

August 2023

Bridal COUPLE EDITION

2023 Bridal Couples



*Ethan Watson and
Kasey Collins*



*Zack Brown and
Julianna Evatt*



*Andrew Ferguson and
Lindsey Dowless*

A Special Supplement to ***The News Reporter***

They started talking when hanging with friends at WCHS

By AMELIA SASSER
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Ethan Watson and Kasey Collins' story began at West Columbus High School, where they had several classes together. Ethan and Kasey were hanging out with a bunch of friends one evening, and they started talking. Ethan asked Kasey to slow dance with him that night, and they have been together ever since!

After about three and a half years of dating, it was finally time for the proposal. Ethan's family and friends got together and made Kasey think they were throwing a birthday party for his sister at the Bumming Hole Lodge. Kasey could tell that Ethan was "acting weird" for days before, and then he was super nervous on the way and wouldn't talk, so she had her suspicions that something was up. Even with the inadvertent hints, she was still surprised when he dropped to one knee and proposed during the family "birthday" picture.

Ethan and Kasey will share another dance as husband and wife after their wedding on April 13, 2024. The event will be held at Hidden Acres wedding



**Kasey Madison Collins
Ethan Wayne Watson**

venue in Marion, S.C. Kasey's maid of honor will be Greyanna Booth with Ethan's sister Brandy Burge, Emily Britt, Gina Lynn Wiloughby, Victoria Burge, Nicole Vetrano and

Anna Ty Ivey as her bridesmaids.

Wayne Watson will be his son's best man. Other groomsmen are Kasey's brother Alex Collins, Bennett Ivey, Evan Thompson, Steven Burge, Luke Nance and Gabe Davis. The couple have asked Jean Aubrey Williamson and Sawyer Jean Stanaland to be their flower girls. Luke Hanson and Weston Stanaland will take part as ring bearers.

Some local vendors are helping make Ethan and Kasey's wedding special: Victoria Paige photography, Play That One DJ, Best Events by Kristy Best, True Faith Media Productions, Sarah Gore Catering, Mary Long Cakes and Katie Elkins, who will do the bride's hair and makeup.

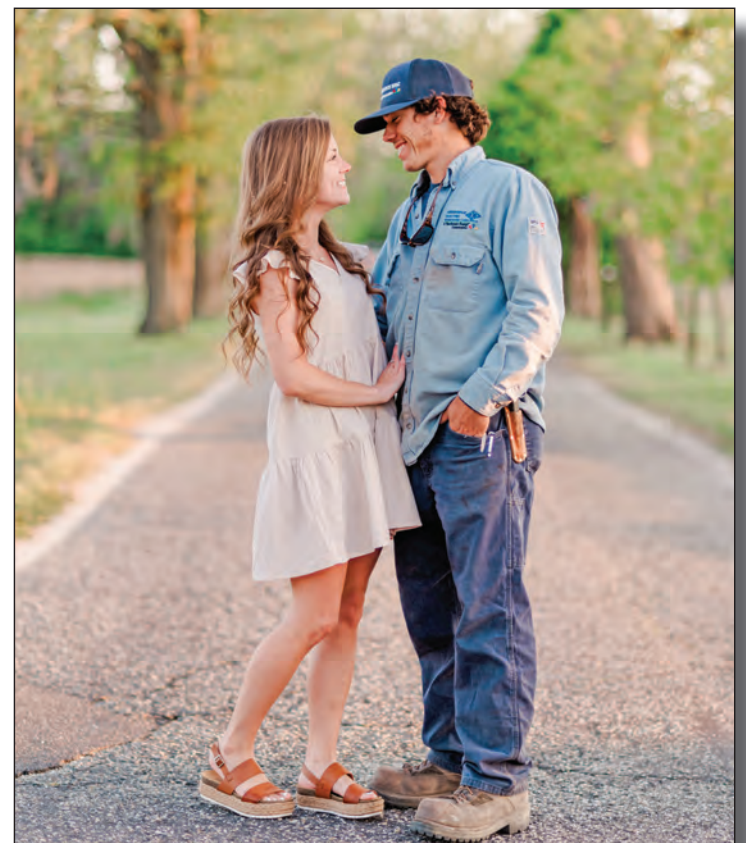
Ethan and Kasey enjoy anything outdoors, including deer, duck, dove, and turkey hunting, fishing, running dogs, tending to their garden and riding on the boat. They also like hanging out with their cat Gilbert and dog Sage.

Speaking of hunting, Kasey shared a memorable hunting

experience. "We were turkey hunting one day," she said. "We were in the woods, and I was crawling behind him because there was a tom turkey strutting in the field. As I got to the edge of the woods, I stood up and grabbed a vine. Little did I know, I was grabbing a chicken snake, who was just as scared as I was! I screamed; the turkey ran; all I saw was dust from the turkey running in the opposite direction of what any hunter wished for. Long story short, the snake won that day, and I had a heart attack."

Ethan is the son of Wayne and Amy Watson of Chadbourn. Ethan graduated from West Columbus High School and is a lineman at Brunswick Electric. Kasey is

the daughter of Anthony and Heather Collins of Evergreen. Kasey graduated from West Columbus High School and Southeastern Community College with an associate degree in nursing. Kasey is a registered nurse case manager with Lower Cape Fear LifeCare. After enjoying their honeymoon on a seven-day Mardi Gras cruise to San Juan, Puerto Rico; Amber Cove, Dominican Republic; and Grand Turk, the couple plan to make their home in the Evergreen area of Columbus County.



Zack's Nana said come back home, she'd found her future granddaughter-in-law

By AMELIA SASSER
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Zack Brown and Julianna Evatt are having an arranged marriage. Maybe not in the traditional sense, but Zack's Nana knew two years before Zack and Julianna actually met that they were a match made in Heaven. Julianna and her family started attending Chadbourn Pentecostal Holiness Church, which is where Zack's family attends and where Zack grew up attending. At this time, Zack was living in Charlotte, but Nana told Zack he needed to come back home because she had found her future granddaughter-in-law.

Neither Zack nor Julianna thought much about the other for those two years because they had never met and lived hours apart. Zack didn't move directly back to Columbus County but did move to Wilmington, which was close enough for him to finally start thinking about this girl his Nana had found for him. Zack messaged her through social media, and they went on their first date in July 2021. They went on several dates in July and August and decided that August to be official.

Zack knew Nana was right and that Julianna was the one, "because of her values and



**Julianna Cameron Evatt
Zachary Eric Brown**

great qualities," he said. "She was good-looking, and her Meme's cooking helped out a lot." Julianna thought Zack was funny and charming, and he swept her off her feet. Zack is more outgoing, with Julianna being more reserved, but they agree that this works and makes them the perfect match. They love going to the beach, cooking together, traveling, fishing on the boat and going to church together at CPHC. They value their time with family and friends, and they are great cornhole partners.

When it came to the proposal, Zack really had Julian-

na guessing! Last year before Christmas, they were joking about who was getting the other a better, more expensive gift. Zack slipped and said that her gift was going to cost way more than his, so Julianna assumed it was an engagement ring. Two weeks before Christmas, the couple took a trip to New York City, so Julianna just knew he would propose in Rockefeller Plaza in front of the Christmas tree! He didn't.

Then it was time for her family's Christmas party so she picked the perfect outfit and made sure her make-up was flawless because she was sure this was the night he would propose. He didn't.

Julianna found out later that Zack and her best friend, Anna, had been scheming all along. Anna made up a fake engagement party for a recently engaged couple who were friends of hers and Julianna's. Anna even made fake invitations to send to Zack and Julianna. It was actually going to be the party at which Zack and Julianna were going to get engaged.

When the day came for the "engagement party," Julianna put on very little make-up and wore jeans because she knew this couple was casual — plus it was going to be an oyster roast. Julianna is early to everything, so Anna had to find all kinds of excuses to buy time, because Zack was still setting up the proposal site. When Anna and

Julianna finally made it to The Spillway for the "engagement party," Julianna noticed there were lots of cars already there, which struck her as a little unusual since she is always the early one, but she grabbed the gift she had purchased for the engaged couple and started walking up. The door opened and she saw Zack. Then she knew he was about to propose, though at first, she still thought, "Why is Zack doing this at someone else's engagement party?" It soon became clear that this engagement party was for her, and Zack dropped to one knee and proposed in front of 40-50 friends and family.

Zack and Julianna will wed on Nov. 17, 2023, at The Venue at White Oak Farms in Longs, S.C. Zack asked his father, Tim Brown, to be his best man. His groomsmen are Turner Brown, Jesse Simmons, Aaron Izzo, Samuel Wall and Jacob Long. Julianna's attendants are Chloe Young, Meghan Wilson, Eden Izzo, Jordyn Herring, Kristina Bell, and Anna Jenkins will be her matron of honor.

After a not-so-fun snow skiing adventure in Winterplace West Virginia, which ended up with Julianna "wiping out a family of four, pulling a muscle and having a breakdown," they decided to honeymoon in warm, relaxing Jamaica. The couple will make their home in Whiteville.

Zack is the son of Tim and Dina Brown, and Robin and Robert Rothfuss. Zack graduated from Whiteville High School, Southeastern Community College and the University of North Carolina at Wilmington with a degree in finance. He obtained his master's degree from Liberty University and currently works with Earney & Company in Wilmington as a CPA. Julianna attended West Columbus High School and graduated as an RN from the nursing school at Southeastern Community College. She is an ER nurse at McLeod Loris. Julianna's parents are Cameron Evatt and Cindy Evatt.



They had 'the best first date ever' after meeting through mutual friends

By **AMELIA SASSER**
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Andrew Ferguson and Lindsey Dowless will hold their wedding and reception at Union Valley Farm and Vineyard in Whiteville, on June 1, 2024. Lindsey's parents are Tim and Edna Dowless, and Andrew is the son of Shelly Long Ferguson. Since neither Andrew nor Lindsey has ever been on a plane, they would like to add to the adventure of a honeymoon and fly to St. Lucia. The couple plans to reside in White Lake.

As her bridesmaids, Lindsey has chosen Andrew's sister Carlin Nye and her close friends Brinkley Collier, Camryn Ray, Lexie Gore, Mallory Mink, Kaycie Skipper, Haley Merritt and Alli Saad. Logan Schultz will be the maid of honor, and Paisley Skipper will be the couple's flower girl.

Andrew has asked his grandfather, Jimmy Long, to be his best man. Groomsmen will be Tristan Britt, Kyle Tatum, Will Cole, McKinley Raynor, Nathan

Sanders, Ty Watkins, T.J. Johnson, Tyler Mote and Chap Dennis. Andrew's nephew, Crew Nye, will be the ring bearer.

Andrew graduated from East Bladen High School and works at Summit Design and Engineering as a CEI. Lindsey is a graduate of Whiteville High School and UNCW, where she received a bachelor of science degree in clinical research. She now works at Wilmington Dermatology Center as the regulatory specialist.

Andrew and Lindsey met through mutual friends. Looking back, they aren't sure how they hadn't met earlier, but the timing was perfect when they finally did. A few weeks after that meeting, Andrew took Lindsey to San Jose in Whiteville, where they



Lindsey Caroline Dowless
Andrew Fuller Ferguson

talked for hours and had "the best first date ever."

Once they got acquainted, learning each other's likes, dislikes and hobbies, and once each realized how funny the other was, they couldn't go a day without talking. Then a Valentine's Day misunderstanding caused Lindsey not to respond to Andrew for a few days. That's when Andrew realized that he "enjoyed having Lindsey around," and he asked her to be his girlfriend. Five years later, they are planning a wedding.

Andrew and Lindsey share a lot of the same interests. They especially love watersports, including wakeboarding and surfing. When Lindsey's mom heard that Andrew loved to wakeboard, she said, "He's the one." In the winter, they love to go snowboarding. They also both like to cook. Lindsey says she is the better cook, but Andrew disagrees. Lindsey laughingly said that, since Andrew thinks he is the better cook, he'd "better" have dinner ready

when she gets home from work after they get married.

The couple have enjoyed showing each other different hobbies such as hunting and baking. In fact, Lindsey killed her first deer while hunting with Andrew, which she admits was a little sad yet exhilarating at the same time. She did enjoy eating all the venison dishes Andrew made with her deer!

On Feb. 4, 2023, Andrew and Lindsey's parents coerced her into going to Ocean Isle Beach for what they said would be "family pictures." On the way to

the beach, Andrew was very nervous, but ironically, Lindsey didn't notice because she was too busy watching the Chinese air balloon being circled by jets. She watched that the whole way to the beach. Once they arrived at the beach, they witnessed the balloon getting shot down. After that memorable moment, they decided to take the said "family pictures."

They walked down to feel the water and laughed about being on the beach in February. Lindsey turned to walk back up the sand, but Andrew called her name. She turned back toward the water, and there he was, on one knee, asking to marry her. Lindsey said yes and was so excited that she jumped and tackled Andrew, which resulted in losing an earring but gaining a diamond engagement ring.

Another memorable moment they enjoyed was taking a one-day trip to the mountains just to ride on the parkway and enjoy the beautiful mountain views. They left at 5 a.m., drove to Boone, got Chick-Fil-A, and headed to the parkway. They took Axe, their spoiled Boykin Spaniel, and the three of them had so much fun on this mini-adventure. They now will have a lifetime to enjoy many more!



Total healthcare for you and your family



Christy Phillips, FNP-C with Advanced Family Care in Whiteville discusses life and health with Lindsey and Andrew.

Advanced Family Care is excited to be here helping take care of our community! Accepting all ages, Christy Phillips, FNP-C and Amy Ransom, PA-C are here for all of your Primary Healthcare needs! From well checks, to sick visits, to disease management, Christy and Amy have you covered!

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A secure future...the best wedding gift of all



Angela Slagle of Allstate Insurance with Lindsey and Andrew.

Marriage is the union of two people planning to spend a lifetime together. Angela Slagle, owner of Angela Slagle Agency/Allstate, offers insurance and investment services to newlyweds building a firm financial foundation.

Financial decisions are never easy, especially when becoming a couple changes insurance needs. Angela Slagle offers personalized service and free quotes to make it easy for newlyweds to navigate insurance options or a new home purchase that is right for them.

Angela Slagle Agency represents respected, nationally-known insurance and investment companies such as Allstate, Lincoln Benefit Life and Prudential Investments. These companies have tremendous financial backing and offer products such as home, auto, life and business insurance, annuities and mutual funds.

For precise coverage, Angela Slagle will visit your home to assess your needs and determine the best plan and best value for you. Her agency has built its reputation on coming to the customer and being available in a time of need. Couples with lots of questions and concerns will have 100% access to an agent now and as their family grows and insurance needs change once again.

All soon-to-be newlyweds have to make a trip to the courthouse for their marriage license. After making it official, stop by Angela Slagle Agency/Allstate conveniently located at 112 East Smith Street, just one block from the Columbus County Courthouse. They can and will provide you with one-on-one service and the tools and expertise you need for a secure future, the best wedding gift of all.



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Your Care, Our Priority



Julianna and Zack with Amy Sessions discussing the benefits of a local independent pharmacy.

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

Lake Waccamaw native Amy Hobbs Sessions is the new owner. Working with her is Whiteville native Al Nobles. Both have Doctor of Pharmacy degrees.

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 Reports 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.



Black's Tire — celebrating over 90 years of service



Lindsey and Andrew learn all about tire safety from Jason Price.

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 94th anniversary in 2023. 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 and oil changes and take care of your other auto needs. They'll keep your car in good operating order.



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HomeGoods is growing, and we're thankful



Billy Edge explains various cabinets selections to Kasey and Ethan.

Central HomeGoods opened its doors two years ago, when Louis Huang and Jerry Bright joined forces to bring manufactured cabinets to Columbus County at an affordable price and at a quicker pace than other sellers. The store specializes in selling kitchen cabinets, bathroom vanities, shower doors and storage buildings.

Customers can see what their newly renovated kitchen or bathroom will look like with free design services provided by design specialist Billy Edge. He pieces everything together on his computer, and customers can view it on screen.

Huang was already the owner of East Wind Chinese Restaurant in Whiteville but said that, "Since I was little, I've always loved handy work."

Bright envisioned a large store space on a corner lot with heavy traffic flow all around for Central HomeGoods. He said that the former Joe's Barbeque location at 1702 S. Madison St. in Whiteville was the "perfect spot."

Bright explained that having "direct contact with manufacturers" allows Central HomeGoods to supply cabinetry at 20–25% lower prices than other home improvement stores in Columbus County. In the future, Bright hopes to own a warehouse to keep stock on hand.

Bright said that local support has been vital to the business' success. His favorite part of being a business owner has been "getting to meet all the people."

Contact Central HomeGoods at centralhomegood@gmail.com or 910-914-6223 or 910-625-6561. Hours of operation are from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Saturday, and staff can make accommodations if called ahead.



Each day looks better with flowers



Julianna and Zack look forward to using Chadbourn Florist for floral arrangements on their wedding day.

At Chadbourn Florist you can count on receiving personal attention and creative design for all occasions. 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, Penny and Handy McPherson, 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.



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



Todd Collins shows Kasey and Ethan a variety of wedding bands and 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 over 40 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 as well as help you design a custom piece, unique to her.

Collier's Jewelers offers an unequalled 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.

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Let us take a little stress off of your big day



Michelle Higgins, Certified Chiropractic Clinical Assistant, talks with Kasey and Ethan about a course of treatment.

Columbus Family Chiropractic Center has been in business for over 30 years. Dr. William Prease has been in practice for over 20 years and is a native of Columbus County and 1977 graduate of Whiteville High School.

We would like to say "Congrats to the 2023 bridal couples." We wish you well, and we are here to help you stay well both short and long-term. Starting out in life together will bring decisions that concern the well being of family and health issues, and chiropractic care should be a part of your healthy living plan.

Chiropractic care; acute, chronic or wellness, helps to improve your total health future. Columbus Family Chiropractic Center is a strong supporter of Columbus County. Stop by and see Dr. Prease and his ever-friendly and helpful staff located at 5754 Chadbourn Hwy. in Chadbourn.

**Columbus Family
Chiropractic**

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Do it right the first time and save money



Kasey and Ethan learn about top quality mattresses available at Cox Warehouse Discount Furniture.

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.



Offering the best insurance value to our customers



Jordan McPherson explains the various insurance plans offered by East Coast Agency to Kasey and Ethan.

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 Kasey and Ethan 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 over 38 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 Jordan 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.



A reputation for honesty and fair dealings



Jeff Prince shows Lindsey and Andrew one of the great vehicles available at Fair Bluff Auto.

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.

Jeff Prince is proud of Fair Bluff Auto's reputation for serving car buyers for so many years. But he also knows 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 appreciate the way you're treated at Fair Bluff Auto. Give them a visit soon!

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Farm Bureau agents understand the financial decisions newlyweds face



Ben Worthington explains to Julianna and Zack the importance of protecting a growing family with insurance and financial planning.

Since 1955, Whiteville Farm Bureau has been serving and supporting families and agriculture businesses in our area.

Agent Ben Worthington can assist you with your insurance needs.

Offering excellent customer service, the Whiteville 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 Whiteville 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 Whiteville Farm Bureau is the best investment couples can make for their future, their family and business.



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Mike talks with Kasey and Ethan about the quality meat selection offered daily at affordable prices.

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Rustic Farm Wedding Venue



Located on the edge of 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 and the open air pavilion overlooks ponds and horse pastures. Contrasting elements make this the perfect setting for any wedding or event.

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- ◆ Rustic Charm
- ◆ Equestrian Elegance
- ◆ Country Western

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A wealth of knowledge about the local real estate market



Ricky Harrelson, Broker, talks with Julianna and Zack about some of the beautiful homes available through J Ray Realty.

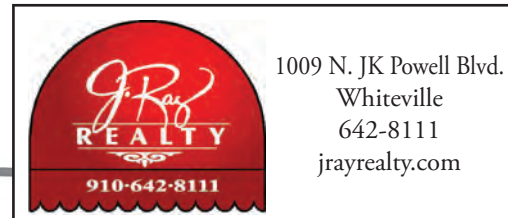
Choosing a real estate professional can be one of the most important decisions a couple makes. It's imperative to make sure that the realty company you choose has the experience and the know-how to help with perhaps your most important purchase.

The staff at J. Ray Realty have 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 or ethics 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."

In 2018, Jackie bought out the local Century 21 Pro Realty business. J. Ray Realty has 4 experienced brokers ready to assist you with the purchase of your primary residence or second home at the beach or lake. 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. The Real Estate company voted 'BEST REAL ESTATE AGENCY,' four years in a row by the fine people of Columbus County.



Dress the groom with the best service, selection and price



Ricky Leinwand and Adam Jordan show Lindsey and Andrew several tuxedo and suit options for him and his groomsmen.

Finding what to wear on the big day can be difficult, but for 88 years, Leinwands of Elizabethtown has helped to make the experience the best it can be. Fourth generation owner Ricky Leinwand offers tuxedo rentals for any occasion and suit purchases for weddings, along with men's, ladies' and children's clothing and shoes to suit your big day, or any day.

Find brands including Peter Millar, Michael Kors and Tommy Hilfiger for more formal options, along with Under Armour, Duck Head, Hey Dude, Yeti, Southern Tide and Johnnie O for more casual clothes and accessories. While you're there, you also can check out the 511 tactical gear and hunting clothes.

Unlike other retailers, Leinwands offers more than 400 brand names, free one-hour alterations, a price match guarantee, plus four generations of outstanding customer service.

Don't miss out on the selection at Leinwands before finalizing grooms' and groomsmen's clothing for the big day. Leinwands guarantees the best selection, prices, service, and brands, and even offers newly married couples and groomsmen 20% discount for up to 30 days after the big day. Leinwands is conveniently located in Downtown Elizabethtown at 132 West Broad Street.



Make memories at The Liberty Center



Lindsey and Andrew tour The Liberty Center to see the many possibilities that the space offers.

Whether you're looking for a traditional wedding reception or a unique and creative shower, The Liberty Center's dedicated staff will work with you to create a truly unforgettable event.

The Liberty Center is conveniently located at 305 Liberty St., near U.S. 74-76 and U.S. 701 in Whiteville.

We offer a variety of options to make your dream day a reality while fitting your budget and personal needs.

Measuring approximately 2,500 square feet, The Liberty Center includes a large assembly room with double windows, wall-to-wall low-pile carpet and no columns or obstructions. The facility includes a large kitchen with a wide serving counter. Tables and chairs, which are available for rent, can be configured in a variety of ways, including banquet style and assembly style.

Plentiful, off-street parking surrounds The Liberty Center, which is located in an attractive, low-traffic professional neighborhood.

If you're looking for an ideal venue for your bridal shower or wedding reception, The Liberty Center is the perfect choice. Contact us today to learn more about our services and to schedule a tour. E-mail LibertyCenter@NRColumbus.com or call Business Manager Carol Lawlor at 910-642-4104, ext. 2730.

LIBERTY
Center

Personal attention and excellent service at McNeill's Pharmacy



Pharmacist, Tom Owens talks with Lindsey and Andrew about 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 the 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. Our new drive-thru window makes pick-up easy and fast.

Stop in for a variety of 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.

McNeill's
Pharmacy
North Carolina's Oldest Pharmacy

612-4 Jefferson St.
Whiteville
642-3009

A Department Store with Cash to Loan...



Brian Murphy, owner and manager, shows Lindsey and Andrew some of the quality guns 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.

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, 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

Become part of our family and share life's celebrations



Kasey and Ethan sharing their life's celebration with Jennifer and Ron.

Pizza Village opened on April 19, 1982 and has been serving families ever since. Our customers become family, and we share in their life's celebrations!

We are locally owned and operated by Jennifer Burleson Hall and Ronald David Ward and formerly owned by Pete Padrick.

Pizza Village takes pride in the fact that they make their own sauces and dough. "We work hard daily to provide the freshest cut salad bar in town. We aim to please and try to go out of the way to please everyone."

Come join us for lunch and dinner and become part of the Pizza Village family!

Open Tuesday-Thursday from 11-10, Friday 11-11, and Saturday 4-11.
We are located at 1311 South Madison Street in Whiteville, NC 28472.
Phone: 910-642-5812

PIZZA VILLAGE

701 Bus. • Whiteville • 642-5812

"Established 1982"

Hometown service for all your special events



Platinum Entertainment & Party Rentals can create a beautiful setting for your wedding reception or any other special event.

Platinum Entertainment & Party Rentals provides services relatively new to Columbus County. It is a unique business that offers a lot of variety for your social events.

Bill Gore III founded Platinum Entertainment & Party Rentals in 2004, with a goal of bringing high quality and affordable party equipment to the people of Columbus County and the surrounding areas.

Now, Platinum Entertainment & Party Rentals is a full service entertainment and party rental business, offering the area's largest selection of party and event equipment. Gore has tents from small, intimate sizes to those that will seat several hundred people. He can provide tables, chairs, linens, staging, concession equipment, and even event venues.

If you have a wedding, reunion, birthday party or any other special event coming up, let Platinum Entertainment & Party Rentals help make it an occasion to remember. You can count on them to give your order the individualized attention that the out-of-town companies can't. They will work with you to plan your event details to suit your specific needs and to stay within your budget. You'll be pleased with the service, which will leave you relaxed and refreshed to enjoy your special event with your guests.

**PLATINUM
ENTERTAINMENT
& PARTY RENTALS**

Bill Gore, Owner • 914-0400

Family Owned and Operated



Evan Britt with Lindsey and Andrew displaying the beautiful engagement ring purchased at Ray's.

Ray's, Inc. Furniture and Jewelry is a small-town, family owned business located in downtown Elizabethtown. The friendly folks at Ray's will be happy to help young couples with the purchase of their engagement and wedding rings, and furniture for their new home together. Or, if you have been married a while, let Ray or Evan help you with a perfect anniversary gift.

The store offers quality jewelry at discounted prices, including diamond rings, earrings, necklaces, watches and more. Their customers can save up to 50% or more off of retail prices. Ray's carries a large selection of name brand furniture and bedding. Plus, they offer custom framing for photos, diplomas, certificates, awards, and more.

When you want a positive purchasing experience in a friendly, family owned atmosphere, look no further than Ray's, Inc. Furniture and Jewelry.

Ray's, Inc.
**FURNITURE
AND JEWELRY
LIQUIDATORS**

209 W. Broad St. Elizabethtown, NC
910-862-2586

Farm Fresh Produce For Five Generations



Jerry Robinson shows Lindsey and Andrew the variety of produce, plants and products they offer.

The Robinsons have been serving the Carolinas for over 40 years with farm fresh produce. Our passion for agriculture continues today as Jerry Robinson operates Robinson Produce Farms with his wife Patrica, two daughters, Lauren and Megan, and his five grandchildren.

The Robinson family is dedicated to supplying farm fresh produce to local and neighboring communities year round. They are open 8:30 am - 6:30 pm, 7 days a week to conveniently serve their customers.

They are proud members of "Got to be NC Agriculture", the NC Strawberry Association and the Watermelon Association.

They also sell a wide variety of wood barns and metal buildings.

Follow us on Facebook and Instagram for sales and updates on our products!



607 North J.K.
Powell Blvd.
Whiteville, NC
910-640-1288

It's like getting a letter from home



Julianna and Zack can keep up with what's going on in Columbus County by reading *The News Reporter*.

Subscribing to *The News Reporter* is the best way to stay in touch with your community. You deserve the most trusted, comprehensive coverage of Columbus County. Not only do the news stories keep readers informed, but the advertisements help you make decisions about where you shop and do business.

And if you live outside of the county, having *The News Reporter* delivered to your home is like getting a long letter and photographs from home. Utilize the All-Access subscription which includes print and digital access to keep on top of all Columbus County news between issues of *The News Reporter*. Dive into all our reporting linked from our e-mail newsletter and social media.

Make sure that a subscription to *The News Reporter* is among the "must haves" for your new home, whether it's here or in another area.

The News Reporter

305 Liberty St., Whiteville
910-642-4104 • NRcolumbus.com

Customer Satisfaction is our Mission



Scott Washle, owner of Columbus County's newest new & used auto dealership, Town & Country Chevrolet, GMC shows Kasey and Ethan the expanded inventory.

Customer satisfaction is our mission. Scott has a large selection of new Chevrolet and GMC trucks and cars in inventory as well as clean, reliable, low mileage vehicles.

Our experienced sales staff can help you find the perfect vehicle for each customer.

Expanded inventory, low pressure sales consultants and service after the sale lets Town & Country stand out.

Our service department will take care of your automotive maintenance and service from oil changes to major repairs with unmatched skill and genuine brand parts.

Town & Country can make your next purchase easy with selection, easy financing and service.



363 Vinson Blvd., Whiteville
910-642-2400
townandcountrychevrolet.com

The best bank in town since 1872



Kristina Sinkler talks with Lindsey and Andrew about the numerous custom banking packages and checking accounts that Truist offers.

One of the most important decisions newlyweds make is how they will handle their financial needs, and that's where Truist can help. Building on a tradition of excellence in community banking that stretches back to 1872, Truist 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 Truist 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.

Truist 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 Truist online banking, your check card that doubles as your ATM card, Truist Phone 24, Travel Points and many other services.



Know the people you buy your vehicle from



Stephen Underwood shows Julianna and Zack one of the vehicles available at Vann Underwood Chrysler, Jeep, Dodge, 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 46 years and has been the local Chrysler, Jeep, Dodge, RAM dealer for 21 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, 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.



You can count on us to care



Ben Sauls offers his friendly personal service to Kasey and Ethan.

When you need it the most, pharmacist Ben Sauls and the friendly staff at Village Prescription Center in Lake Waccamaw make sure your pharmacy needs are met with personal attention and outstanding service.

Village Prescription Center offers convenience and low prices on much more than prescription services. They carry a complete selection of over-the-counter medications, braces, gifts, greeting cards and snacks and serve as a Fed-Ex shipping and drop-off location. A "\$1" value section includes makeup, school supplies, and many household items such as soap, plates and detergents.

As newlyweds and as your family grows, find your hometown pharmacy at Village Prescription Center in the Hills Shopping Plaza at Lake Waccamaw. Their hours are Monday-Friday 9:00 am – 6 pm and Saturday 9:00 am – 1:00 pm.



An atmosphere that is second to none...



Julianna and Zack at Vineland Station

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.

Vineland
STATION
642-3157

Learning to plan for your financial future



Julianna and Zack trust the importance of planning their financial future with W Greene PLLC.

Wade and Lorna Greene (both CPAs) have over 50 years of combined experience and provide outstanding service at a competitive rate. They are easy to deal with and provide personal one-on-one service.

We are readily available for our clients either by phone or in person. We provide personalized service for all clients.

We can help newly married couples understand the importance of planning for their financial future, as well as guide them in all aspects of merging assets, wealth that is accumulated during marriage and how to structure financial accounts and tax preparation.

The primary services our business offers include tax planning and preparation, accounting and payroll services. Audit and assurance services, estate and trust planning, litigation support and forensic accounting are also offered.

We are located at 251 Washington Street, in Whiteville, N.C. 28472

W GREENE
— PLLC —
251 Washington Street, Whiteville, NC 28472
P: 910.207.6564 • F: 910.207.6519



Nestled in the heart of downtown Tabor City, NC and only 30 minutes from North Myrtle Beach, SC is a one hundred year old historical boarding house/restaurant that has been renovated into a premium wedding venue. Whether you are having a wedding, shower, quinceanera, reception, reunion or birthday let The Todd House host your unique experience. Stay in one of the four guest suites of this historical house, serve plated dinners in the 250 capacity banquet hall, enjoy a cocktail while walking through the exquisite landscaped courtyard by the fountain, sit on one of the three porch areas, play lawn games under the string lights on the patio, dance the night away under the stars, or enjoy the flexibility of rehearsal and cocktails in the indoor/outdoor climate controlled Carriage House.



The Todd House has an expansive space that is versatile enough to optimize everything regardless of the weather

Four large overnight suites | Private parking | Landscape Courtyard & Fountain | Two stone fireplaces |
 Outdoor Veranda covered in string lights | Two covered porches | Arbor | Carriage House for 150 | Covered
 Patio | Banquet Hall for 250 - tables & chairs included | Bridal Suite | Grooms Room | Parlor/ Family Room |
 Two built in bars | Handicap Accessible

Contact Pam Y. Byrd, manager for a tour 910.625.7974 | Allen & Jenni Strickland, owners
102 Live Oak St., Tabor City, NC