



The News Reporter's

fifteen UNDER 40



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The News Reporter's

fifteen UNDER 40

The News Reporter recognizes fifteen young professionals who not only make a difference in Columbus County but are also ready and willing to take leadership roles.

When The News Reporter asked for nominations for "fifteen Under 40," Columbus County answered the call. Then, four independent judges considered a nominee's impact on Columbus County, success in the nominee's career, plus his or her involvement, achievement and commitment to improving the quality of life in his or her community. Congratulations, Class of 2019, and thank you for making Columbus County a great place to live.

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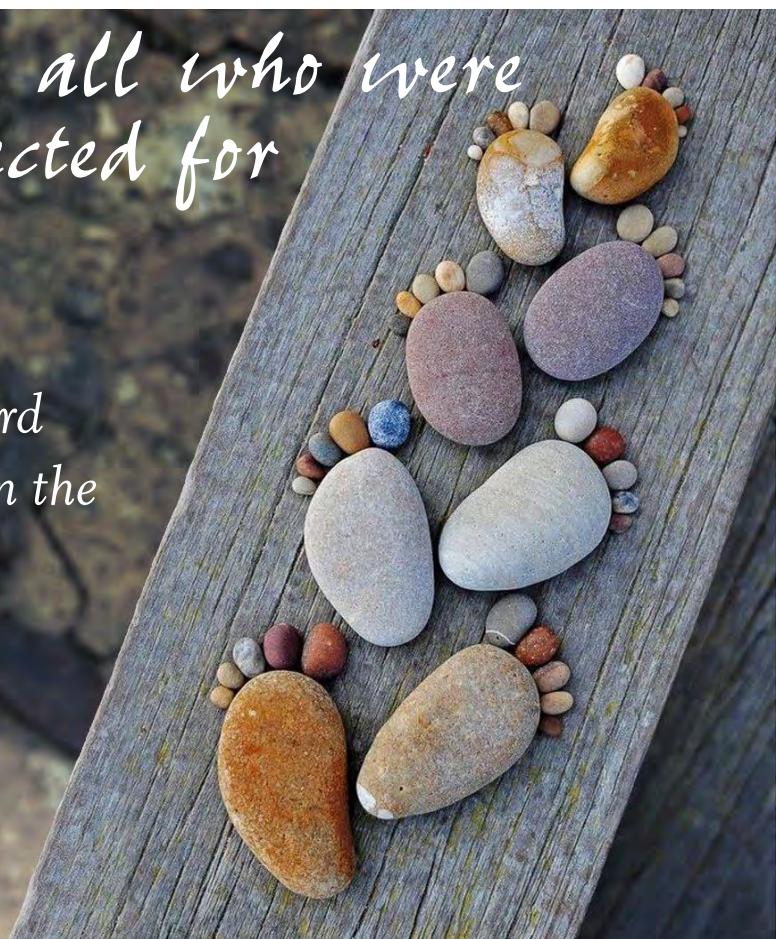
Photography - Grant Merritt | Layout and Graphic Design - Janis Creech

*Congratulations to all who were
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Garrett Tolley, 36



Employment: Columbus Regional Healthcare System 10 years.

Cardiac and Pulmonary Rehab Manager
Surgical Weight Loss and Bariatrics Program Manager

Hometown: Hallsboro

Father: Randy Tolley, **Mother:** Nancy Tolley,
Brother: Christopher Tolley

Education: Southeastern Community College - RN; Campbell University BS - kinesiology and M.Ed in Cardiac Physiology

Pets: dog-Molley, cat-Maddie

Enjoys hiking, camping and kayaking.

Tell us about your professional and personal accomplishments:

I have always been fascinated with healthcare and knew from an early age I would work in the medical field in some capacity. I never imagined I would have the opportunity to touch so many lives each day, but I have been blessed to do exactly that. I am proud to offer quality healthcare, disease education and risk management to the people of this county suffering from cardiac and pulmonary conditions as well as those who are battling obesity. I am thankful to share my skills and passion for healthcare and disease management with the people of our community every day.

Provide examples of your community service:

Giving back to the community that has given so much to me seems like the only logical thing to do. I have participated in several vol-

unteer organizations and events throughout our county and outside of its borders. Over the years I have participated in the Dancing with the Vineland Stars, the Lip Sync Battle and the MDA Lockup fundraisers. I have also had the pleasure of speaking to several local organizations about heart health and heart disease risk management. Recently I made a presentation to Teen Science Café on the profession of nursing.

What would you tell your 16-year-old self?

Chill out! Stop taking life so serious. Be who you are, love who you are and enjoy your life because it's a great one!

What do you do in your free time?

I love to be outdoors, so at the end of a busy day, I'm usually outside working in my yard or on a trail somewhere. As long as I'm outside, I'm good.

Tell us a little known fact about you.

I am a student of the banjo. I'm not great at it yet; I can get it to make a lot of noise, but it's still fun.

Favorite Movie? "Blazing Saddles"

Favorite Food? Sushi

Favorite drink? Diet Sun Drop

Favorite gift as a child?

When I was 11, all I wanted for my birthday was a new Troy Built pony tiller. I love that thing and I still have it.

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Jason Soles, 39



*Employment: Columbus County Sheriff's Office 9 years - Captain of Detective Division
Hometown: Whiteville
Wife: Alison, Children: Chase, Madison, Macey & Olivia
Education: Whiteville High School graduate, Southeastern Community College - AAS-Criminal Justice
Enjoys camping with family, fishing, hunting and spending time in the mountains.*

Tell us about your professional and personal accomplishments:

I graduated from Whiteville High School in 1997. I received my Associate Degree in Criminal Justice and Basic Law Enforcement Training certification from Southeastern Community College. I have worked in Law Enforcement for 18 1/2 years. I am also the owner of JS Designs, specializing in custom cabinetry and millwork. I began working in my father's cabinet business at a very early age and decided to start my own business in 2017. I am a member of Smyrna Baptist Church in Whiteville.

In what ways do you give back to the community?

I have been serving and protecting the citizens of Columbus County for many years. I became a volunteer firefighter and EMT in 1997 and began my law enforcement career in 2001. I have had the opportunity to serve on many departments in Columbus County,

including Whiteville Rescue, Whiteville Fire Department, Brunswick Fire Department, Tabor City Rescue, Tabor City Police Department, and Whiteville Police Department. I am currently a volunteer firefighter with North Whiteville Fire Department.

What is the best part about living in Columbus County?

It's all about the people! Columbus County is a tight-knit community and everyone comes together in times of need. I have seen this time and time again in my career, especially through the recent devastating hurricanes.

Tell us about your family:

I have the most amazing wife that a guy could ask for. God blessed me richly when he placed her into my life. We have four beautiful children: Chase, 18; Madison, 17; Macey, 15; and Olivia, 15 months. I could not do what I do without the love and support that they give me each and every day.

What are most people surprised to learn about you?

My height. I'm 6'8". When I meet new people, they always ask, "How tall are you?"

Favorite drink? Sweet Tea

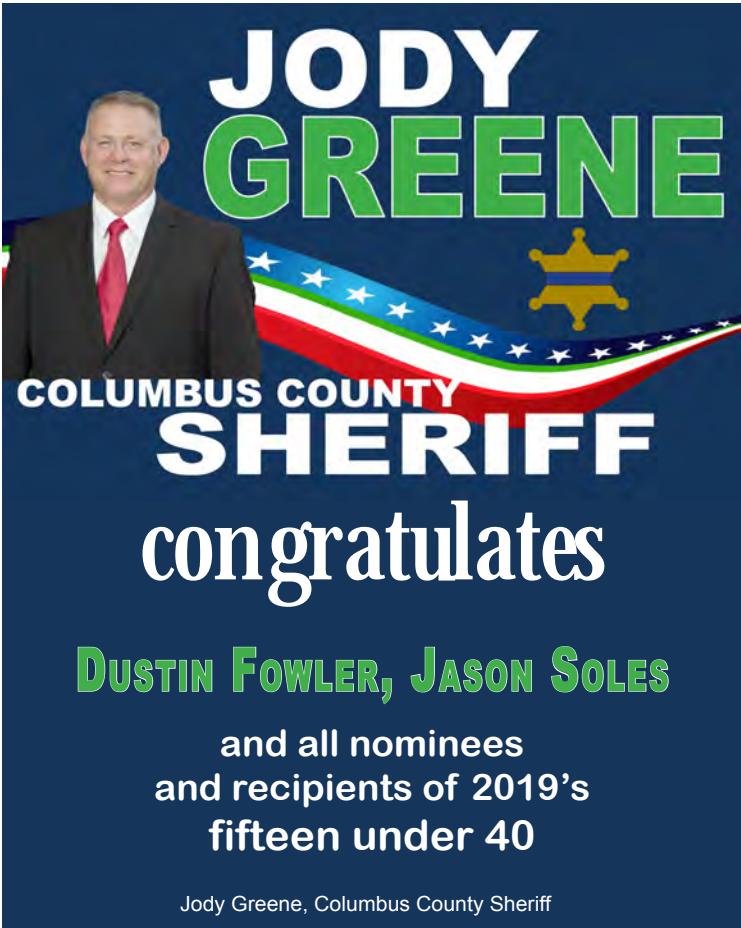
Favorite gift as a child?
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Dustin Fowler, 39



Employment: Columbus County Sheriff's Department 11 years - Operations/Logistics/Training Lieutenant. Owner: All Clean Pressure Washing Services 6 years
Hometown: Clarendon

Wife: Nicole Ray Fowler, **Daughters:** Emma, 8, and Ella, 12. **Parents:** Melanie and Ricky Fowler

Education: Durham Tech - Associate of Applied Science Dental Lab Tech; Southeastern Community College - Basic Law Enforcement Training
Enjoys: hunting, fishing, traveling and cooking.

Tell us about your professional and personal accomplishments:

At the Columbus County Sheriff's Department, I've served as a patrol deputy, canine handler, and Patrol Shift Sergeant. I was next a Narcotics Detective and I am currently the SWAT commander and Lieutenant of Operations/Logistics/and Training. Also, in 2013, I started All Clean Pressure Washing Services.

In what ways do you give back to the community?

I give through my church, Mission Valley Original Freewill Baptist, as church clerk, a Sunday School teacher, sound technician, and with Men's Fellowship. I host an annual wild game cook-off. I sponsor Dixie Youth Baseball and athletic programs at my alma mater, South Columbus High School. Through All Clean, I volunteer for area beautification projects and co-sponsor an annual

scholarship with Fowler Piano Studio called the "Sparkly Clean Performance Scholarship." I am also involved with the Masonic Lodge.

Tell us about your family:

My family is life's greatest blessing to me, and my most precious gift. My beautiful wife, Nicole, is a creative hairdresser at Indulgence Salon, and the owner of Whimsicole Creations where she makes wreaths, bows, and other home decor. Our daughters, Ella and Emma, bring us so much joy and keep us busy with piano, school, athletics, church, and dance. I am blessed to have a close-knit extended family that actually enjoys spending time together, traveling together, and gathering every Sunday for lunch at my Mom and Dad's home. We have a special bond of love, singing and playing music together, and I thank God for each and every one of them.

Tell us about a moment that changed your life:

Losing my brother-in-law, Master Trooper Kevin Conner, tragically in a senseless moment of violence, made me realize the brevity of life, the importance of seizing the day and to never take anything for granted. It also reminded me that everything that I do for my fellow man and for my family helps establish a legacy of strength, faith, integrity, and honor, and that's what I want to leave behind someday.

Favorite drink? Mt. Dew and ice-cold water

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Nikki Walker, 39

Employment: Whiteville City Schools, 12.5 years- Whiteville Primary School Media Coordination; Zumba Instructor 8 years; Herbalist - Owner of Blue Buzz Botanicals 3 years.

Hometown: Whiteville

Husband - Jason Walker: Children - Josie and Trett

Education: UNC-Wilmington - Bachelor's Degree Elementary Education and ECU - Master of Library Science Degree
Enjoys gardening, beekeeping, herbalism, hiking, camping, being in nature, dancing, yoga, fiber arts, reading, board games and learning new skills.

Tell us about your professional and personal accomplishments:

Teacher of the Year for Edgewood Elementary 2011-2012

In what ways do you give back to the community?

There are many facets of our community that are important to me. I volunteer at the N.C. Museum of Natural Sciences and conduct Storytime there as a member of the Columbus County Chapter of the N.C. Reading Association. I am president of the Whiteville Recreation Center Board and Secretary of the Columbus County Beekeepers Association. I am on the Planning Board for the N.C. Honey Festival. I help plant pollinator

gardens and teach young children about their importance. I support the Farmers Market in their fundraising efforts and am an occasional vendor there. Getting our community moving and active is important to me, and I have lead Zumba classes for 8 years, in addition to volunteering at rest homes and camps serving those with special needs with leading them in Zumba. I co-chaired Dancing with the Vineland Stars fundraiser events and participated in 4 of them. I also serve on the Lip Sync Battle Committee to benefit the Arts Council and Families First. We have many wonderful opportunities to serve around here!

What would you tell your 16-year-old self?

The size of a community has nothing to do with the opportunities available.

Tell us a little known fact about you:

I've played disc golf for 20 years.

What do you like to do in your free times?

To relax, I get my hands in the dirt.

Favorite dish?

Anything cooked over a fire.

What is your favorite drink?

Herbal teas

What book best describes you?

"Braiding Sweetgrass" by Robin Wall Kimmerer

Columbus County is a special place to "bee."
Thank you Nikki Walker!

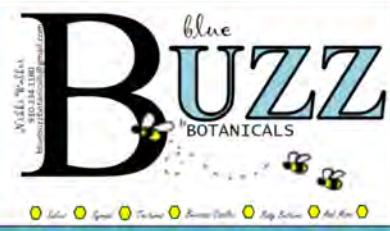
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Congratulations

Nikki
Walker

Very proud of you, Nikki!

You do so much to make
Columbus County a great
place to live.

Thanks for "buzzing"
around our community!

We love you!

-Your Family



Class of 2019 "fifteen under 40"

Greg Jacobs, 39

Employment: GNG Logging, LLC - owner

Hometown: Buckhead

Wife: Heather Jacobs - married 18 years

Children: Timber Jacobs, Garret Jacobs, Landyn Jacobs, Kendal Patrick, Tyler Patrick

Sister: Tonya Jacobs, **Brother:** the late Nolan Jacobs

Parents: Gary and Marcella Jacobs

Education: East Columbus High School

Enjoys coaching, fishing, traveling and hunting.



Tell us about your professional and personal accomplishments:

As head coach I helped to lead our 2017 AA All-Star team to a State Title and also finished 3rd in the Dixie Youth World Series. In addition, I am a co-founder of the Riegelwood Lumberjacks, a local travel baseball team. My brother, Nolan, and I had a vision to restart the family business and in 2012 we started GNG Logging, LLC. Two years later I lost him suddenly and since then it has been a strong desire to see that the business continues on.

In what ways do you give back to our community?

I'm currently VP of Riegelwood Dixie Youth Baseball, a board member and also a coach. I'm also a coach on two Riegelwood Lumberjacks travel baseball teams. As an

employer, I primarily employ residents of Columbus County.

What is the best part about living in Columbus County?

The people...we have great people in our county, from one end to the other. As a logger, I meet a lot of new people and learn a lot of things about our county.

What do you like to do in your free time?

I love to go fishing and hunting with the kids. Camping with family and friends is a favorite past time too. White Lake or Lakewood, S.C. campgrounds are where we can typically be found playing extremely intense, father versus son cornhole competitions.

What did you want to be when you grew up?

I've always wanted to be a logger. I grew up watching my dad and brother log and from a very young age was in the woods watching and learning all that I could. They had a huge impact on my love for the profession.

Favorite movie? "Top Gun"

Favorite restaurant? Ward's Grill

Favorite drink? My wife's sweet tea.

Congratulations Bossman! Everyone from GNG congratulates you on being chosen as one of the "fifteen under 40" for the class of 2019. Thanks for all you do! -The GNG Crew



CONGRATULATIONS!

We are very
proud of you!

Your hard work and
willingness to help
others doesn't go
unnoticed.

We are blessed and
thankful to
call you ours.

Love you more,
Heather, Timber,
Garret, Landyn,
Kendal & Tyler



Awesome Job Coach Greg!



THE LEAGUE, KIDS & TEAMS ARE ALL THANKFUL FOR YOUR TIME AND DEDICATION
THAT YOU SO UNSELFISHLY DEVOTE TO THEM. WE ARE BLESSED TO HAVE YOU
AND WANTED TO ACKNOWLEDGE YOU ON THIS HUGE ACCOMPLISHMENT!

Way to hit it out of
the park, coach!

-RIEGELWOOD DIXIE YOUTH BASEBALL
& THE RIEGELWOOD LUMBERJACKS



Daniel Britt, 31

Employment: Southeastern Community College 3 years - Head Baseball Coach/PE Instructor. Previously, Assistant Coach - UNC Pembroke

Hometown: Evergreen

Wife: Morgan Britt, **Father:** Chris Britt, **Mother:** Becky McCleney, **Sisters:** Lauren Wayland, Abbey McCleney

Education: West Columbus - 2006, Elon University - 2012, UNC - Pembroke - 2017

Enjoys being with friends and family, molding young minds about the game of baseball, working out, going to church, binge watching shows on Netflix.

Tell us about your professional and personal accomplishments:

I received a degree in Business Administration from Elon University in 2012. In 2010, I was drafted by the Milwaukee Brewers in the 29th round of the MLB draft. In 2014, Paul O'Neill hired me to be the pitching coach at UNC Pembroke while receiving a Master's in Sports Administration. I am currently entering my fourth year as the head baseball coach at Southeastern Community College.

In what ways do you give back to the community?

Southeastern has provided many gateways to help give back to the community. With the recent hurricanes, the baseball team at SCC has assisted in relief efforts. Instructing baseball camps during the summer is another way to give back to the community, as it provides kids with a chance to receive quality instruc-

tion in such a baseball driven county. Lastly, the SCC baseball team provides assistance at Boys and Girls Homes during Halloween Safe Night.

Tell us about a moment that changed your life:

The one moment that changed my life was getting a phone call in 2014 from Paul O'Neill, the head baseball coach at UNCP. He offered me my first coaching job and for that, I am forever grateful. He gave me a chance to coach baseball at the collegiate level, which completely changed my career path but is something that I am very passionate about.

What did you want to be when you grew up?

When I was younger, I wanted to be a professional baseball player. The thing is, I did become a professional baseball player, just not the kind that plays on TV.

What is your favorite movie?

"The Sandlot." I can most likely recite every single line in that movie.

Favorite musician? Garth Brooks

Favorite restaurant or dish?

Dorito Chicken Casserole. I make it from scratch.

Favorite drink?

Milk. I drink about 2 gallons a week.

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DANIEL BRITT
and all the
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fifteen UNDER 40



Class of 2019





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**Congrats to all the nominees
and recipients!**



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Jason Graham, 39

Employment: GES Inc.-Treatment System Specialist 2 years, formerly Mantech International

Hometown: Clarkton

Wife: Tankeisha, **Children:** Jadaisha Graham-21 Jason Graham Jr.-18 Jalaysia Graham-15 Layden Albert Graham-2
Enjoys spending time with family and watching sports

Tell us about your professional and personal accomplishments:

My greatest personal accomplishment was marrying my wife, Tankeisha Graham and being the father to four great children. My professional accomplishment is that I had the opportunity to travel overseas and work as a government contractor for the US military. During my deployment, I received the position of Assistant Theater Lead for the entire country of Afghanistan for the mine roller program. I am a member of the Laymen League of Baldwin Branch Missionary Baptist Church and a mentor to young men in our community.

In what ways do you give back to the community?

In 2015, I became the Vice President of our Non-Profit Organization, From Our Family To Yourz. (FOFTY) We host several projects throughout the year. In February, we host a LIVE Black History program each year which involves young African-American students portraying history makers in our community and country. We host a free Thanksgiving dinner on Thanksgiving Day for the home-

less and those in need of a meal. We have a "Give a Child a Smile" toy drive where we visit various communities in Columbus and Bladen counties to bless kids with Christmas gifts. FOFTY has a Uniform Exchange Closet which provides free school uniforms to students in need. This year, we're hosting our first "Speak Up and Stop" Anti-Bullying Rally. We hope to bring more awareness to the ongoing issue to help stop bullying.

Tell us about a moment that changed your life:

I was 9 years old when my mother and I moved to Alexandria, VA. I called my grandfather, Albert Graham, one evening. It was the first time I heard my grandfather cry and from that moment I knew that he loved and missed me. So, I strive everyday to give my children that same love!

Tell us about your family:

My family I love dearly; my wife is the greatest and most loving person I know. I have the pleasure of being the father to four great children who all have a great sense of humor. There is never a dull moment from the oldest to the youngest & the "Lil' Ol' Man" is the silliest!

What was your favorite gift as a child?

Granddaddy Albert gave me my first baseball glove.

Favorite drink? Arnold Palmer



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Congratulations Jason!!

We are beyond proud of you and all of your accomplishments! This is your winning season!! May God continue to bestow His blessings upon you! We love you!!



**Love, Shug, Mama Rita, Moochie, Daisy,
Buddy, Lai Lai & Layden**
"From Our Family To Yourz"

Jenny Clore, 31

Employment: The News Reporter - Director of Marketing and Digital Services

Hometown: Fredericksburg, VA

Husband: Ryan Clore, **Children:** Luke - 6 and Shannon - 5

Education: Averett University - B.S. in Business Administration

Enjoys: CrossFit, Spartan Runs, beach/pool days, and Highway 55 Ice Cream :)

Tell us about your professional and personal accomplishments:

As marketing director, I've been part of a transformation of *The News Reporter* from a company that's been focused mainly on the printed product to a multi-platform media company and advertising agency that helps clients reach customers in a variety of ways. I've really enjoyed working with the news team to bring our audience news 24/7 through NRcolumbus.com and our social media sites. It's been rewarding to implement these new strategies because with our strong digital presence, in addition to our beloved printed paper and magazines, our reach has never been greater. We're connecting with audience we've never hit before, which is exciting. It's a lot of work for everyone, but it's been fun to see our successes. I don't know of a family-owned community paper our size – maybe in the country – that's done all we have.

In what ways do you give back to the community?

I love helping people reach new health and wellness goals. Throughout the time we've lived in Columbus County, I've been active in our community women's workout group, FiA, and helped coordinate multiple community 5K's. I have been a part of the Dream Center's par-

enting enrichment classes (which are amazing and an incredible resource to our community.) I also spearheaded Hometown New Year's Eve to bring all of Columbus County together to ring in the new year united as a community.

What would you tell your 16-year-old self?

Go for it! Don't worry about what other people think or say. Find your passion and what drives your soul and go for it! Secondly, don't ever forget the power in having a "village." You are going to need a village of friends and family to support you in your passion when you grow weary and to celebrate victories!

Tell us about your family:

I love family. I grew up as the middle of five children with two great parents and had a beautiful chaotic childhood that helped mold me into the ambitious and people-loving person I am today. Ryan and I have two rambunctious children who keep us busy, and we are always trying to figure out which one of us they picked "that" up from! ;) Luke and Shannon are full of life and love, and my prayer is they always are thankful for their strengths, work on their weaknesses, and always keep an open heart and mind to be transformed.

What are people surprised to learn about you?

Most people don't know I was an avid kickboxer in high school and college...and I don't mean Tae Bo;)

Favorite movie? I love romantic comedies like "Notting Hill."

What is your favorite food?

Anthony's chicken parmesan alfredo!

CONGRATULATIONS JENNY!



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OUTSTANDING LEADER AND VOLUNTEER IN COLUMBUS COUNTY.**

- FROM THE NEWS REPORTER STAFF -



Jenny Clore



WE COULD NOT BE PROUDER THAT YOU HAVE BEEN CHOSEN AS ONE OF THE NEWS REPORTER'S 15 UNDER 40! YOU ARE AN AMAZING WIFE AND MOTHER BUT WE KNOW YOUR WORK DOESN'T STOP THERE. WE KNOW HOW MUCH YOU LOVE GIVING BACK TO YOUR COMMUNITY AND WE SEE ALL OF THE WAYS THAT YOU POUR INTO OTHERS! WE THANK YOU FOR BEING SUCH A GREAT EXAMPLE TO US! CONGRATULATIONS!

Love, Ryan, Luke & Shannon

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Amanda Dale, 39

Employment: CresCom Bank - Branch Manager/Assistant Vice President

Hometown: Delco

Children: Luke, Carter and Kelsie Watts, **Father:** Larry Dale, **Mother:** Betty Brown.

Education: Southeastern Community College - Associate Degree Business Administration; University of Mount Olive - Bachelor of Science in Management and Organization

Pets: yellow lab - Sugar

Enjoys watching her kids play sports, boating, relaxing on the beach.

Tell us about your professional/personal accomplishments:

This is the 19th year of my banking career. I joined CresCom Bank in December 2014 as part of the First Community Bank acquisition and was a Customer Care Center Manager for both banks. I am currently branch manager and Assistant Vice President for CresCom Bank in Whiteville. I am a third-year student at the South Carolina School of Banking. I recently participated in Leadership Columbus. Personally, my greatest accomplishment is being a mom to Luke, Carter and Kelsie. I strive everyday to be available, supportive and someone they are proud of and that they can always count on.

In what ways do you give back to the community?

I am grateful to be a part of CresCom Bank. They invest and promote community involvement. I have supported our community by helping our veterans with annual fundraisers,

hosting events for our law enforcement and first responders, and assisting with the Families First school supplies drive. In addition, I am an East Columbus High School Booster Club officer and on the ECHS Parent Advisory Committee, and the SCC Business Administration Advisory Committee. I am a member of Lake Waccamaw United Methodist Church and serve on the Missions Committee.

What would you tell your 16-year-old self?

Be Still. My favorite scripture is Psalm 46:10. Take the time to slow down, pray and ask God for guidance. Spend time with Him daily and He will lead, guide and direct your path.

What do you do to relax?

Coffee and Jesus. I enjoy a good cup of coffee in the morning while reading my daily devotion. I also relax by spending time with my children, boyfriend, family and friends on beautiful Lake Waccamaw.

What are people surprised to learn about you?

Most evenings, I can be found at a ball field. Sometimes all three children have games at the same time that I try to attend. Three games, same day, same times, three different fields. Just keeping up with the schedule is challenging, but we love the game.

Favorite dish? Crab Dip

*Congratulations
Amanda!*

**Daddy & Wanda, Mama & Larry,
Daniel, Clyde & Nancy**

*We are proud of
you Mom!*

Carter, Luke & Kelsie





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Amanda!**

We salute you on this well-deserved recognition.

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Rachel Todd, 34

Employment: NC Yam Festival - President and Manager, and 2 Broke Teachers
Hometown: Conway, S.C.
Husband: Jerry Todd
Children: Lyla Jane, Jacob, and Ella "Poppy Possum" Kate
Enjoys reading and visiting museums, zoos and aquariums. Also enjoys helping her children research and discover animals.

Tell us about your professional/personal accomplishments:

I joined the US Air Force after graduation. I was voted by my peers to become the youngest NC Yam Festival President. I started a beautiful Bee Garden at Grapfull Sisters Vineyard, which led me to petition the Town of Tabor City to become a Bee Friendly City.

In what ways do you give back to the community?

I am the Vice President of the TCES PTO, troop leader for Girl Scout Troop 599 and a member of the Bringing Back Main Committee. Often times, if something is happening at TCES, or in the town of Tabor City, I am there volunteering.

I go to local businesses and create Facebook videos for them to promote their business.

What is the best part about living in Columbus County?

The best part of living in Columbus County, and in the small town of Tabor City, is the sup-

port that you receive to follow your dreams. Nothing is out of reach as long as you pursue it. Columbus County is full of greatness; you just have to know where to look! We have delicious restaurants, kind-hearted people, and a vibrant history.

What do you do in your free time?

As a busy mom of 3 kids with a full schedule, there's no such thing as free time. If I happen to find it, I'll be reading a book! During the fall, I don't make Saturday plans that could get in the way of watching the Clemson Tigers play! I also help my 2 youngest children with their YouTube Channel "The Wild Life Kids"

What did you want to be when you grew up?

I always wanted to be a historian growing up. I love museums, I love talking to people, I love learning.

What is your favorite book?

Marrow by Tarryn Fisher

Favorite drink?

Pepsi

Favorite movie?

"Jurassic Park"



Congratulations, Rachel, you are Yamtastic!!

Thank you for all you do for the North Carolina Yam Festival. As president and manager of the festival, you keep us celebrating the world's most nutritious vegetable.

We invite you to join us in Tabor City on Oct. 26, 2019



Way to Go from the Yambassadors & Tiger Tater!!!!!!



Jordan B. Carter, 31



Employment: Farm Bureau - 5 years - Agent
Hometown: Bladenboro
Wife: Jordan J. Carter, sons Briggs and Finn
Education: UNC Pembroke - Bachelor's Degree in Exercise Science
Pets: chocolate lab - Reed and black lab - Moss
Enjoys anything with his wife and two boys; most everything the outdoors has to offer, including hunting, fishing and playing golf.

Tell us about your professional/personal accomplishments:

Without a doubt my best personal accomplishment has been accepting Christ as my Lord and Savior. Marrying my wife, Jordan, and becoming a father to two wonderful little boys are at the top of that list as well. Professionally, I've served in the insurance industry for 10 years, most of which has been in Columbus county.

In what ways do you give back to the community?

For the past 3 years I have been the head coach of youth soccer and baseball teams. As challenging as it may be to coach 4-8 year old children, there is so much satisfaction I get in knowing that I've done the best I can to leave them a little better than I found them. Being an insurance agent with North Carolina Farm Bureau has offered me the opportunity to serve our county in a different light. With the natural disasters our county

has experienced the past couple of years my job has given me the chance to service the citizens of Columbus County when they have needed it the most. I have been a contestant in the Vineland Station Dancing With the Stars event that is a fundraiser for Vineland Station depot. I also participated in the Lip Sync battle, a fundraiser that benefits the Columbus County Arts Council and Families First of Whiteville.

What is the best part about living in Columbus County?

The people of Columbus County are what makes the place so special. It's not often that you go out to eat or go shopping in town and not see someone you know. It's also nice to have in-laws and parents that live close to us for those times Jordan and I need a last minute babysitter.

Please tell us a little-known fact about you:

People are very surprised and confused when I tell them my wife and I share the same name. They just can't grasp both our names are Jordan. I have to disclose that I'm not talking in 3rd person.

What is your favorite restaurant?

Anthony's meat tortellini.

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Whiteville

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705 North Brown St.
Chadbourn

910-654-1100

LaShoney Frink, 32

Employment: Columbus County DSS - Foster Care Social Worker
Hometown: Chadbourn
Mother: Shirley Mason **God-Father:** Robert Lee Mason, **Daughter:** Kirsten Gaskins
Siblings: Synard Frink, Quanisha Frink, Takara Frink and the late Tony Mason James Frink
Education: West Columbus High School, N.C. Central University-Bachelor of Social Work; Clark Atlanta University-Master's of Social Work
Pet: turtle - Frankie
Enjoys singing and listening to music.

Tell us about your professional and personal accomplishments:

At NCCU, I was president of the Social Work Society Organization for two years. At Clark-Atlanta, I was president of the National Association of Black Social Workers. This leadership position led to a job at the NAACP headquarters in downtown Atlanta. Also at Clark, I was in the National Alpha Epsilon Lambda Tau Chapter Honor Society. Recently, I received the Columbus County Volunteer Service Award, being recognized for several community service projects in our area. And, this past April, I was inducted to the Whiteville Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority and made a life-time commitment to public service in our community.

In what ways do you give back to your community?

I started a non-profit Helping Everyone Achieve Rewards Towards Success or H.E.A.R.T.S. This is a local, grass-roots mission focused on improving the lives of youth within our community. Our primary event is the "Back to School Drive" where over 500 backpacks with school supplies are given to youth who attend our annual event. We also provide free food and entertainment at the event. Also, I have conducted several other community service events such as coat drives and canned food drives, and I sponsor families by providing Thanksgiving meals. Most recently, I held a Youth Lock-In for over 100 children, which promoted teamwork, trust-building, effective communication skills and social skills as well as just having fun!

What would you tell your 16-year-old self?

To always cherish your loved ones because life is so unpredictable, and know your worth.

What do you do in your free time?

I like to read to my daughter, play educational games with her and take her to the park.

What was your favorite gift as a child?

A play house that my godfather built for me for Christmas.

Book that best describes you?

"Oh, the Places You Will Go!"

Favorite band? The Gap Band

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congratulations
to all the
recipients
and nominees



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Jennifer Cox Phipps, 30

Employment: United Community Bank, Loris, S.C. since 2017 as a Commercial Relationship Manager. Formerly, Horry County State Bank and First Bank since 2009.

Hometown: Tabor City

Parents: Wayne and Connie Cox, **Son:** Cayson - 5

Enjoys Spending time with her son and family, singing, Bible study and participating in activities at home church, Tabor City Baptist Church.

the opportunity to know Mrs. Catherine Caussey knew she loved her community and lovingly passed down that attribute to all of her queens. Since then I have helped with the N.C. Strawberry Festival Pageant, directed the N.C. Yam Festival Pageant for 3 years, serving on the N.C. Yam Festival Committee as well, and held various other positions at church and in the community. I love my community, and there is no better way to express that than giving back!

What would you tell your 16-year-old self?

Trust in the Lord with all of your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths. Proverbs 3:5-6

What are people surprised to learn about you? People are most surprised to learn that I do not eat seafood of any kind! YUCK!

Favorite movie: The Sound of Music

Favorite band: Sovereign Grace Music

What is your favorite food? Anything Mexican (as long as it doesn't include seafood)

Favorite drink? 99% of the time it's water and 1% it's ice cold Cheerwine in a glass bottle.

Favorite gift as a child.
When my sister and I were given a trampoline for Christmas.



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John Quincy Adams

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Congratulations to Commercial Relationship Manager, Jennifer Cox Phipps, for being selected to this year's class of fifteen under 40! We are so proud of all you do for your community, and are thankful to have you as part of our United family.



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Kalee Hill, 34

Employment: Whiteville City Schools, 7 years English as a Second Language Teacher.

Hometown: Whiteville

Parents: Dottie and Jim Hill, Brother: Jess Hill, Nieces and Nephews: Eli, Audrey Gray,

Anna Kay & James Hill

Education: Meredith College - BA; MAEd-Western Carolina University - MAEd; UNC Wilmington - ESL certification

Pets: golden retriever - Lucy; boxer - Phantom

Enjoys: swimming, hiking, reading and teaching

Tell us about your professional and personal accomplishments:

2018 Bright Ideas Grant Winner, member of the Sandhills Leadership Consortium Cohort IV, current chair of Girls on the Run and Stride, recipient 'Learning in Motion' and 'Reading with Success' grants, member of Whiteville City School District MTSS and committee chair of Edgewood Elementary School Improvement Team.

Provide examples of your community service:

I believe very strongly in advocacy. This is something that I hold very dear to my heart. When I started teaching English as a Second Language, I also began to advocate my ESL students. One of the things I really wanted to do was to bring bilingual books into the homes. I knew the value of education and reading at home to young students and realized that it was vital no matter the language

that was spoken at home. I applied for the Bright Ideas Grant through Brunswick Electric Membership Cooperative and won. I was able to buy \$5,000 worth of bilingual books at Edgewood. This was enough to set up an entire section in the library. These books are books that the kids are interested in and that are on their grade level. I also feel strongly in doing things without any recognition. This is something that I learned from my father, James Earl Hill, Jr. I do things that I don't want others to know about such as supplying food for students who need it on the weekend or providing coats for those that need it during the winter.

What is the best part about living in Columbus County?

I grew up in Columbus County and my family has been here for many years. I feel this county is a part of the person that I have become. I was raised here and educated here. I knew I wanted to return home and give back. The best part of living in Columbus County is the people. There are so many that are willing to do so much to make our community great. It's a good feeling when we come together as a community and make this county the best it can be.

Favorite movie? "Christmas Vacation"

Favorite drink? Diet Sun Drop

Book that best describes me:

The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane

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C. Ashley Gore, 32

Employment: State of North Carolina; 3 years - District Court Judge
Hometown: Whiteville
Husband: Brad Lovin, **Parents:** David & Terri Gore, **Sister:** Sarah Gore
Education: Campbell University's Norman Adrian Wiggins School of Law, 2012; UNC-Chapel Hill, *summa cum laude*, Phi Beta Kappa, 2009; Whiteville High School, with honors, 2005
Enjoys running, spending time with family and friends, gardening and shagging.

Tell us about your professional and personal accomplishments:

I am very honored and humbled to be serving the people of Columbus, Brunswick, and Bladen Counties as a member of the judiciary and an elected official. In 2016, when I was 29, I ran for District Court Judge and was successful in my endeavor. I credit my friends, family, and supporters for allowing me to serve on the bench.

Provide examples of your Community Service:

It is a true privilege to be able to return some of the love and support I have received through local organizations. I have volunteered with the Columbus County Teen Court organization for the past several years, and I am a member of the Whiteville Junior Woman's Club and Pleasant Plains Baptist Church. I also volunteer with the DARE Program in lo-

cal schools, and am a strong supporter of the Columbus County Veterans' Organization.

What is the best part about living in Columbus County?

I'm reminded of Charles Kuralt's booming voice as he asked the now famous question about Carolina, "What is it that binds us to this place as to no other?" I ask myself the same question about Columbus County, and the answer is simple. Columbus County is home and the best part of living here can't be reduced to one particular thing; rather, it's just a Southern, small-town way of life.

Tell us about your family:

I am blessed to have a loving and supportive family. My parents are my role models and I strive to make them proud every day. The sacrifices they have made to ensure my sister and I were afforded every possible opportunity have always been appreciated, and now that I am older, they mean even more. I am also blessed to have met and married my best friend. My husband, Brad, has always been my biggest supporter, and he puts up with me every day.

What is your favorite food?

Low Country Boil

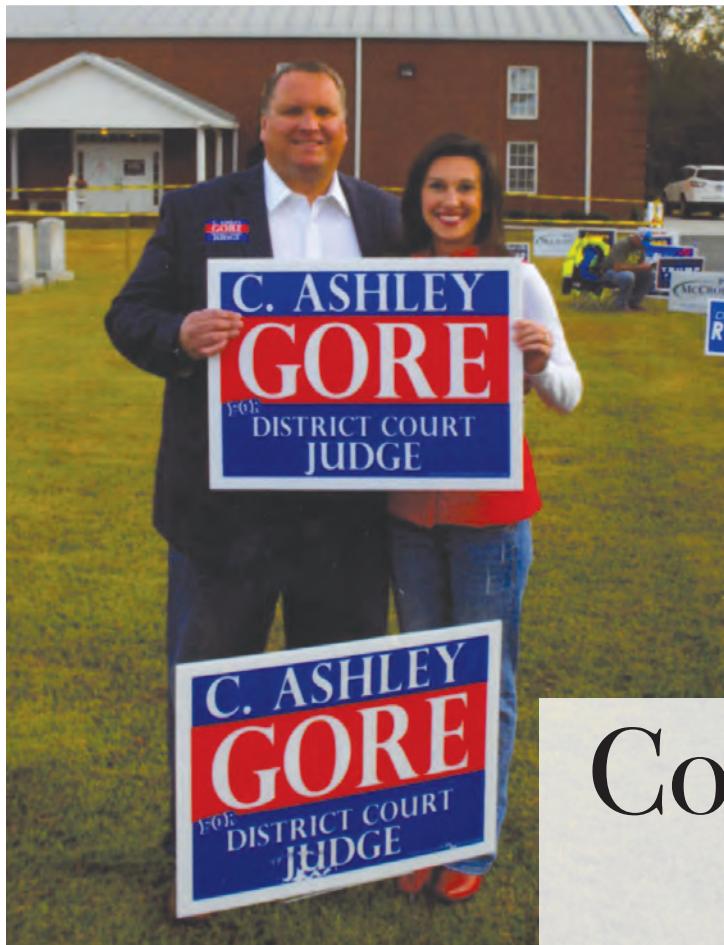
Favorite band? The Eagles



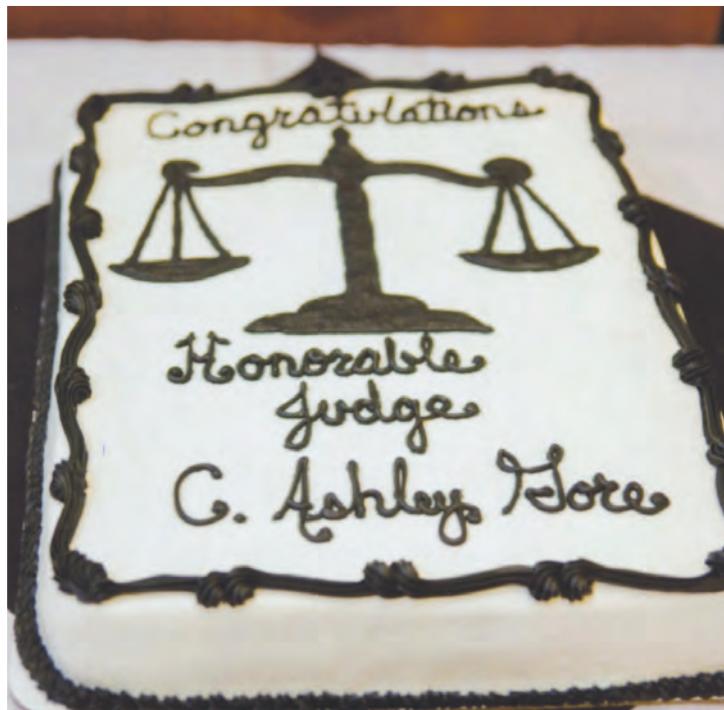
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Jenny Fonvielle
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Nicole Kelley
Santana Miller
Stephanie Miller
Sherica Powell
Anna Richardson
Mariel Sellers
Rachel Smith
Jared Worthington

Class of 2017

Brandon Patrick
Chassie Strickland
Danaysia Powell
Derrick Boyd
Dustin Chapman
Ethan Scott
Jamika Lynch
Jason Elleby
Jordan J. Carter
Justin Furlow
Mary Wheatley
Sarah L. Gore
Staci Ezzell
Todd Burney
W.T. Edwards II

Class of 2018

Derrick Boyd
Todd Burney
Jordan J. Carter
Dustin Chapman
W.T. Edwards II
Jason Elleby
Staci Ezzell
Justin Furlow
Sarah L. Gore
Jamika Lynch
Brandon Patrick
Danaysia Powell
Ethan Scott
Chassie Strickland
Mary Wheatley



Class of 2019

Amanda Dale
Daniel Britt
Jordan B. Carter
Jenny Clore
Dustin Fowler

LaShoney Frink
C. Ashley Gore
Jason Graham
Kalee Hill
Greg Jacobs

Jennifer Phipps
Jason Soles
Rachel Todd
Garrett Tolley
Nikki Walker



We
applaud the
“fifteen under 40”
winners

*A special congratulations to our
Leadership Columbus Alumni*



Amanda Dale



Jennifer Cox Phipps



The mission of Columbus Young Professionals is to connect individuals throughout our community while offering opportunities to develop their talents and skills – all in the name of curating them to become leaders of the future for Columbus County.

Leadership Columbus is a program designed to develop a corps of informed, committed and qualified citizens capable of providing dynamic leadership for Columbus County, recognizing that volunteer leadership is one of the most valuable assets of a community.



Columbus Young Professionals
Columbus Chamber of Commerce & Tourism

Connect > Develop > Lead

For more information on these programs, contact the Chamber at 910-642-3171, or at www.thecolumbuschamber.com.

Congratulations to the Class of 2019

“fifteen under 40”

to all the nominees & winners.

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Kudos...from the Community

Ashley loves her community and wants to see its citizens thrive and enjoy all that Columbus County has to offer. Her success as a district court judge at such an early age is impressive. And while Ashley's professional success is remarkable, it is her personality and character that are even more impressive.



Kalee has a heart of gold and believes in fairness for everyone in society. She often stands up for the underdog and she instills confidence in her students.



Greg perseveres and is dedicated to helping children and those in need. He has never looked away from volunteering to help the RDYB league be successful so the kids on the eastern end of the county will continue to have a local league in which to play baseball.



Amanda reaches across any isle to lend a helping hand to those in need. Amanda's strong leadership abilities can enhance any situation, from the boardroom to the ball field.



Rachel When there is an activity in Tabor City, you will find her participating. Rachel has a "Yes, I can help with that!" positive attitude.

Jason Soles is dependable and is there when someone needs assistance, putting others' needs above his own. He is extremely passionate about law enforcement. His primary focus is on protecting the citizens of the community and finding justice for the victims and their families.



Nikki is a leader and volunteer in the areas of health and wellness, literacy and the environment. In her job, she is a role model for all students. Nikki is a very dedicated citizen and goes the extra mile by promoting diversity and togetherness in our beautiful county.



Garrett has passion for people and community. There is always a smile on his face and a kind word for others. He has a "Can do, Let's make it happen" attitude.



Jordan uses his skills as a former high school and college athlete to positively impact youth in our community. He is a excellent role model for the players, parents, volunteer coaches and assistants.



Jason Graham has a true servant's heart. He loves God and loves helping people in any way. He doesn't look at color, race, or financial status. He finds a way to balance life and make everyone feel loved and special.



LaShoney Since an adolescent, she discovered within herself a strong compassion burning desire to help improve the lives of those around her.

Jenny has enthusiasm for health and fitness that is contagious. She is an open and honest communication and does not shy away from difficult situations, but handles them with integrity and maturity. She is a true leader and "influencer" and is an asset to any group she is a part of.



Daniel After a two-year stint playing profesional baseball in the Milwaukee Brewers system and then being an assistant coach at UNC-P, he returned to his hometown and has shown his dedication and heart toward this community and its youth.



Dustin Integrity, personal work ethic and desire to be a "behind -the-scenes" philanthropist encourages others and establishes a legacy. Dustin engages in activities that go above and beyond his work responsibilities. He is a community leader.



Jennifer Serves in her hometown of Tabor City in several ways, not only volunteering, but also with her career in banking. She is dedicated to her community as well as her employer and goes the extra mile for customers.



CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR VERY OWN GARRETT TOLLEY

Garrett Tolley, EP, RN, BS, M.Ed. is the program manager of Cardiac & Pulmonary Rehabilitation and for the Surgical Weight Loss programs. Garrett has a big heart for being with his patients every step of the way as he motivates them throughout their long road to a better lifestyle. The Columbus Regional family congratulates Garrett for the well-deserved "15 Under 40" honor.

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