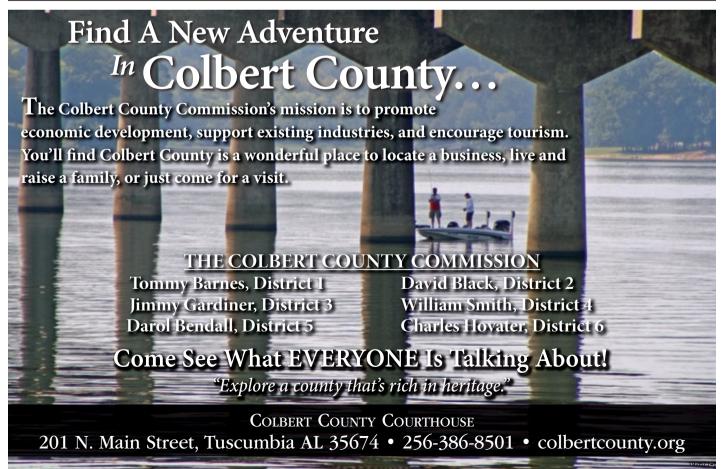
1202 Woodward Avenue • Muscle Shoals • 256-248-4530 www.alabamabliss.com











UNA's pride:

Leo III and Una are the brother and sister pair of African lions who have lived at the University of North Alabama since 2003, when they came to Florence as cubs.

Their campus home - the George H. Carroll Lion Habitat - anchors Harrison Plaza, which is the main entrance to the university. The \$1.3 million habitat was built according to guidelines established by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums. The outdoor area features boulders, streams, a waterfall and a pond. Leo II and Una are free to move between the outside and inside as they wish on good weather days, and are kept inside during inclement weather days. The habitat has received a perfect inspection score each year since it opened. The hourlong, unannounced inspection by a representative with the U.S. Department of Agriculture takes a deep look at the interior, enclosure, outside playground, the lions' food, snacks and bones, veterinary records, transport trailer and supplies used to care for the lions and for the habitat.

The habitat is an easy stop for visitors and locals to catch a glimpse of the big cats. There are two observatories that offer views of the habitat and places to catch Leo III and Una napping and playing. And peek in on the lions through their web cam at www.una.edu/lioncam

Photography by Allison Carter

about us

Here are some fun facts about Leo III and his sister, Una, the two live lion mascots at the University of North Alabama.





- UNA has had a live lion mascot on campus since 1974 when Leo I came to campus. Leo II came to UNA in the early 1990s.
- Leo III and Una were born in November 2002 and are the first lion pair to live at UNA.
- The lions are the guests of honor each April at a birthday party thrown in their honor. The birthday party is in April in recognition of Leo I's spring birthday.
- Leo III and Una are given a special toy each year at the birthday party. In the past, those have been high-density plastic balls, tubes and column-shaped toys.
- Una's name comes from the university's initials, but also represents a university supporters, Leo and Una Watson, from Michigan, who fell in love with the university and adopted Leo II as a philanthropy project and supported the lions for a number of years.
- As of October 2017, Leo II weighed 476 pounds and Una weighed 320 pounds.
- In 2016 Leo III and Una were ranked No. 6 among the Top 25

- live animal mascots in college football by Fox Sports. In 2012, Leo III and Una were named the top live sports mascot in the country by totalprosports.com.
- Leo and Una eat about 15 pounds of meat each day. The amount varies some depending on the season and the lions' physical activity. They also receive a USDA-approved bone twice a week to keep their teeth clean and jaws strong.
- It costs \$10,000 to \$15,000 each year to care for the lions, and the funds are raised solely through private donations. UNA fans pass lion-shaped collection banks during home football games to collect money to care for Leo III and Una. Other donations can be dropped off at the collection box beside the lions' habitat or made through the university advancement office.
- The life expectancy of lions in the wild is 10-12 years. But, in captivity, Leo III and Una are expected to live 15-20 years.
- The lions are typically in their outdoor habitat each day from 8 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. in winter months and 7:30 a.m. until 5:30 p.m. in the spring and summer. The door to the indoor habitat is always open to give the lions a place to stay inside if wanted. Watch them on their Lion Cam at www.una.edu/lioncam



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Area celebrations include a variety of festivals from spring until winter. In pride of place are the W.C. Handy Music Festival and the Helen Keller Festival, both during the summer months.

The rest of the year includes Shoals Earth Day, Arts Alive, Spirit of Freedom Celebration on the Fourth of July and even one to remember special fourlegged furry friends. The Coon Dog Cemetery has a celebration every year on Labor Day weekend.

As the leaves put on their show of colors in autumn, Oka Kapassa-Return to Cold Water brings many members of Native American tribes back to Tuscumbia to commemorate the kindness shown to their ancestors during the terrible forced removal of American Indians in the 1830s. That time

is remembered again during the Trail of Tears motorcycle ride.

And a yearly celebration will take you back to times of yore. The Alabama Renaissance Faire is recognized statewide and beyond as one of the best of its kind.

So whatever the season, and whatever your taste, there's something going on in the Shoals.

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 2017 festival is May 19-20. For details about the festival or exhibits, visit artsalivealabama.com or call 256-760-6379.

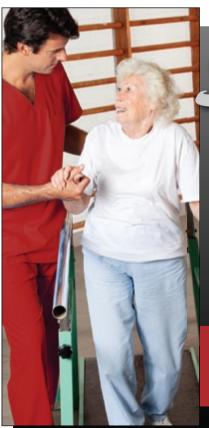


ALABAMA RENAISSANCE FAIRE



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. 27-28.

The 2017 faire is Oct. 28-29. For details about the fun and educational event, visit alarenfaire.org.



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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 Tuscumbia, 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 2017 festival is June 21-24. For details, visit helenkellerfestival. com or call 256-383-4066.

HELEN KELLER FESTIVAL



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. Every year Florence honors W.C. Handy, the Father of the Blues, with a 10-day music extravaganza.

Bands come from all over to perform in every nook and cranny they can find in the Shoals. It all comes to a climax with the W.C. Handy headliner, which always promises to be one of the biggest acts of the year.

The 2017 festival is July 20-29. For details, visit wchandymusicfestival.org or call 256-740-4141.



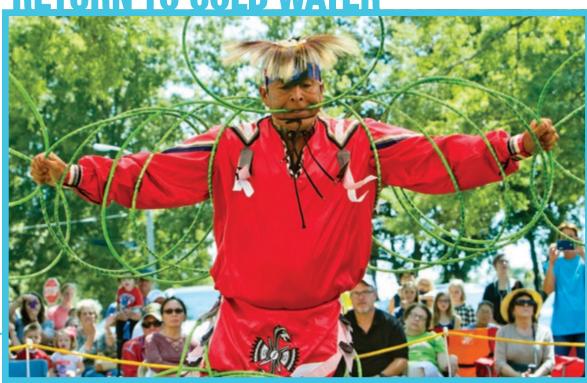


OKA KAPASSA —
RETURN TO COLD WATER

Remembering the kindness shown to them by the citizens of Tuscumbia, Native Americans return to Spring Park every year to celebrate their culture and heritage with the people of Tuscumbia.

Oka Kapassa features storytelling, stone carving, traditional music and dancing, Native American crafts, baskets, food and educational events teaching language, pottery and archery.

The 2017 festival is Sept. 7-8. For details, visit okakapassa.org or call 256-757-4438.



COON DOG CEMETERY LABOR DAY CELEBRATION



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 or call 256-383-0783.

TRAIL OF TEARS COMMEMORATIVE MOTORCYCLE RIDE

Motorcyclists honor the Trail of Tears by riding from Chattanooga to Florence, meeting in Florence's McFarland Park for a three-day pow wow starting Friday at noon. The riders always ride on the third Saturday in September, this year Sept. 15-25. For details, visit traioftears-rememberance.org.





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Other Celebrations Festivals

MONTHLY CELEBRATION

FIRST FRIDAYS

The First Friday of every month March 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 4-6. LaGrange College Site, 1491 LaGrange College Road, Leighton. Visit lagrangehistoricsite.com.

NORTH ALABAMA AFRICAN HERITAGE FESTIVAL

Explores African art, fashions, culture, crafts, music and food; 2017 festival June 2 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 2-3. For details, call 256-740-4141.

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. 17-18. 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. 18-23. Visit 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; Oct. 6-8. For details, call 256-767-3960.

ROGERSVILLE FALL FESTIVAL

Rogersville celebrates fall with antique cars, trucks and tractors, an art show, chili cook-off, children and pets parade and vendors; Oct. 27, downtown Rogersville. For details, visit rogersvillealabama.com or call 256-247-9449.

PLANTATION CHRISTMAS

It's an Old South Christmas at Tuscumbia's Belle Mont Mansion, with traditional ornaments, period holiday music, ballroom dancing; Dec. 1. Built in 1828, the plantation is at 1569 Cook Lane, off U.S., 43 S, Tuscumbia. Visit colbertcountytourism.org or call 256-383-0783 for details.

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. Dec. 8. For more information, call 256-383-9797 or 256-383-0783



First Fridays in Florence.



Dickens Christmas Y'all in Tuscumbia

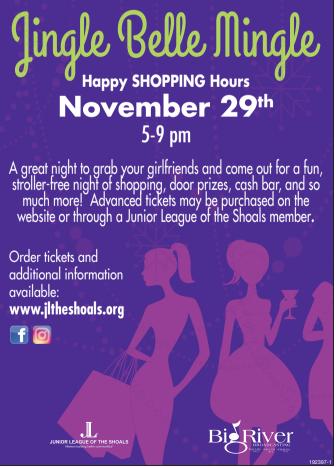


Frontier Day Celebration in Florence.

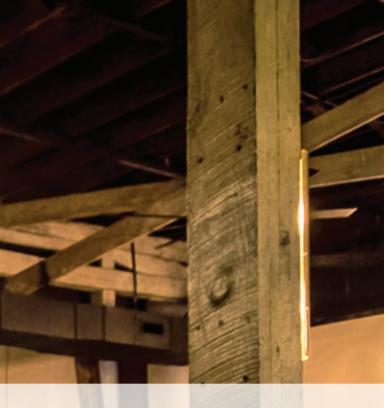


North Alabama State Fair in Muscle Shoals.









Story by Robert Palmer
Photography by Heather Sherrill of Create Portraiture





Boutique hotels are all the rage, and the Shoals has one of the most original hotels that give homage to the area's arts-musiccreative vibe.

The GunRunner, a hospitality vision of owner Billy Ray Casteel, opened in July 2017.

Casteel had a vision that the old Gunrunner building on East Tennessee Street in Florence, which in a past life had been a car dealership, could be remade into something that people would pay to stay in.

During its open house last year, more than 300 people toured the 10-suite GunRunner Boutique Hotel to rave reviews.

"I'm getting a tremendous amount of support from the community," Casteel said as people pressed in to compliment his work.

Each suite has a Shoals-specific theme. One is decorated by renowned fashion designer Billy Reid, another is themed around the legendary Muscle Shoals Sound Studios, and one is themed around Florence native and Sun Records founder Sam Phillips.

Famed architect
Frank Lloyd Wright,
the University of
North Alabama, the
historical Landrum
photo collection, and
world-famous race horse
Glencoe are among the
other themes.

The look might best be described as industrial chic. Brick walls and ceiling beams remain exposed, and a freight elevator has been converted into a bar.

"It is one of the most

incredible spaces I've been in," said Teryl Shields, director of the Florence Main Street program.

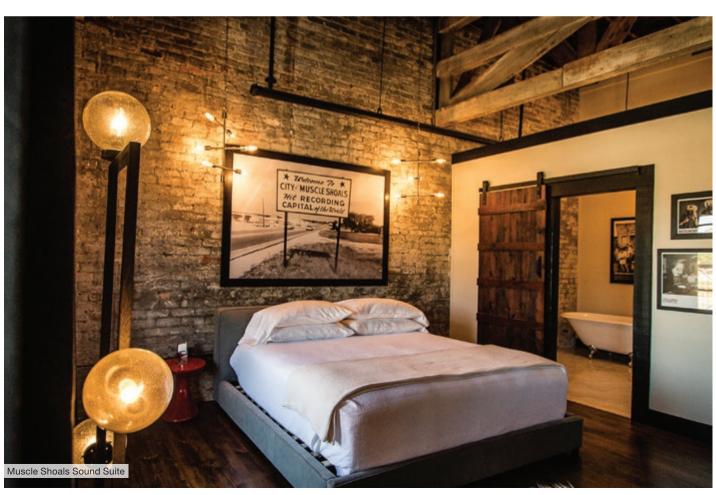
There is a large central space, and the rooms surround it. Most of the rooms have balconies.

Reid said his suite will be curated, with items rotated in and out on a regular basis.

Casteel said work by local artists will be available for purchase.

"We're going to be very fluid. We're going to let local artists hang their work, and we will rotate it," he said.

In additional to booking individual rooms, the entire hotel may be booked, called "Run of the House," which includes all 10 guest rooms, a stunning common area and rooftop. It's ideal for small business







meetings and corporate events, weddings, family celebrations, holiday gatherings or just a group of friends who want the unique experience only the GunRunner can offer. Its website explains its unique concept that offers guests a "luxury hotel experience, with the convenience and privacy that comes with a rented apartment."

The hotel is within easy walking distance of the core of downtown shops and restaurants.

"Billy Ray is a visionary," said Judy

Hood, marketing consultant for the hotel said during the opening event. "He transformed this historic building into a boutique hotel that is a stunning addition to downtown Florence."

Turbo Coffee occupies part of the ground floor space, while the hotel occupies the second floor.

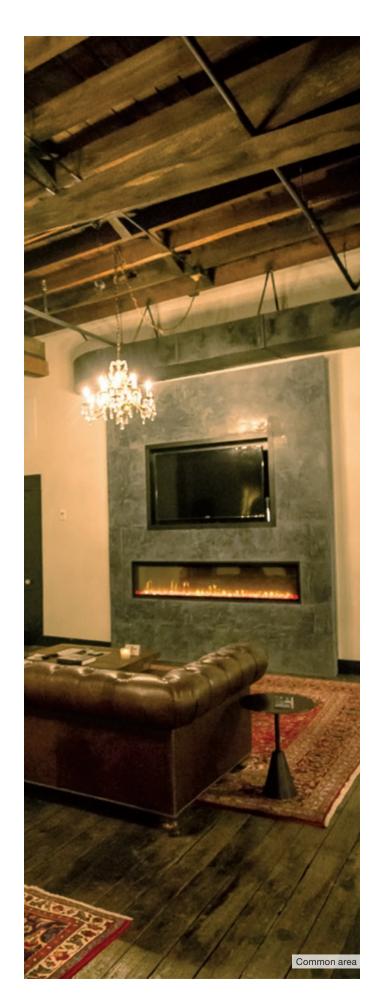
This story first appears in The TimesDaily. Some content has been edited.

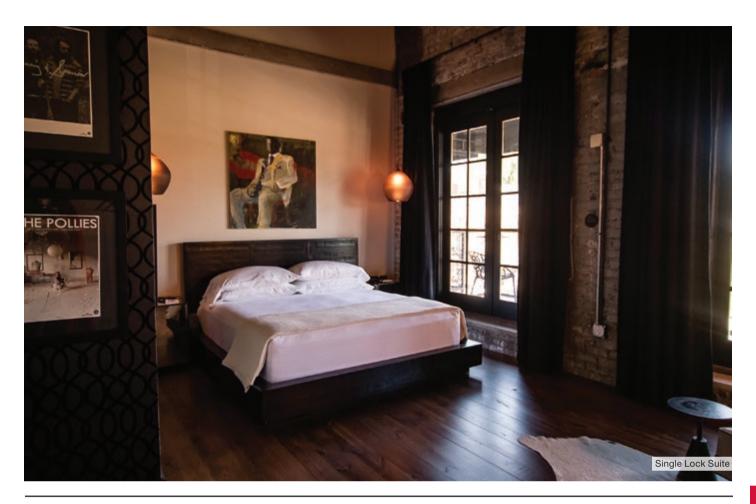


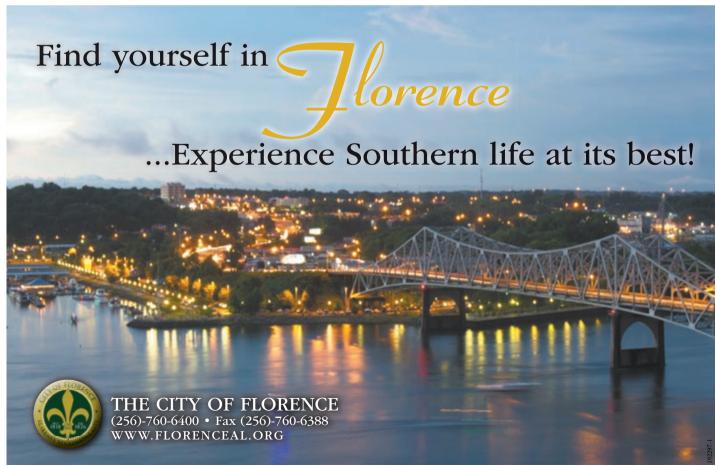
GunRunner Boutique Hotel

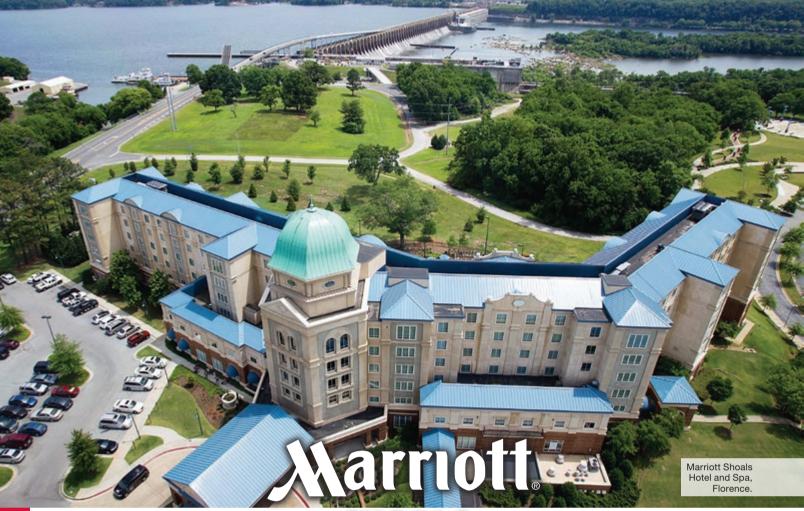
310 E. Tennessee St., Florence 1-855-269-4724 (toll free), or 256-349-5464 gunrunnerhotel.com Reservations are online only











SHOALS HOTEL & SPA

More than 1,200 rooms are available in Lauderdale and Colbert counties, including the four-star Marriott Shoals Hotel and Spa, which consistently rates highest among Marriott guest amenities and service. Fine dining is offered high atop Renaissance Tower at the 360 Grille, a revolving restaurant. Casual dining and great, live music is offered at Swampers Bar and Grille. There's also an indoor and outdoor pool.

Marriott Shoals Hotel & Spa

10 Hightower Place, Florence 256-246-3600

marriott.com/hotels/travel/mslmc-marriott-shoals-hotel-and-spa



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2







The Shoals area offers visitors different places to stay, including a luxury four-star Marriott.

More than 1,200 rooms are available in Lauderdale and Colbert counties, according to tourism officials.

Lodging facilities in Colbert and Lauderdale include:

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2807 Woodward Ave., Muscle Shoals, 256-381-0236; americasbestvalueinn.com

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1238 Florence Blvd., Florence, 256-764-7621; budgetinnflorence.com

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712 U.S. 72, Tuscumbia, 256-383-6844; coldwater-inn.com

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15936 U.S. 72, Rogersville; 256-247-5416

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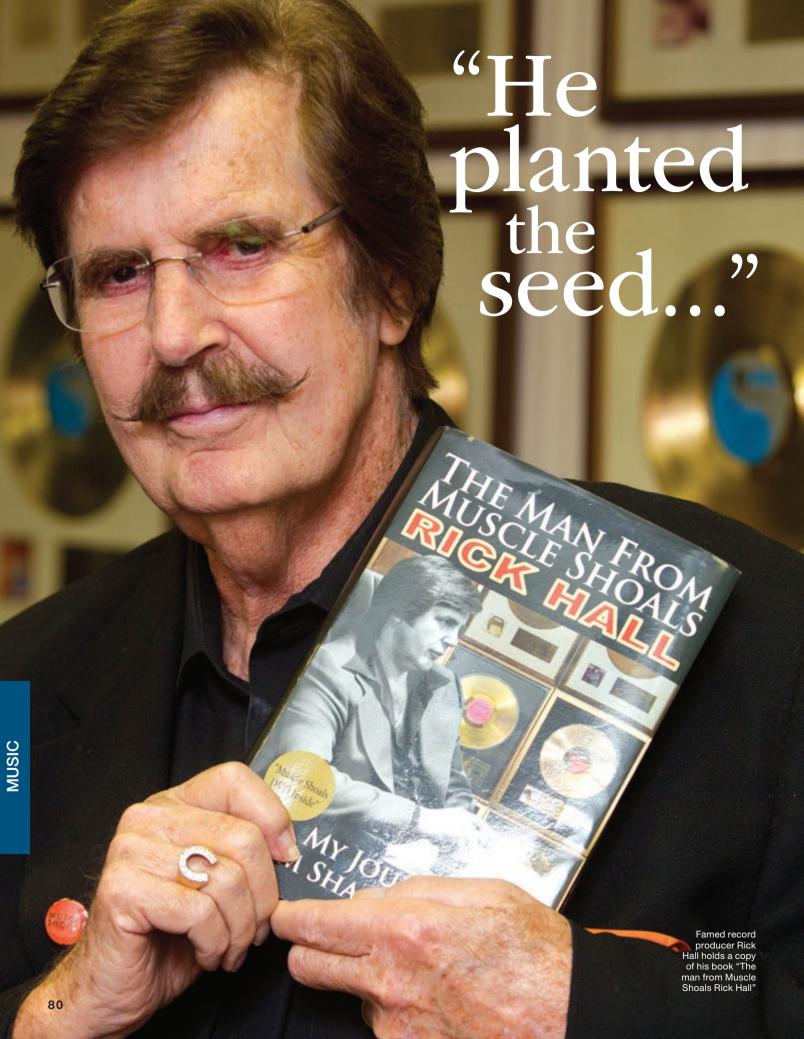


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The world of music this year said good-bye and thank you to the legendary Rick Hall

Story by Russ Corey and Robert Palmer
Photography by Matt McKean, Allison Carter & Jim Hannon
courtesy photos from FAME Studios & AP

Accolades poured in from all over the world, and tributes were published in national newspapers and magazines, but for Shoals residents, it came down to saying good-bye and "thank you" to a man who allowed us to tag along for an incredible journey.

Rick Hall, founder of FAME Recording Studios, hit record producer and the architect of the legendary Muscle Shoals Sound, died Jan. 2 at his home.

He was 85.

Born Roe Erister Hall in the Freedom Hills community in Franklin County, Hall rose from abject poverty to become a major player in the recording industry, starting in the 1960s and continuing to evolve with the times and changes in musical tastes.

Hall recorded almost every form of American music from soul to rock to pop and country, and had hits in each genre, making his publishing company highly successful.

While others in the Shoals moved on to Memphis and Nashville, in Tennessee, to pursue their dreams of working in the music business, Hall was determined to become a success in the Shoals.

"The thing about Rick was that he built his business and his dream from the ground up," author and American music historian Peter Guralnick said. "He was somebody who was driven by a vision of something he believed he could be. He was as determined a person as I have met."

Professional recording was virtually unknown in Alabama in the 1960s. That it should take root in a small, isolated town like Muscle Shoals is nothing short of remarkable.

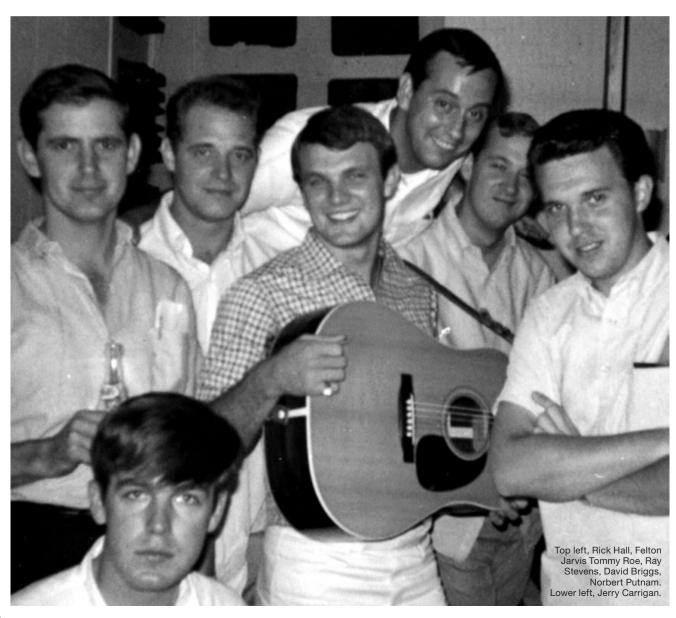
FAME recorded almost exclusively black artists in the 1960s during the civil rights movement, a remarkable legacy. Most of Hall's session players in those days were white, though black players from Memphis occasionally joined the sessions. By the 1970s, many of FAME's session musicians were black.

Hall started his career as a musician who played

fiddle and mandolin in country bands as a young man.

A musician and songwriter, Hall joined a group of dreamers at City Drug Store in Florence, where SPAR Studio was located. With friends Tom Stafford and Billy Sherrill, Hall founded the music publishing company Florence Alabama Music Enterprises. When the partnership dissolved, Hall kept the name and opened FAME Recording Studios in an old tobacco and candy warehouse on Wilson Dam Road in 1960.







He assembled a group of local musicians and Sheffield bellhop Arthur Alexander, who had written a song called "You Better Move On." The song quickly became a hit.

Using the proceeds from "You Better Move One," Hall moved to a new building on Avalon Avenue where the studio still operates. The first artist to record a hit there was Leighton's Jimmy Hughes, who also wrote "Steal Away."

"I enjoyed working with him. I learned how to record from him," Hughes said. "He wanted everything perfect."

Hall continued to work with rhythm and blues, and soul artists, and recorded hits for Aretha Franklin, Etta James, the Staples Singers, Clarence Carter, Wilson Pickett, Otis Redding and Candi Staton.

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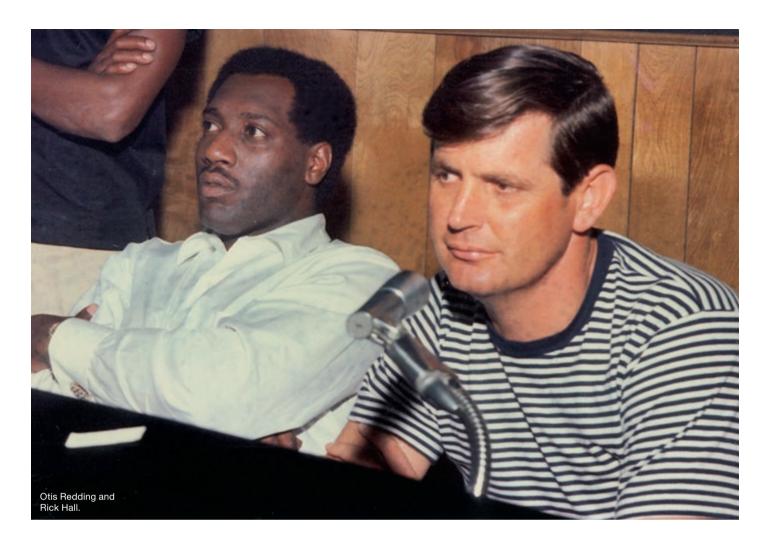






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"The genesis of Muscle Shoals was three great men — Sam Phillips, Tom Stafford and then came Rick Hall," said Norbert Putnam, one of the teenagers hanging out at SPAR and the bassist on early FAME recordings. "If (Florence native) Sam Phillips had not gone to Memphis to find Elvis, that first rhythm section might not have come into existence. We, at 15, were playing Elvis's music.

"We met Tom Stafford (at SPAR) and started playing R&B music, James Brown and Ray Charles," Putnam said. "A year or so later, a young man named Rick Hall came up the stairs for publishing and recording."



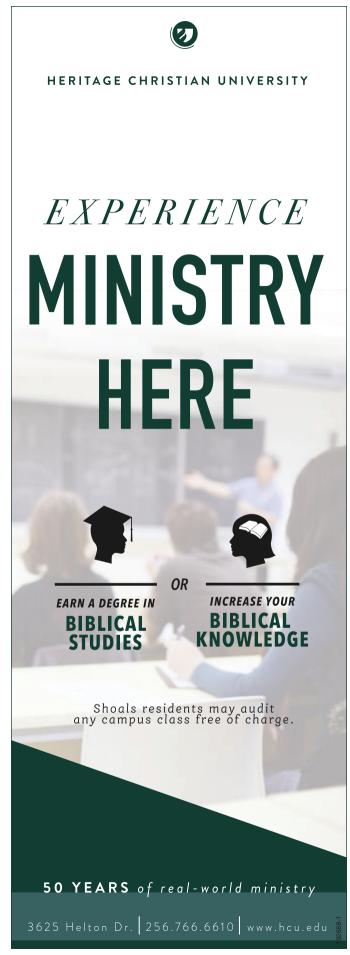
Putnam, who moved to Nashville with the other rhythm section members — Jerry Carrigan and David Briggs — said Hall was the entrepreneur of the group who raised money for professional recording equipment after the original partnership with Stafford split.

"Rick Hall was the man we needed," he said. "As the years went by, we went our separate ways, but Rick went on to become one of the world's greatest producers."

In the 1970s, Hall moved into mainstream pop music and had a string of hits with the Osmonds, Paul Anka, Tom Jones and Donny Osmond. In 1971, Hall was named Billboard Producer of the Year, a year after being nominated for a Grammy Award in the same category.

Near the end of the 1970s, he began producing country artists like Mac Davis, Bobbie Gentry, Jerry Reed, the Gatlin Brothers, Ronnie Milsap, Barbara Mandrell, Alabama, Earl Thomas Conley, John Michael Montgomery, Jerry Reed, Shenandoah, and Tim McGraw.

Hall was named Billboard magazine's Producer of the Year in 1971. He is an inductee in the Alabama Music Hall of Fame. In 2014, the Recording Academy awarded Hall with a Grammy Trustee Award, recognizing him for 60 years of success in the music business. In 2015, Hall was honored by the Alabama State Council on the Arts. The following year, Heritage Builders Publishing released "The Man From Muscle Shoals: Rick Hall, My Journey from Shame To Fame," the story of Hall's life.



In 2015, the Business Council of Alabama awarded Hall and the Swampers Rhythm Section its Chairman's Award, and in 2017, Hall was the recipient of an honorary doctorate degree from the University of North Alabama in Florence.

Hall's story became the centerpiece of the 2013 music documentary "Muscle Shoals," which reignited a curiosity and interest in the Muscle Shoals music legacy. Music fans began traveling to the Shoals to visit the studios after watching the documentary.

Hall had a reputation for ruthless pursuit of





the music he heard in his head, and that could make for some rough recording sessions.

"I know I would have had no career in music at all without Rick," said David Hood, bassist with the Muscle Shoals Rhythm Section, which got its start at FAME. "He was an encourager, a great influence. Sometimes his threats were encouragement enough.

"Overall, he had a very positive influence on me and the industry here," Hood said. "I always thought, even when I wasn't working with him, 'What would Rick think?' I always wanted him to be proud of us."

Drummer Roger Hawkins said he was probably in his early 20s when he started working for Hall with his friends Hood, guitarist Jimmy Johnson and keyboardist Barry Beckett, later dubbed The Swampers.

"Rick was a hard teacher, but a good teacher." Hawkins said. "He taught me everything I thought I already knew."



Lou Rawls and Rick Hall in the FAME Studios.







Mickey Buckins, who worked at FAME as an artist, songwriter and engineer, said Hall had the best ears in the music business.

"The main thing I learned from Rick was to listen, really listen," Buckins said. "He would drive himself crazy, and the rest of us, until he got what he wanted on tape. That was his way.

"It was a mind-blowing experience at that age," he said. "I loved the man, the whole Hall family."

Guralnick said Hall was not one to make lots of friends, but those he had he valued deeply.

"Rick valued so highly his friendship with Jerry Wexler and Sam Phillips. He especially idolized Sam Phillips,"



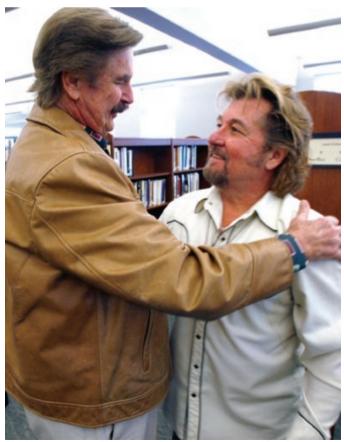
Joy Willliams, Candi Staton, Rick Hall and John Paul White backstage at Nashville's Ryman Auditorium during the Americana Music Association Honors and Awards show.



Rick Hall talks during Coffee Talk at the Mane Room as Walt Aldridge, Janna Malone and audience members listen.



Rick Hall enthusiastically greets Candi Stanton at the Alabama Music Hall of Fame Induction Banquet



Rick Hall greets Jerry Phillips, son of the legendary owner of Sun Records, Sam Phllips, at the celebration of his father's birthday.

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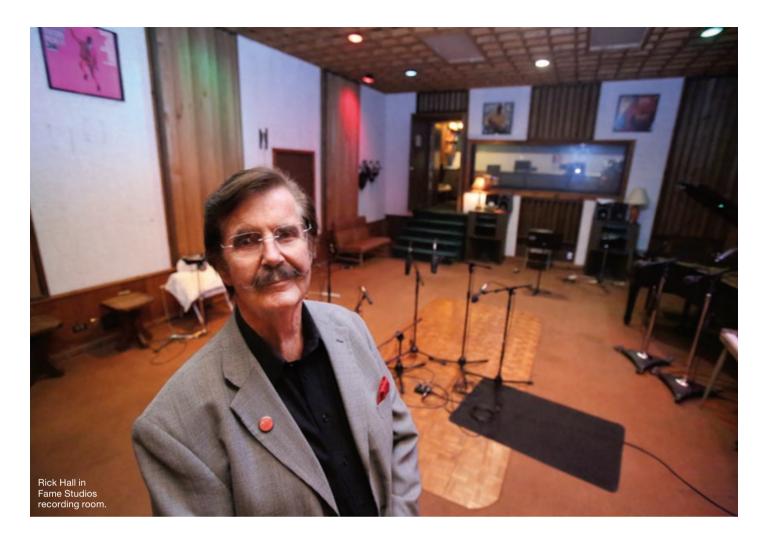
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he said. "He had a sense of gratitude that he was accepted in that company. But the contributions he made to music of all sorts is incomparable."

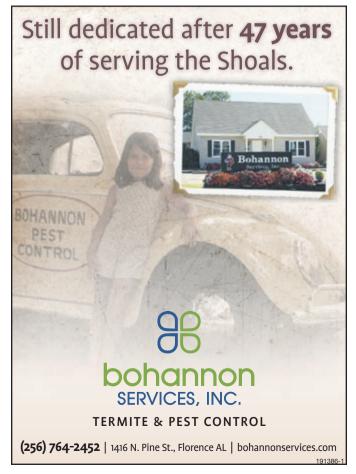
Wexler's son, Paul Wexler, said his father had the utmost respect for Hall as a producer and a man who could recognize talented artists. His father kept up with trends in local markets and began sending artists to FAME to record with

"Times were changing and Rick was at the front of a wave of change in the way people were recording," Wexler said.



Rick Hall at Fame Studios.









"My father gave him a lot of credit for that."

Singer, songwriter and producer Walt Aldridge said he worked with Hall for 17 years, starting as a runner and eventually becoming a business partner.

"I got to look at every aspect of the music business with Rick and received an invaluable education," Aldridge said. "Rick managed to be relevant for a lot of years. He was able to evolve and reinvent himself."

Aldridge doubts the Muscle Shoals Sound would have existed without Rick Hall.

"The music world changed today with Rick's passing," singer, songwriter and producer Mac McAnally, who worked as a session musician at FAME, said on the day Hall died. "I don't know now who will be the most dedicated, relentless advocate for music being as strong as it can be,

but I know who it was up until today. I am blessed to have learned at his feet, and happy we have so much work to remember him by."

Aldridge said the special thing about the Shoals is not that hit records were being cut here because they were being cut in Memphis, Detroit, Michigan, Los Angeles, California, and many other places.

"There was a lot of hit making going on because it was a young industry then," Aldridge said. "What's amazing to me is that Muscle Shoals survived."

Hall's son, Rodney Hall, said FAME Recording Studios will remain open per his father's wishes.

"He planted the seed and we'd like to see that tree grow for generations," Rodney Hall said.

Hall said his father lived in what he considers the golden age of the recording industry.

"He lived during the age when it was a really sexy, fun, cool thing to be able to go in and make a record and go to a radio station and they'd play it," he said. "You'd have a hit record just by having good music, sheer, hard work and determination. That's not necessarily the case today."

Hall said his father's legacy will live on through the music he helped create.

"It's a very sad milestone," said Patterson Hood, Shoals native and co-founder of the Drive-By Truckers. "All of my interactions with him were positive, and there's no denying what a true force of nature he was. He literally made the impossible happen by pure force of will, and I'll always respect that."

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Alabama Music Hall of Fame's Honors and Awards Banquet

4 artists inducted into the Alabama Music Hall of Fame

Story by Russ Corey and Robert Palmer
Photography by Matt McKean

Legendary soul singer Clarence Carter performed his classic hit "Patches" near the end of the 2018 Alabama Music Hall of Fame's Honors and Awards Banquet in honor of FAME Recording Studios founder Rick Hall, who died Jan. 2 at the age of 85.

Before the show, which took place at the Marriott Shoals Conference Center in Florence on Feb. 3, Carter lauded the hall of fame shows.

"We're family all

spread out, but we come together for a common cause. I hope it never ends," he said. "I'll do this every opportunity I get."

This year's inductees were Eddie Hinton, Odetta, Walt Aldridge and Mac McAnally.

Former Anderson resident Red Marlow, a finalist on this season's "The Voice," drew applause as he opened the musical portion of the show with Mark Narmore's "That's What I Love About Sunday." A special award was given to Joel Anderson for his support of the hall of fame. He was given the Honorary Rock Star Award by pianist Chuck Leavell, who was inducted in 2016.

"I literally grew up with Muscle Shoals music," Anderson said. "When I began to travel the world, I realized the influence it had on so many people."

Earlier in the day, Leavell, who was a member of the Allman Brothers Band and





Clarence Carter sings 'Patches'.

currently tours with the Rolling Stones, said he is proud to be an Alabama musician.

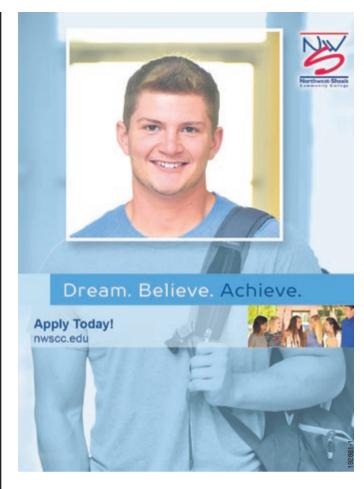
"I cherish my Alabama roots," he said. He said he admired Muscle Shoals musicians like Clayton Ivey and Pete Carr when he was growing up.

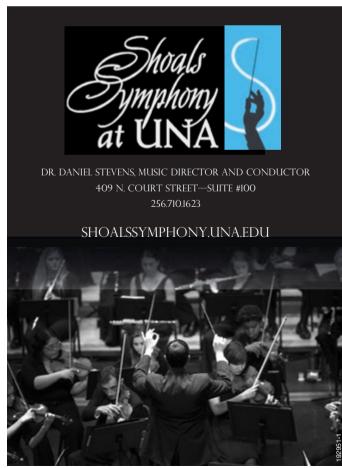
"Keith Richards says there is something in the water here, and I think he's right," Leavell said.

The first inductee was singer/songwriter Walt Aldridge. Rachel and Hannah Aldridge presented their father with his award.



Chuck Leavell performs a song.









Angela Hacker sings 'Breakfast in Bed ' by 2018 inductee Eddie Hinton.

Walt Aldridge said he tries his best to be a good representative of Alabama music.

He thanked Rick Hall for the impression he made on him.

"Rick could be difficult and even impossible at times, but he held me to the same standards he held himself to," Aldridge said

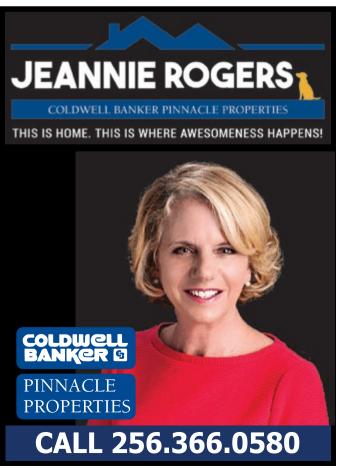
He said Hall became a surrogate father to him and the other musicians Hall worked with in his 50 years at FAME.

The next inductee was rhythm and blues singer/guitarist Eddie Hinton.



Taylor Hicks performs 'Cover Me' a song written by 2018 inductee Eddie Hinton.







Jon McGee, a cousin of Eddie Hinton, accepted the award for Hinton, who died in 1995.

"We humbly accept this award," McGee said. "This is where Eddie would be if he were here, on lead guitar."

McGee thanked Muscle Shoals Rhythm Section bassist David Hood and his son, Drive-By Truckers co-founder Patterson Hood, for performing Hinton's "Everybody Needs Love" on a segment of "The David Letterman Show."

Hood ended up incorporating that song and "Where's Eddie" into the band's set list.

He praised the house band, which was composed of Muscle Shoals music all stars.

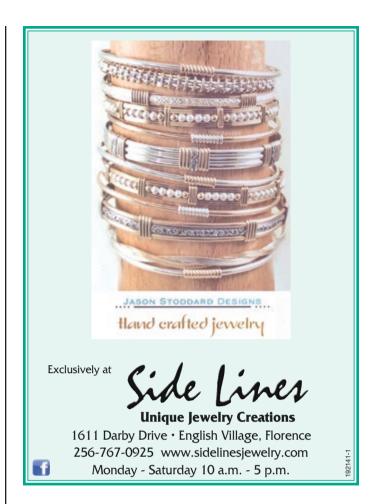
Angela Hacker and Taylor Hicks performed knock-out versions of the Hinton songs "Breakfast In Bed" and "Cover Me." Hinton's award was accepted by his cousin, Jon McGee, who said the Muscle Shoals Rhythm Section were like family to Hinton.

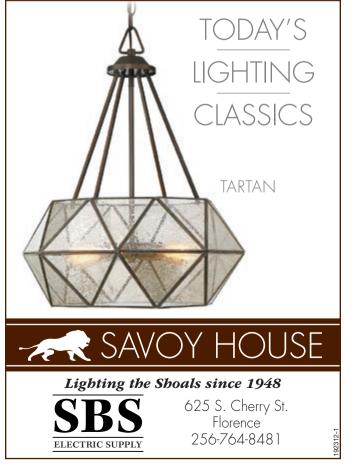
The third inductee was folk singer and civil rights activist, Birmingham native, Odetta.

Odetta's daughter, Michelle Esrick, said she believed her mother would be deeply moved



Joel Anderson accepts the honorary Rock Star Award for his support of music from past inductee Chuck Leavell.







by her induction into the hall of fame, "a place where she has deep roots."

"She was born in Alabama, she sang for voting rights for the Selma to Montgomery march, she recorded 'Odetta Sings' at Muscle Shoals Sound with Eddie Hinton, Jimmy Johnson and other great Muscle Shoals session playing legends."

"She made you feel things that words could not," Esrick said. "She made you feel the truth. She made you feel love. She connected us. She reminded us that we are all in this together."

Several stars who were touched by Odetta's music, including Joan Baez, Congressman John Lewis, Bonnie Riatt, Harry Belafonte and Kris Krisstofferson, provided video tributes.

Blues singer and family friend Guy Davis performed one of Odetta's favorite songs, "This Little Light of Mine" and "Pay Day at Coal Creek."

He grew up knowing Odetta through his parents, actors and activists Ruby Dee and Ossie Davis.

"I got to hear her voice on a personal level," Davis said.

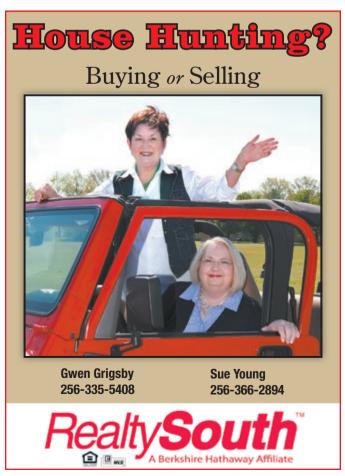
Esrick said her mother loved to laugh and have a good time.

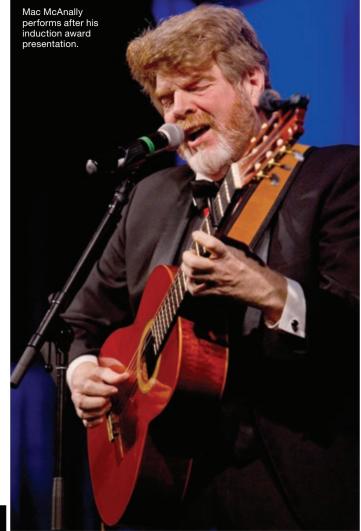
"She felt so strongly that music was a healing force," Esrick said.

The final inductee, Mac McAnally, accepted his award with some storytelling before performing "It's My Job."

He grew up in nearby Belmont, Mississippi, and first visited Muscle Shoals with his uncle and father when he was a kid. He said he realized he could try his hand at being a musician without going so far afield.









"The fact that Muscle Shoals was here gave me the opportunity to get here and fail, and get back by suppertime," he said.

Terry Woodford, who was a co-owner of Wishbone Recording Studio in Muscle Shoals, said he signed McAnally to a contract in 1976 after staying up until about 4 a.m. in the morning listening to tracks McAnally wrote when he was 15 year old. Woodford said he had to get court approval in Mississippi for McAnally to sign because of his age. The Artist was 18.

"I just couldn't believe what I was hearing," Woodford said. "To me, his greatest talent has always been being a songwriter. I thought he was a great singer and obviously a great guitar player. I was proud to be involved in his career."

Woodford and his Wishbone partner Clayton Ivey recorded and mixed "It's Just A Matter Of Time" and "You Can't Stop A Man In Love," two tracks on The Temptations' 1975 album "House Party," which was recorded and mixed at Wishbone Recording Studios.

Woodford also shared songwriting credits on "You Can't Stop A Man In Love" with Shoals songwriter George Soule.

The banquet raised more than \$80,000 for the Alabama Music Hall of Fame.

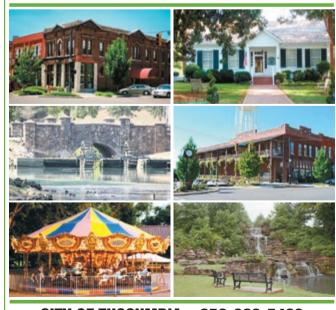
This article first appeared in the TimesDaily. It has been edited for space constraints.



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Dan Fogelberg singer, songwriter, musician

Story by Monica Collier



Norbert Putnam, right, works with Dan Fogelberg at Quadrafonic Studios in Nashville in 1971. (COURTESY PHOTO)

Dan Fogelberg, who released more than dozen albums over four decades, is best known for a multitude of chart-topping hits in the late 1970s and early 1980s. In 2007, Fogelberg lost a four-year battle with prostate cancer.

The first time Jean Fogelberg and Norbert Putnam talked on the phone, they realized they had similar ideas about paying tribute to Dan Fogelberg.

"Norbert said, what if we do the CD first, then do the concert?" she recalled. "This was not my field at all, so having his expertise — plus, he's just a charming man — it was great having him to help me along."

The two contacted Irving Azoff, Dan Fogelberg's longtime friend and mentor, who in turn connected them with Sony.

"We got a record deal, and we were off and running," she said. "Eventually, Chuck Morris came on board and the four of us collaborated on it. Norbert actually produced five of the songs — he was really at the forefront of it."

Putnam, a Lauderdale County native and current Florence resident, produced Fogelberg's first album, 1972's "Home Free," at Quadrafonic Studios in Nashville.

Always the skillful storyteller, Putnam enjoys reminiscing about his first meeting with the young singer/songwriter from Illinois in the early 1970s.

"My secretaries had thrown me in the shower," he said with a laugh. "I had a receptionist, a bookkeeper and one other woman — it was National Secretary's Week. David Briggs, my wonderful partner, had come in on Monday and told me he'd be working all week — he asked me if I could take the girls to lunch."

Putnam said he had a light work week — Dan Fogelberg was coming in at the end of the week — so he agreed.

"Briggs told me, be sure to take them to lunch — everyone on Music Row takes their secretaries to lunch," he said. "I got busy and forgot about it."

Putnam said Fogelberg and Irving Azoff were flying in from Peoria and scheduled to arrive at the studio around noon Friday.

"There was a knock on my door — I guess around 11:30," he said. "The three girls were standing there."

Putnam said he invited them into his office, but they insisted he come out into the hall.

"The Quad was in an old house," he said. "We walked into the hall, and they started backing up. It was really odd."

As they backed past a staircase and toward the bathroom, Putnam asked,

"What's going on?"

"They started cursing me, shoved me in the shower and turned the water on," he remembered with a laugh. "They ran down the steps shouting — they were calling me every name in the world. As they were running down the steps, Dan Fogelberg and Irving Azoff were coming up the steps."

Water dripped off Putnam's sleeve as he shook hands with Fogelberg for the first time.

"Clive Davis had pitched Dan to me," he said. "He gave me a tape to listen to, and it was just great. The guy was 19 years old, and he could already play like a pro and sing like a bird. His lyrics were world class."

Putnam had called Davis expressing an interest in producing Fogelberg. Davis told him it was between him and Jim Messina. The plan was for Fogelberg to visit Putnam, then visit Messina and decide between the two.

"We go into my office, and I was still shaking off water," he said. "I thought, 'we're going to try and have a talk?' But Dan was smiling the whole time. Somehow, he chose me to produce the record."

Later on, Putnam asked Fogelberg why he chose him over Messina.

"Jim Messina is a great producer," Putnam said. "Dan told me it was the scene at the studio that day. To see them all screaming at me, but I didn't fire anybody. I couldn't fire them — they ran the place. Dan said he just wanted to be part of that scene. Thank God the girls threw me in the shower and screamed at me that day."

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developing a friendship, the musical collaboration extended beyond Fogelberg's debut album and went on to include two more albums with Putnam co-producing — 1977's "Nether Lands" and 1979's "Phoenix." Putnam also played bass on many of Fogelberg's albums during the course of his career.

Respected in the music industry as a singer, songwriter and musician, many contemporary artists — such as Garth Brooks — point to Fogelberg as an influence on their own music.

"I bumped into Garth Brooks when the Country Music Hall of Fame inducted Kris Kristofferson," Putnam said. "Garth performed a Kristofferson song that night, and I met him afterwards. He came up to me — put his hands on my shoulders - and said when he was in college, every morning before class, he listened to Dan. James Taylor or Joni Mitchell. I said, really?"

Putnam said it was surprising, but Brooks went on to tell him how much the music meant to him. Three years later, when he and Jean Fogelberg were talking about artists for the tribute CD, he brought up Brooks' name.

"I put in a call to his manager," he said. "I think he had Garth call Jean, and he said he would love to do it."

Tracks on the tribute CD include:
"Phoenix," performed by Brooks; "Nether Lands," performed by Donna Summer; "Better Change," performed by Michael McDonald; "Longer," performed by Amy Grant and Vince Gill; "Same Old Lang Syne," performed by Train; "Don't Lose Heart,"

performed by Dobie Grav; "Old Tennessee," performed by Fool's Gold/Denny Henson and Tom Kelly; "As the Raven Flies," performed by Casey James; "Sutters Mill," performed by Randy Owen; "Run for the Roses," performed by The Nitty Gritty Dirt Band with Richie Fury; "Hard to Say," performed by Boz Scaggs; "Part of the Plan," performed by the Eagles; "There's a Place in the World for a Gambler," performed by Jimmy Buffett; and

Dan's music, it will make them curious," she said. "You know, Dan always considered his songs his children. He never knew once he put them out there where their path would take them out in the world. I think he would love hearing them reinterpreted by these amazing artists."

In the beginning, Fogelberg said Putnam warned her that the process of making the tribute CD could take upwards of a year and a half. A projected year and

TRIBUTE TO **GARTH BROOKS** ZAC BROWN TRAIN TRISHA YEARWOOD FOOLS GOLD **JOE WALSH with** RICKY SKAGGS the EAGLES DOBIE GRAY JIMMY BUFFETT RICHIE FURAY MICHAEL McDONALD DONNA SUMMER DIRT BAND VINCE GILL CASEY JAMES AMY GRANT RANDY OWEN **BOZ SCAGGS** CHRIS BOTTI

Norbert Putnam: Dan Fogelberg tribute CD years in the making

"Leader of the Band," performed by Zac Brown.

"I love that new acts like Train and Zac Brown have taken these songs and put their own spin on them," Fogelberg said. "They still feel true to the original tracks. I think everyone did a great job."

Fogelberg hopes the tribute CD introduces a new generation of music lovers to her husband's work.

"I think when Garth fans find out what a huge fan he was of half timeframe turned into almost eight years.

"Over the past seven plus years, Norbert has told me several times, 'Jean, we're not doing another tribute CD, right?'" she said with a laugh.

Putnam said the reason the CD took so long to come together never had anything to do with lack of interest from artists, but had everything to do with logistics — choosing songs and scheduling.

Artists donated their

time and proceeds from "A Tribute to Dan Fogelberg" go to the Prostate Cancer Foundation. Fogelberg said obviously, the foundation is a cause that's near and dear to her heart. A well-known artist and photographer in her own right, she began her involvement with the Prostate Cancer Foundation not long after her husband died.

"I've been doing their annual holiday cards for about eight years now," she said. "After Dan died, I put out 'Sometimes a Song,' the song he wrote for me for Valentine's Day, to benefit the Prostate Cancer Foundation. When Norbert and I talked about doing the tribute, we knew what it would be — it would be a fundraiser for them."

In August, some of the artists from "A Tribute to Dan Fogelberg" performed a sold-out concert in Colorado that raised \$152,000 for the foundation.

"We don't know if the record is going to do as well, but we're happy with it," she said. "These amazing artists paying tribute to Dan — I know he would just love that. I know he would be so honored that some of these people took the time to do this."

Fogelberg agreed with Putnam that making the tribute CD, which was released in November and is available on Amazon and iTunes, wasn't easy and it wasn't quick, but she's pleased with the outcome.

"I'm thrilled with it — I love it," she said. "We were never going to give up."



Pete Carr with the Fender Telecaster guitar he loaned to Muscle Shoals Sound Studios. (Photo courtesy of Debbie Wilson)

LEGENDARY STRINGS Pete Carr

Story by Robert Palmer

Within the walls of Muscle Shoals Sound Studios is a black Music Man electric guitar owned by Pete Carr, lead guitarist for the Muscle Shoals Rhythm Section during the 1970s.

"We were thrilled," said museum curator Debbie Wilson about Carr's donation last year. "He just showed up (with it)."

Carr's track record as a session guitarist is stellar. He played on many of the studios' hits during the 1970s, and on hits recorded elsewhere. Among the records are Bob Seger's "Main Street," Luther Ingram's "If Loving You Is Wrong," Rod Stewart's "Tonight's the Night" and "Sailing," and Barbra Streisand's "What Kind of Fool."

"Pete did really great stuff with us," said David Hood, bassist with the Muscle Shoals Rhythm Section and one of the original owners of the studio. "He was the most prolific player. All those records were really big records."

Carr was also a producer, working with Paul Simon and the rhythm section on albums, and produced the hit single "Motorcycle Mama" for Sailcat.

He teamed with Lenny LeBlanc to form LeBlanc and Carr, scoring a major hit with "Falling."

"It was so cool when he came by," Wilson said. "Colin (a tour guide) was telling a tour group about Pete - and there he was with his guitar."

The studio contains several original instruments used by rhythm section members, including a baby grand piano, a drum kit used by Roger Hawkins, one of Jimmy Johnson's guitars, and a bass speaker cabinet used by Hood.

Hood said the bass speaker cabinet dates to the mid-1960s when he was recording with Percy Sledge.

"It's cool to see some of the instruments there from the original players," he said.

Muscle Shoals Sound is now a museum but remains a working studio, as well. It is owned by the nonprofit Muscle Shoals Music Foundation, and was restored with a grant from Beats by Dr. Dre. It opened in January 2017, and tours are available by calling 256-978-5151.

The 3614 Jackson Highway studio was active from 1969 until 1979. The four rhythm section members, who owned it, moved to more spacious quarters about two miles away on the banks of the Tennessee River. They sold that to Malaco Records in the mid-1980s.

The original location has been owned by a variety of people, some of whom continued to use it for recording.





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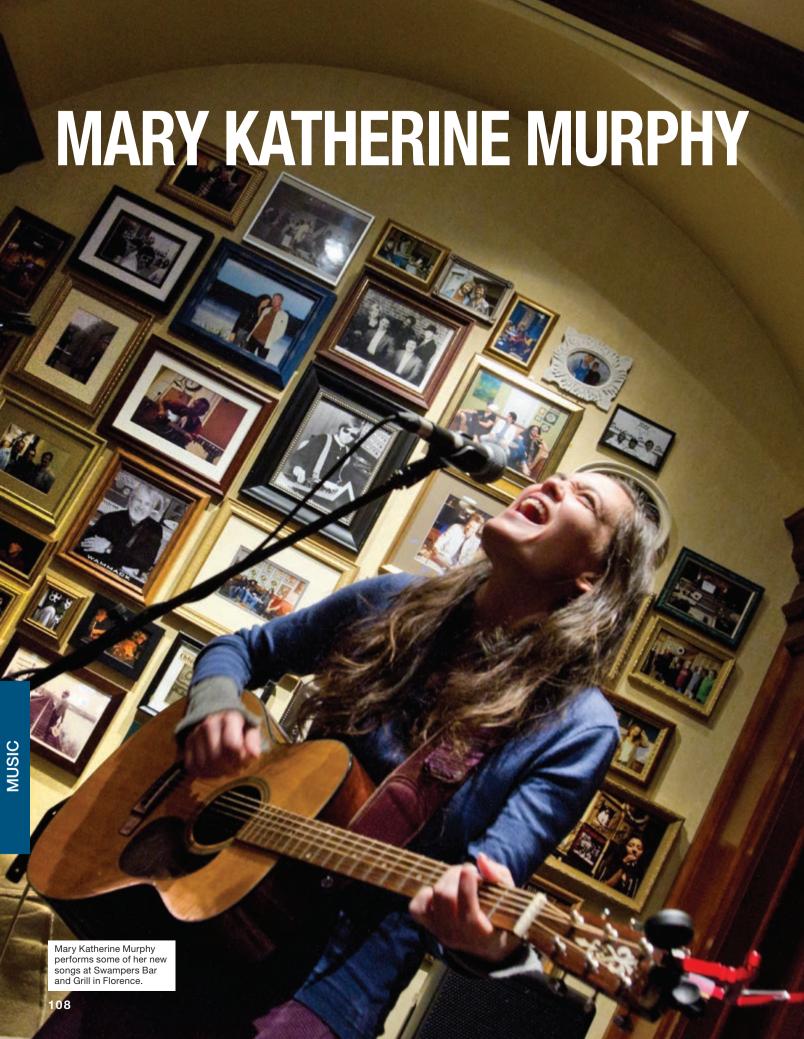
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I have a lot to say.

Story by Monica Collier
Photography by Jim Hannon

Local singer/songwriter Mary Katherine Murphy isn't shy about sharing her views on the world. The 37-year-old divorced mother of two has no problem speaking out on relationships, gender inequality, politics and every other hot button topic permeating through society today.

Murphy is working on her second album and is part of the regular rotation at Swampers Bar and Grille at Marriott Shoals Hotel and Spa in Florence. She took time out from producing her second album to talk to The TimesDaily.

Q: How did you start playing music?

Murphy: I just sort of picked up a guitar — my dad was a musician. My brother is a musician. My granddad was a boogie woogie player and did pretty well. I've always loved music — all my family does.

I was on stage at 7. I've been an actress. Then I was a ball player. I've done a lot of stuff, but I do love to write.

I got a degree from UNA. I got married and had two beautiful kids. Then I got divorced.





I stayed in Florence for my family, but they both left. It's kind of a sad story. I just stayed and made it work. My kids are happy here. I'm still kind of struggling to get by, but I'm making ends meet — barely.

Q: You have been creative your whole life. How did you make the shift from theater — acting and modeling — to wanting to focus more on your music?

Murphy: That's a good question. I think it's because I have a lot to say. I have a message. I'm very much into this women's resurrection — respect of the woman, honoring of the woman. I've gone through a lot of personal trauma as a female.

I have been in the spotlight and, in the past, I didn't know how to handle that kind of attention. There has been a lot of jealousy — I've had trouble growing and thriving.

I come from a priest's home, so we're very much for other people. My whole family, we serve the church basically. It has been tough for me to be selfish in that regard, or trying to sell myself.

I am an actor's actor, but there's not a lot of work here (in the Shoals). Music is at least something people are doing around here.

I've had auditions. Recently, I auditioned for the "Nashville" TV series again.

I also auditioned for a lottery commercial. I went to Atlanta and this guy said I was wildly entertaining, but he said, "You are not getting this job." He told me I was just as real as the earth. He said, "You are the earth" — that was exactly what he said. But, I couldn't pretend to love

the fact that I won the lottery.

I think I have a funky thing about money right now — especially with what's going on with Donald Trump.

Plus, a lot of people have used money to control and manipulate people — particularly women.

I've had to fight for my dignity my entire life — my entire childhood.

There weren't really any protectors in my life and that hurt has inspired a lot of my art.

Many artists are in a lot of pain. I think of "Tears in Heaven" by Eric Clapton — he lost a son.

That's what has motivated me — the survival. The acting doesn't serve that need. Writing and music give me a way to work through the horror of (experiences).

Q: Are you on a mission to be a voice in the world that empowers other?

Murphy: Yes. I want to help heal the women in the dark who feel shame — unnecessary shame — because of men's manipulation and the power money has had over so many of us.

It's just like what has happened in Hollywood.

I've had people familiar with Hollywood tell me it's a perverse place. I love art — I'm not there to play that game. I want to tell a story and be creative, but there are a lot of problems for women there. They're getting manipulated for roles and have to play that game.

I'm tired of playing the game.

We celebrate football here. I was a great basketball player and I was a track Olympian with my high jump my point is, there are plenty of games to be played.

Women — mothers, daughters, sisters, aunts and nieces — are not a game.

We are part of society — we are a crucial part of the fabric of society. We can't keep being treated as a game or manipulated by our security level. I'm very connected to that and to what's going around the world such as the "Me Too" movement.

Having financial security is a huge issue for females, and I'm very concerned about it.

I have Native American friends who have told me the earth will only be restored if the women are healed and resurrected. That's the truth about Mother Nature. We have to be held up and respected not threatened by our lack of security. We're mangled. We have to buy our hair and our nails we can't be seen as the beautiful (natural) vessels we are. If that doesn't change, I believe the earth will be destroyed.

Q: Are all of these themes of concern on the second album you're working on now?

Murphy: Yes, absolutely.

We have a song, "Nobody's Girl," that's about this and my ability to not need a man. I can write my own music. The guys in the studio love "Nobody's Girl." There's something very special about this song. I'm really proud of it.

I want to say right now, I am not a hater of men — I have an incredible machine of men that are supporting me in this record. There are golden men out there.

My prayer is to not make my children feel shame for being men. I've had to walk a very fine line, because I love the male species. That's part of the pain — we love these men, but they keep doing this to us.

There's also "Bad Beach Boy" — I wrote my first kind of love for a guy tune. It's inspired by a hero of mine. A platonic friend whom I kind of creatively brought a romantic tone to. He's a man who has platonically respected me over the years. I highly respect him and was able to write a love song because it wasn't just about sex, you know? It's about real love and respect.

In the Bible, which we all on the religious right seem to claim, first of all says we're supposed to respect our men. How can we respect our men if they're hurting us? If we're meant to respect our men, we have to feel loved and cherished, too. It has to be both ways.

There's another song, "Clearwater Creek," that's the title track. It's about my marriage. I loved my husband, but I had to leave the marriage because it was the healthy thing to do. Sometimes, there's the pain of divorce but it's the healthiest thing to do.

Q: Has writing the songs for this album been cathartic for you?

Murphy: Absolutely. I've co-written with two men. I'm trying to untangle and detoxify sentimentality about men.

I'm very spiritual, but we're fighting principality's power and darkness. We're not fighting flesh and blood. We're not fighting each other. If we can really wrap our head around that — we're fighting a lie. We're fighting a darkness that's pecking away at us day after day trying to destroy us.

If we can just see that, I think we're going to get somewhere. I don't think God is going to flood the earth, but he may let us destroy ourselves. He has given us free will. We have the ability to choose him or not.

This is all heavy stuff.

Q: You perform at Swampers all the time. How do people respond to your original music?

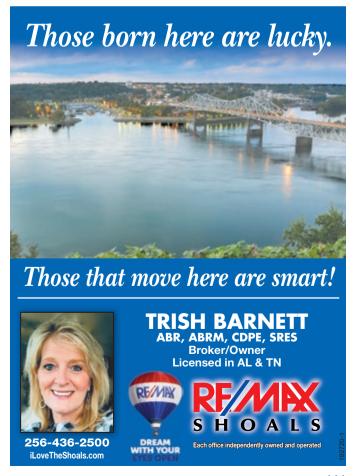
Murphy: I've been getting so much good response lately that I'm blown away. I don't know what it is. I guess I've finally hit a curve. I used to feel awkward. By the grace of God, people have really been listening to me lately. They're hearing my lyrics. They're hearing my heart.

I've actually been getting requests, especially for "Bad Beach Boy." It's a real fun tune. I was in such a bad mood — I got really upset about all of this political stuff. It affected my sense of peace. I started playing "Bad Beach Boy," and it put me in the best mood. I think that says something. There's something pure about the love there — it didn't have any strings attached — it put me in a really positive light, and I really thank God for that.

I want to bring that to the world. My goal is for it to be the summer song of 2018.

This article first appeared in the TimesDaily. It has been edited for space constraints.







among songs Billy Graham chose for funeral

Story by Monica Collier | Photography by Jim Hannon

Longtime Florence resident Lenny LeBlanc didn't know Billy Graham personally, but through song the Dove Award-winning Christian artist was present at the funeral for 'America's Pastor'.

LeBlanc was surprised to learn "Above All," a song he co-wrote with Paul Baloche in 1999 when Graham would have been 80, was one of six songs the evangelist chose for his March 2 service. Graham died Feb. 21, 2018. He was 99.

"I had no clue," LeBlanc said.
"I had no idea until my phone started blowing up. I didn't see that coming. I was shocked."

"Above All," a contemporary Christian song, was an anomaly on Graham's list of traditional standard hymns such as "Because He Lives," "To God Be the Glory," and "Amazing Grace."

"It's amazing how that song has reached across nations," LeBlanc said. "It has been recorded and translated and sung in so many languages. It is amazing to me how a song can have that much reach."

LeBlanc said it's always special to know one of his songs has touched someone, but it's especially humbling to know a man such as Graham connected with "Above All."

"He was a man who wasn't about

building his own personal ministry," he said. "He was about building God's kingdom and seeing people come to faith in Jesus. He's a great example of 'follow me as I follow Christ."

When writing "Above All," LeBlanc experienced a feeling much like the one he had when he and Pete Carr wrote their 1977 Top 40 hit "Falling."

"My co-writer Paul Baloche flew into town to write with me for an upcoming project I was doing for Integrity (Music)," he said. "We were going through song ideas and we had this song ... he had the verses written, but he had struggled with finding the right chorus."

LeBlanc said the next morning he got an idea while Baloche was still sleeping.

"I sketched out the chorus idea, and we wrote it that day," he said.

While writing a song, LeBlanc explained it's common to change a melody line, change a chord and to go over lyrics and see if there's a better way to say something.

"During that process, we would sing the chorus and when we would get to the line, 'like a rose trampled on the ground,' we would both start to weep," he said. "It was two grown men in the studio crying their eyes out. We would gain our composure and try it again. This happened eight or 10 times in the period of 30 minutes or so."

LeBlanc remembers telling Baloche he didn't know who, or when or how it was going to happen, but he felt like somebody would record "Above All" and it would go around the world.

"I just had that feeling that day," he said. "I just knew it like I knew my name."

Three years later, LeBlanc said Michael W. Smith heard "Above All." The first time he sang it was at George Bush's Presidential Inaugural Prayer Service in the Washington National Cathedral.

"He had the lyrics on a piece of paper," LeBlanc said of Smith's first performance of "Above All." "He actually messed the lyrics up a little because he was just learning it himself. From there, it took on a life of its own."

LeBlanc said when he writes worship songs, his hope is that in some small way they can help people make a connection to their heavenly father.

"That's my purpose, it's my goal when I write worship songs," he said. "I want them to be like vehicles people can use to express their heart to God."



HAVE YOU HEARD...

Never before heard Swampers instrumentals CD released this year

Many people the world over are familiar with the records made by the Muscle Shoals Rhythm Section with artists including Wilson Pickett, the Staple Singers and Bob Seger.

Now, fans of the famed Swampers will be able to hear music almost no one has heard. Malaco Records, of Jackson, Mississippi, is releasing an all-instrumental collection of the rhythm section's work.

This collection is "a true buried treasure, a relic from another age," said Patterson Hood, of the Drive-By Truckers, whose father, David, is the bassist in the rhythm section.

Hood said the record, titled "Muscle Shoals Has Got the Swampers," "features incredible tight playing in a diversity of styles and ranges. At times almost venturing into vintage Prog territory and at others sounding like the soundtrack to the ultimate '70s cop show. I mean that as a compliment."

A CD release party is planned for 4-6 p.m. Friday at Muscle Shoals Sound Studios, 3614 Jackson Highway, Sheffield. David Hood will be there for a question-and-answer session. A special tour at 4:30 p.m. is planned, as well, at a reduced ticket price of \$10.

Malaco Records, owned by Shoals native Tommy Couch, owns the Muscle Shoals Sound record label. The CD release marks the 50th anniversary of Malaco, which is a noted blues and gospel label.

Many of the tracks were recorded at the 3614 Jackson Highway studio. Others were recorded later at 1000 Alabama Avenue in Sheffield, where the studio took up new residence.

"We had so much work that to do that we had to get a bigger studio," David Hood said.

Muscle Shoals Sound Studios at 3614 Jackson Highway is now a museum as well as a working recording studio. It was restored with a grant from Beats by Dr. Dre, and is owned by the nonprofit Muscle Shoals Music Foundation. It opened for tours in January 2017. Dan Auerbach, of the Black Keys, and actor Keifer Sutherland have recorded there since it opened.





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 has undergone some improvements this year.

Once finished, there will be 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

Brush Creek Park in Lauderdale County has seen some improvements this year with new camping sites for RVs and is handicappedaccessible

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. 256-383-0783

■ 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; heritageacresrypark.com.

■ Rose Trail RV Park and General Store

9270 Riverton Rose Trail, Cherokee

Located across from Colbert Boat Ramp on Bear Creek on the Tennessee River, it can accommodate 14 large RVs with full hookups with WiFi hot spot, hunting and fishing available. The Wildlife Management Area has a check-in station. A deli is available with food to order and carries general merchandise. Locked boat storage is available. 256-360-2393.

■ 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.



A gravel path leads down to the Tennessee River at Wheeler Campground near Wheeler Dam which is now open

■ 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.

■ 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.









25 years and counting

Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail in the Shoals still the jewel on the green

The Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail's 25th anniversary was celebrated with fanfare in July 2017 and, as it begins another quarter century, continues to offer some of the most challenging golf in the Southeast.

Offering two 18-hole championship courses, it boasts The Fighting Joe course that was the first Trail course to break 8,000 yards and was named one of the top new courses the year it opened. The 18th green could be a bit distracting: It offers a stunning view overlooking the Tennessee River.

The Schoolmaster course is wooded and rolling, with another breath-taking view at the 4th hole from the bluffs that overlook the river.

Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail at the Shoals is the second youngest of the 11 RTJ sites — it opened in 2004 — and attracts golfers from all 50 states and an average of 20 countries annually. More than 500,000 rounds of golf are played annually across the trail.

ROBERT TRENT JONES GOLF TRAIL AT THE SHOALS

990 SunBelt Parkway, Ford City Pro shop: 446-5111



OUTDOORS

Other area golf courses

colbert county

CYPRESS LAKES GOLF AND TENNIS FACILITY

1311 E. Sixth St., Muscle Shoals Pro shop: 256-381-1232

SPRING CREEK

800 Woodmont Drive, Tuscumbia Pro shop: 256-386-5670

lauderdale county

BLACKBERRY TRAIL

112 Clubhouse Drive, Florence Pro shop: 256-740-8825 Public (municipal)

JOE WHEELER STATE PARK

2670 Joe Wheeler State Park Road, Rogersville Pro shop: 256-247-9308

THE GOLF CLUB, ANDERSON

2831 County Road 156, Anderson



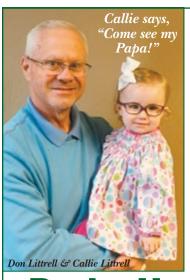




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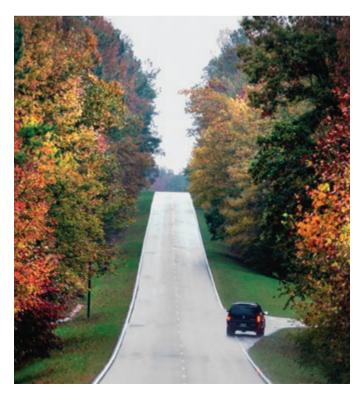


Day Trips

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.



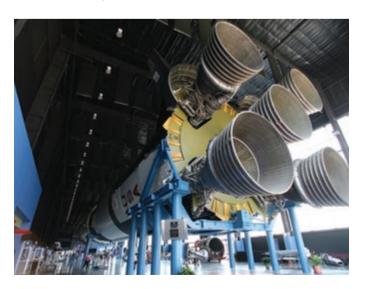
JESSE OWENS MEMORIAL PARK

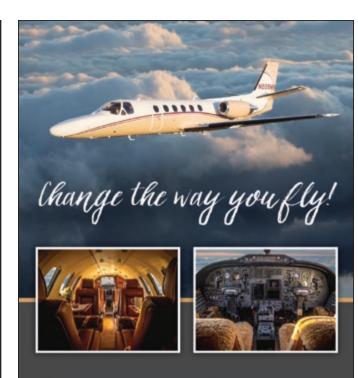
In 1936, Jesse Owens made his mark in Olympic history by winning four Olympic Gold Medals in Berlin, Germany. His performance in those Olympic Games and his life were the basics of the movie, "Race," which opened in theaters in 2016. Owens was born and grew up in rural Lawrence County, in the Oakville 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



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.





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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

ALABAMA CHANIN FACTORY AND CAFÉ

Where: 462 Lane Drive, Florence; 256-760-1090; alabamachanin.com/the factory

Hours: Weekday lunch, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday through Friday; Saturday brunch, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.; Factory hours: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday

Think fresh – as in organically grown: salads, vegetable of the day, sandwiches, quiche, daily plate, beer and wine, and other yummy items that change regularly. It's all served on the fringe of where renowned designer Alabama Chanin creates and produces her signature fashions. When you're satiated from the lovely food, take advantage of the opportunity to tour The Factory studio.

THE BACK PORCH FAMILY RESTAURANT

Where: 16125 U.S. 72, Rogersville; 256-607-7057; Facebook page

Hours: Seven days, 11 a.m. to 10 p.m.

This family restaurant has a varied menu of steaks, seafood, burgers and fries, and a full salad bar. Country wholesomeness décor and features live music, karaoke,

BIG BAD BREAKFAST

and even line dancing.

Where: 315 N. Court St., Florence; 256-415-8545; bigbadbreakfast.com/ locations/florence-alabama

Hours: 7a.m. to 2:30 p.m. seven day a week

The aprons were designed by renowned fashion icon Alabama Chanin, the sounds of Shoals-related music mingle with conversation and the tink of cutlery against plate, and there are so many breakfast combinations on the menu, you'll 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 sources whenever possible and the chef overseeing Florence's newest eatery is passionate about laying a great table.

BOX CAR CAFÉ

Where: 220 N. Nashville Ave., Sheffield; 256-381-7437 Hours: 6 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday through Friday

Good variety on its breakfast menu. A recent sample of lunch, which is served beginning at 10 a.m., was meatloaf, salmon, taco salad, chicken and dressing, vegetables, salad and bread. Desserts served, too.

CITY HARDWARE

Where: 105 N. Court St., Florence; 256-275-3666; cityhardwareflorence.com Hours: Daily, 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. With its old town ambiance and flavorful menu, City Hardware offers diners many menu choices from land and sea, billing itself as "American Cuisine with a Southern Accent."

LEGENDS STEAKHOUSE

Where: 201 N. Seminary St. Florence; 256-766-5072 legendssteakhouse.com

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

This steak house serves up far more than a juicy slice of beef. The menu items are numerous, the environment charming and the décor tells a story. There is a covered patio seating about 50 people so guests can enjoy outdoor dining in the warmer months.

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, 11 a.m. to 1 p.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

GARDEN GATE

Where: 701 Avalon Ave. Muscle Shoals; 256-383-6905; and a Florence location at 1917 Florence Blvd.; 256-349-2569

Hours: Monday-Friday, 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

CITY RESTAURANT

Where: 108 W. 5th Street, Tuscumbia; 256-383-9809 Hours: 6 a.m. to 2 p.m., Monday through Friday

Come early and enjoy a full breakfast or drop by for a hearty meat-and-three lunch. Burgers and sandwiches are also available.

CLAUNCH CAFÉ

Where: 400 S. Main St. Tuscumbia; 256-386-0222; Facebook page

Hours: 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sunday through Thursday

Claunch Café specializes in down home Southern cooking. Diners can sit inside the glassed in porch and look out at the beauty of Spring Park. In the summer months, the glass is removed and only the screens remain. The chicken salad plate is a must-try – it's Claunch's signature dish.

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

RHODA P'S

Where: 312 N. Montgomery Ave., Sheffield; 256-978-5179; rhodapscatering.com

Hours: 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tuesday through Friday; 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sunday

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.

SEASON'S

Where: 1420 Huntsville Road, Florence; 256-349-5691; seasonsfood1420.com

Hours: 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday; 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday; 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Wednesday through Friday; 6:30-11 a.m. Saturday

This newest eatery features sandwiches and salads and is located in a renovated historical building in east Florence.

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.

SWEET BASIL CAFÉ

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

Hours: 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday-Friday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday

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.



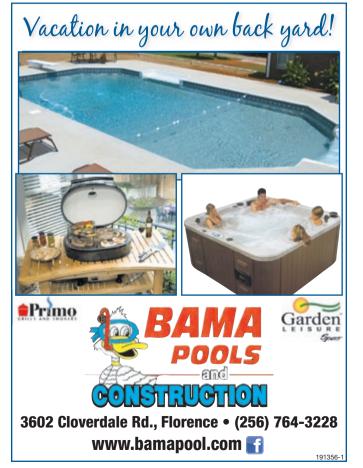
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SWAMPERS BAR AND GRILL

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.

BAR AND GRILL

2ND & 13 SPORTS BAR & GRILLE

Where: 213 N. Montgomery Ave., Sheffield; 256-978-2414 Hours: 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Monday through Thursday; 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. Friday and Saturday; noon to 10 p.m. Sunday

Casual dining with menu items that include salads, sliders, burgers, wings, steak, pork, and lots of sides and desserts

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 publike 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; Facebook page 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

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

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. The 360 lounge offers unique cocktails made with fresh-squeezed juices and an award-winning wine selection. The Chef's Table is available by reservation and allows diners to interact with the culinary team as they prepare and customize their meal. Ask about the five course chef's tastings.

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.

OH! BRYAN'S FAMILY STEAK HOUSE

Where: 200 S. Main St., Tuscumbia; 256-383-4555

11 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Thursday; 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Friday and Saturday; 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sunday The founders of this

The founders of this favorite Alabama restaurant reopened the Tuscumbia location in November. It's rustic charm can be found at the end of the walkway extending from Cold Water Books, overlooking Spring Park. Sandwiches are offered in addition to its steaks and fish.

STANFIELD'S STEAK HOUSE

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

Steak's, burgers, catfish, chicken and sandwiches are served at this Rogersville eatery. There is a lunch menu available for orders placed before 4 p.m.

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; Facebook page

Florence, 2.5 Facebook page Hours: 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Thursday; 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday; 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday

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 BB0

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.

RICK LANNING'S BBQ

Where (3 locations in the Shoals): 4260 Florence Blvd, 256-757-0200; 212 Cox Creek Pkwy. Florence; 256-766-0833; 2501 Woodward Ave., Muscle Shoals, 256-383-2020: ricksbbq.com

Hours (same at all three Shoals locations): 10:30 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Thursday; 10:30 a.m. to 10 p.m. Friday and Saturday

Sandwiches, platters, potatoes and salads can be filled with Rick's smoked chicken, pork or beef.

ICE CREAM/ SANDWICHES

AUNT BEA'S BAKERY & BISTRO

Where: 107 E. 6th St., Tuscumbia; 256-320-5053; auntbeasbakeryandgourmet.com

Hours: 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday; lunch is offered from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

This quaint bistro in historic downtown Tuscumbia offers signature sandwiches that include Turkey Bacon Ranch and Smoky Pimento Cheese as well as tradition sandwiches like grilled cheese, ham and cheese, smoked turkey, American BLT and chicken salad croissant. Salads and soup of the day are offered, too. But don't leave without getting something from the bakery. The endless list has everything from cupcakes, pies, cakes, pastries, to torte, macaroons and cookies.

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. Friday and Saturday

Love wings? Soul, as it's fondly 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. Flavors include Alabama White Sauce, Buffalo, Lemon Pepper, Honey BBQ, Garlic & Herb, Cajun Ranch, Honey Mustard, Homestyle, Teriyaki, and Nashville Hot.

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.

ICE CREAM CORNER

Where: 2520 Mall Road, Florence; 256-718-6080; Facebook page

Hours: 1-9 p.m. Monday-Thursday and Sunday; 1-10:30 p.m. Friday; 11 a.m. to 10:30 p.m. Saturday

Located conveniently behind the AMC movie theater, the Ice Cream Corner opens in March, serving 110 flavors. Yogurt is offer, too.



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.

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 har

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.

ASAIN

ICHIBAN

Where: 1207 Jackson Hwy., Sheffield; 256-389-9888; iloveichiban.com

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

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, sashmi, 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. Long and varied menu.

YUMM

Where: 117 N. Court St., Florence; 256-349-2074; yummthaisushi andbeyond.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

CAJUN AND CREOLE

NEW ORLEANS TRANSFER

Where: 1682 S. Wilson Dam Road, Muscle Shoals; 256-386-0656; Facebook page Hours: 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday-Thursday, 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday

Family recipes are served at this authentic Creole restaurant. The setting is simple, casual and laid back, evoking nostalgic images of a classic bayou eatery. A favorite main dish is the Seafood Gumbo and the most popular dessert is a unique version of bread pudding with bourbon sauce.

CAJUNS

Where: 4301 Jackson Hwy., Sheffield; 256-381-1573 Hours: 3 p.m. to midnight

Wednesday-Friday, noon to midnight Saturday

Cajun-flavored food in a relaxed environment, with delicacies such as fried oysters and shrimp, red beans and rice, frog legs, corn and potatoes. Menu also offers regular fare.





PARKER BINGHAM

-Jewelers-

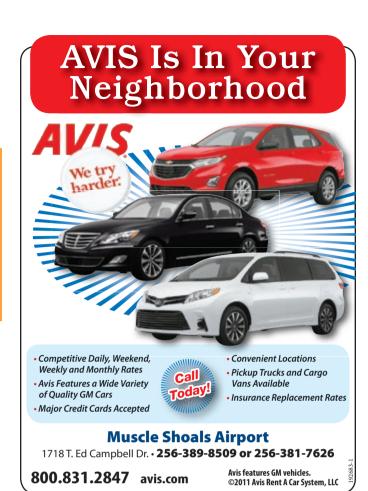


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ITALIAN/PIZZA/

RICATONI'S ITALIAN GRILL

Where: 107 N. Court Street, Florence; 256-718-1002 Hours: 11 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Sunday through Thursday, 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. Friday and Saturday

The historic building has exposed brick walls and diners love the fresh bread and saucer of herbs and oil as a starter. Traditional Italian fare with handmade pizzas baked in a wood fire oven.

THE PIE FACTORY

Where: 106 N. Court St., Florence; 256-275-3248; and 3312 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. Friday and Saturday

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; Facebook page

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.

COFFEE HOUSES

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.

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.

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