

TENNESSEE VALLEY

# Brides

2024

## THE MORE YOU SEW

Toni Samuel shares wedding dress know-hows brides need

## WHAT to LOOK FOR in YOUR ENGAGEMENT RING

## MAKING a PLAN

Wedding planners find purpose in easing the way for brides



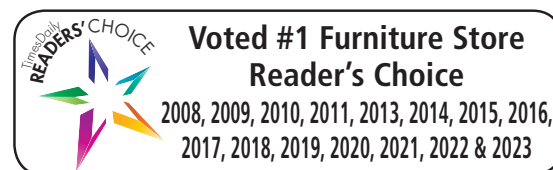
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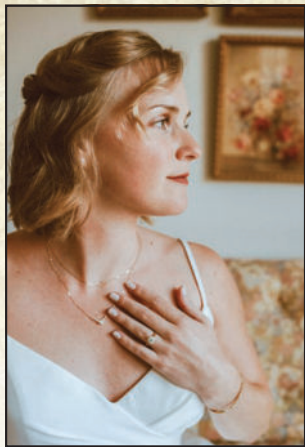


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**Tennessee Valley Brides Magazine is in its 13th year this year, and it is filled with beautiful brides, their celebrations and some tools of the trade that will help future brides-to-be make their wedding day a success.**

My own wedding took place in June of 2022 — nearly two years ago — at Pickett Place in Florence. A few days after my Christmas Eve 2021 engagement, my now-husband and I went from receiving congratulations to questions. Had we set a date? Where would the wedding be? How many people did



we plan to invite? Had I looked at dresses? That's just to name a few.

We did the only thing we knew to do — make a list.

The aspect of planning that felt most high stakes was choosing our photographer. We wanted someone who could capture our day — and us — in a way that felt natural, but finding the person who understood who we are and had the style we liked within our budget felt tricky. Luckily, even the photographers we met who were not quite the right fit were willing to offer suggestions for others, and we found our perfect person, Makenzie Neely of Neely Creative.

While we chose to plan on our own without the help of a professional, my dear best friend and maid of honor stepped in to act as coordinator the day of the wedding — and we would have been lost without her gift of planning, organization and management.

Having someone by your side who can relieve pressure and handle snap decisions is a must for a bride — and groom — and speaking with Blair Garner about her planning services made me realize

how versatile wedding planning services are.

Overall, the process was easier than we anticipated, and in many instances, the vendors we met along the way gave us ideas and items to add to our checklist we would have never otherwise considered. In fact, we learned quickly that the individuals who work in the wedding industry in the Shoals area are some of the greatest, most helpful folks around.

Each was eager to provide pointers, offer expertise, give encouragement and troubleshoot issues up to and including small hiccups the morning of our big day, and with their help and guidance, we successfully completed our planning and were married almost six months to the day after our engagement.

I realized after our wedding that I had been ushered into the successful wedding planning club — a group that reminds brides to enjoy every moment of the process, because it goes by quickly.

The fact is, the planning process does fly by, as all the beautiful brides featured in these pages would share.

Too often, the stress of completing the planning checklist prevents brides from being fully present throughout their entire engagement.

I hope that our focus on a few helpful aspects of planning along with our featured brides and their beautiful weddings serve as an inspiration and aid for future brides to make planning their big day a breeze.

I hope you all enjoy this year's edition of Tennessee Valley Brides.

~Alyssa Sutherland



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# Brides 2024



## On the Cover

**12**  
Meredith McCanless and  
Andrews Owen were married  
April 15, 2023

**22**  
**Making a plan**  
Wedding planners find  
purpose in easing the  
way for brides

**27**  
**What to look for in  
your engagement ring**

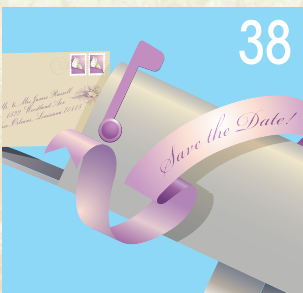
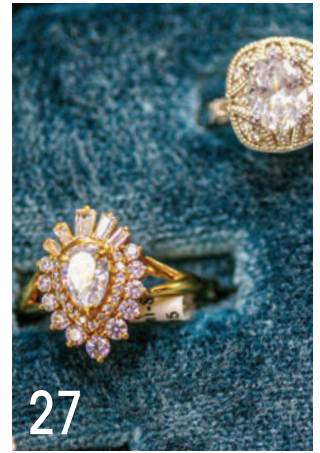
**31**  
**The more you sew**  
Toni Samuel shares wedding  
dress know-hows brides need

**36**  
**Your wedding  
countdown  
checklist**

**38**  
**When to mail**  
When to send save the dates  
and invitations

## Celebrations

**39**  
**Local Brides**  
Wedding stories



WELCOME LETTER p. 4 • STAFF p. 8





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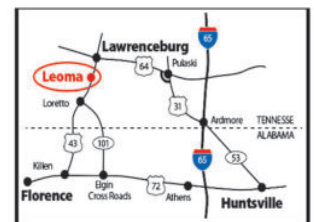
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# *On the Cover*

Photos by REBEKAH PHOTOGRAPHY

*Meredith McCannless : Andrews Owen*

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# From the Plains to the Park

*Turning a popular Shoals' spot into the perfect place for a reception*

Story by ALYSSA SUTHERLAND

Meredith McCanless and Andrews Owen met on the Plains while both studied at Auburn University. When she was a sophomore and he was a junior, they found themselves in the same friend group, and after a few friendly interactions, Meredith asked her future husband to be her date for her sorority's winter formal.

She said the rest is history.

"We texted a little over Christmas break while we were both back home — I was in the Shoals and he was in Atlanta," she said. "We didn't officially start dating until April of that year, but we were together from the formal on."

After Andrews Owen graduated from Auburn, he moved to Atlanta while Meredith remained in school for a year. Once she graduated, she moved to Atlanta, too. While the couple was not officially talking about marriage, Meredith said she knew everything was right.

"I knew he was the one when I couldn't picture doing anything in life without him — when I'd think about future moments, I always pictured him being here, and he felt the same," she said.

In March 2021, on one of the coldest days on record for the month, Andrews took Meredith to his Atlanta country club to propose. Meredith said when the couple arrived, everything was super quiet, and her

beau seemed nervous, so she felt like a proposal was on the horizon.

"I remember it was super windy, and we were having snow flurries in March, which is unheard of," she said. "He planned to propose outside at one of his favorite spots, but the weather made him move it inside."

"It was perfect, and I was totally surprised by my ring and the fact that he got it from a family friend in Florence — he got my mom and sister involved for that."

According to Meredith, her family has been close to Patty Klos, the owner of Parker Bingham Jewelers, for many years. When Andrews decided to propose, he asked Meredith's mom and sister to go to the store and help him choose a ring.

"They knew the cut that I had always wanted, and they went and sent him lots of pictures," Meredith explained. "It was the best surprise to know he got the ring from Florence from someone we know and love."

After five years of dating, Meredith was ready to be engaged and so excited to begin planning their big day. The first thing the couple did was choose a date (April 15, 2023) because they wanted to make sure all their folks had plenty of time to save the date. April is also a significant month for Meredith, because it is the month her parents were married, too.

Then it was time to plan.

Meredith did not always have a clear picture of her future wedding while growing up, but she did know that when she pictured the big day, she envisioned being surrounded by family, friends and loved ones.

"There were so many faces I pictured being there, and I always used that as my focus," she recalled. "Of course, I did love looking at pictures on Pinterest and Instagram for inspiration, but I didn't have some big plan."

Instead, Meredith said things began to fall into place with the help of loved ones and her Huntsville-based wedding planner, Shoals' native Faith Woods.

"We basically did consultation hours with Faith — she was recommended by a family friend, and because she's from the area, she was very familiar with venues and vendors here," Meredith explained. "She was a great resource and so thoughtful — we consulted with her along the way about how we would layout our reception, and she just helped us think through the planning process and a lot of little details and logistics you don't think about if you've never planned a wedding or been part of planning one before."

"She was also our fulltime touchpoint the weekend of the wedding."

One aspect of the wedding where Meredith said Woods





Meredith and Andrews Owen met while they were attending Auburn University. Meredith asked Andrews to be her date for her sorority's winter formal, and the rest is history.





Meredith said she wasn't 100% gung-ho on having an outside wedding, but it ended up being "a beautiful, sunny day."

provided a lot of help had to do with the reception location, which was uniquely held on the green space at McFarland Park.

"My family is from the Shoals, and my parents were driving past the park one day and just stopped and had this idea to do a really large tent right by the river there," Meredith said. "I was hesitant at first — I wasn't 100% gung-ho about doing an outside wedding and just couldn't visualize how it could come together."

While Meredith's parents thought the location was

ideal due to the large number of guests the couple planned to invite to their wedding and reception, she couldn't imagine how they could turn a tent by the river into an ideal space for a reception, and she said a place like a public park presents a unique set of challenges.

"Weather was a huge TBD the entire time we were planning — I told my parents the tent needed to be fully enclosed, so I didn't have to see it in case it was raining or anything — but it ended up being a beautiful, sunny

day," Meredith said.

Additionally, she said they had to get creative to overcome obstacles like power supplies, kitchens for catering, and restrooms — though McFarland has public restrooms, they were a ways away from the tent, and did not have ideal conditions for well-dressed wedding guests.

"We had to think about expanding the existing power bank, and we ended up bringing in restroom trailers that had AC and were well-lit so they could be closer to the tent," Meredith explained. "And most venues will have



a built-in bar and a kitchen area, but we ended up setting up a catering tent and bringing in coolers.”

As planning continued, Meredith realized McFarland was indeed a perfect spot for their wedding reception.

“The river and lakes in the Shoals area are such a big part of the beauty here, and it was a really nice touch and a great space to celebrate,” she said. “Plus, the tent was fully customizable, which ended up being incredible and felt like a real space.”

Meredith chose neutral décor for the tent, utilizing bamboo chairs, white tablecloths and white flowers with pops of pale blue and plenty of greenery. She elected to use Lola’s Gifts & Flowers, which was another special, sentimental touch to the day.

“Carl [Casiday, owner of Lola’s] is a great family friend, and he actually did

The wedding reception was held at McFarland Park.



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the flowers at my parents' wedding," Meredith said. "He remembered everything about the flowers he did for my mom, and it was so special to be able to use Lola's as well."

According to Meredith, all the local vendors utilized for the wedding felt like the perfect match, and she said that in most cases, they were individuals who had long been a part of her family's life — something that made the big day, when it arrived, feel incredibly special.

The eve before the wedding, Meredith and her bridesmaids retired to the Stricklin Hotel after her Pickett on Court rehearsal dinner. They spent the next day getting ready in one of the event spaces the hotel offered.

"The time we spent getting ready was one of my favorite parts of the whole day," Meredith emphasized. "We just hung out, listened to music and told stories."

Once the bridesmaids were ready, the ladies took a short bus ride to Trinity

Episcopal Church, Meredith's church home during her childhood and the location of the ceremony.

"I had the church decorated with really neutral, white flowers — I did Lily of the valley, which is very dainty, roses and peonies," she said. "Once we were there, I got dressed in my dress, which was just perfect."

Meredith found her dress at Mandi Jackson Bridal in Atlanta where the owner just happened to see Meredith, her mom and her sister while they shopped and commented on how cute they were.

"She asked if we happened to be shopping for a wedding dress and invited us in even though she was closing," Meredith said. "She helped me pick out my dress, and I did a little customizing on it."

"I really, really loved my dress. It was one of my favorite parts of the planning process and the day as well."

Once in her picture-perfect dress, Meredith had a first

look with her fiancé before they proceeded to the ceremony.

"Our ceremony wasn't very long — probably about 30 minutes," Meredith said. "Then, we got on a bus while everyone headed to McFarland."

As soon as the newly named Owens arrived at the park, the couple boarded a small boat captained by a friend.

"I actually saw a picture on Instagram of a bride who did a ride after her ceremony, and I thought it would be a really special touch and a way for us to have a moment together after the ceremony — plus seeing our guests from the river would be fun," Meredith said. "We ended up having our little private dinner on the boat while we went on a short cruise."

"It was such a peaceful experience and perfect way to just chill out before the reception."

When the couple arrived back at the marina, the guests were prepped and ready for their arrival and first

Meredith said the time getting ready for the wedding was one of her favorite parts of the day.





dance, and from there, the party kicked off.

"Our big thing was making sure it moved along quickly," Meredith explained. "We wanted to make sure the food was ready and the band was ready to play as soon as people got there so that nobody got bored or anything."

Meredith described the band, Not Your Average Party Band, as a "fantastic, super-engaging and very fun band," and she said they did a great job keeping guests entertained and energized throughout the night until finally, the night ended with a bang.

"We had the park until about 10 or 11, and then we had fireworks," Meredith said. "They were such an amazing send off and a great surprise for our guests at the end of the night."

For their exit, Meredith said they gave all the guests



Meredith and Andrews Owen walk down the aisle as man and wife after being wed inside Trinity Episcopal Church.

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Auburn shakers — “we have about a million shakers left over,” she laughed.

As she reflected on her wedding day, Meredith said that her one piece of advice to future brides would be to try to enjoy every single second.

“It feels like a long time, but the planning goes by so quickly, so take the time to enjoy the process,” she expressed. “Also, focus on what’s important to you and your future husband and make those things a priority.

“Try to take in spending time with loved ones — it’s going to be the best day of your life no matter what, so try to enjoy it and take it all in.”



Meredith's one piece of advice to future brides is to enjoy every single second.





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# MAKING a PLAN

## *Wedding planners find purpose in easing the way for brides*

by ALYSSA SUTHERLAND

Blair Garner, owner of Blair Bear Weddings & Events and Master Certified Wedding Planner, has been involved in event planning for most of her life. With a mother who worked in design and a brother who entertained at parties, she said her family was always involved in putting on events.

"One of my very first jobs was at a yacht and country club in Florida, and I learned a lot about hosting events there," she explained. "I had helped with plenty of weddings, but I did my first one before I was certified around 2008.

"I think people were shocked that I knew as much as I did and could handle all the aspects of it — I surprised myself as well."

Garner then became a certified wedding planner, and in 2020, she returned to school for her master's degree to become Master Certified.

Now, her business offers planning packages that serve brides who need any level of planning help to prepare for their big day.

### **The Purpose of a Planner**

Every bride should have a planner, even if it is just a short-term coordinator, according to Garner.

"I always tell clients — and their mothers — that my job is to educate on what's out there and help you

get what you want without stress," she said. "I tell them marriage is like setting sail on a life-changing adventure, and before you set out, you must prepare the ship for sea, so you need a seasoned captain who will take charge of the navigation and crew, make sure the ship is seaworthy and prepare you for the journey."

According to Garner, few local event centers have full banquet staff, which means the wedding venue will likely be unable to provide brides with the amount of help they need to make their wedding day exactly what they want it to be.

Garner stressed that many brides believe that a planner will either add too

much expense to the overall wedding cost or will fail to give them any control over their big day.

"The truth is that planners are only there to assist you, make sure you get all of your wants and needs and execute everything for you," she said. "And when you hire a planner, the planner can actually save you money, because planners have the time to negotiate with vendors on your behalf, and they also know which vendors to hire for your specific needs."

### **Planner vs. Coordinator**

Garner said another common misconception is that a wedding coordinator is a "day-of" job.

"You don't really want to hire someone the week before your wedding and say, 'here's everything I want you to do,'" she said. "There really needs to be a meeting 4 to 6 weeks before, then they function in a management role during your wedding day."

Coordinators generally meet with clients twice before a wedding and come in for about 7 to 8 hours on the wedding day to tie together all the loose ends. While this sounds like a lot of time, Garner emphasized that when the length of the ceremony and reception are accounted for, it only leaves about an hour for the

Blair Garner has been a certified wedding planner since 2008.



Courtesy Photo



coordinator to assist with set up.

Garner said that after an initial meeting, coordinators will help create a floor plan and timeline, then meet the vendors, put out fires, and assist on the wedding day.

"A coordinator is for the couple that wants to plan their wedding and can handle it all but wants a little help getting to the finish line," Garner said.

Alternatively, a planner is someone who both coordinates and plans based on the wishes of the bride and groom.

"A planner will spend more time with the clients, and planning is much more hands-on," said Garner, who offers both services. "They're

with you through everything, and they have the time to be there for the hours of set up and help with all the details you want."

#### The Hiring Process

Garner said that while everyone's needs are different, the wedding planner should be booked before any other details are chosen for a wedding.

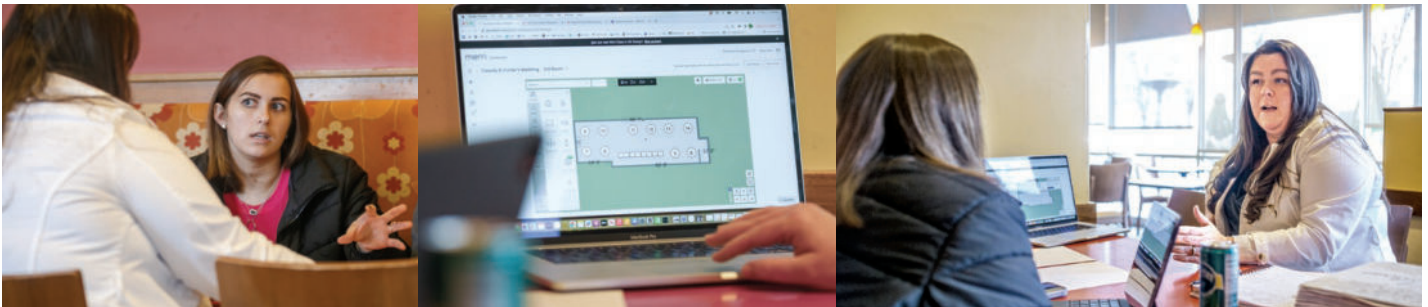
"A lot of times, brides will come to me and say, 'I've already booked my venue,'" she explained. "The issue is, they often have no idea what actually comes with the venue, so then we have to go have a site visit and find out what they really offer."

#### Planning the Big Day

Once a planner is booked,

Garner said that brides will sit down and discuss their wants and needs. From there, she begins making suggestions. She said planners can help with things like finding a photographer that best suits the style of the bride and groom, and they can work well within any budget.

"We're where you're going to get the bulk of your information — we can tell you which venues are going to meet your needs, be good for your style and the time of year, and even provide information about who will require an additional cleaning fee," she said. "We will go on site visits, talk it out and I'll provide a lot of suggestions — but then the



Garner said planners do their very best to help a couple save money while planning their special day.





bride and groom will make their final decisions based on what they want.”

Once a venue is selected, Garner said they begin to build a timeline and floor plan that can be tweaked over time. Then, she begins to research and negotiate all the vendors a couple wants or needs that fall within their budget.

“I give them tons of checklists, including one that has to do with flowers,” Garner said. “I can tell them which flowers are going to be in season, because

in-season flowers will be cheaper than those that are out of season, and I can also tell them which florists will have the flowers they want.”

When it comes to décor, Garner said she utilizes 3-D software to create floor plans and layers the décor on top.

“This allows the bride to visualize how it’s going to feel to walk into the room and lets them see how much space they really have,” she said.

If a bride is undecided on colors or wedding theme, Garner creates mood boards

to help them see options based on what she has learned about the couple.

Garner indicated that when brides book full-service planning, she is with them from beginning to end, especially helping the day of the wedding so that brides do not have to worry about any small details.

“I’m there to make sure the candles for the reception are lit during the ceremony, the music is playing when guests begin to arrive, and even to help handle tricky family situations,” she said.



Garner said when brides book her for full-service, she is with them from beginning until the end so the bride doesn't have to worry about the small stuff.



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"You have to know how to be a master of all trades — to do a lot of things and juggle — and you have to be flexible."

According to Garner, unless a bride and groom have an extra 15 hours a week to dedicate to wedding planning, hiring a planner

will make their wedding and planning experience much easier.

"Even if you think you can't afford one, a planner can always customize a package for you and create something that works," she said. "A planner is the leader that makes sure everything is

tied together and working as smoothly as it can.

"I'm a helper by nature, and when you get the appreciation of your clients after serving them in a way that helps on their big day, there's nothing like it — it makes all the difference."



Garner said hiring a wedding planner makes wedding planning for the bride and groom much easier.

Courtesy Photos



# What to look for in your engagement ring

by EMMA TANNER  
Photos by DAN BUSEY

Engagements are one of the most pivotal moments to anyone's marriage journey. The central focus, aside from the couple, is the ring itself.

Shopping for a ring can be stressful for just about anyone. With countless gems and jewels to choose from, band types and settings, the options are endless -- and overwhelming.

Creative Jewelers is a Florence-based, custom-made jeweler (216 North Court St.).

The store specializes in bespoke jewelry. Customers are welcomed on a walk-in basis or through free scheduled consultations. While in a consultation, their designers use CAD-based 3D

imaging software to create a client's dream design in front of them.

Aside from custom engagement rings, they also offer lines of engagement rings, diamond pendants and necklaces, gemstone jewelry, silver jewelry, jewelry repair services and high-end handbags.

The store was founded in 1943 as The Time Shop and was changed to Creative Jewelers when now-owner Billy Hammock purchased the store in 1987. His wife Brandi Hammock is co-owner and store manager. The Hammocks married in 2012, and Brandi has worked in the store since 2013.

Before working at the store,

she managed mortgages, but didn't enjoy it as much as she hoped. Her husband invited her to come work at the jewelry store. When he became revenue commissioner of Lauderdale County in 2021, Brandi took over managing the store.

She is studying to be a Graduate Gemologist with the Gemological Institute of America, of which her husband is already certified.

"If you're a couple and you've been talking about [engagement], nine times out of ten there's a Pinterest page somewhere that you've looked at to get ideas of what you like and what you don't," Brandi Hammock said. "Maybe you'd like something



Some jewelers like Creative Jewelers and Grogan Jewelers in Florence can help design the perfect engagement ring to fit a budget.



a little different, along the same lines, but different from what everyone else has. That's kind of where we come into play."

Reference pictures are important to deciding what exact ring a couple wants. Lon Brown, owner of Florence's Grogan Jewelers by Lon, thinks that knowing what makes everyone happy is crucial to designing an engagement ring.

Grogan Jewelers opened in 1915 by the Grogan family and was later sold to the Browns in 2015. They have two additional locations, one in the Cool Springs Galleria in Franklin, Tenn., and one on Bridge Street in Huntsville.

Lon Brown, who is originally from Vietnam, has been a jewelry entrepreneur for more than 30 years. She has 25 designs available on the company's website, and more on the floor in-store. Before Grogan, she had a store called Lon Jeweler.

Brown finds it useful when couples provide a reference photo for what they like. She wants to be as accommodating as possible.

"[The man] gives me the privilege to help him find a ring he likes," she said. "I try to do it with a price that he can live with. You've got to eat after you get engaged."

While Brown knows that engagement rings are a powerful display and extremely important, she also hopes that couples don't break the bank to afford a ring.

"It gives me a good feeling to know if a young man comes in here, we ask his budget and try to work with that," she said.

Creative Jewelers have seen an increase in non-diamond engagement rings, especially with younger couples.

Brandi Hammock says she has noticed the change over the years, and has been



Most jewelers will have several different cuts and types of engagement rings available there at their store.





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doing gemstone rings since before its peak popularity. Rubies and sapphires are popular options, as they are more durable and sapphires come in a rainbow of colors. Moissanite is also a popular option, due to its similar appearance to diamonds.

Another change in favorite is the growing popularity of lab-grown in favor of naturally occurring diamonds. According to Brandi Hammock, around 60% of the market is lab-grown. Natural diamonds are more expensive. The two used to be closer in price, but lab-grown fell to a more affordable price. The new price tag became more appealing to the younger generation, so Creative Jewelers began selling them.

There are many ways a couple can scale back on the cost of a ring, and the most important thing is to know what matters most in a ring. A setting type can

be sacrificed for a nicer diamond, or a diamond can be swapped with lab-grown or moissanite for those who care less about the gem and more how it looks or are under a tight budget. Brandi Hammock's goal is to make customers as comfortable as possible when it comes to designing their ring.

Both Creative Jewelers and Grogan Jewelers have seen hidden halos appear more with younger clientele. Solitaire settings, which is just a plain band with no additional gems on it, have also been increasing. The trend may be due to budgetary restrictions. Another trend is cluster rings, which have multiple small diamonds "clustered" together.

"I think the young people today have their own taste," Brown said. "They don't pick out what my generation would pick."



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# THE MORE YOU SEW

## Toni Samuel shares wedding dress know-hows brides need

by ALYSSA SUTHERLAND  
Photos by DAN BUSEY

Toni Samuel — Mrs. Toni to those who know her — began her fashion journey at 10 years old.

"I started really liking fashion, but I knew the budget wasn't there for my tastes," she laughed. "I'm from the British Caribbean, and an aunt who lived in England came to the house and saw I had the aptitude for sewing — she was a master tailor.

"At 13, she gave me my first sewing machine, and I cut up my green blouse — the only one I had — to get the pattern. I started creating from there."

Now, Samuel is the proud owner of Victory Bridals LLC, which she initially opened in 2016 on Pine Street in Florence before moving to her current location on Darby Drive.

Toni Samuel began her fashion journey at 10 years old.



"The two dressing rooms and my sewing room are my happy place," she said as she walked through the large and ornately designed spaces.

With decades worth of experience, Samuel is an expert when it comes to alterations and wedding dress design, and she noted that there are many things a bride-to-be should consider when choosing a wedding dress and caring for it in relation to her big day.

### Finding the One

"Budget is first, but that is just a given," she explained. "She also needs to know her color, her silhouette and her size."

Samuel emphasized the importance of a bride knowing the style she wants, because there are many options to consider from sleeves to waistlines and everything in between. However, she emphasized that a dress that is almost perfect can become exactly what is desired with customizations — as long as brides know what they want.

"Consider things like

wedding theme, religious requirements and certain family opinions," she said. "But I sometimes think brides have too many people offering those opinions — she needs to be truthful to herself."

Part of the honesty Samuel said is necessary when making a dress decision is a bride recognizing her size.

"How your regular clothes fit — I want to say that a formal gown is going to fit you smaller," she said.

"I have a sizing service for customers, and often, I will measure and the psyche will tell them 'I can't be a 14.'"

"I had one bride measured and sized, and when she went and ordered her dress and brought it back to me, it was too small — she ordered a smaller size."

Samuel encourages brides to follow recommended sizing to avoid hiccups and to make sure salespeople have the expertise to properly advise brides on what to buy for certain body shapes so the dress reflects the bride at her best without needing to be completely redesigned.

"You shouldn't end up spending just as much to fix up the dress as to buy it," she said. "That just isn't right."

### Alteration Planning

According to Samuel, there is no set timeline for dress alteration, because each dress and bride is a unique case.

"With alterations, it's very hard to tell — I say 6 months before, because sometimes you have to practically remake the dress," she said. "If there's nothing but a hem and a bustle, 6 weeks in advance."

Samuel said it is important for brides to research their alteration options and ask the right questions to make sure that the seamstress they choose is proficient at working with the fabric on the dress. She also indicated that the more time provided to complete the work, the better. Brides should include bridal portraits in their timeline if they plan to have those before the wedding. If they fail to do so, the alterations may not be finished in time for the

portraits.

"I can alter a gown in a couple of days, but that's not ideal," she advised. "Dresses with lace or embellishments will take much longer than something simple."

She said it is also important for brides to bring all important accessories to any fittings they have, because shoes and shapewear will drastically change the alteration plan for the dress. At their final fitting, she suggests a bride bring whomever will help her dress on her wedding day so they can learn how to properly lace corsets, zip dresses, bustle trains and care for any additional details.

"Sometimes, brides won't want to try on the dress when they come to pick it up, but it's important that we do in case we need any additional modifications," she said.

Samuel has added backs to backless styles, sleeves to dresses that were sleeveless and frequently takes vintage dresses and modernizes them to the bride's liking.

She even has her own



Samuel said there is no set timeline for dress alteration because each dress and bride is a unique case.

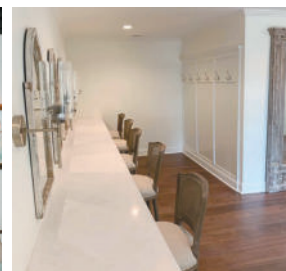






Photo courtesy of RAW Images.

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Samuel suggests that brides bring all important accessories to any fitting they have because shoes and shapewear will change the alteration plan.



custom dress line, Bygone Grace with Modern Taste, which is made from a homespun cotton fabric worn by past European queens.

When it comes to modifications, Samuel said anything is possible. Even small modifications can easily be made with the proper timeline.

"Some brides are diabetic and have a [Dexcom] device for insulin, so we make a small insert or modification for that," she said.

Samuel noted that once again, size is an important factor when it comes to alterations, but for a different reason.

"Many brides want to look their best on their big day, so they decide to lose weight," she explained. "But if you do this after you have had a fitting, the dress will not fit you when you come pick it up."

She suggested that brides

considering weight loss begin that journey early in their engagement so they can be at their desired weight when they come in for a dress fitting.

Once a bride's dress is complete and she takes it home, Samuel said it should be cared for ahead of the wedding.

"Some of these dress bags are very small," she said. "If you have a room where you can take the dress out and hang it, or perhaps drape it over the end of a bed, this will help prevent it from becoming wrinkled again."

At the very least, she suggested taking it out of the bag during the week leading up to the wedding.

On the big day itself, she said not to fret if makeup or something small leaves a mark on the pearly white.

"Just use wipes — baby wipes or Clorox — and wipe it gently to get the mark off,"

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she said. "Now, that won't work if you spill red wine — consider sticking to clear liquids in your dress!"

Even after the wedding, Samuel said brides have options when it comes to their dress. While she knows some leave the dresses hung in a closet and others give it away or sell it, preservation is also an option.

"We offer preservation services — they are organic so there are no chemicals," she said. "It takes about 10 weeks, and it comes back in a sealed box they can see inside with special gloves if you want to take it out."

Ultimately, from choosing the dress to preserving its significance, Samuel said the choice is up to each bride.

"You have to use your best judgment and planning, because you are an individual and must do what is best for you," she said.



Samuel suggested that at the very least that a bride's dress be taken out of the bag at least the week leading up to the wedding date.



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# Your Wedding Countdown ✓ Checklist



- Pick a date
- Determine your budget
- Choose the style of your wedding
- Select your wedding party
- Book your photographer and schedule engagement photos
- Start compiling guest list
- Research venues for your ceremony and reception
- Create and order Save the Dates



- Mail Save the Dates
- Research florist
- Book ceremony and reception venues
- Book officiant
- Book desired vendors
- Purchase wedding dress and veil



- Research hotels near your venue and reserve a block of rooms for out-of-town guests
- Finalize guest list
- Choose bridesmaid attire and accessories
- Register for gifts
- Book florist



- Decide on wedding cake style and flavor
- Research hair and makeup, and book a trial run and wedding day appointment
- Meet with your officiant and plan ceremony
- Start planning honeymoon!
- Choose groom's and groomsmen attire
- Book transportation to and from venue
- Purchase wedding bands
- Book rehearsal dinner venue
- Research wedding invitation design





- Order wedding invitations
- Order wedding cake
- Block honeymoon flights and hotels
- Work with florist to decide on flowers
- Plan welcome bags for out-of-town guests
- Schedule dress fittings and alterations
- Decide on a playlist (include a do-not-play list) for your DJ or band



- Finalize timeline for ceremony and reception
- Order gifts for your bridal party, parents, and for each other
- Finalize reception menu with caterer
- Order menu cards
- Order rehearsal dinner invitations



- Mail invitations
- Develop system for organizing RSVPs
- Review ceremony details with officiant
- Decide on content for programs
- Apply for marriage license
- Finalize seating arrangements
- Create a schedule for your wedding day to distribute to vendors
- Order welcome bags



- Attend final dress fitting
- Pick up wedding rings
- Confirm honeymoon reservations and pack
- Check in with vendors to confirm details
- Pick up marriage license



- Make sure everything is laid out and packed for your wedding day. (Essentials include: wedding dress, rings, and marriage license)
- Deliver welcome bags to hotels
- Get mani/pedi
- Attend wedding rehearsal and dinner
- Get your beauty sleep. Don't stay up too late!



- Eat healthy, hearty breakfast
- Give best man wedding rings and officiant fee
- Take a deep breath and relax! It is time to enjoy the day you've spent so much time planning!



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February	August	November *
March	September	January
April	October	February
May	November	March
June	November*	April
July	January	May
August	February	June
September	March	July
October	April	August
November	May	September
December	June	October

For destination and holiday weekend weddings, mail save the dates 10-12 months before the wedding date.

If not sending a save the date, mail invitations three to four months before the big day!

\*Since December is a heavy mail month and you don't want your invitation to get mixed up with holiday cards, it is recommended early February weddings mail invitations in late November and late February weddings mail invitations in early January.



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# *Local Brides*

Fallon Craigge Hester

Rebecca Parrish Barden

Karoline Hammond Cole

Whitney Watkins Claunch

Laney Davis Potts

Heather Goins Winters

Hannah Mason Carroll

Darby Rainey Coker

Megan Cook Griffin

Lindsey Killen Phillips

Kirstynn Jeffreys Hester

Alyssa Mitchell Allen

Elizabeth Presley Kelly

Natalie Flanagan Acosta

Tanya Underwood Young

Alyssa Jackle Stephens

Karley Cornelius Taylor

Kess Lanier Craft

Amy Putnam Phillips

Elaine Eckl Smith

Ashton Dennis Ruggles

Claire Pool Brown

Hunner Creel Gooch

Holli Wood McCord

Lillianne Oakley Pulkkinen

Maggie Pace Rickard

Marianna Warner Davis

Halli Hunter Smith

Emma Roberson Thigpen

Britney Jacks Bishop

Beth Jones Ranson

Charley McMullan Butler

Madison Kasmeier Moore

Alexis Taylor Elliott

Meredith Waddell Rickard

Scarlett Johnson King









Fallon Craigge and Hayden Hester were married October 7, 2023 at 5:30 in the afternoon at Bradford Farm and Venue with Jordan Abrams officiating. The reception was held at Bradford Farm following the ceremony.

The bride is the daughter of Jason and Sherrie Craigge of Muscle Shoals. She is the granddaughter of Dot Benson of Muscle Shoals, Janie Craigge of Tuscumbia, Janet Craigge and the late Hugh Craigge of Muscle Shoals, and Jerry and Linda Patrick of Killen.

The groom is the son of Jeff and Amy Hester of Petersville, and Christie and Daniel Smith of Cloverdale. He is the grandson of Charles E. and Ann Hester of Killen, Jackie Behel of Central, and Gwen Behel of Cloverdale.

The bride was escorted by her father. She wore a stunning gown of lace applique, along with matching veil and earrings, from The Something Blue Shoppe.

Maid of honor was Madison Craigge, twin sister of the bride, and matron of honor was Jerra Burden, friend of the bride. Bridesmaids were Emma Cobb, Shelby Daniel, Mallie Dover, Kira Seal, all friends of the bride; and Haley Mills, sister of the groom. Flower girls were Kensley Mills and Kylan Mills, nieces of the groom.

Best man was Bryce Palmer, friend of the groom. Groomsmen were Andrew Hinton, Briar Austin, Garrett Carter, Richard Parrish, Ryan McCain, all friends of the groom; and Lincoln Craigge, brother of the bride. Ring bearers were Lake Burden and Liam Ogle, friends of the bride.

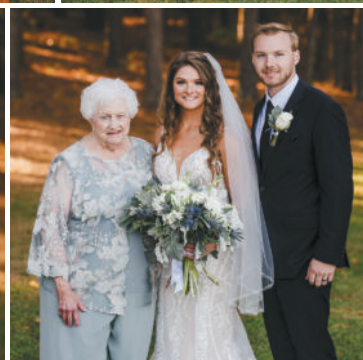
The wedding was directed by Bradford Farm staff, with floral designer Heather Sherrill creating a beautiful fall venue. Ceremony music and reception entertainment was provided by Gus Spears of Universale Events Services. The reception was catered by Southern Skillet. The wedding cake was created by The Cakery Co., and the groom's cake by Walmart, Petersville. The bride's hair was a soft, over-the-shoulder cascade created by Ashley Cassel with makeup by Lindsey Wray. Photographer Heather Sherrill of Create Portraiture captured the highlight moments of the evening in still photographs along with videographer Al Hammond. The groom's, groomsmen's and fathers' suits were from Coats Clothing.

After a honeymoon in Oahu, Hawaii, the couple is now residing in Muscle Shoals.

*"Hayden and I were high school sweethearts. During our five years of dating, our love for one another grew both individually and as a couple. I am truly blessed with the Lord's choosing of such a wonderful man as Hayden to be my husband. Our journey together has been, without a doubt, the best years of my life so far. We are eternally grateful for all of our family and friends who came to celebrate with us on our special day. Here's to #Happily Ever Hester."*

Photos by Heather Sherrill









*Parrish, Barden*





Rebecca Parrish and Sean Barden were married December 16, 2023 in a 5:00 afternoon ceremony held at First United Methodist Church, Florence with Patrick Horner, the bride's former youth pastor, officiating. The reception was held at Pickett on Court in Downtown Florence following the ceremony.

The bride is the daughter of Ralph and Suzanne Parrish of Russellville. She is the granddaughter of Harold and Peggy Myers.

The groom is the son of Terence and Jennifer Barden of Roswell, Ga. He is the grandson of James Toney and Paula Toney.

The bride was escorted by her father. She chose an Essex gown designed by Allison Webb in an eggshell matte twill with fit to flare design with delicate beaded embroidery, cuff neckline, and a removable embroidered bow. The custom made removable overskirt also contained the same beaded embroidery as the dress. The gown was purchased from Birch on Main in Huntsville.

Maid of honor was Peyton Parrish, sister of the bride. Bridesmaids were Caroline Barden, Faith Carson, Emily Clark, Sheridan Jarrells, Maggie Roberts, Stephanie Reyes, and Addie Scruggs. Flower girls were Madison Clark and Ella Ann Darwin. The bridesmaids dresses were designed by Amsale and were purchased at Bella's Bridesmaids in Homewood. The faille dresses in champagne color featured a shoulder bow detail and fit to flare skirt.

Best man was the groom's father, Terence Barden. Groomsmen were Dali Bellalouna, Sam Mesaros, Jonathan Moore, Bryson Mullins, Thomas Smith, Nick Smith, and Chase Volpi.

Wedding director was Terry Buchanan from First United Methodist Church. Floral designer was Chase Sparks of Russellville Florist. Ceremony music was performed by Eric Kirkman, and the Eric Kirkman Combo entertained guests at the reception. Southern Skillet catered the reception at Pickett on Court, and Samantha Montgomery of The Mustard Seed Bakery made the wedding cake. Frances from Shindigs & Such designed the set up and decorated the reception venue. Hair stylist and make up artist was Sophie Hardy. Photographer was Rebekah Handley of Rebekah Photography, and videographer was Awaken Films. All of the wedding invitations, custom stationery, and wedding day signs were designed and created by Frances from Ledgewood Fine Stationery. The personalized bar cups, napkins, and monogrammed hats were provided by the bride's father from Graph X Apparel for Santa to pass out to the guests.

The send off for the bride and groom was extra special. It is a tradition in the bride's family for her grandfather, Harold Myers, to transport his newlywed granddaughters from their receptions in his 1968 Firebird, which he reconstructed. Rebecca's grandparents were married in 1968, which makes the car even more special. Harold and his wife Peggy have celebrated 55 years of marriage.

For their honeymoon, the couple traveled to Fairmont Orchid on the Big Island of Hawaii. They are now residing in Atlanta, Ga.

Photos by Rebekah Photography















*"We first met in 2011 at a summer program called Alabama Governor's School that was held at Samford University. We quickly became friends but lost touch as we both went to different colleges. On a fateful day in April of 2021, a company was installing fiber in my neighborhood and accidentally cut my water line. This led to a complete flooding of my downstairs. We began communicating about this mishap and decided we should catch up. Although it had been a decade since we had seen each other, it felt like no time had passed. We dated long distance until Ryan moved to Birmingham in January of 2023. Shortly after moving, Ryan proposed at the Vulcan and I said "Yes!"*"

Karoline Hammond and Ryan Cole were married October 7, 2023 at 5:00 in the afternoon at Killen Methodist Church with Kyle Davis officiating. The reception was held at Turtle Point Yacht & Country Club following the ceremony.

The bride is the daughter of Mark and Kim Hammond of Lexington. She is the granddaughter of the late Glen and Carol Sue Hammond of Lexington, and Barbara McConnell and the late Harold and Brenda McConnell of Anderson.

The groom is the son of John and Donna Cole of Athens. He is the grandson of Margaret Cole and the late Jimmy Cole of Athens, and the late Lonnie and Ruth McDaniel of Decatur.

The bride was escorted by her father. Her Kate McDonald wedding gown and raw hem veil were purchased at Carriage House Weddings in Mountain Brook. Her mother and Grandmother Barbara took the lace off her sister's wedding gown and hand sewed the lace around the edge of her cathedral veil to create an heirloom piece that will be passed down for generations to come. She also wore her late Grandmother Hammond's diamond as a necklace. Her mother also gave her a beautiful diamond tennis bracelet the morning of the wedding. The groom surprised the bride with diamond earrings to wear the day of.

Matrons of honor were Katelyn Hendricks, sister of the bride, and Jordan Smith, friend of the bride. Bridesmaids were Emily Catt, Maggie Fancher, Anna Fikes, Taylor King, Kaley Plunkett, and Haley Williams. Flower girls were Helen Hendricks, niece of the bride, and Stella Davis. The bridesmaids wore Bella Bridesmaids dresses, and the flower girls wore dresses the bride's Grandmother Barbara made for the bride and her sister as children.

Best men were John Cole, father of the groom, and Alex Cole, brother of the groom. Groomsmen were Rob Evers, Parker Harris, Blake Matthews, Gus McKenzie, Patrick Stephens, and Blake Swicord. Ring bearer was Ezra Belue.

Guest book attendants were Evelyn Davis and Adlee Poag.

Wedding director was Cecilia Brumley, and floral designer was Cindy Harrison. The reception was catered by Turtle Point Yacht & Country Club, and the wedding cake and groom's cake were made by Lauren Thomas. Matthew Carroll Band entertained guests at the reception. Hair stylist and make up artist was Tabitha Hanson of Revelationz Studio of Hair Design. Photographer was Kristen Pugh and videographer was Awaken Films. The stationery was from Sarah O'Mary Designs. The rentals were from Party Pros, and the trolley was from Tuscumbia Depot Museum.

For their honeymoon, the couple spent a week at Secrets Maroma Beach, an all-inclusive resort in Mexico. They are now residing in Birmingham.

Photos by Kristen Pugh Photography









## *Watkins, Claunch*

Whitney Watkins and Brantley Claunch were married May 20, 2023 at 6:30 in the evening at Danclay Farms with Matt Buerhaus officiating. The reception followed at Danclay Farms.

The bride is the daughter of Greg and Anita Watkins of Florence. She is the granddaughter of Dimple Watkins and the late Jerry Watkins, the late Rayburn Hughes, and the late Ida Peeden.

The groom is the son of Pat and Kelly Claunch of Florence. He is the grandson of Kenneth and Saranne Northrop, the late Kermit Edward Claunch, and Rebecca Ann Claunch.

The bride was escorted by her father. She wore a beautiful gown from Kathleen's Bridal in Huntsville, designed by Colby John.

Maid of honor was Joy Jackson, friend of the bride, and matron of honor was Jacealyn Claunch, friend and now sister-in-law of the bride. Bridesmaids were Carlee Bennett, Olivia Harwell, Brittany Watkins, Emily Anne West, Alexis Witcher, and Hayden Neugent, all friends of the bride. Flower girl was Mia Dolan, friend of the couple.

Best men were Pat Claunch, father of the groom, and Tyler Dolan, best friend of the groom. Groomsmen were Bailey Claunch, Bryant Claunch, Raleigh Claunch, Kyle Conkle, Payton Watkins, and Brett Black. Ring bearer was Sadler Mobley, nephew of the groom.

Wedding director was Terri Brown, and floral designer was Cindy Harrison. Jill's Sweet Memories catered the reception, and made the wedding cake. The groom's cake was provided by the mother of the groom. Music for the ceremony and the reception was provided by DJ Collin Burks. Other special helpers were Trey's Balloon Bar, Bill and Traci Lovelace who provided the getaway car, and attendants Katie DePoyster and Delaney Claunch. Hair stylist was Kenzie Pope and make up artist was Savana Vinson. Photographer was Whitney Blake Photography and videographer was Awaken Films.

For the reception exit, the bride wore her mother's wedding dress, cut short.

The couple is now residing in Florence.

*"We both love to travel, but had not been very many places, so we wanted to go on a very adventurous honeymoon - one we would never forget. We first flew from Nashville, Tenn. to New York City. We decided that was a good place to explore and leave the country from. From New York, we flew to Warsaw, Poland where we only had a short layover. Then to Paris, France where we stayed for two days, then to Athens, Greece, and finally our ultimate destination - Santorini, Greece where we stayed a week. On the way back, we flew through Vienna, Austria, back to New York, and then to Nashville. We had 10 overall flights in just 10 days. Though the trip was an exhausting adventure, we had the absolute best time, and it was amazing to get to learn so much about the world together as newlyweds."*

Photos by Whitney Blake Photography









*Davis,  
Potts*



Laney Samara Davis and William “Will” Randolph Potts were married September 2, 2023 in a 6:00 evening ceremony at Danclay Farms Wedding Chapel with Matt Heupel, minister of Woodlawn Church of Christ, officiating. God provided a lovely setting for the reception at Danclay Farms Wedding Venue.

The bride is the daughter of Ken and Ann Davis of Florence. She is the granddaughter of the late Glen and Mary McFall and the late Leon and Faye Davis, all of Florence. Honorary cousin of the bride was Joan McFall of Florence.

The groom is the son of Brad and Maridith Potts of Florence. He is the grandson of Peggy Potts and the late William Potts of Florence, Randolph and Pamela Griffith of Maryland Heights, Mo., the late Julie Griffith and step-grandson of the late Charlie Mallon of Magnolia, Texas.

The bride was escorted by her father. She wore a trumpet style wedding gown from Essense of Australia with sparkling floral lace and a sweetheart neckline. Complementing the look was a cathedral cascading train, Pnina Tornai shoes, Olive and Piper earrings, and a diamond bracelet gifted to the bride by the groom’s grandmother. Sewn on the inside of the bride’s dress was a blue heart that read “he’s my something blue”. She also wore a garter made from her mother’s wedding dress.

Maid of honor was Ivy Gwin, cousin of the bride, and matron of honor was Kenzie Balch, sister of the bride. Bridesmaids were Jolie Bates, Livia Bergman, Lilly Chandler, Megan Lyons, Sara Beth Searcy, and Emma Thrasher, all childhood friends of the bride. Flower girls were Stella Balch, niece of the bride, brought down the aisle in a wagon pulled by her brother, Oliver, along with Darby Kate Cooper and Vivian Darby, both cousins of the bride. Program attendant was Kylie Rosecrans, cousin of the groom.

Best man was the groom’s father, Brad Potts. Groomsmen were Braxton Adcock, Boone Carter, Avery Thrasher, Cody Fowler, Collin Huntley, Eli McDonald, Hayden Nelson, all friends of the groom. Ring security was Oliver Balch, nephew of the bride, and Mac Cooper, cousin of the bride.

Wedding director was Terri Brown of Kiss the Bride, and wedding designer was April Gwin of Decatur. Floral designer was Justin Myrick of Jut’s Weddings and Special Events. Music for the ceremony and entertainment for the reception was provided by Soundsmith Shoals. The reception was catered by Jill Larkin of Jill’s Sweet Memories. The wedding cake was a 5-layered almond cake made by Heather Poole of Heather’s Cake Creations, and the groom’s cake was a carrot cake made by Sweet Water Bakery. A photo booth was provided by Platinum Tier Events. Hair stylist was Casey Anne of Athens and make up artist was Sadie Hood of Decatur. Vacation planner for the honeymoon trip was Michelle Adams of Key to the World Travel. Photographers were Scott Butler of Butler Studio Photography in Florence, and Josh Maddox of Maddox Studios in Graceville, Fla. Videographer was Ace Eaton of Ace Eaton Designs and Production. A cherished keepsake from the wedding was a wooden puzzle made by the groom’s father which contained pieces signed by the guests. As part of the wedding ceremony, the bride and groom joined a unity cross that will be displayed in their home as reminder of their love and commitment in marriage.

The bride and groom left the reception in a vintage police car provided by a friend of the family, Kelly Simmons. For their honeymoon, they spent eight days on the Hawaiian Island of O’ahu. They are now residing in Killen.

Photos by Scott Butler







## Winters, Goins



Heather Winters and Jeremy “Blake” Goins were married July 19, 2023 in Big Island, Hawaii with Mike Eicher officiating. The reception was held at Brown’s Beach House following the beautiful sunset beach ceremony.

The bride is the daughter of Sherry Winters and the late Frank Winters of Florence. She is the granddaughter of the late Lamon Hanback and Virgie Hanback West, and the late Roosevelt and Ruby Winters.

The groom is the son of Angie Lewis and the late Trent Lewis of Hollywood, Ala. He is the grandson of Jim Ed and Brenda Goins.

The bride wore a beautiful gown from Cherry Tree Lane. She was escorted by her brother, David Winters, along with her nieces, Abigail and Isabella Winters.

Wedding planner, director, and photographer was Dawn Eicher, who also took care of the flowers and the cake. Hair stylist and make up artist was Kassi Bissman.

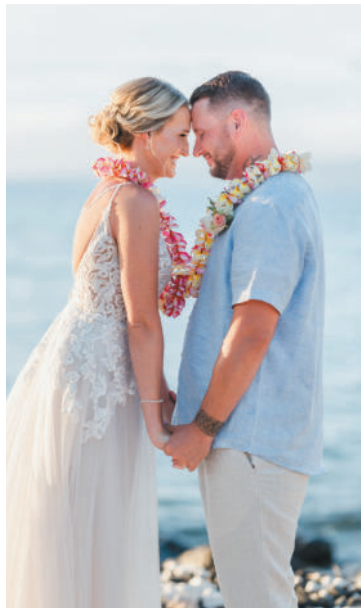
After honeymooning in Hawaii, the couple is now residing in Florence.

*“We went to Hawaii for a family trip. We had them all planning to get family pictures at sunset. They had no idea they were really showing up for a wedding. Blake and I rode with the photographer (he was blindfolded) separate from the family. The family started walking along the beach and saw Blake wondering where I was, so I sent a text to them to go where he is. Then, as I was walking down the trail I saw my family. My sis-in-law said to them, “Oh, we may see a wedding, wait that looks like your Aunt Heather, Oh it is!” My brother asked them why I was wearing a wedding dress for family pictures, before he realized why we were all there! Everyone was crying and it was a beautiful, happy surprise!*

*Also, as we were taking wedding pictures, we were accompanied by two beautiful sea turtles that came on shore!”*

Photos by Dawn Eicher Photography









## *Mason, Carroll*

Hannah Mason and Dustin Carroll were married October 1, 2023 in a 5:30 afternoon ceremony at Bradford Farm Venue with Bro. Bill Patton officiating. The reception followed at Bradford Farm.

The bride is the daughter of Eddie and Stacy Mason of Rogersville. She is the granddaughter of Doris Barringer and the late G.E. Barringer, and Donnie and Martha Mason and the late Kay Mason, all of Rogersville.

The groom is the son of Jim and Roxanne Carroll of Owens Crossroads. He is the grandson of Jack and Carol Lochran of Grant, Brian and Caroline Hadler of Homosassa, Fla., and Chester and Linda Carroll and the late Sandra Carroll of Wandotte, Mich.

The bride was escorted by her father. She chose a beautiful white gown from The Something Blue Shoppe that was originally sleeveless, but Alterations by Faith in Decatur created and added removable sleeves.

Maid of honor was Molly Mason, sister of the bride. Bridesmaids were Sarah Kelley, Taylor Moore, Brianna Stanley, all friends of the bride; and Rylee Carroll, sister of the groom.

Best man was Sebastian Hozan, friend of the groom. Groomsmen were Evan Mason, brother of the bride; Chase Howell, Cameron Miller, and Bobby Painter, friends of the groom.

Wedding director and floral designer was Heather Sherrill. Ceremony music and reception entertainment was provided by Gus Spears. The reception was catered by Southern Skillet, and the wedding cake and groom's cake were made by Sweets by Nissi. Hair stylist was Larson Belew of Looks by Larson, and make up artist was Brooklyn Hamilton of Beauty by Brooklyn. Photographer was Heather Sherrill of Create Portraiture.

For their honeymoon, the couple stayed at the Excellence Resort in Punta Cana, Dominican Republic. They are now residing in Madison.

Photos by Heather Sherrill









*Rainey, Coker*



Darby Rainey and Zack Coker were married June 17, 2023 at 5:30 in the afternoon at Danclay Farms in Florence with Greg Strickland officiating. The reception was also held at Danclay Farms following the ceremony.

The bride is the daughter of Tommy and Lori Albright of Florence, and Keith and Robin Rainey of Killen. She is the granddaughter of Sandra Mansell and the late Thomas Mansell of Florence, Lavene Rainey of Florence, the late William Daniel, and the late Ronald Rainey.

The groom is the son of Jason and Lynette Coker of Tuscaloosa. He is the grandson of Brenda Coker and the late William Coker, Bill and Nan Hardy, and Carole Chastain, all of Tuscaloosa.

The bride chose an Allure Couture strapless gown in ivory with a sweetheart bodice and a matching veil, purchased from Cherry Tree Lane. She also wore open-toed Betsy Johnson sandals embellished with pearls.

Maid of honor was Abby Kate Rainey, sister of the bride, and matron of honor was Mary Lindsay Berrens, friend of the bride. Bridesmaids were Ella Kate Coker, sister-in-law of the bride; Maggie Rickard, cousin of the bride; Hannah Martin, Rachael Alexander, Maddy McNabb, Bailee Wilson, Belle Lou Allen, Lauren Mills, Courtney Smith, and Emma Gresham, all friends of the bride. Flower girls were Charlee Mae Dison and Willa Albright, nieces of the bride, and Amelia Burroughs, cousin of the bride.

Best man was the groom's brother, Luke Coker. Groomsmen were Jason Coker, father of the groom; Taylor Clemmons, cousin of the groom; Matthew Rainey and Andrew Rainey, brothers of the bride; Hunter Alexander, Chandler Taylor, John Trousdale, Jake Walters, Cody Henry, Chandler Avant, and Holden Alexander, all friends of the groom. Ring bearer was Maverick Albright, nephew of the bride.

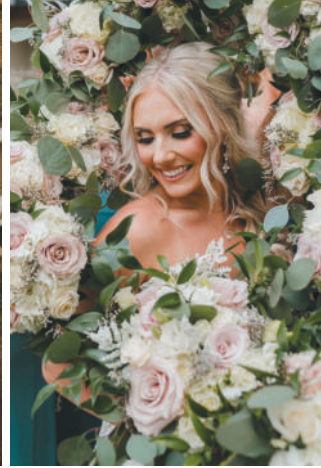
Wedding director was Kristi Sockwell and floral designer was Cindy Harrison. Ceremony music and reception entertainment was provided by Sonya and Lavale Cooper. The reception was catered by Southern Skillet, the wedding cake was made by Mimmi B's Delights, and the groom's cake was made by Cookies By the Season. Hair stylists were Ashley Cassel and Emerald Moon, and make up artist was Faith Ezzell. Photographer was Heather Sherrill and videographer was Next Stage Media.

After a honeymoon in Oahu and Maui, Hawaii, the couple is now residing in Fultondale.

Photos by Heather Sherrill









# Cook, Griffin



Megan Cook and Titus Griffin were married June 11, 2023 in a 6:00 evening ceremony held at Bradford Farms with Dennis Smith and Rudy Guess officiating. The reception followed at Bradford Farms.

The bride is the daughter of Kevin and Jennifer Cook of Tuscumbia. She is the granddaughter of Dwight and Jackie Duncan of Helena, and Barbra Cook Stevens of Clermont, Fla. and the late David Cook.

The groom is the son of Alan Griffin and Angela Griffin of Muscle Shoals. He is the grandson of Dennis and Deb Smith of Alexandria, and Martha Griffin and the late Ronald Griffin of Muscle Shoals.

The bride was escorted by her father. She wore a beautiful white gown from The Something Blue Shoppe.

Maid of honor were Lauren Cook, sister of the bride, and Marae Miller, best friend of the bride. Bridesmaids were Sierra Cook, Kristen Cook, Suzanne Cook, Trinity Cook, Christina Cook, and Hayden Cook, all sisters of the bride; Belle Long, cousin of the bride; Zoe Griffin, sister-in-law of the bride; Erin Thompson, Nikole Thompkins, Cheyenne Johnson, Lauren Dick, and Kaitlin Clements, all friends of the bride. Flower girls were Annsley Cook, sister of the bride, and Zoey Melton, cousin of the bride.

Best man was Davis McNatt, friend of the groom. Groomsmen were Ethan Duke, Alan Griffin, Sam Griffin, Zeke Griffin, CJ Wilson, Tad Sivley, Adarion Hudson, Brady Brown, Wyatt Vess, Garrett Vess, Landon Rogers, and Kingston Cook. Ring bearer was Channing Cook, brother-in-law of the groom, and Ezra Melton, cousin of the bride.

Wedding directors were Heather Sherrill and Cecilia Brumley, and floral designer was Heather Sherrill. Ceremony music and reception entertainment was provided by Gus Spears. The reception was catered by Southern Skillet and Sweetwater Bakery made the wedding cake and groom's cake. Shaved ice was provided by Miama Ice, and the marquee letters by Light It Up Shoals. Hair stylists were Taylor Churchwell and Kaylee Smith, and make up artist was Alley Cross. Photographer was Heather Sherrill and videographer was Awaken Films.

For their honeymoon, the couple went to Disney World in Orlando, Fla., and then on to Turks and Caicos. They are now residing in Florence.

*"One of the special moments from our day was during our first look, when we read notes we had written to each other the night before our wedding. The first sentence of both of our notes said we had been waiting over 2,000 days for our wedding day. We started dating when we were 15 and 17 years old, and we met at Covenant Christian School."*

Photos by Heather Sherrill









*Killen, Phillips*



Lindsey Killen and Nick Phillips were married November 19, 2022 at 6:00 in the evening at Florence First United Methodist Church with Benjamin Phillips officiating. The reception was held at Pickett Place in Florence following the ceremony.

The bride is the daughter of Brad and Keri Killen of Killen. She is the granddaughter of Rebecca Killen and the late Derrick Killen of Greenhill, and the late Chester and June Davis of Florence.

The groom is the son of Robin and Staci Phillips of Florence. He is the grandson of Diane Hall and the late Rex Hall of Florence, Tim and Tricia Hill of Birmingham, and Margret Phillips and the late James Phillips of Bear Creek.

The bride was escorted by her father. She wore a beautiful strapless satin gown from Birch on Main, altered by Diane Hall, grandmother of the groom.

Matron of honor was Morgan Suggs, sister of the bride. Bridesmaids were Sydney Holden, Anna Phillips, Cassie Dean, Ali Wadell, Savanna Phillips, Emma Cotton, Anne-Walton Mathis, Josey Williams, Hannah Curtis, Gracie Gillespie, and Faith Phillips. Flower girls were Etta Margret Killen, Jo Maeby Killen, Linley Phillips, and Logan Suggs.

Best man was the groom's brother, Zach Phillips. Groomsmen were Riley Killen, Jackson Turner, Bradley Thigpen, Austin Carter, Reese Lambert, John Tucker Wadell, Tucker Brown, Avery Moates, Raleigh Killen, and Collin Huntley. Ring bearer was Liam Hill.

Wedding director was Dawn Pettus, and floral designer was Mimi's Decor & More. Pianist Patrice Brown and cellist Dr. Moises Molina provided the ceremony music, and Drum & Drummer entertained guests at the reception. Caterer was City Limits Cafe and the wedding cake was made by Mollie Parker. Hair stylist was Molly Chapin and make up artist was Savanna Vinson. Photographer was Whitney Blake and videographer was Awaken Films.

The bride and groom exited the wedding in the bride's late grandfather's 1948 red Chevrolet convertible that many other family members have left their weddings in.

For their honeymoon, the couple cruised to the Bahamas. They are now residing in Auburn.

Photos by Whitney Blake









## *Jeffreys, Hester*



Kirstynn Jeffreys and Ethan Hester were married March 18, 2023 in a beautiful outdoor riverside ceremony held at The Riverton in Cherokee with Brent Worley, uncle of the bride officiating. The reception was also held at The Riverton following the 5:30 afternoon ceremony.

The bride is the daughter of Kirt and Kimberly Jeffreys of Tuscum-bia. She is the granddaughter of Eddie and Janet Jeffreys of Tuscum-bia, Tim and Delores Maner of Cullman, and Sam and Terry Hinkle of Cullman.

The groom is the son of Larry and Amber Hester of Tuscum-bia. He is the grandson of James and Ann Hatton of Tuscum-bia, and Wanda Jackson of Arley.

The bride was escorted down the steps by her two younger brothers, Colson and Caelton, who then passed her off to her father, who walked her down the aisle. She wore a beautiful gown from Kathleen's Bridal in Madison.

Maid of honor was Terah Gault, best friend of the bride. Brides-maids were McKenzie Wade, cousin of the bride; Abby Holland and Ellen Thorn, friends of the bride; and Abby Hester, sister-in-law of the bride.

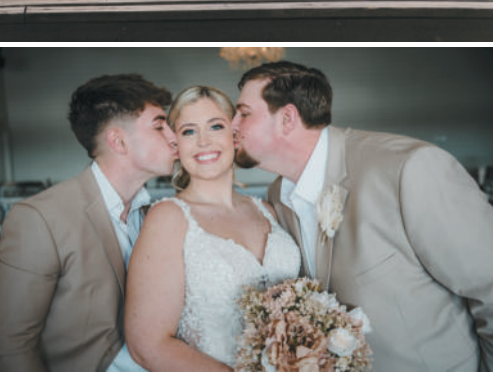
Best man was the groom's father, Larry Hester. Groomsmen were Jacob Richardson, Tyler Crowell, and Cameron Thorn, all friends of the groom; and Evan Hester, brother of the groom.

Wedding director was Becky Jones with Lynbeck Events. The ceremony flowers were designed by Becky Jones, and the bride and her mother did all the flowers for the reception. Ceremony music and reception entertainment was provided by DJ Dustin C, and the bride's grandfather Tim Maner performed "This Magic Moment". The reception was catered by Southern Skillet. The wedding cake was made by Nissi Clingan of Sweets by Nissi, and for the groom's table, there were cookies made by Monica Gatlin of Lilli O's and Beth Hester of Sugarbug Cookies. JozArt & Photography painted a picture of The Riverton scene for the bride's table. Seven Woods Designs engraved the groom's gifts. Hair stylist was Jessie Roberts and make up artist was Savana Vinson of MakeupbySavana. Photographer was April Warhurst of Bluebird Redbirds, and videographer was Al Hammond of Awaken Films. Thanks also to Deahna Jackson, who delivered lunch and tea bombs for the bridal party.

For their honeymoon, the couple spent a weekend in New Orleans, La., where they boarded a cruise ship to Cozumel and Yucatan, Mexico. The couple is now residing in Sheffield.

Photos by April Warhurst









## *Mitchell, Allen*

*"Graham and I met six years ago and immediately became friends. My faith is very important to me, and though we liked each other, he was not a believer. He was in the National Guard and had been on several deployments overseas. We had gone a few years without speaking, and he gave his life to the Lord during this time. When we spoke again, there was still a connection, but this time we both shared the same faith. We began a long distance relationship while he was still stationed in the Middel East. When he came home, we knew we wanted to get married. He proposed to me at a beautiful spot at Cane Creek Canyon Nature preserve in Tuscumbia, and of course I said yes. We joined and were both baptized together into the Orthodox Christian Faith by attending catechism classes at the Helen Greek Orthodox Chruch in Huntsville. We went through months of premarital counseling with Fr. Timothy Cremeens and then were married in a very intimate ceremony in the church. Afterwards, we enjoyed a honeymoon in Greece and took a Mediterranean cruise. We thank God and everyone who has guided and supported us on this journey."*

Alyssa Mitchell and Graham Allen were married June 3, 2023 in a 4:00 afternoon ceremony held at Holy Cross - St. Constantine and Helen Greek Orthodox Church in Huntsville with Father Timothy Cremeens officiating. The reception followed at the home of Monte and Ramona Yeager (The Yeager House) in Florence.

The bride is the daughter of Shawn and Darian Mitchell of Lexington. She is the granddaughter of Judy Mitchell and the late Ronnie Mitchell, Bill and Alice Cooper, and Ronnie and Rhonda Jones.

The groom is the son of Theresa Forrester of Anderson and the late James Allen.

Maid of honor was Mycala Mitchell, sister of the bride. Flower girls were Lily Vanhorn, Zia Vanhorn, and Everly Wilson, nieces of the couple. Best man was Daniel Croom, friend of the groom.

The reception was catered by Ricatoni's and the wedding cake was made by Breanna Eddy. Other special helpers were Monte and Ramona Yeager. The bride's wedding dress was purchased at David's Bridal. Hair stylist and make up artist was High Maintenance Salon and Spa. Photographer was Chris Truitt.

The couple is now residing in Lexington.

Photos by Chris Truitt







# Presley, Kelly



Elizabeth Presley and Blake Kelly were married September 30, 2023 at 5:30 in the evening in the Celebration Garden at the Huntsville Botanical Gardens. The ceremony was officiated by Raymond Voigt, and the reception followed in the Grand Hall.

The bride is the daughter of Stacey and Amy Presley of Florence. She is the granddaughter of the late Richard and Susan Hunnicutt of Florence, and the late James and Betty Presley of Russellville.

The groom is the son of Chris and Tammie Kelly of Killen. He is the grandson of Ted and Scharlon Pounders of Florence, Gary and Ann Glover of Killen, and Danny Kelly of Killen.

The bride was escorted by her father. She wore a beautiful white lace off-the-shoulder gown with a cathedral train and a matching cathedral length veil from Kathleen's Bridal.

Maid of honor was Ann Marie Wilson, friend of the bride. Bridesmaids were Macy Wallace, Nelly Davenport, Samantha King, Kris Warf, Elizabeth Guier, Mariah Flint, and Hannah Potter, all friends of the bride. Honorary bridesmaids were Ashley Kelly, sister of the groom, and Mikena Louterback, friend of the bride. Flower girl was Roxana Nicolás, cousin of the bride.

Best man was Bo Hooper, friend of the groom. Groomsmen were Hunter Hall, Preston Goad, Boone Carter, Will Potts, Jackson Graham, Cody Fowler, and Lane Arnold, all friends of the groom. Ushers were John Medley and Eli McDonald, friends of the groom. Ring bearer was Alex Nicolás, cousin of the bride.

Wedding director was Tammy Nicholson of Tennessee Coordinating. Floral/decor designer was Bella Petali. Music for the ceremony was provided by the Blossomwood String Trio. The reception was catered by Bubba's Silver Spoon Catering. The wedding cake was made by Caneta Hall, aunt of the bride. Instead of a groom's cake, the couple chose to have a selection of ice cream from Handel's Homemade Ice Cream in Huntsville. Entertainment for the reception was provided by City Beatz DJ for music and dancing. Ruth Oneya, wedding painter, painted a portrait of the couple and presented it to them at the end of the night. GQ Light Atmosphere provided the uplighting and Cold Spark exit. Amber Nicolás provided help behind the scenes the day of the wedding. Hair stylist and make up artist was Danielle Bobrowski. Photographer was Savanna Rutherford and videographer was Awaken Films.

The couple left the reception in a classic 1948 Chrysler New Yorker, owned by the bride's grandfather, Richard Hunnicutt. For their honeymoon, they spent 17 days in Europe visiting Milan and Lake Como in Italy, and then taking a cruise through Croatia and Greece. They are now residing in Harvest.

Photos by Savanna Rutherford









## *Flanagan, Acosta*

Natalie Flanagan and Nick Acosta were married February 25, 2023 at 5:00 in the afternoon at Bradford Farm & Venue with Nick Flanagan, brother of the bride, officiating. The reception was held at Bradford Farm following the ceremony.

The bride is the daughter of John and Jeana Flanagan of Town Creek. She is the granddaughter of Frank and Doris Crosswhite of Leighton.

The groom is the son of John Acosta of Madison, and the grandson of Katherine Acosta and the late John Acosta of Pueblo, Colorado.

The bride was escorted by her father. She chose a gown by Essence of Australia in a mermaid style featuring a high neck of lace and mesh with a long lace train. Her veil was an heirloom from her mother, stitched with both the bride's name and her mother's name, along with their wedding dates. The bride's "something blue" was the blue heart sewn into her dress presented to her by her mother.

Matrons of honor were Rainey Chapman and Jessie Duncan, friends of the bride. Bridesmaids were Morgan Fernandez and Kelsey Beth McCollister, friends of the bride; Rylie Keenum, cousin of the bride; Madison Doverspike and Delaney Doverspike, cousins of the groom. Flower girls were Harper Flanagan, niece of the bride, and Rainey Keenum, cousin of the bride.

Best men were John Acosta, father of the groom, and Ricky Fernandez, friend of the groom. Groomsmen were Jordan Acosta and Dillon Acosta, brothers of the groom; David Kemmerer, Kevin Pape, and Tim O'Neil, friends of the groom. Ring bearers were Asher Flanagan, nephew of the bride, and Cole Keenum, cousin of the bride.

Wedding director was Cecilia Brumley and floral designer was Heather Sherrill. Ceremony music and entertainment reception was provided by Gus Spears of Universal Sound. The reception was catered by Southern Skillet, and the bride and groom's cakes were made by Stacy Berryman. Hair stylist was Miranda Goodman and make up artist was Cory Nichols of Makeup by Cory. Photographer was Heather Sherrill of Create Portraiture and videographer was Awaken Films.

The couple honeymooned at Sandals Resort in Montego Bay, Jamaica, and are now residing in Athens.

Photos by Heather Sherrill









## *Underwood, Young*

Tanya Underwood and Rayfield Young were married September 23, 2023 at 4:00 in the afternoon at the Florence-Lauderdale Coliseum. Officiating the ceremony was Dr. George Granville and Pastor Jonah Williams II. The reception followed at the Coliseum.

Bride announcer was Carter King. Maid of honor was Maria Johnson and matron of honor was Daisy Thompson. Bridesmaids were Judy Underwood, Alice Jones, Shannon Craig, E. Nicole Harris, Cassandra Oakley, Joniece Underwood, Shelly Harris, and Lyria Mayes. Junior bride was Delajhia Underwood. Junior bridesmaid was Armoni Davis. Flower girls were Daehyn Underwood, Kaizlee Weeden, Kennedie Underwood, Syndie Harris, and Trinity Williams.

Best men were Wallace Young and Ricky Thompson. Groomsmen were Demetrius Underwood, Demarkus Underwood, Cornelius Underwood, Christopher Mayes, Kwyn Wynn, Bradley Oakley, Demontay Hankins, and Kerry Jones. Junior groomsmen were D'Khylen Underwood and James Foster. Ring bearer was Marcus Darby II, and wagon rider was Baby Jonah Williams III.

Hostesses were Delphia Goodloe, Terina Perkins, Monica Summerhill, Alfreda Horne, Tiffany Newsome, Latria King-Mason, Tyeisha King, Jasmine Owens, Tabitha King, Tanisha Abernathy, Essie Sherrod, Niquita Thompson, Natasha Thompson, Spencer Oakley, and Ricka Davidson.

Wedding coordinator was Kaytrina P. Simmons, assisted by Bridgett Sims. Caterer was Libby Goode and Dick Howell's Barbeque. The cakes were made by Cadetria Russell. Soloists were Kerry Jones, Crystarria Ragland, Danyell Hillman, and Catara Allen. DJs were Joel Hogans and Abe Newsome. Decorator was Sarah Haley of 256 Events. Program designer was Keri Mayes. Photographer was Gallery of Eden, and videographer was Morgan White.

Photos by Gallery of Eden









## *Jackle, Stephens*

Alyssa Grace Jackle and Henry Burns Stephens were married October 22, 2023 at 4:00 in the afternoon in an outdoor ceremony held under the pines at Bradford Farm in Town Creek. A welcome was given by the groom's grandfather, Pastor David Stephens of Florence, and Dr. John Brock, Pastor of Highland Baptist Church, Florence, officiated the ceremony and vows. A dinner and dancing reception was held in the barn at Bradford Farm following the ceremony.

The bride is the daughter of Thomas and Stephanie Jackle of Florence. She is the granddaughter of Mary Jackle and the late Tom Jackle, and Sonny and Susan Smith.

The groom is the son of Ashley and Paige Stephens of Florence. He is the grandson of Herbert Plyler and the late Marie Plyler, and David and Theresa Stephens.

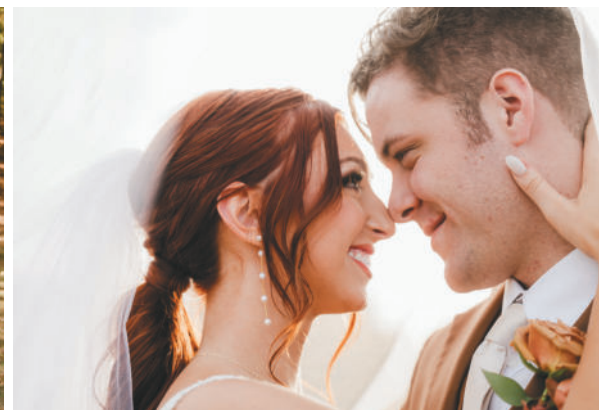
The bride was escorted by her father. She wore an intricate crochet lace mermaid dress with v-back detail from David's Bridal of Huntsville. For her "something borrowed" she wore a cathedral length veil that her mother wore on her wedding day. Her "something blue" was her mother's diamond and sapphire bracelet, and her "something new" was her shoes with custom hand crafted leather strap overlay by the Stampede Shop of Zip City. For the reception, she wore a fun feather and lace bodice jumpsuit from Promenade of Tusculumbia with a silver and turquoise belt.

Maids of honor were Presleigh Lowery and Rachel Pepper, friends of the bride. Bridesmaids were Mary Beth Hulsizer, Ali Carter, and Avery McNeil, all friends of the bride. Junior bridesmaid was Jayne Knighten, friend of the bride. Flower girls were Draper Hargrave, cousin of the bride, and Blair Blankenship, cousin of the groom.

Best men were Alton Stephens and Charlie Stephens, brothers of the groom. Groomsmen were Blake Adams, Solomon Heinkel, and John Knight, all friends of the groom. Ushers were Andrew Jackle and Archer Jackle, brothers of the bride. Ring bearer was Brady Smith, who carried the ring pillow from the bride's parents' wedding that was made by the bride's grandmother from part of her great-grandmother's wedding dress (and served as the bride's "something old").

Photos by Heather Sherrill





Wedding director, floral designer and photographer was Heather Sherrill and her team at Bradford Farm. Ceremony music was provided by Gus Spears at Universal Events. Guests were invited to pray over the couple while The Blessing was sung by Reagan and Jayson Jackson, worship leaders and young adult pastors at Chapel Church. The reception was catered by Southern Skillet and featured bougie soups and sliders. An espresso bar was provided by Wander Coffee of Florence. The wedding cake, made by family friend Heather Foster, was a traditional almond flavor with buttercream icing and subtle gold and pearl accents. The groom's cake and cupcakes were strawberry with cream cheese icing with a Lego bride and groom cake topper made by Rose Holt, and the groom's table also featured Lego cookies made by family friend Emily Holder. Gus Spears of Universal Sound, along with Jacob Adams, provided the reception entertainment and the spark fountains for the sendoff. Videographer was Ace Eaton. The wedding invitations were specially hand painted in watercolor by the groom's mother, local artist Paige Stephens. They were then typeset and printed by PSI in downtown Florence. The couple took dance lessons from choreographer and instructor Nick Foster of Dare 2 Dance Studio in Florence.

The bride and groom have been friends since first grade at Shoals Christian School, dating since eighth grade. They participated in the award-winning marching band and musical theater together. Henry proposed among the beautiful Christmas trees and lights beside the gazebo fountain at the Opryland Hotel in Nashville with both their families all present to cheer them on. They enjoy riding horses together and had some amazing engagement photos taken with the horses.

For their honeymoon, the couple went to the Sandals Ochi resort in Ocho Rios, Jamaica. They are now residing in Florence.









## *Cornelius, Taylor*

Karley Cornelius and Skylar Taylor were married September 30, 2023 at 6:00 in the evening at The Lakes Event Venue. Chad Hess officiated the evening ceremony and the first communion for the bride/groom. The reception followed at The Lakes.

The bride is the daughter of Jeff and Jennifer Cornelius of Florence. She is the granddaughter of Ingram and Kay Cornelius of Killen, Loyd King of Sheffield, and Elaine Bryan of Florence.

The groom is the son of Michelle Taylor of Florence and Kevin Taylor of Cherokee. He is the grandson of Jeanne Lovelace and the late Roger Lovelace of Florence and Elizabeth Taylor and the late Jack Taylor of Cherokee.

The bride was escorted by her father, after gifting diamond earrings on her special day. She chose a beautiful Justin Alexander Bianca ballgown with lace overlay and scalloped train from The Something Blue Shoppe with a pearl detailed veil.

Maid of honor were Kaitlin Cornelius, twin sister of the bride, and Summer McDuff, friend of the bride. Bridesmaids were Kaitlyn Zimmerman, Katie Ruggles, friends of the bride, Kenzie Cornelius, sister of the bride, and Aaliyah Mojica, cousin of the bride. Junior bridesmaid was Ali Grace Taylor, sister of the groom. Flower girl was Isabella Ruggles.

Best man was Aaron Eckl, friend of the groom. Groomsmen were Andrew Eckl, Scott Oakley, Dylan Chase, Ben Ezekiel, and Ryan Reid, all friends of the groom.

Wedding director was Kelli Brown and floral designer was Cindy Harrison. Photography by Gena Plaxco Images and videography by Ace Eaton. Marquee light letters from Trey's Balloon Bar and music provided by AMPED Sound & Lighting. The dinner reception was catered by Southern Skillet Catering and a four-tier wedding cake from Sweets by Nissi. A special bride/groom for the cake table was gifted by Karley's grandparents. Makeup artist was McKenzie James of the Beauty Loft by Reagan and hair styling also from the Beauty Loft by Reagan.

After a destination honeymoon to Jamacia, the couple is now residing in Florence.

Photos by Gena Plaxco Images







## *Lanier, Craft*

Kess Lanier and Collin Craft were married April 29, 2023 in a 5:30 afternoon ceremony held at The Riverton in Cherokee with Jim Lanier, uncle of the bride, officiating. As the bride was about to walk down the aisle, it began to rain. The owners of The Riverton quickly transformed the inside area into a gorgeous setting for the ceremony. The rain quickly ended as the ceremony ended, and made for a the most beautiful sunset.

The bride is the daughter of Stephanie and Ken Pless of Tuscumbia, and Jody and Tara Lanier of Muscle Shoals. She is the granddaughter of Kenny and Elaine Powers of Muscle Shoals, and Charlene Lanier and the late Wayne Lanier of Killen.

The groom is the son of Chris and Stacy Craft of Muscle Shoals. He is the grandson of Roland and Pam Gargis of Leighton, and Alfred and Betty Craft of Muscle Shoals.

The bride was escorted by her father. She wore a Justin Alexander designed Mikado dress with a cuffed off the shoulder neckline with a chapel length train.

Matron of honor was Katie Ridgeway, sister of the bride. Bridesmaids were Savanna Alexander, Laken Langston, Payton Ledbetter, Kayla Thornton, and Paige McCafferty, all friends of the bride. Flower girls were Lydia Ledbetter and Romi Ridgeway, nieces of the bride.

Best man was the groom's father, Chris Craft. Groomsmen were Matthew Craft, Tanner Craft, Seth Thornton, Luke McCafferty, Nate Heller, Mark Abadie, Conner James, Cooper Bishop, Collin Pless, and Taylor Richardson.

Ring bearers were Patton Langston, nephew of the groom, and Baker Atchley, friend of the couple.

Wedding director was Kristi Sockwell, and floral designer was Cindy Harrison. The reception at The Riverton was catered by Stacie Oliver, who also made the wedding cake and groom's cake. The bar was tended by The Pour Girls. Ceremony music was provided by DJ Cole Mobley, and Austin Bohannon provided entertainment at the reception. Trey's Balloon Bar provided the marquees and novelties personalized by The Vinyl Room, which were given to the attendees. Party Pros USA shared in decorating for the reception. Their guest book was a corn hole set made by Mark Goins. Hair stylist was Ashley Cassel and make up artist was Laren Lindholm. Also helping throughout the day was Tanya Turner, friend of the bride. Photographer was Beloved Imagery by Ashton Willis, and videographer was Poppy Leaf Weddings.

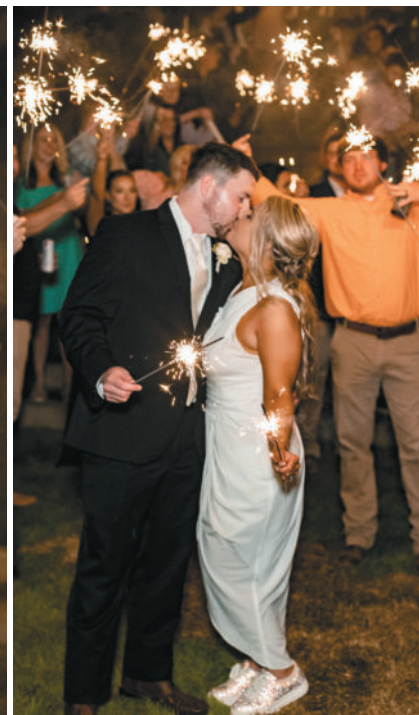
A rehearsal dinner was held at The Riverton the night before the wedding, hosted by the groom's parents and catered by Ricatoni's.

For their honeymoon, which was booked through Pixie and Pirate Destinations, LLC, the couple stayed at The Westin Maui Resort and Spa in Maui, Hawaii. They are now residing in Leighton.

Photos by Ashton Willis of Beloved Imagery









*Putman,  
Phillips*







Amy Katherine Putman and Clinton McRae Phillips were married June 3, 2023. The ceremony was held at 5:30 in the afternoon at Florence First United Methodist Church with Rev. Terry Bentley officiating. The reception followed at George's 217 in Sheffield.

The bride is the daughter of Clyde and Pam Putman of Haleyville. The groom is the son of Ken and Tracy McGough of Arley, Ala. and Kevin and Leslie Phillips of Muscle Shoals.

The bride was escorted by her father. She wore a white satin gown, matching veil and earrings from The Something Blue Shoppe in Hartselle.

Matrons of honor were Briana Sparks, Amelia Daniels, and Summer Lollar, all friends of the bride. Bridesmaids were Anna Richie, Jasmin Bernauer, Lauren Burgess, Lauren Amador, and Beverly Christian, all friends of the bride. Flower girls were Maddie Brewer, friend of the bride, and Hadley South, niece of the groom.

Best man was Dakota Morris, friend of the groom. Groomsmen were Ty Lollar, Johnathan Murphy, Logan Locke, Wheeler Brewster, Jake Cobb, Josh Conaway, all friends of the groom; and Lake McGough, brother of the groom. Ring bearer was Will Richie, friend of the couple.

Wedding coordinator was Terry Buchanan with Florence First United Methodist Church, and Day of Coordinator was Lauren Johnston. Floral designer was Chase Sparks of Russellville Florist. Organist Linda May and soloist Stacy Daniels provided the music for the ceremony. The reception was catered by George's 217, and the wedding cake and groom's cake were made by Lynn Winters. Entertainment for the reception was provided by DJ Dustin C. Hair stylist and make up artists were Kelley Cain from Image Makers with Laura Cain and Anna Richie assisting. Photographer was Rebekah Photography.

For their honeymoon, the couple stayed at the Royalton Chic in Punta Cana, Dominican Republic. They are now residing in Huntsville.



Photos by Rebekah Photography





*Eckl, Smith*



Elaine Catherine Eckl and Benjamin Riley Smith were married November 5, 2022 in a 3:00 afternoon ceremony at Saint Michael Catholic Church with Abbot Cletus D. Meagher, O.S.B. and Deacon Stephen Gordon officiating. The reception was held at Ava's Place following the ceremony.

The bride is the daughter of Alan and Maria Eckl of Florence. The groom is the son of Jimmy and Cheryl Smith of Savannah, Tenn.

The bride was escorted by her father. She wore a white Adore by Justin Alexander gown that featured a lace bodice and chiffon skirt, along with a matching veil. The gown was purchased at The Something Blue Shoppe and was altered by Urban Altered.

Maid of honor was Elyse Eckl, sister of the bride. Bridesmaids were Amanda Ware, Isabelle Bradford, cousins of the bride; Addison Beckham, cousin of the groom; and Georgia Bratcher, friend of the bride. Flower girls were Chloe Mauter and Jolie Mauter, cousins of the bride.

Best man was Alex Parrish, friend of the groom. Groomsmen were Hunter Boswell and Myles Jerrolds, friends of the groom; Peter Eckl and Samuel Eckl, brothers of the bride. Ring bearer was Anthony Bradford, cousin of the bride.

Wedding director was Mary Jo Rivera, friend and co-worker of the bride. Floral designer was Will & Dee's Florist. Ceremony music was performed by Donna Peters and Amy Tidwell, and reception entertainment was provided by Lavale and Sonya Cooper of C&C Music Entertainment. The reception was catered by Jill's Sweet Memories, and they also made the wedding cake and groom's dessert. Hair stylist was Jenny Rehmer and make up artist was Sawyer Lee. Photographer and videographer was Noble Photo, LLC.

After a honeymoon in Gatlinburg, Tenn., the couple is now residing in Florence.

Photos by Noble Photo, LLC







Ashton Drew Dennis and Ryan Thompson Ruggles were married on August 4, 2023, at Wasserngrat Bergrestaurant in Gstaad, Switzerland, with celebrant Yvonne Beck officiating. After returning home, the couple had a reception at George's 217 in Sheffield with family and friends.

The bride is the daughter of Mark and Tanya Dennis of Muscle Shoals. She is the granddaughter of Ronald and the late Barbara Nesbitt of Muscle Shoals, Bobby Dennis of Jasper, and Joyce Thompson of Florence.

The groom is the son of David and Polly Ruggles of Sheffield. He is the grandson of Donald and Edith Ruggles of Muscle Shoals and Art and Hasseline Thompson of Tuscaloosa.

The bride was escorted by her father. She wore a Beccar dress and veil from Carriage House Weddings in Mountain Brook for the ceremony. The bride wore her late grandmother's diamond bracelet for her something old. For something new, she wore earrings from Carriage House Weddings. For her something borrowed, the bride wore the same hairpiece her maid of honor wore on her wedding day, and for her something blue, she wore a garter. The engagement ring and wedding bands were from Parker Bingham in Florence.

The maid of honor was Taylor Harrison, a lifelong friend of the bride, and the best man was David Ruggles, father of the groom. The ring bearer was Colton Dennis, nephew of the bride.

The wedding planner was Vanezssa from Peach Perfect Weddings. The venue provided the flowers and meal following the ceremony. Tabea Kampf played the violin during the ceremony. Sinem Yavsaner was the bride's hair/makeup stylist and Martina Sarah was the photographer.

After spending a week in Switzerland with their family (parents, groom's sister/brother-in-law, and bride's nephew), the couple spent their honeymoon in Nice and Paris, France. They are now residing in Alabaster.

Photos by Martina Sarah







Claire Pool and Braedon Nicolas Brown were married at Bradford Farm Venue on June 24th, 2023, at 6:00 in the evening, with Bro. Brandon Kerby officiating. The reception was held at Bradford Farm following the ceremony.

The bride is the daughter of Chris and Hannah Pool of Town Creek. The groom is the son of Brandon and Misty Brown of Town Creek.

The bride wore a beautiful white off-the-shoulder dress made of lace, beads, and glitter. The bride's veil was also white, lined with lace, beads, and glitter. The dress and veil were purchased from Bellas Bridal in Hoover, Ala.

The maid of honor was Carrie Anna Pool, sister of the bride. The matron of honor was Claudia Romans, also a sister of the bride. The bridesmaids were Dagen Brown (sister of the groom), Mckenzie Whitehead, Taylor Stephenson, Kenadie Harville, Jada McGregor, and Scarlet Stephenson. The two-something-blue girls were Rylan Harville and Jessica Hill.

The best man was Brandon Brown, father of the groom. Groomsmen were Russ Brown (brother of the groom), Bryce Fretwell, Blake Eaves, Ty Parker, Landon Parker, Hunter Brown, and Daniel Brown.

The flower girls were Livi Jones, Sadie Jones, and Bristol Williamson. Ring bearers were Hudson Romans and Jed Romans, nephews of the bride. Bronson Parker, Dylan Parker, Joey Oliver, Shadoc Stephenson, Zainen Jones, and Austin Romans were ushers.

The wedding director and floral designer was Heather Sherrill. Gus Spears of Universal Event and Production provided music. Southern Skillet catered the reception. Suzann White made the bride and the groom's cakes. Hairstylists for the bride and the wedding party were Claudia Romans, sister of the bride, and Hannah Pool, mother of the bride. The makeup artist was Faith Ezzell. The photographer was Heather Sherrill of Create Portraiture, and the videographer was Ace Eaton.

The couple spent their honeymoon in Destin, Fla., and are now residing in Wolf Springs.

Photos by Heather Sherrill





## Creel, Gooch

Hunner Lynanne Creel and Ryan Alan Gooch were married April 30, 2023 at 5:30 in the afternoon in a beautiful outdoor ceremony at Bradford Farm and Venue with Barry Gooch, father of the groom, officiating. The couple did a “rope tying” ceremony with four loops on the knot to represent their four children. On the first kiss, the wedding party popped confetti poppers. The reception was held in the barn at Bradford Farm following the ceremony.

The bride is the granddaughter of Wayne and Willene Creel of Priceville, the late TC and Linda McIntyre of Harvest; Lynn Creel, Mary Creel Burks of Joppa. The groom is the son of Barry and Rhonda Gooch of Florence. He is the grandson of Barbara Gooch and the late Buford Gooch of Tuscombria, and Ronnie and Elsie Hogue of Florence.

The bride was escorted by her grandfather, Wayne Creel. She wore a beautiful white gown from The Something Blue Shoppe, custom Chaco shoes, and broaches from all of her grandmothers. She carried a bouquet filled with peonies from her grandmother’s bushes.

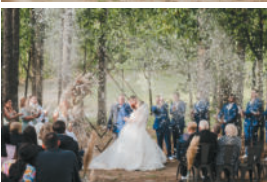
Matron of honor was MJ Ferrell, best friend of the bride. Bridesmaids were Carri Harrison, Brecken Smith, Whitney Reeser-Harris, Lauren Humenansky, Mary Katherine Smotherman, all friends of the bride; Madison Gooch, cousin of the groom; and Alice Gooch, daughter of the groom. Bridesman was Cody Breeding, friend of the bride. Flower girls were Rylee Ferrell and Bonnie Ruth Rushing, friends of the bride.

Best man was Cory Michael, best friend of the groom. Groomsmen were Cody Gooch, brother of the groom; Seth Allen, Dakota Wilson, Dylan Millsap, Logan Angel, Marquish Goode, Skyler Jenkins, all friends of the groom; and James Gooch, son of the groom. Ring bearers were Eli Sandifer and Elliott Sandifer, sons of the bride.

Wedding director was Cecilia Brumley and floral designer was Heather Sherrill. Ceremony music and reception entertainment was provided by Gus Spears of Universal Event and Production. Southern Skillet catered a pizza bar for the reception, and Jane Dough’s Bakery made the wedding cake and groom’s cake. Hair stylist was Carla Scott of the Hair Shoppe in Joppa, and make up artist was Relook Artistry LLC in Guntersville. Photographer was Heather Sherrill of Create Portraiture, and videographer was Amanda and Ben Whitley of Poppy Leaf Photography. Other special helpers were content creator Maddie Castleberry, and Savannah Liles and Alterations By Faith did the alterations on the wedding dress.

For their honeymoon, the couple went to Royal Sandals Plantation in Ocho Rios, Jamaica. They are now residing in Priceville.

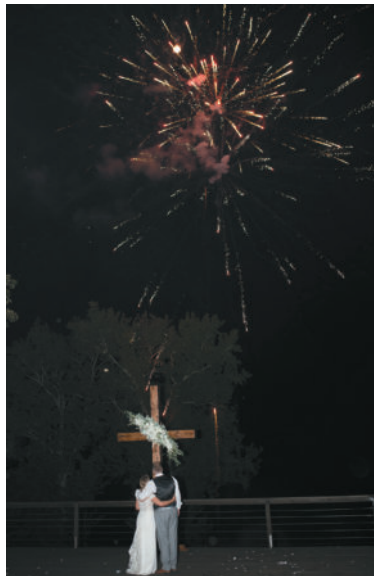
Photos by Heather Sherrill







*Wood,  
McCord*



Holli Grace Wood and Nate McCord were married September 16, 2023 at 6:00 in the evening in a beautiful outdoor riverfront ceremony at The Riverton in Cherokee with Adam Richardson officiating. The reception followed at The Riverton.

The bride is the daughter of Trevor and Chrisie Wood of Florence. She is the granddaughter of Jerry and Sheila Scott of Loretto, Tenn., Fred and Linda Sizemore of Tuscumbia, and Ricky and Judy Wood of Florence.

The groom is the son of Matt McCord and Amber McCord of Killen. He is the grandson of Mary Frances Risner of Florence, Jim and Debra Donahue of Florence, Tim Littlejohn of Corinth, Miss., and Lerita Stacy of Jackson, Miss.

The bride was escorted by her father. She wore an off the shoulder, fit and flare white gown with a lace slit over the left leg, designed by Justin Alexander and purchase from The Something Blue Shoppe in Hartselle. She also wore her grandmother's garter that she wore at her wedding 52 years ago.

Maid of honor was Hailey McCord, best friend of the bride and sister of the groom. Bridesmaids were Emily Wood and Madison Burton, cousins of the bride; Sophie Patterson, Ryleigh Garrigus, and Asia Hampton, all friends of the bride. Flower girl was Bristol Kate Burton, cousin of the bride.

Best man was Dylan Johnston, best friend of the groom. Groomsmen were Ticer Wood, brother of the bride; Patrick Burke, Jack Shaddix, Seth Joiner, and Garrett Jones, all friends of the groom. Ring bearer was Avery Pittner, cousin of the groom.

Wedding director was Kristi Sockwell and floral designer was Sheila Scott. Music for the ceremony and entertainment for the reception was provided by Shawn Nix and Calvin Williams of Platinum Entertainment Group. For the reception, Taco Mama catered a taco bar, and The Pour Girls bartended the drinks. Hair stylist was Mellany Lancaster and make up artists were Lindsey Isbell Wray and Tristin Fisher. Photographer was Rebekah Photography and videographer was Ace Eaton Designs and Production.

After a sparkler exit and incredible fireworks show, the couple left for their honeymoon at the beautiful Stonefield Villa Resort in St. Lucia. They are now residing in Florence.

Photos by Rebekah Photography





## Oakley, Pulkkinen

Lillianne Oakley and Austin Pulkkinen were married April 29, 2023 in a 5:00 afternoon ceremony at Locust Hill in Tuscumbia with James Gray officiating. The reception followed at Locust Hill.

The bride is the daughter of Mark Oakley and Misty Oakley, both of Florence. She is the granddaughter of Beverly Oakley and the late Roy Oakley, and the late Linda Camus.

The groom is the son of Dustin and Bobbie Pulkkinen. He is the grandson of Les Pulkkinen, Donna Emerson, and the late Joe and Cynthia Wade.

The bride was escorted by her father. She wore a beautiful white satin gown from Promenade in Tuscumbia.

Maid of honor was Katie Oakley, sister of the bride, and matron of honor was Kayla Martin, friend of the bride. Bridesmaids were Bailey Scott, Abby Cantrell, Taylor Casals, Anna Peters, Mackinley Hale, Haleigh Brewer, all friends of the bride; and Caitlin Self, cousin of the bride. Junior bridesmaid was Isabella Huffmaster, friend of the bride. Flower girls were Camilla Brown and Lydia Bearden, friends of the bride.

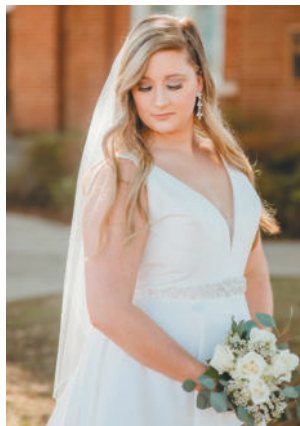
Best man was Tanner Borden, friend of the groom. Groomsmen were Jacob Brink, Blake Dunnivant, Chandler Cole, Devan Hale, Devin Balentine, Jesse White, Drew Scott, all friends of the groom; and Brody Oakley, brother of the bride. Ring bearers were Brody Bearden and Ayden Hester, friends of the couple.

Wedding director was Dawn Pettus. The reception was catered by Rawhide BBQ of Florence. Hair stylist was Whitney Butler of Parlor 217, and make up artist was Kaylen Tatum. Photographer was SueEllen Gean of Gean and Company Photography.

For their honeymoon, the couple went to Panama City Beach, Fla. They are now residing in Florence.

*"For my wedding, I tried to bring everything together into a full circle. My wedding day was something I had looked forward to and planned for a long time. My nanie passed away one month after my wedding and she helped me plan colors and the small details into my day, even picking my dress out with me. I wanted all the details to match all of the history of the venue, at Locust Hill. Locust Hill has a special place in our heart because after my 16th birthday party at that venue, my groom and I started dating after - we have been together ever since. Our entire day and everything in between was simply the best day of our entire life. We are thankful for the love and support we have been shown throughout this entire experience and during the process. It was the most special day we could have ever asked for."*

Photos by SueEllen Gean







## *Pace, Rickard*

Maggie Rose Pace and Alexander Bryant Rickard were married November 11, 2023 at 4:00 in the afternoon at Danclay Farms with Lane Dickerson, life long friend, officiating. The reception followed at Danclay Farms.

The bride is the daughter of Michele and Jay Broadfoot and John Pace, all of Florence. She is the granddaughter of Lavene Rainey of Florence and the late Ronnie Rainey of Columbia, Tenn.

The groom is the son of Chris and Campbell Rickard of Florence. He is the grandson of Wayne Wright of Florence.

The bride chose a Dany Tabet designed gown from Birch on Main in Huntsville that featured a classic yet modern design with sheer sleeves adorned with pearls. She also wore a matching cathedral length veil.

Matron of honor was Whitney Jernigan, best friend of the bride. Bridesmaids were Darby Coker, cousin of the bride; Baylee Vargas, Hannah Williams, Emma Eaton, Madison Brown, Abby Killen, Savannah Michael, and Danna Carrillo, all friends of the bride.

Best man was Daniel Hayes, best friend of the groom. Groomsmen were Hunter Kelley, Justin Scott, Chandler Patterson, Taylor Huckaba, Dekodah Rice, Andrew Mace, and Drew Humphrey, all friends of the groom.

Wedding director was WJ & Co. Wedding Planning. Floral designer was Cindy Harrison of Florals by Cindy. Ceremony music and reception entertainment was provided by Lavale and Sonya Cooper of C&C Entertainment. The reception was catered by Southern Skillet. The wedding cake was made by Citrus & Sage, and the groom's cake was made by Jill's Sweet Memories. Rentals were provided by Party Pros. Hair stylist was Whitney Butler and make up artist was Corey Nichols. Photographer was Sydney Garrison and videographer was Ace Eaton.

The couple is residing in Florence.

Photos by Sydney Garrison







## Warner, Davis

Marianna Warner and Jonah Davis were married May 21, 2023 in a 6:30 evening ceremony at Bradford Farms in Town Creek with Nathan Mangrum officiating. The reception followed at Bradford Farms.

The bride is the daughter of Matthew and Kathy Warner of Muscle Shoals. She is the granddaughter of Martha Mayhall and the late Carlton Mayhall of Muscle Shoals, and Wayne and Marilyn Warner of Hamilton.

The groom is the son of Eric and Kristi Davis of Muscle Shoals. He is the grandson of Virginia Proctor of Florence, and the late Carmen and Clara Davis of Iron City, Tenn.

The bride was escorted by her father. She wore an off the shoulder gown, with matching veil and hairpiece from Cherry Tree Lane. She also wore earrings given to her by her grandmother Martha.

Maid of honor was Abby Newton, friend of the bride. Bridesmaids were Sara Beth Davis, sister of the groom, and Natalie Turner and Isabelle Rushing, friends of the bride. Junior bridesmaid was Leilyn Dorton, friend of the bride. Flower girl was Ellie Bradford, friend of the bride.

Best man was Thomas Bendall, friend of the groom. Groomsmen were Zach Granger, Drew Henley, and Mikey Perez, all friends of the groom. Junior groomsman was Wesley Warner, brother of the bride.

Wedding director was Cecilia Brumley and floral designer was Heather Sherrill. Ceremony music was provided by Dr. Jason Briley, and Gus Spears of Universal Production provided the reception entertainment. Caterer was Southern Skillet and the wedding cake was made by Celina Grant Cake Company. Hair stylist was Amanda Adkins. Photographer was Heather Sherrill and videographer was Al Hammond of Awaken Films.

After a honeymoon in Gulf Shores, the couple is now residing in Muscle Shoals.

*"My favorite part of the reception was the super special father-daughter "dance" we did. Neither me or my dad are great dancers, and he was the one who introduced me to my Star Wars obsession, so we decided to do a lightsaber duel instead. My bridesmaid, Isabelle Rushing, presented me with my lightsaber as I took the floor. She was the friend who reignited my love for the series, so it couldn't have been any other way. My dad came out when the music changed with a red lightsaber, and we battled for a minute before the music changed again and he handed the lightsaber off to my husband. We duelled for a moment, then ended the scene with a pose in front of the doors, accented by indoor cold sparks and a kiss! Another great part of the day was the bouquet toss. My bridesmaids Sara Beth Davis and Natalie Turner both caught the bouquet, so they had to dance battle for it! Sara Beth ended up winning when Natalie handed her the bouquet. It was so much fun!"*

Photos by Heather Sherrill







## *Hunter, Smith*

Halli Morgan Hunter and Channing James Smith were married September 9, 2023 at 6:30 in the evening in a beautiful outdoor ceremony at Hillside Weddings and Events in Littleville with Richard Parker officiating. The reception followed at Hillside Wedding Venue.

The bride is the daughter of Scott and Vickie Hunter of Muscle Shoals. She is the granddaughter of Pete and Janice Hunter of Muscle Shoals, and the late Jimmie and Betty Bianco of Russellville.

The groom is the son of Lee Smith and Jennifer Smith. He is the grandson of Leroy and Hannah Smith.

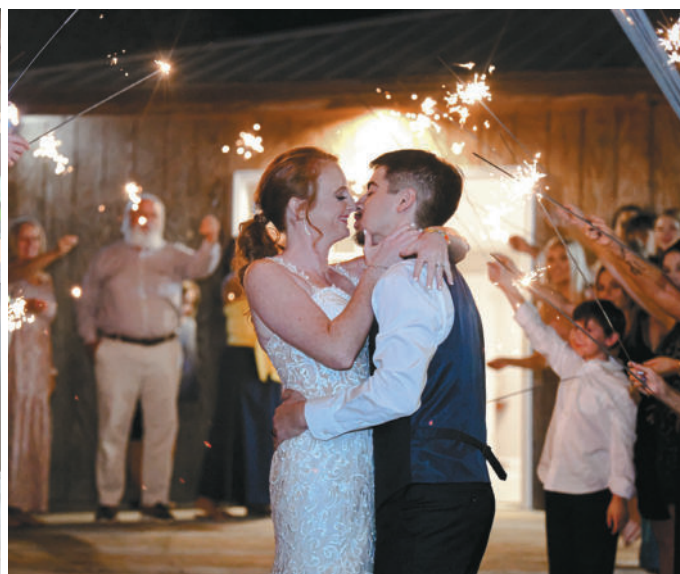
Maid of honor was Rebekah Fleming, best friend of the bride. Bridesmaids were Krista Sikes, cousin of the bride; Haley Fields Hunter and Jasmin Hunters, sisters-in-law of the bride. Flower girl was Harper Hall, friend of the bride.

Best man was the groom's father, Lee Smith. Groomsmen were Chase Smith, brother of the groom; Adam Hunter and Brandon Hunter, brothers of the bride. Ring bearer was Noah Cobb, friend of the couple.

Wedding director was Tammy Jeffreys, and floral designer was Country Elegance in Cherokee. The reception was catered by Stacy Oliver, who also made the wedding cake and groom's cake. Hair stylist and make up artist was E Dee Mitchell. Photographer was Cortney Green.

For their honeymoon, the couple spent a few days in Atlanta, Ga., and then went to Orange Beach, Ala. They are now residing in Muscle Shoals.

Photos by Cortney Green







## *Roberson, Thigpen*

Emma Claire Roberson and Hank Cameron Thigpen were married April 29, 2023 at 6:00 in the evening in a beautiful outdoor ceremony at the Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail of the Shoals. Officiating was David Killen, uncle of the bride. The reception was held at RTJ following the ceremony.

The bride is the daughter of Bobby and Amy Roberson of Loretto, Tenn. The groom is the son of Tim and Tammie Thigpen of Killen.

The bride was escorted by her father. She chose a beautiful gown from Cherry Tree Lane with a matching cathedral length veil.

Maid of honor was Olivia Roberson, sister of the bride. Bridesmaids were Caroline Sockwell, Madelynn Henson, Brittany Watkins, Kenzie Burks, and Abby Mattox, all friends of the bride. Flower girls were Ellie and Emmie Thigpen, nieces of the groom, and Hensley Aston, friend of the couple.

Best men were Tim Thigpen, father of the groom, and Heath Thigpen, brother of the groom. Groomsmen were Holt Barnett, Herbie Foster, Tanner Shaw, Alex Woodard, Ben Mansell, and Austin Kerr, all friends of the groom. Ushers were Cooper and Knox Case, cousins of the bride. Ring bearer was Wyatt Thigpen, nephew of the groom.

Wedding director was Lauren Boston. Floral designer was Justin Myrick of Jut's Flowers. Ceremony and reception music was provided by Collin Burks. The reception was catered by RTJ and the wedding cake was made by Keisha Coan. Venue director was Christine Minor. Hair stylist and make up artist was Sydney Smith. Photographer was Rebekah Bevis Handley and videographer was Ace Eaton.

The couple spent their honeymoon in Antigua at the Sandals Grande Antigua. They are now residing in Killen.

Photos by Rebekah Photography







## *Jacks, Bishop*

Britney LeAnn Jacks and Andrew Robert Bishop were married April 22, 2023 in a 3:00 afternoon ceremony held at Underwood Baptist Church in Florence with Bro. Matt Buerhaus and Bro. Trey Mitchell officiating. The reception followed at the church.

The bride is the daughter of Jason and Angie Jacks of Muscle Shoals. She is the granddaughter of Mrs. Sue McSpadden and the late Mr. Danny McSpadden, and Mr. Joe Jacks and the late Mrs. Jean Jacks, all of Double Springs.

The groom is the son of Mike and Denise Bishop of Florence. He is the grandson of Mr. and Mrs. Terry Baughman of Huntsville, and the late Mr. and Mrs. Charles Bishop of Arab.

The bride was escorted by her father. She chose an ivory gown by Sherri Hill.

Maid of honor was Andrea Jacks, sister of the bride. Bridesmaids were Kaitlin Cornelius, Kate Hines, Daylie Mayfield, and Eden McSpadden. Flower girls were Anna Rivers and Chapel Bishop, nieces of the groom.

Best man was the groom's father, Mike Bishop. Groomsmen were Brett Black, Luke Blalock, Justin Bishop, and Chaz Smith. Ring bearer was Rhodes Thomas, friend of the couple.

Wedding director was Ashley Mitchell and floral designer was Cindy Harrison. Ceremony music was performed by David and Natalie Askew, and Underwood Baptist Church provided music for the reception. Caterer was Missy Williams of Oak + Herb, and the wedding cake was made by Julie Becker of The Cakery. Hair stylist was Rachel Perkins and make up artist was Abby Holt Hester of AE Beauty. Photographer was Rebekah Handley. The couple left the reception in a 1936 Graham driven by Bill Lovelace of Ragan's Ride.

For their honeymoon, the couple went to Secrets Playa Mujeres in Cancun, Mexico. They are now residing in Florence.

Photos by Rebekah Handley







## *Jones, Ranson*

Beth Jones and Matthew Ranson were married October 28, 2023 at 6:00 in the evening on the Singing River Terrace at the Marriott Shoals Conference Center. Tweedy Rowe, uncle of the groom, officiated the ceremony, and the reception followed in the Marriott Shoals Conference Center Ballroom.

The bride is the daughter of Gary and Vicki Jones of Muscle Shoals. The groom is the son of Dale and Bonnie Manuel of Valparaiso, Ind.

The bride chose a beautiful long-sleeved gown with a long train from Cherry Tree Lane.

Maid of honor was Melanie Harris and matron of honor was Baylee Corsbie, both friends of the bride. Bridesmaids were Kristy Conlon, Lindsay Cook, friends of the bride, and Claire Jones, sister-in-law of the bride. Flower girl was Ann Laughlin Jones, niece of the bride.

Best man was Dave Grcich, friend of the groom. Groomsmen were Eric Camel, Mo Figueroa, Patrick Lowry, and Sam Thames, all friends of the groom. Ring bearers were Carson Jones and Cameron Jones, nephews of the bride. Ushers were Tyler Jones, brother of the bride, and Zachary Searels, friend of the bride.

Wedding director was Rebekah Rodgers, friend of the bride. Floral designer was Russellville Florist and Gifts. Music for the ceremony was provided by the Florence High School Orchestra, and The Midnighters entertained guests at the reception. The reception was catered by the Marriott Shoals Conference Center, and the wedding cake was made by Michelle Wilbourn of Takes the Cake Custom Cake Decorating. Hair stylist was Lindsey Robinson and make up artist was Molly McCanless. Photographer was April Warhurst of BluebirdRedbirds Photography. Light It Up Shoals provided the lighted marquee letters, and Tucker Siple from Party Never Ends Rentals provided the arbor for the ceremony and the drapes for the ballroom. The couple took ballroom dancing lessons from Dare 2 Dance Florence.

For their honeymoon, the couple stayed at The Hyatt Residence Club in Key West, Fla. They are now residing in Madison.

Photos by April Warhurst







## *McMullan, Butler*

Charley McMullan and Jesse Butler were married May 20, 2023 at 6:00 in the evening in a creekside ceremony on the banks of Butler Creek on the groom's family property. Zackary McMullan, brother of the bride, officiated the ceremony and a reception followed at the creek.

The bride is the daughter of Scotty and Melinda McMullan of Florence. The groom is the son of Rodney and Jennifer Butler of Killen.

The bride was escorted by her father. She wore a beautiful gown from The Something Blue Shoppe in Hartselle. Her "something blue" was a blue heart that her father cut from one of his softball shirts from when the bride played softball that said "I love you" in his handwriting. Her veil, borrowed from her best friend, Katie Depoyster, was her "something borrowed".

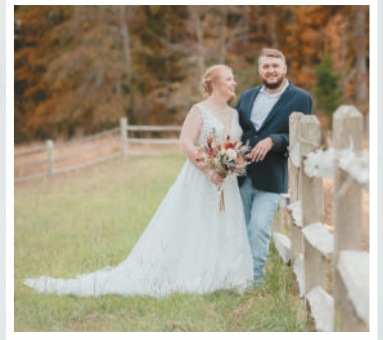
Hair stylist was Whitney Butler and make up artist was Katie Depoyster. Photographer was Holley Grimes and videographer was Daniel Powell.

The couple is now residing in Killen.

Photos by Holley Grimes



# Kasmeier, Moore



Madison Kasmeier and Bailey Moore were married October 28, 2023 in a 4:00 afternoon ceremony held at Ava's Place with Andy Massey, cousin of the groom, officiating. The reception followed at Ava's Place.

The bride is the daughter of Merita Kasmeier and Matthew Nichols of Florence and Christopher and Kim Kasmeier of Florence. She is the granddaughter of the late Joe and Diane Kasmeier and Teresa Agee and the late Donald Agee, all of Florence.

The groom is the son of the late Stephanie Moore of Florence. He is the grandson of Steve and Sandra Scott of Florence.

The bride chose a beautiful white gown from The Something Blue Shoppe in Hartselle, with alterations done by Wanda Lamar.

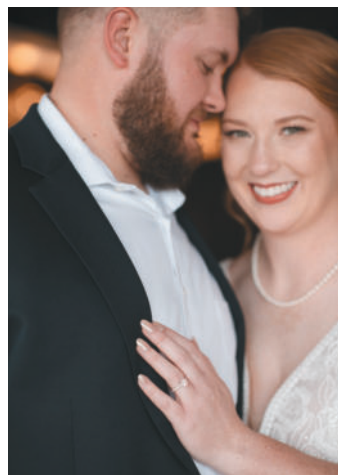
Maid of honor was Ashton Nichols, sister of the bride. Bridesmaids were Alyson Clemons, step-sister of the bride; Alex Donaldson, sister-in-law of the bride; Taylor Hatton, Ellison Barrett, Shelby Atwood, Courtney Fiscus, and Katie Jackson, all friends of the bride. Flower girl was Arabelle Jackson, friend of the bride.

Best man was Tucker Donaldson, brother of the groom. Groomsmen were Samuel Donaldson, brother of the groom; Christian Clemmons, Wesley Stevenson, Mark Hughes, Tucker Rhodes, Orlando Williams, and John Curtis, all friends of the groom. Ring bearer was Chance Hughes, friend of the couple.

Wedding director was Hannah Broadfoot, friend of the bride. Floral designer was Mimi's Decor and More. Ceremony music and reception entertainment was provided by Excel Event Specialists, LLC. The reception was catered by Jill Larkin of Jill's Sweet Memories, and the wedding cake was made by Celena Grant Cake Company. Bartender was Alexis Taylor. Hair stylist was Krysta Kephart and make up artist was Brooklyn Hamilton of Beauty by Brooklyn. Photographer was Rebekah Handley of Rebekah Photography. The arch for the ceremony was custom built by the groom, and the party favors were all custom made by the bride.

For their honeymoon, the couple traveled to Lake Tahoe and Yosemite National Park. They are now residing in Florence.

Photos by Rebekah Photography







## *Taylor, Elliott*

Alexis Jane Taylor and Luke Colton Elliott were married October 14, 2023 at 5:00 in the afternoon in a beautiful outdoor ceremony at Ava's Place with Marty Vandiver officiating. The reception followed at Ava's Place.

The bride is the daughter of Doyle Jr. and Stephanie Taylor of Russellville. She is the granddaughter of the late Doyle Sr. and Sarah Taylor of Spruce Pine, the late Nolan and Linda Ayers of Leighton, and "bonus" grandmother Debbie King Taylor of Spruce Pine.

The groom is the son of Billy and Gina Elliott of Florence. He is the grandson of the late Fred and Sara Elliott of Florence, and Robert and Jeannette Clemmons of Killen.

The bride was escorted by her father. She wore a beautiful gown from Diane's Bridal, altered by Paula McDougale, and a matching veil from Etsy.

Maid of honor was Shannea Flanagan, cousin of the bride. Bridesmaids were Madisun Murray, Krista Sikes, Hannah Collinsworth, MaLeah Hibbett, and Autumn Logan, all friends of the bride. Flower girls were Ava Thompson, Averie Thompson, and Tori Ayers, all cousins of the bride.

Best man was Ethan Cockrell, friend of the groom. Groomsmen were Brycen Parrish, Tanner Stamps, Luke Daniel, Davis Hammond, and Kenneth Hibbett, all friends of the groom.

Wedding director was Jamie Lane. Floral designer was Sunflowers Designs and Gardens. Ceremony music and reception entertainment was provided by DJ BOAT Chris Boatwright. The reception was catered by Rick's Barbeque and the wedding cake was made by Ashley Thompson. Other special helpers were Renee Vandiver, Kathryn Murray, Lorreta Sikes, and Laura Flanagan. Hair stylist and make up artist was Kennadie Wells. Photographer was Sera Rice of It Is Well Photography.

For their honeymoon, the couple stayed in Mentone, Ala. and spent time hiking in Desoto State Park. They are now residing in Spruce Pine while they build their forever home in Killen.

Photos by It Is Well Photography





## Waddell, Rickard

Meredith Waddell and Conor Rickard were married October 14, 2023 at 4:00 in the afternoon at Danclay Farms with Greg Corble officiating. The reception followed at Danclay Farms.

The bride is the daughter of Lynne Trousdale of Florence. She is the granddaughter of Wright and Lynda Buchanan of Rogersville, and the late Dr. John R. and Shirley Waddell of Athens.

The groom is the son of Tom and Susie Rickard of Florence. He is the grandson of the late Bobby and Nettie Mae Hobson and the late Dusty and Betty Rickard, all of Florence.

The bride was escorted by her brother, Nicholas Waddell. She wore a white gown with a cathedral length train from The Something Blue Shoppe in Hartselle. The veil and earrings were the bride's "something borrowed" from her sister.

Matron of honor was Stephanie Cosby, sister of the bride. Bridesmaids were Taylor Boston, Larissa Creighton, Emily Bell, all friends of the bride; and Nicole Waddell, sister-in-law of the bride. Flower girls were Ellie Fenn, niece of the groom, and Rilyn Kate Yerby, friend of the couple.

Best man was Austin Holt, friend of the groom. Groomsmen were Jake Campbell, Jake Yerby, Taylor Robertson, and Cody Tittle, all friends of the groom. Ring bearers were Kipton Fenn, nephew of the groom, and Keeper Cosby, nephew of the bride.

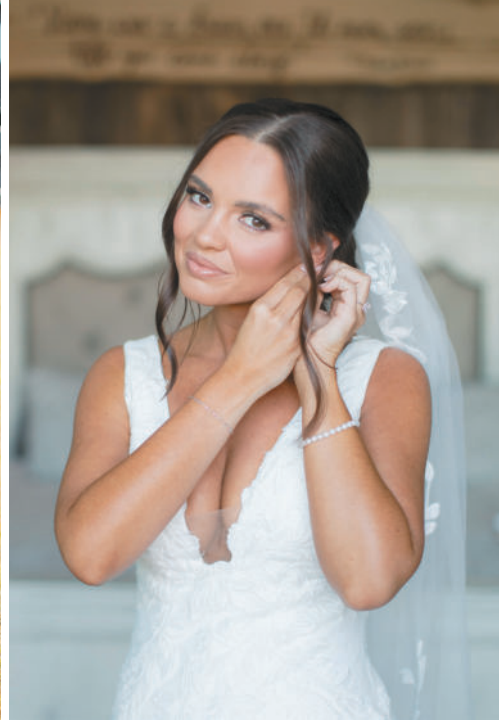
Wedding director was Denise Ells. Floral designer was Mandy Cottrell of Mimi's Decor and More. Ceremony music and entertainment was provided by DJ Lavale Cooper. The reception was catered by Jeff Burgess of 117 Catering. The wedding cake was made by Janice Ezell and the groom's cake was made by Makenzie Edwards. The bride also had cookies that were provided by Lili O's Catering. A grass wall background was rented and set up by Erin Borden. Other rentals were from Party Never Ends in Florence. Hair stylist was Becca Parker and make up artist was Savannah Vinson. Photographer was Madeline Isbell and videographer was Next Stage Media.

For their honeymoon, the couple stayed at the all-inclusive Secrets Maroma Beach Riviera Resort in Cancun, Mexico. They are now residing in Greenhill.

Photos by Madeline Isbell







## *Johnson, King*

Scarlett Johnson and Jordan King were married October 21, 2023 in a 5:00 afternoon ceremony at Willow Oak Lodge in Spruce Pine with Stan Smith officiating. The reception followed at Willow Oak Lodge.

The bride is the daughter of Darryl and Rebecca Johnson of Leighton. She is the granddaughter of Doris Johnson and the late Hillard Johnson and James and Judy Pennington, all of Leighton.

The groom is the son of Tony and Krystal King of Muscle Shoals. He is the grandson of the late Kenny and Sharon Soeder of Sheffield, and the late Billy and Louise King of Tuscumbia.

The bride was escorted by her father. She wore a white Essense of Australia gown from The Something Blue Shoppe, along with a matching veil and her grandmother's pearl bracelet.

Matron of honor was Bailey Childers, best friend of the bride. Bridesmaids were Savana King, sister-in-law of the bride; Ashton Childers, cousin of the bride; Anna Beth Mask, Caroline Bishop, Katelynne Owens, Kacey Hallmark, Kayla Green, Summer Beavers, and Ashlyn Killian, all friends of the bride. "Something Blue" girls were Skyler Nichols, Ann Leslie Childers, and Emily Hacker, all friends of the bride.

Best man was the groom's father, Tony King. Groomsmen were Justin King, brother of the groom; Tyson Childers, Drew Childers, Tate Sockwell, Jon Owens, Mason Soeder, Jordan Beavers, Jojo Whorton, and Skylar Rikard, all friends of the groom.

Wedding director was Kristi Nix and floral designer was Chase Sparks. Music for the ceremony was provided by Lavale Cooper. Southern Skillet Catering catered the reception and made an assortment of mini pies for the groom's table. The wedding cake was made by Stacey Oliver. Hair stylist and make up artist was Faith Ezzell's Team. Photographer was Mackenzie Rue and videographer was BB Media.

For their honeymoon, the couple went to Jackson Hole, Wyoming. They are now residing in Leighton.







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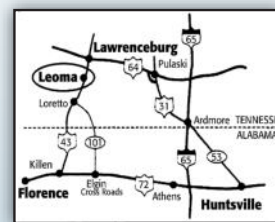


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