



*Ashleigh
and Jonathan*



*Courtney
and Zachary*



*Mary Ashton
and Matt*



2016 Bridal Couples (From Top) Ashleigh Cartrette and Jonathan Cox, Courtney Harrelson and Zachary Spivey, Mary Ashton Strickland and Matt Gore.

Friendship came first for Ashleigh and Jonathan

By CLARA CARTRETTE
and NICOLE CARTRETTE

Ashleigh Caroline Cartrette and Jonathan Kyle Cox's love story begins with friendship.

"We were friends throughout high school and college and did not start dating until right at the end of college," Ashleigh said.

"We grew up together," Jonathan said. They knew one another in elementary and middle school. "It took 12 years to convince her to go out with me."

Their first date was a double date with friends Carmin and John Paul. The friends had dinner at Filet's in North Myrtle Beach five or more years ago.

Ashleigh and Jonathan say they each knew after the first date they had found the one.

It wasn't until a trip to the mountains of Tennessee, years later, that Jonathan asked Ashleigh to marry him.

After dinner at the Greenbriar, Ashleigh said Jonathan was asking a lot of deep questions about the future.

"He asked me if I'd want to live in Tabor City and things like that," Ashleigh said.

"I should have suspected something."

But she didn't.

As the sunset turned to



**Ashleigh Caroline Cartrette
Jonathan Kyle Cox**

night over Sevierville, Tenn., Jonathan popped the question from the balcony of a cabin on a mountainside. He had already spoken with her parents and grandparents about his plans.

Ashleigh, a 2006 graduate of South Columbus High School, is the daughter of

Gina and Kendall Cartrette of Tabor City. She is the granddaughter of Doris Grainger of Green Sea, S.C.

Jonathan, a 2007 graduate of South Columbus High School, is the son of Kyle Cox of Tabor City and Lynne Inman of Whiteville. He is the grandson of Linda Cox of Ta-

bor City and Tim and Peggy Blackmon of Whiteville.

Jonathan and Ashleigh both graduated from East Carolina University in 2011. Ashleigh earned her undergraduate degree in Psychology and later a Master's Degree in teaching. She is a teacher at Daisy Elementary School in

Loris.

Jonathan earned a degree in business and political science and works with the family business at Cox Furniture and Mattress stores and as a real estate broker.

The couple enjoys spending time with friends and family; they attend both St. Pauls United Methodist Church and Tabor City Baptist Church in Tabor City.

The couple will wed in a traditional ceremony June 25 at Tabor City Baptist Church. They plan to honeymoon in Punta Cana and will reside in Tabor City.

The bridal party includes Maid of Honor Paige Cartrette, sister of the bride, bridesmaids Carole Shelley, cousin of the bride, Leigh Ann Smith, cousin of the bride, Ashlyn Cox, sister of the groom, Jaclyn Koonce, cousin of the groom, Carmin Rogers and Ashley Kelly. Honorary bridesmaids are Alex Byrd, Tonya Creech and Shauna Cox.

The best man is Kyle Cox, father of the groom. Grooms-men are Regan Cox, cousin of the groom, John Paul Rogers, cousin of the bride, Drake Deans, cousin of the groom, Donovan Van Watts, Garrett Ward and Justin Creech. Bella Smith is the flower girl and Walker Smith the ring bearer.



Zachary and Courtney were at the right place at the right time

By CLARA CARTRETTE
and NICOLE CARTRETTE

Zachary Wright Spivey and Courtney Blair Harrelson might say finding love is about being in the right place at the right time.

For the couple, planning to wed in a traditional ceremony on Oct. 8 at Hallsboro Baptist Church, the right place was the Donut Shop in Whiteville. The right time was every Tuesday and Thursday when Courtney was working and Zachary would stop in for breakfast on his way to Southeastern Community College.

"She gave me donut holes so I had to marry her," Zachary jokes.

Courtney worked at the popular eatery while attending Columbus Career and College Academy and talked with Zachary about a month before their first date in April of 2013.

They played a game of putt putt and ate at Moe's in Myrtle Beach on their first outing. "He won of course," Courtney said. "He didn't even let me win but he should have."

In 2014, Courtney graduated from CCCA with her high school diploma and an associate's degree. She is pursuing a degree in teaching from UNC Pembroke and plans to



**Courtney Blair Harrelson
Zachary Wright Spivey**

teach middle school science.

Zachary is a 2011 graduate of South Columbus High

School. He attended Methodist University and UNC Wilmington and earned a

nursing degree in 2016 from SCC, where he had the highest GPA in his graduating class. He is currently pursuing his bachelor's degree from East Carolina University online while working full time as an R.N. in the intensive care unit at McLeod Hospital in Loris.

It is not all work and no play for the couple. They enjoy their new puppy, Bear, a Sheppard and Collie mix they adopted who lives with Zachary. They also like trying new restaurants and going to concerts together.

Zachary's proposal was music to Courtney's ears.

He proposed to her on March 6, 2015 while on a day-trip to Charleston, S.C. for a Gaslight Anthem Concert with friends.

While at the Battery, near the waterfront, Luke Lanier and Gage Hammond performed an original song written for Courtney and the big proposal. It ended with "Courtney will you marry me?"

"I had no idea he was going to propose," she said.

"She just cried and squealed," Zachary said. And of course, she said 'yes'.

They had been dating nearly two years at the time.

The wedding party includes Maid of Honor Victoria Harrelson, the bride's sister, and bridesmaids Aubrey Nealey, Summer Hinson, and Ivy Page. The best man is Shan Spivey, the groom's dad. Groomsmen are Justin Spivey, the groom's brother, Luke Lanier, the groom's cousin, Gage Hammond, Austin Harrelson, the bride's brother, and Christopher Nealy, who is stationed in Denver, Colorado but hopes to make it home for the wedding. Flower girls are Riley and Laykin Grice.

Courtney is the daughter of Terry and Sherry Harrelson of Lee's Lake and granddaughter of Mary Harrelson of Whiteville and Joanne and Davis Grice of Pireway.

Zachary is the son of Shan and Pamela Spivey of Clarendon and the grandson of Annette Moore of Clarendon.

The couple will reside in Clarendon. They plan to honeymoon in Charleston, S.C. since they are both still in college and working. A bigger honeymoon in New Orleans is planned for December.



'It's not about finding treasure but who you are finding the treasure with.'

By CLARA CARTRETTE
and NICOLE CARTRETTE

Mary Ashton Strickland and Joseph Matthew Gore were on a hunt for treasure in Jan. 2014 when they began to fall in love.

Matt, a teacher and coach, taught Mary Ashton's brother Sawyer in middle school at Cerro Gordo.

"I kind of mentored him. There have been quite a few kids I mentored. He wanted to hang out over New Year's and go to the beach and Mary Ashton wanted to go as well and that's kind of how it started."

Matt disputes that a shopping trip to Bass Pro Shop with Sawyer and Mary Ashton qualifies as the first date though Mary Ashton is quick to point out it was their first outing.

"We have no idea how we met. I guess at school," Mary Ashton says.

"After we had been dating a couple of months that's really all it took for me. I knew he was the kind of guy I wanted in my life."

"A few month and I just realized she was somebody that cared for others the way I cared for others. She enjoyed children and had a very loving attitude. It's hard to find



**Mary Ashton Strickland
Matt Gore**

somebody like that these days," Matt says.

Matt introduced Mary Ashton to geocaching on their first official date in Myrtle Beach. Players use a mobile app to find hidden treasures in the popular outdoor game.

"It's a lot of fun," Mary Ashton says.

The same spot near the mall where the couple found their first treasure is where Matt asked Mary Ashton to marry him on Nov. 24, 2015.

He hid a flower and a letter in a garden close to the mall and a ring in his pocket.

"I wrote a nice long letter about her attributes and told her how much I really loved her,"

Matt said.

"It's not about finding treasure but who you are finding the treasure with," Matt wrote in part.

She was "speechless" and "surprised" but of course, said 'yes'.

Matt is the son of Joey Gore and Doris Jeffries of Whiteville.

Matt is a 2002 graduate of Whiteville High School. He earned his bachelor's degree in English from UNC Chapel Hill in 2006 and earned a master's degree in Physical Education from UNC Pembroke in 2013. He is the junior varsity soccer coach at Whiteville High School and will be teaching English at WHS this school year.

Mary Ashton, is the daughter of Woody and Sonya Strickland of Green Sea, S.C. and the granddaughter of Monroe and Judy Enzor of Fair Bluff.

She is a 2010 graduate of West Columbus High School, earned her Doctor of Pharmacy from Campbell University in 2016. She is a pharmacist with Walgreens in Whiteville.

The couple enjoys spending time with friends and family, traveling, going to movies, playing board games and being active. Mary Ashton is Matt's biggest fan when he is coaching or playing church league softball or basketball.

Matt says that faith is an

important part of their lives.

"We choose to have Jesus Christ in our relationship and to be the center of our relationship," Matt says. "A marriage centered around Jesus is one that will surely succeed."

"I knew that Matt was the man for me by how he brought me closer to the Lord," Mary Ashton says.

The couple is planning a big wedding for Nov. 5 at Wildberry Farms in Marion, S.C.

The wedding party includes matron of honor Emily Enzor, cousin of the bride, and

maid of honor Olivia Morton. Bridesmaids are Haley Sellers, cousin of the bride, Jessica Purifoy, cousin of the groom, Sarah Otstot, cousin of the groom, Amy Hamilton, Brooke Hinson, Jessica Humenik, Shelby Jones, Dawn Hinshaw,

Ivy Morton and Tristyn Enzor, cousin of the bride.

The best man is Joey Gore, father of the groom. Groomsmen are Nathan Gore, brother of the groom, Robbie Gore, brother of the groom, John Astle, Stephen McIntyre, Josh McIntyre, Derek Otstot, Patrick Pait, Ben Worthington, Tyler Dippel, and Sawyer Strickland, brother of the bride.

Matt and Mary Ashton will honeymoon in Los Cabos, Mexico and reside in Whiteville.



Much more than a furniture store



Amber Dorsett shows Zachary and Courtney one of the fabulous bedroom suites available for their new home.

Badcock Home Furniture & more is truly much more than a furniture store. Appliances, electronics, home accessories, grills, lawn and garden tools fill the locally owned store along with furniture from the Badcock brand and Ashley, Catnapper, Serta, Dell, Simmons, LAZBOY, Best and MedLift. Buy the best first and enjoy your investment for many years to come.

With over 111 years experience serving customers, Badcock Home Furniture & more is able to offer their "No Credit Refused" in-house financing. They understand young couples may need to establish credit, and they offer a great source for them to start. A comprehensive warranty and insurance program offers protection for the unexpected.

Stop by Badcock Home Furniture & more at 1210 S Madison Street in Whiteville today and storeowner, Joey Dinkins and store manager, Rosita Short will make sure you receive personal attention and superior customer service. See for yourself the complete selection of furniture, appliances, electronics, everything you need and more to establish your new home.

Badcock & more
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1210 S. Madison St. Whiteville
642-2332

Independent pharmacies support your community



Amy Sessions explains the importance of choosing a good pharmacy to Courtney and Zachary.

Trustworthiness, dependability and reliability are the norm at Baldwin Woods Pharmacy. That's why you'll want to take your prescriptions to Danny McNeill and his skilled, caring staff.

McNeill, a pharmacy graduate of UNC-Chapel Hill, grew up in Fair Bluff. Working with him are Whiteville native Al Nobles and Lake Waccamaw native Amy Hobbs Sessions and Brad McNeill. All three have Doctor of Pharmacy degrees. McNeill is also a partner with John Stoll of Whiteville in Clarkton Drug.

You won't find any strangers behind the counters at these independent drugstores. All of the pharmacists are hometown people and they'll be there every time you have a prescription filled. They know you, and they care about your well being.

Bigger is not always better; when you shop at independent pharmacies your money stays at home to help fuel the economy, thereby helping local residents and local needs. Independent pharmacies in Columbus and Bladen counties represent more than \$50 million in sales that go into local banks.

Independent pharmacies are the ones that support community activities, donating money to more than 100 churches, clubs and charities in Columbus and Bladen counties.

Consumer Report magazine reported that patient satisfaction was 87 percent for independent pharmacies as compared to 58 percent for chain pharmacies.

Stop by Baldwin Woods Pharmacy today to meet the friendly, caring and skilled staff. You can rest assured that you'll get the best pharmacy services available from community-minded pharmacists who are your neighbors and have lived here all of their lives.

Baldwin Woods Pharmacy is a member of a 500-store buying group, enabling the store to compete without paying franchise fees.

Baldwin Woods
PHARMACY

607 Jefferson Street, Whiteville • 642-8141

The best bank in town since 1872



Jordan Carter explains the various banking services provided by BB&T to Courtney and Zachary.

One of the most important decisions newlyweds make is how they will handle their financial needs, and that's where BB&T can help. Building on a tradition of excellence in community banking that stretches back to 1872, BB&T continues to offer clients a complete range of financial services, including banking, lending, insurance, trust, and wealth management solutions.

Those who need sound financial advice - and who doesn't? - can feel confident with a BB&T banker who will explain the many types of banking services available. Selecting the best checking account for your special needs is an important early decision, and there are so many more financial matters that will help make life more enjoyable if proper planning is followed.

BB&T offers numerous custom banking packages and checking accounts, and a banker will gladly explain them.

Personal credit services include tax advantage lines, preferred lines, home equity loans, personal loans and mortgage loans. Savings plans include Young Savers, regular, overdraft, money rate, investor's deposit account, CDs, IRA, Roth IRA, education savings and health savings.

You'll enjoy the convenience of BB&T online banking, your check card that doubles as your ATM card, BB&T Phone 24, Travel Points and many other services.



*Best Bank In Town
Since 1872*

Black's Tire — celebrating over 85 years of service



Jonathan and Ashleigh learn all they need to know about tire safety from Freddie Norris.

Customer service and safety are first and foremost in the Black's Tire Service business philosophy. That's why the company is still around to celebrate its 85th anniversary in 2014. It is an old established business - founded in 1929 - owned and operated through the ages by people who have lived in Columbus County all of their lives.

Your tires are the most important thing between you and the road; therefore, you'll want to buy your tires from the business people who know tires and care about your safety. That's where the skilled and personable staff at Black's comes in. If you don't know tires, you should get to know the best tire people.

The knowledgeable and caring people who work at Black's have your best interest at heart. They are well-trained and have the know-how and the equipment to put your car in excellent condition for your peace of mind.

A hometown atmosphere is a way of life for the tire experts at Black's Tire Service. But tires aren't their only business. You can talk with the staff about car repairs as well as tires, fully assured that they will have the mechanics check everything for you, and fix it only if it needs fixing.

The next time your car needs tires or service, confer with the experts at Black's. Let them do your regular tire checks, oil changes and take care of your other auto needs. They'll keep your car in good operating order.



Madison St., Whiteville • 642-3191

Classic glamour for your wedding day



Matt looks on as Mary Ashton and Kaitlin discuss hair options for their big day.

Wedding celebrations are a time when everyone wants to look their very best.

Located in beautiful downtown Fair Bluff, Kaitlin Ashley Cox specializes in cut, color, styling, facial waxing and tanning, keratin treatments and special occasion styling.

If your wedding is approaching and you want to make your hair your best asset, call to make an appointment with Kaitlin at 910-641-1187 or 910-649-7000.

Make sure your bridal party looks picture perfect on your big day!

Carolina Class Salon & Boutique

Kaitlin Ashley Cox, Owner/Stylist

(910) 641-1187 or (910) 649-7000 Main St., Fair Bluff

Each day looks better with flowers



Left to right: Kamie Sibbett, Teresa Stover, Crystal Hooks (not pictured) and Owners, Penny McPherson and Handy McPherson (not pictured).

At Chadbourn Florist you can count on receiving personal attention and creative design for all occasions. Our new staff has over 20 years of experience in floral design. We offer a variety of fresh flowers, plants and gifts to fit any style or budget.

Our talented design staff is ready to help you plan bridal bouquets, wedding floral arrangements and on-site decorating for your dream wedding or other special occasion—large or small.

The owners of Chadbourn Florist grow their own plants at their wholesale location and sell them at the florist. We also sell custom fruit baskets, gourmet baskets, gift baskets, baby gifts, candy & chocolates, gifts, greeting cards, home decor, scented candles, silk flowers, plush stuffed animals and balloons.

It's our pleasure to assist you with deliveries—both local and worldwide. We make daily floral deliveries to local funeral homes and hospitals and welcome local businesses to establish corporate accounts.

Visit us online at chadbournfloristllc.com to place secure orders 24-hours a day or call 910-654-3329 to place an order or schedule a consultation.

Chadbourn Florist

604 N. Pine St., Chadbourn

910-654-3329

To last forever... a diamond from Collier's



Todd Collins shows Ashleigh and Jonathan a variety of engagement rings at Collier's Jewelers.

A couple's consideration of where they will select their diamond engagement and wedding rings requires romantic, yet practical decisions.

The diamond is a symbol of everlasting love; it represents not only love, but a lifetime investment, so the young man making the purchase wants to be sure he is receiving full value for his money. That's why so many young men consult Todd Collins and his competent staff before making a diamond purchase.

Todd offers 31 years experience with diamonds and diamond setting. What there is to know about diamonds, he can tell you, and he's training his staff to carry on the Collier's Jewelers tradition. Staff members can show you the many variations in diamonds; therefore, Collier's can help you determine the best for your particular need.

Collier's Jewelers offers an unequaled reputation for quality, dependability and integrity earned during many, many years of satisfying service to the public.

Whenever you select the girl of your dreams, select a diamond that she'll be proud to wear forever. Todd Collins and his well-trained staff will be happy to make suggestions that only an experienced jeweler can make.

Collier's

"Whiteville's Leading Jewelers"

DOWNTOWN WHITEVILLE • TERMS EASILY ARRANGED

Let us take a little stress off of your big day



Michelle Higgins, Certified Chiropractic Clinical Assistant, administers therapy on patients to help relieve muscle spasms.

Columbus Family Chiropractic Center has been in business for over 30 years. Dr. William Prease has been in practice for 16 years. Dr. Prease is a native of Columbus County and is a 1977 graduate of Whiteville High School.

We would like to say congrats to the couple. We wish you well and staying well is both short and long-term. Starting out in life together demands decisions such as family, financial and health issues.

Chiropractic care; be it acute, chronic or wellness, helps to improve your total health future. Columbus Family Chiropractic Center has been in business for over 30 years and is a strong supporter of Columbus County. Come by and see Dr. Prease and his ever-friendly and helpful staff, Sandra, and Michelle.

**Columbus Family
Chiropractic**

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Do it right the first time and save money



Kyle Cox shows Ashleigh and Jonathan the top quality and affordable mattresses available at Cox Warehouse Discount Furniture mattress showroom.

Furnishing and home decorating decisions are some of the most fun for newlyweds. They can also be some of the most expensive and longterm decisions a couple will make, too. Plan to do it right the first time and save money at Cox Warehouse Discount Furniture.

Father and son team, Kyle and Jonathan Cox, carry high-end furniture built to last a lifetime by Lexington, Pulaski, American Drew, Stanley and Craftique. They also carry beautiful rugs, accessories and mattress sets at their conveniently located showroom at 1423 North J.K. Powell Blvd in Whiteville. Walk around, measure, and compare their large selection for just the right piece for your home.

In business for over 30 years, the staff at Cox Discount Furniture has the expertise to create a decorating plan to help couples make smart decorating choices. Whether decorating a room, an apartment or whole house, a decorating plan can save time and prevent costly mistakes. Cox Discount Furniture offers easy credit financing and is dedicated to putting their customers first.

For the couple shopping for beautiful furniture and accessories, give them a wedding gift you know they can enjoy for years to come. Cox Warehouse Discount Furniture has just the right piece and delivery services make it easy to surprise your bridal couple with a special gift perfect for their home. Make your selection, and Jonathan Cox will handle the details.

Cox Warehouse Discount Furniture offers newlyweds great prices, convenience, financing and customer service. Stop by to see their great selection of furniture and accessories and start decorating today.



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FURNITURE

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Have A Nice Bank



Michelle Ward discusses financial options with Ashleigh and Jonathan.

CresCom Bank's goal is to provide excellent products with personalized service. CresCom Bank is headquartered out of Charleston, SC and has 29 branch locations throughout the Carolinas. We're pleased to be ranked as the #1 Community bank on American Banker's list of "Top 200 Community Banks". It's a significant accomplishment, and evidence of the strength of our bank and holding company. We are setting the standard for professional customer service and building long-term financial partnerships. We strive to be the Community Bank of choice in each of the markets we service by offering impeccable service and a complete line of competitive products.

Our Community Banking Team Members can offer you all the sophisticated and innovative products and services available at the biggest financial institutions. But we're a community bank and we act like one. We can assist with anything from purchasing your first home to starting a new business. We're here to make things simple and easy, meet your needs and plan for the future. Stop by or call us (1-855-273-7266) for a one-on-one conversation about what you want from your bank, what accounts interest you- and we'll provide you with sound advice. We are here for you, stop in one of our convenient locations in Tabor City, Chadbourne, Whiteville and Elizabethtown



Have a nice bank

Three generations serving the best donuts



Mary Harrelson with granddaughter Courtney and her fiancé Zachary.

This December, Mary Harrelson will celebrate 23 years of bringing you the best donuts in Whiteville, along with all your favorite breakfast and daily lunch specials.

The Donut shop offers the unique, personal atmosphere that can only be achieved by being a family owned business.

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The Donut Shop

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Offering the best insurance value to our customers



Bruce McPherson explains the various insurance plans offered by East Coast Agency to Zachary and Courtney.

What makes one insurance company stand out above the others? It's the service and personal interest that they take in a family's welfare that makes a company such as East Coast Agency, Inc. truly worthy of your business.

As Zachary and Courtney will soon discover, having an insurance agent they can trust to help them navigate the sometimes confusing world of insurance is one of those things that will give them peace of mind as they start their lives together.

With 35 years experience in the insurance business and a fully licensed staff, East Coast Agency, Inc. has a full understanding of the normal life changes that come to every family and how to use insurance properly to help their customers face any situation with a minimum of risk.

"We don't believe in a 'one size fits all' approach to providing for a family's insurance needs," notes East Coast owner Bruce McPherson. "Because we have a number of companies to choose from we're able to match solutions to a person's personal insurance needs."

East Coast Agency, Inc. provides all types of insurance through several major companies that they have found to be both reliable and economical. Their status as an independent agency allows them to offer the best insurance value to their customers.

Whether you're just starting out, or feel the need to have someone review your current insurance coverage, you'll find the folks at East Coast Agency easy to talk to and willing to help make sure you have the coverage that's right for you. They're located in Tabor City at 106 S. Main Street, and you can call them at 910-653-5066.



EAST COAST AGENCY, INC.

A rich history of outstanding service



Dan McLean shows Mary Ashton and Matt the selection of Yeti coolers and accessories available at Ellis Meares & Son.

Ellis Meares & Son, Inc. Hardware/Furniture/Appliance Store in Fair Bluff combines the tradition of a “general merchandise” store with the very latest in name brand televisions, furniture, appliances, hardware and building materials.

Family owned and operated since 1901, there’s a rich history of outstanding service at Ellis Meares & Son, Inc. You will be amazed and delighted with your first visit there. Whether you’re shopping for new furniture, appliances, bedding or other household items, you’ll find just what you’re looking for, and their friendly staff will make your shopping experience a pleasure.

Ellis Meares & Son, Inc. is a dealer for Toshiba televisions and electronics, Frigidaire appliances, Ashley, Lexington, American Drew, Bassett, Drexel Heritage, Craftique, Hooker and Simmons furniture as well as Lane recliners, Primo bedding and Poulan lawn equipment. They also carry a complete line of hardware, dog kennels, building materials, metal roofing, shingles and vinyl siding. If it has to do with your home, Ellis Meares & Son, Inc. is your “one stop” store.

With many businesses today, real customer service is a thing of the past, but not at Ellis Meares & Son, Inc. When you shop there, you can know that you’re getting excellent merchandise, a fair price and lasting service. Ellis Meares & Son, Inc. is also known for their “90 Days same as Cash” policy, which gives you three full months to pay without incurring a service charge and they also provide delivery service.

It doesn’t matter whether you’re a young couple like Mary Ashton and Matt buying your first bedroom suite or washer and dryer, or you’ve been housekeeping for years. Ellis Meares & Son, Inc. on Main Street in Fair Bluff is the kind of establishment that you can depend on and in today’s world that’s a good thing.

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A reputation for honesty and fair dealings



Jeff Prince shows Mary Ashton and Matt one of the great vehicles available at Fair Bluff Ford.

A car purchase is usually, after a home purchase, one of the biggest commitments any young couple makes. That’s why it’s important to know that the dealer you’re buying from has a reputation for honesty and fair dealings. People all around can tell you that for over 59 years, the name they trust is Fair Bluff Ford.

Jeff Prince and his staff are proud of their reputation for serving car buyers for so many years. But they also know that the world we live in today is different, and that it’s important to serve today’s customers in a way that meets their needs.

“With our “First Time Buyers” program, young people can rest assured that they’re being treated fairly – that there are no games being played and no tricks” noted dealer Prince. “We want to be known for our ease of doing business and for the comfort of our small town “no pressure” approach.”

When you shop in Fair Bluff you’ll find the lowest prices and a level of service that’s unmatched by any other dealer. You’ll also find a great selection of new Ford cars and trucks, as well as pre-owned and program vehicles that have been individually inspected to make sure they meet the demanding Fair Bluff Ford standards. And when it’s time to bring your car in for service, you’ll have access to a service and parts department that’s second to none.

You’ll appreciate the way you’re treated at Fair Bluff Ford. Give them a visit soon.

**FAIR BLUFF
 FORD**
 Main Street, Fair Bluff • 649-7531





Farm Bureau agents understand the financial decisions newlyweds face



Jordan Carter explains to Mary Ashton and Matt the importance of protecting a growing family with insurance and financial planning.

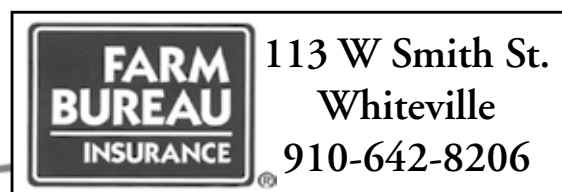
Farming has a long tradition in Columbus County and so does Columbus County Farm Bureau. Since 1955, Columbus County Farm Bureau has been serving and supporting families and agriculture businesses in our area with locations in Whiteville and Chadbourn.

Jeff Jackson is the Columbus County Farm Bureau agency manager and Whiteville agents: Glenn Ray, James Edwards, Revice Butler and Teddy Tedder can assist you with your insurance needs. Agents in the Chadbourn office are: Jeff Jackson; manager, Mike Waddell, Jeff Register and Jordan Carter. All Columbus County Farm Bureau agents grew up in the area and live here.

Offering excellent customer service, the Columbus County Farm Bureau agents understand the financial decisions newlyweds face. They know the needs of couples who want to protect their family and investments with auto, homeowner, life, health and business insurance.

Giving back to the community and supporting local farmers is important to Columbus County Farm Bureau. Since 1967, Farm Bureau nationally has awarded over \$3,000,000 in scholarships to high school graduates interested in studying agriculture related business. Local students interested in the R. Flake Shaw Scholarship Program, are urged to apply.

Careful insurance planning with Columbus County Farm Bureau is the best investment couples can make for their future, their family and business.



Something old, something new.



Ashleigh Simmons, manager, shows Mary Ashton and Matt a selection of beautiful wedding sets.

Flower's Jewelry, Coin and Consignment's knowledgeable staff and owners have over 30 years experience in jewelry sales and repair, as well as minor watch repair. We sell high quality gold, silver, and diamond jewelry. We have a large selection of up to date watches including Michael Kors, Invicta, Seiko, Casio G-Shock, and other beautiful and timeless watches.

Owned By Pawn South, We are located at 212 North Brown Street in the heart of downtown Chadbourn, Until June 30, 2016. Flowers was originally situated in the building that originally opened in 1930 as Dove Wholesale. Then owner George W. Dove was the Great-Great- grandfather of Pawn South's Director of Advertising, Houston Barnes and Pawn South's Office Manager, Haley B. Steed.

Flower's has a full-service, in-house repair shop managed by Steven Shaw. Steven has over 20 years of jewelry repair experience. Flower's can also handle minor watch repairs, including testing and changing watch batteries, replacing and repairing bands, and other minor repairs. Ashleigh can change your watch battery while you wait!

Want to give that special couple a gift that will not only last a lifetime but also gain value? Come and check out our coin selection. We have silver & gold coins.

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Jerry Soles shows Mary Ashton and Matt the quality meat selection offered daily at affordable prices.

Dewey Hill & Company congratulates all the newlyweds of Columbus County. We look forward to saving you money on the finest fruit, meat, produce and food at the best values in town.

Shop HILLS, you'll be glad you did!



Rustic Farm Wedding Venue



Located on the edge of the beautiful historic Fair Bluff, Horne Bay Farm has a rustic natural beauty and an easy elegance. Southern charm and Personality abound at the majestic barn, the open air pavilion overlooks ponds and horse pastures. Contrasting elements make this the perfect setting for any wedding or event.

- ♦ **Romantic Country**
- ♦ **Rustic Charm**
- ♦ **Equestrian Elegance**
- ♦ **Country Western**

Horne Bay Farm can provide you with the props to carry out your wedding theme.

Horne Bay Farm

Kathy H. Ashley 910-840-4091
Hornebayfarm.com

A wealth of knowledge about the local real estate market



Realtor Jackie Ray-Pierce handing over the keys to Mary Ashton, fiancée to the new owner Matt.

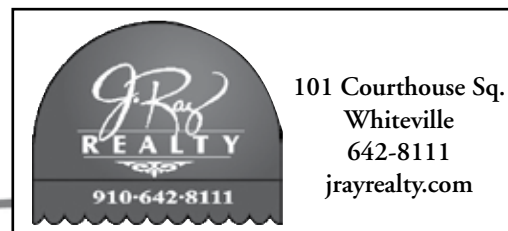
Choosing a real estate professional can be one of the most important decisions a couple makes. It's imperative to make sure that the realty company you choose has the experience and the know-how to help with perhaps your most important purchase.

The staff at J. Ray Realty has a wealth of knowledge about the Columbus County real estate market. They know the area well, are highly trained in the business, and are focused on customer satisfaction in every aspect of the transaction. Their experience includes: residential, commercial, land and acreage, and property management for rentals.

As a member of the National Association of Realtors, J. Ray Realty has a reputation to maintain. "We're held to a higher set of standards than the average real estate broker" commented owner Jackie Ray-Pierce. "Our goal is to assist people with the buying process so that it is a satisfying and exciting experience."

Pierce, who has been in real estate since 2003, purchased her business from Charlie Langston. "My goal is to carry on the tradition that established Langston Realty, as the top, professional real estate business in Columbus County", added Pierce. "This has always been a business built on trust, caring, listening, and educating."

If you're just starting out, new to the area, or just ready to find that dream home, you'll do well to contact the professionals at J. Ray Realty. They're conveniently located at 101 Courthouse Square in Whiteville, and can be reached at 642-8111 or at jrayrealty.com.



Personal attention and excellent service at McNeill's Pharmacy



Tom Owens shows Mary Ashton and Matt the many benefits McNeill's Pharmacy has to offer.

Good health and happiness are the hopes and dreams of every newlywed couple. North Carolina's oldest pharmacy, McNeill's Pharmacy, has been serving generations of families in Whiteville and Columbus County since 1875. Their experience and services make McNeill's the best choice for all couples to consolidate and create a long-term relationship for all their health care and pharmacy needs.

Along with a knowledgeable and helpful pharmacy staff, McNeill's offers a comprehensive service center offering UPS and FedEx shipping, Moneygram services, and bill paying for select services such as Duke Energy, CenturyLink, Dish Network, and more.

Conveniently located on Jefferson Street in McNeill's Plaza near Columbus Regional Hospital and many doctor's offices, a visit to the doctor and then the pharmacy couldn't be easier. Any questions about prescriptions are welcomed and answered by the pharmacy staff.

Stop in for a variety of gifts and greeting cards celebrating birthdays and holidays plus the items you need most when caring for a loved one not feeling so well.

Personal attention and excellent service have been the standard for McNeill's Pharmacy for over 100 years.

Congratulations to all our bridal couples. As your family grows, make McNeill's your partner in coordinating health care and pharmacy needs big and small. Stop by and see us today.



Comprehensive health care with friendly and efficient service



Sterling and Caroline Koonce tell Jonathan and Ashleigh about all the services available from Medicine Mart Health Care

Having a health care provider who knows your name and treats you like a friend or neighbor is particularly valuable in a world where too many products and services are offered in an impersonal, "cookie cutter" manner.

Medicine Mart Health Care combines the care and concern of the traditional, local pharmacist with the most up to date methods for serving today's health care needs. "We've been serving our customers since 1907," noted owner Sterling Koonce. "For over 100 years, we've been involved in the churches, schools, and civic organizations of our communities. We've come to know our customers, and we seek to serve them in a friendly, efficient manner. We treat them with respect and with empathy and we always provide them the quickest service and best prices possible."

In addition to their pharmacy customers, Medicine Mart Health Care is a leading provider of home health care equipment and supplies, including: oxygen, beds, lift chairs, scooters, and wheelchairs. They also offer a complete line of over the counter remedies, free home delivery of prescriptions and medical equipment, a money order/phone bill pay station, and a drive thru window – all for the convenience of their customers.

When a young couple begins their marriage, it's important to establish a relationship with a dependable pharmacist. Medicine Mart works with all their customers to provide comprehensive care and education regarding medications. They serve the needs of the entire customer's family and they provide 24 hour emergency service – always important to those with small children.

You can depend on the fine folks at Medicine Mart Health Care, with locations in Chadbourn and Tabor City.



**Medicine Mart
Health Care**

Tabor City 653-4800 or Chadbourn 654-4194

A Department Store with Cash to Loan...



Brian Murphy, owner and manager, shows Zachary and Courtney some of the quality items at Murf's Pawn.

Murf's Pawn describes itself as a department store with cash to loan, but that's just one of the many services offered since 1992 at their location in Whiteville.

With seven stores in southeastern North Carolina, Murf's Pawn offers a full range of pawn loan and great shopping with hometown service and selection.

Local owner/manager Brian Murphy offers great prices on many one-of-a-kind items along with a full selection of handguns, rifles, shotguns and ammunition.

You never know what treasures you will find, and bridal couples can always count on a wide selection of jewelry, watches, electronics, tools and more. Beautiful wedding rings and gifts for the bride and groom fill the showcases at reasonable prices.

At Murf's Pawn you can always count on exceptional service, plenty of parking, and a great location. Customers can even pay their bills, cash checks and sell scrap gold and fine jewelry.

For a great loan or shopping experience along with reasonable prices and variety, stop by Murf's Pawn at 1134 S Madison Street in Whiteville today.

Murf's Pawn

1134 S Madison St, Whiteville • 640-3344

Your housing needs are our #1 priority



Lindsey Garrell shows Courtney and Zachary one of the beautiful homes available at Oakwood Homes of Chadbourn.

Oakwood Homes in Chadbourn carries a full line of manufactured and modular homes. Oakwood also features custom built modulars, and this product exceeds site built construction standards for the buyer who wants to invest in a nice home that will appreciate without the headaches of site building.

These homes offer 7/12, 9/12 and 12/12 roof pitches. They also feature nine-foot ceilings, finished dry wall, 2x10 ceiling and floor joists, 2x6 exterior walls on 16-inch center. The 2x6 exterior wall offers twice the insulating value of the standard issue with R-value of 22.

Our modulars are available in any square footage, your floor plan or ours. These special homes are appraised as site built homes and have the same rates and terms as site built homes.

We have been in the manufactured and modular home business for more than 35 years in the community where they grew up. Their knowledgeable staff can give valuable advice when you are ready to buy a home.

Drop by Oakwood Homes today to check out the variety of homes that make house-shopping a pleasurable experience.



**OAKWOOD
HOMES**

Hwy. 410 South, Chadbourn • 654-4128

Pait's Tractor...where customer service is number one



Mandy Norris show Ashleigh and Jonathan some of the equipment at Pait's Tractor.

Who would think that one of the nation's top dealers for outdoor equipment would be located in Columbus County? Well, it's true – Pait's Tractor in Evergreen has been among the country's top dealers for customer service in the outdoor equipment business for the last ten years. And that means when you deal with Pait's, you can be assured of outstanding products, prices, and service after the sale.

Pait's Tractor has gained a reputation as a leader in the sales and service of tractors, mowers, chainsaws, string trimmers, hedge trimmers, edgers, blowers, and lawn & garden accessories. They sell some of the leading brands in the business, including Cub Cadet, Scag, Gravely, Stihl and Bannche UTV's.

In addition to their sales department, Pait's maintains an award winning service team who can make sure your equipment stays in top condition. "We believe we have the best team assembled to provide our customers with the products and service they expect" noted owner Danny Pait.

Every young couple wants a home and a yard that they can enjoy. With the kind of quality yard and garden equipment sold by Pait's along with their expert advice, establishing and maintaining a great looking yard can be within the reach of any young couple.

Visit Pait's today at 7012 Princess Ann Road, Evergreen; they're located 4 miles off Hwy. 74 at mile marker 375. You can reach them at 910-654-5320.

PAIT'S TRACTOR LLC

7012 Princess Ann Rd., Evergreen
910-654-5320

Party Delights Catering

Weddings • Luncheons • Dinner Parties • Birthday Parties
Family Reunions • Class Reunions • Any Special Occasion

Phyllis Gore, Owner • 642-7067
Over 20 Years Experience



Southern Table Restaurant - Party Room Available
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Columbus County's newest wedding and event venue



Zachary and Courtney are impressed by all of the charm and features of Pine Log Plantation.

Pine Log Plantation is a wedding and event venue located on the outskirts of Whiteville. Recently purchased and restored by John (J.E.) Thompson, III, the plantation was originally purchased in 1854 making it is one of the oldest in Columbus County.

The property features towering trees, a fully restored house built in 1880, a barn and a pond, creating a tranquil, rustic setting for unforgettable events. Capable of accommodating up to 400 guests, it provides the perfect backdrop for any style of wedding or your next special event. Ample on-site parking is available.

Pine Log Plantation's heritage has been preserved to retain its original charm while being updated to today's standards of comfort. Walk through the property to view the remains of the dam built on Pine Log Branch to help power mills producing flour and corn meal, and see relics found on the property. The home is air-conditioned and provides the perfect location for bridal parties to get ready on wedding day.

Events are already being scheduled for 2017 and beyond, so contact us now to schedule a tour or reserve our space for your upcoming wedding or celebration.

Pine Log Plantation

1264 Pine Log Road, Whiteville
640-7346

Pridgen Bros. Contractors...quality work—outstanding service



Donald Pridgen explains the heating and air conditioning systems available from Pridgen Brothers to Courtney and Zachary.

Heating and air conditioning is too important a part of a home, to leave to just anyone. When you turn to Pridgen Bros. Contractors, you can be assured of quality work, top of the line products, and outstanding service.

Pridgen Bros., your authorized Trane dealer, has been serving our area for 60 years. That kind of longevity is a pretty good indication of the confidence homeowners have in Pridgen Bros. “We work hard to maintain our reputation as a leader in the heating and air conditioning business” said Jerry Pridgen. “We think we have the best products and the best people, and we make it a priority to respond promptly to the needs of our customers.”

Heating and air conditioning in a home is usually best left to professionals. That’s why it’s important to know a good HVAC contractor. “An important service we provide is a whole house energy evaluation” commented Pridgen. “That way we know exactly what the needs are, and are able to match the equipment to the particular situation, saving the homeowner both time and money.”

Because Pridgen Bros. is always looking to improve their service to customers, they now provide complete electrical service and are planning to expand into plumbing service as well.

For many young homeowners, cost is always a factor. Pridgen Bros. offers competitive pricing and easy credit options which helps a young couple to be able to choose high efficiency heating and air products, such as Trane, rather than just “getting by” with lower quality products.

If you’re buying, building, or remodeling, go with the best – Trane and Pridgen Bros. Contractors. They’re located at 720 Davis Ave. in Whiteville.

Pridgen Brothers Contractors

720 Davis Ave., Whiteville • 642-8174

Personal service, quality and convenience at Quality Cleaners



Greg and Melinda Powell show Ashleigh and Jonathan the importance of proper care of wedding attire to last for years to come.

Today’s fabrics are much more forgiving, but wedding dresses, veils, and vintage family heirlooms will always need professional dry cleaning.

Generations to come will appreciate the personal attention Quality Cleaners gives each special piece. The trained, professional staff does all work on-site. Greg and Melinda Powell, owners and operators of Quality Cleaners for 31 years, offer the latest technology including “wet cleaning” utilizing a highly specialized machine, water and nontoxic detergents to clean delicate materials.

If a busy schedule leads to piles of laundry, Quality Cleaners can wash, fold and have it ready for pick-up with same or next day service. Leather and fur are cleaned in-house as well as curtains and bedspreads.

You can trust your most precious items and count on personal service, quality and convenience at Quality Cleaners in Whiteville.

Quality Cleaners

107 Frazier St., Whiteville
642-8146

San Jose Mexican Restaurant... Ole!



Efrain Rizo with Jonathan and Ashleigh as they look over all the delicious choices at San Jose.

San Jose Mexican Restaurant has become one of Whiteville's most popular eating establishments because they have gained a reputation for delicious Mexican food and a fun, family atmosphere.

Opened in Whiteville in 2000, San Jose is owned by the Flores family, and is one of their 12 Mexican restaurants throughout North Carolina. The Whiteville location is owned by Josue Flores with Efrain Rizo as manager.

San Jose customers can expect Mexican food that is meticulously prepared with an authentic, yet mild flavor. Whether one chooses burritos, quesadillas, chimichangas, chile rellenos, fajitas, or any of their combination dinners, it's always a treat to have a night out at San Jose.

"We use only fresh ingredients in everything we serve. We cut and fry our own chips and shells for tostadas and tacos, cook all the beef and chicken and make our own salsa" noted Josue. "Our complimentary chips are available with our homemade spicy or mild salsa."

The next time you're in the mood for some authentic Mexican food, be sure to come to San Jose, where you'll find delicious food, great prices, and fun. They're located in Hillico Plaza, at 1616 S. Madison Street in Whiteville.

SAN JOSE
mexican restaurant and cantina
- Authentic Mexican Food -
1616 S. Madison St., Whiteville • 640-1451

Total healthcare for you and your family



Todd Gonzalez, MD, discusses life and health with Jonathan and Ashleigh.

For nearly 50 years, Southeast Primary Care has been taking care of the Columbus County Community with Internal and Family Medicine needs. The compassionate and highly skilled providers that lead the practice provide a full continuum of patient care. Now offering 7:00am and Friday afternoon appointments, Southeast Primary Care in Whiteville and Tabor City can take care of all your growing family needs.

Southeast Primary Care
Columbus Regional Health Network



Tabor City Location
14508 James B. White Hwy. S.
Tabor City • 653-7000

Whiteville Location
619 Jefferson St.
Whiteville • 642-0331

A full service tire and automotive repair facility



Paige Brewer is showing Zachary and Courtney the newest tires for their vehicles.

Southern Tire and Muffler was founded by Edwin Russ in Whiteville over 20 years ago and has since expanded into a full service tire and automotive repair facility with a 24-hour wrecker service. Brad Russ and Paige Brewer manage the family-owned business for their father.

They proudly carry MICHELIN, Uniroyal and Goodyear tires and automotive parts such as Flowmaster exhaust systems. Roadside assistance is available with a fleet of three service vehicles. Southern Tire and Muffler takes pride in service and your safety on the road.

Discover the benefits and savings of bringing your car in for repairs and scheduled maintenance. How your car is maintained plays a big part in how long it will last. Protect your investment with quality service and parts from Southern Tire and Muffler.

Everyone is concerned about high gas prices, and tires play a big role in fuel economy. If you want to spend less on gas, check out the Roll Resistance (LRR) tires made by MICHELIN, Uniroyal and Goodyear in stock at Southern Tire to help increase your car's fuel efficiency.

Keep your loved ones safe on the road, and visit Southern Tire and Muffler for trusted service and repair at 1123 S Madison Street in Whiteville.

Southern Tire

1123 S Madison St Whiteville
(910) 642-4519

It's like getting a letter from home



Mary Ashton and Matt check out what's going on in the latest edition of *The News Reporter*.

Keeping you connected to all things important is what *The News Reporter* strives to deliver every week in the paper and on our website, Whiteville.com. Our seasonal magazine, 954, features stories, event photos, and creative content in full color delivered to the home of every subscriber in Columbus County.

Don't miss out on local news and sports, plus advertising from your favorite merchants in *The News Reporter*. Our subscribers are connected to the community and are always in the know about what's happening in Columbus County.

Whiteville.com is the perfect place to find breaking news, photos and video as it's happening. Turn to *The News Reporter* published every Monday and Thursday to get the whole story. Find out what's really happening as reported by staff writers Clara Cartrette, Bob High, Wallyce Todd, Jefferson Weaver, Ray Wyche, plus sports by Dan Biser and Franklin Davis.

Since 1890, *The News Reporter* has covered news in Columbus County. Stay connected with *The News Reporter* and whiteville.com.

The News Reporter

127 W. Columbus St., Whiteville
642-4104 • www.whiteville.com

Know the people you buy your vehicle from



Vann Underwood shows Ashleigh and Jonathan one of the great vehicles available at Vann Underwood Chrysler, Jeep, Dodge, and RAM.

With so many vehicle choices, how does the prospective buyer know WHICH automobile is best? Well, as the saying goes, "If you don't know cars . . . know the people you buy from." In Columbus County, consumers are indeed fortunate to have a dealer like Vann Underwood Chrysler, Jeep, Dodge, RAM.

Vann has been serving car buyers from his current location for 40 years and has been the local Chrysler, Jeep, Dodge, RAM dealer for 14 years. He has the knowledge and commitment to offer any buyer the best experience when it comes to purchasing a new or used vehicle. Vann has used one simple principle in building his business and reputation - keep the customer satisfied.

Perhaps you're a young couple like Ashleigh and Jonathan or maybe you've been buying cars for years. You're still looking for the same things. You want to know that the vehicle you've chosen is a quality product, that you haven't paid too much, and that the dealer will stand behind your car or truck with outstanding service. With Vann Underwood, you can rest assured that you're getting those things.

In addition to a great selection of new and pre-owned vehicles, Vann offers one of the area's most reliable service and parts departments with trained technicians who can diagnose and repair any problem, regardless of make or model.

When it's time to purchase or lease your next car or truck, see the folks with the reputation for low prices, easy financing options, and personal, hometown service. See Vann Underwood Chrysler, Jeep, Dodge, RAM in Downtown Whiteville. They're at 501 South Madison Street. Call them at 642-2000 today.



An atmosphere that is second to none...



Whiteville and the surrounding communities are indeed fortunate to have a facility available for community and family use such as Vineland Station.

Built in 1904 as the Atlantic Coast Line train depot, to serve passengers and freight between Wilmington and Atlanta, Vineland Station had a rich history of service until the 1970s. In 2002, it was leased by the Columbus County commissioners and Whiteville City council, and a special fund-raising effort to renovate the vacant building was begun. In 2005, it was put back into service, after more than 30 years of being out of commission, to become an economic development hub and a center of civic and cultural activities in the county.

Many bridal couples have already discovered the special attraction that wedding events held at Vineland Station hold. It has quickly become one of the most popular venues for weddings, rehearsal dinners, receptions, and other special events. Whether the wedding event is large or small, Vineland has the capability of meeting the need. Book the new outdoor covered platform pavillion alone or with the Todd community room, and take advantage of maximum space flexibility and decorating opportunities.

You may call 642-3157 for more information or to schedule an event.

Whether you're planning a wedding, family or class reunion, prom, or business meeting, you'll find the perfect place is Vineland Station, located in the heart of downtown Whiteville.

Visit us at www.vinelanddepot.com and on facebook.



A true "jewel" of Columbus County and Tabor City



Tabor City offers the perfect setting for couples searching for a unique event center with charm and an intimate feel. The historical Ritz Theater, after a thoughtful and modern renovation, has been transformed into the perfect wedding party and reception venue known as The Ritz Center.

Located at 213 Hickman Road in Tabor City, The Ritz Center is the perfect location for wedding parties, receptions, corporate and community events. Newlyweds will long cherish the memory of celebrating their wedding day with family and friends in this one-of-a-kind, convenient location.

Dianne Nobles Ward manages The Ritz and is happy to show you all the amenities at your disposal at a very reasonable price. It's easy to set-up an appointment to visit, just give Dianne a call at 910-653-4141.

Known as a true "jewel" of Columbus County and Tabor City, make The Ritz Center the perfect destination for all your wedding events. Dianne will help you plan the perfect event suited to your needs and vision for your special day.

Call The Ritz Center today and make your event one to remember.

RITZ CENTER

213 Hickman Rd., Tabor City
653-4141

BRUNSWICK PLANTATION

Elegance and Southern charm are apparent to anyone who steps foot on Brunswick Plantation. You'll be hard-pressed to find a better setting for your special day. With ample accommodations for wedding guests, Brunswick Plantation is also available for other special occasions.

With a professional staff coordinated by Robin Hicken, the planning and details of your event won't seem so overwhelming. Call Robin at 1-800-835-4533, ext. 6901 for information or to set up an appointment, or email her at robin@brunswickplantationweddings.com



www.brunswickplantationweddings.com