

TENNESSEE VALLEY

Brides

2017

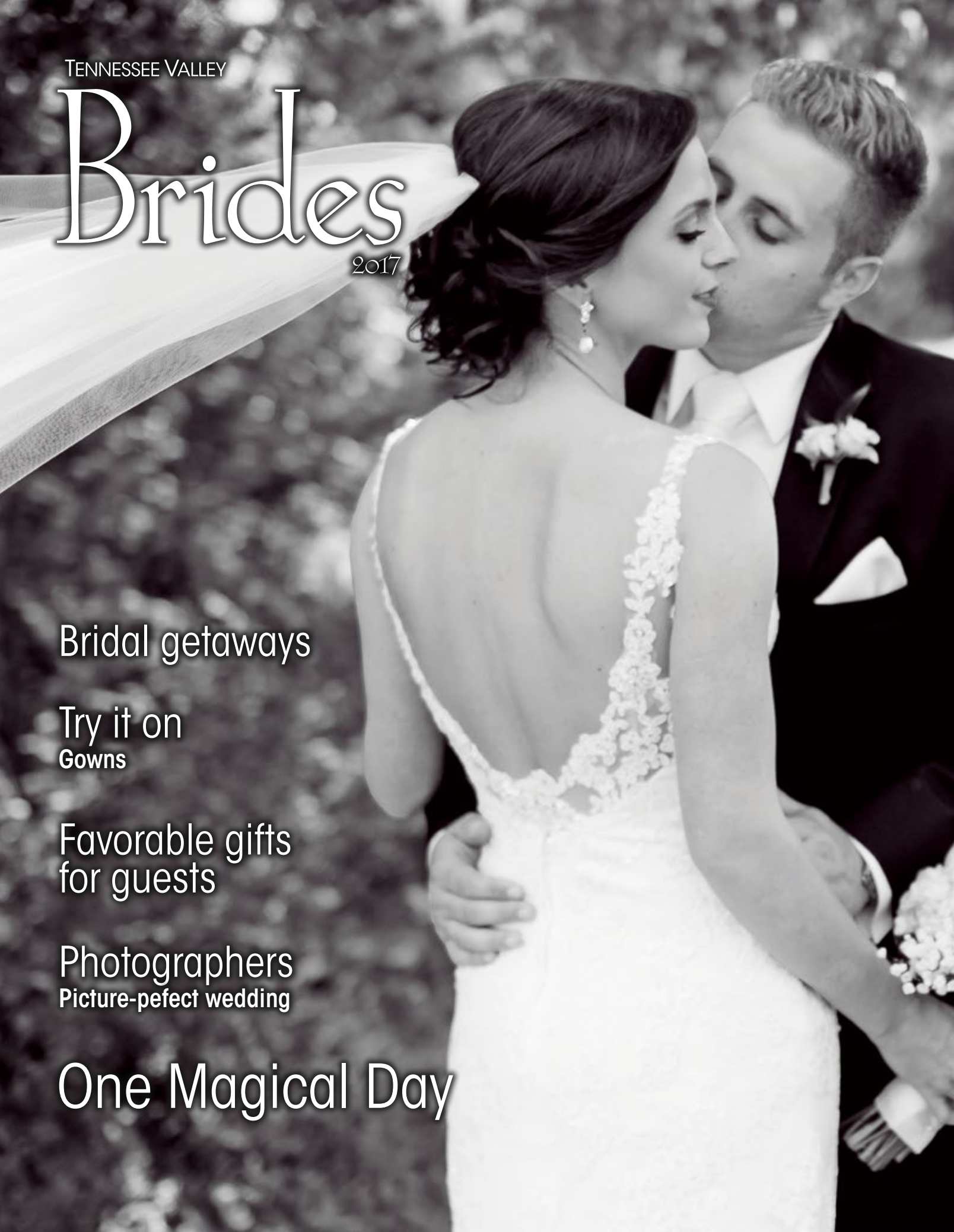
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Brides

According to weddingwire.com, Christmas Day is the most popular day for prospective grooms to pop “the” question. That means many Shoals brides-to-be are setting a date and asking attendants, family and friends to keep that date open.

Most likely, the bride-to-be already has in mind what kind of gown she will wear as she walks down the aisle. She just knows that once she walks into the bridal shop, she immediately will recognize “the” gown hanging on the rack. And, just like the brides on the reality television shows, she will sigh with delight once she tries it on. Her mother, and maybe her bridal attendants, will cry as they agree it is “the” gown.

Not so fast. Bridal shop owners in and around the Shoals suggest that brides keep an open mind when they start shopping for a gown. What looks good on the models pinned to your Pinterest board may not fit your body type. Listen to suggestions from the shop owner; they have seen a lot of brides in all body types come through the store.

And if you feel pressure in any way to go with a gown that you are not comfortable with, shop elsewhere. When my daughter Stacy married 10 years ago, employees at the first store we shopped rushed us and were quite rude. We immediately left and took our business elsewhere.

The second shop was a fit, so to speak. They helped Stacy to find her “dream” gown and worked to stay within my budget. Once you find the right store, shopping for the gown can actually be a pleasant and stress-free experience.

Many dads probably think the gown is the most expensive thing on the budget, especially if they have watched any of the reality shows. Not so, say shop owners. In fact, they said many dads are relieved once they discover gowns are a fraction of the cost of gowns shown on the reality shows.

Perhaps the best monetary investment you can make when it comes to a wedding is for the photography and videography. As TimesDaily bride Cecilia Davis Brumley explains in her story, “One Magical Day,” it is money well spent.

Good friend and TimesDaily Prepress Manager, Lin Reynolds, was the photographer for my daughter’s wedding. While he captured many special moments of that day, one of my favorites was of me walking my daughter down the aisle. It was such a special time for me, and I’m glad we have those photos to treasure now and another 10 years down the road.

And for anyone who didn’t hear the words they long to hear, “Will you marry me?,” don’t despair. Valentine’s Day is the second most popular day for wedding proposals.

Teri Thornton Stepleton - Tennessee Valley Brides editor



TimesDaily Lifestyle editor Teri Thornton Stepleton walks her daughter, Stacy, down the aisle in 2007.

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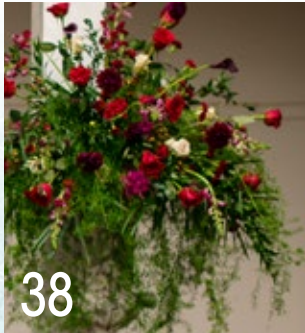
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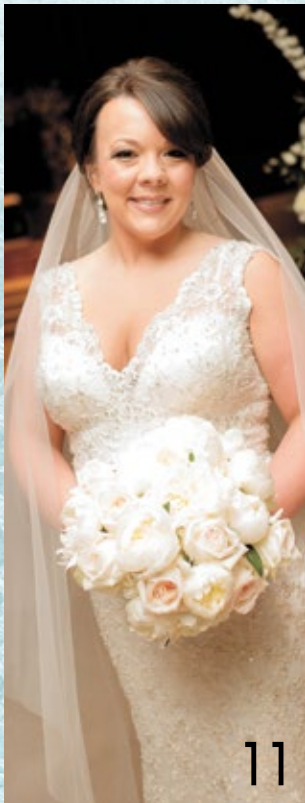
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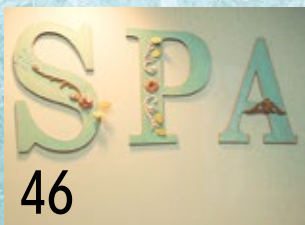
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One Magical Day

Cecilia Brumley, shares her story of how it all came together for one magical day.

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Lauren Leigh Thornton and Andrew Scott Duffey were united in marriage May 7, 2016.

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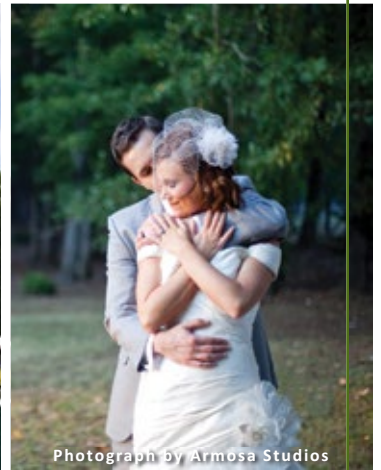
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As seen on WeddingWire.com!

"Thank you from the bottom of our hearts for perfectly capturing our wedding day! Our feature video brought us both to tears. It couldn't have been more perfect! Choosing Awaken Films was definitely one of the best decisions we made for our wedding day."

*Brantley & Amber Gilbert
Country Music Artist*

"Every time we view our wedding video it's literally like we're re-living the entire day all over again. Al completely captured the day, our emotions, and overall experience in ways we couldn't have imagined. Definitely recommend Awaken Films to anyone!"

*Jaime & Tom Gossin
Country Music Artist*

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Bride, Anna Megan Smith
Photographed by Amanda Chapman



*one
magical
day*

by CECILIA BRUMLEY
Photos by HEATHER SHERRILL of
CREATE PORTRAITURE



Eric and I grew up neighbors, but really did not know one another until my mother and one of my friends teamed up and set us up on a blind date – the rest is history.

I never dreamed I would fall in love with the boy next door, but I am so glad I did.

For six years, Cecilia Brumley has been behind the scenes planning and presenting the TimesDaily and Faye Mann Happily Ever After bridal shows. As events coordinator for the TimesDaily, Brumley has worked with many wedding professionals in the Shoals.

When it came to her own wedding, however, it was a little different. Cecilia is sharing her story from challenges in choosing a day for the wedding to how it all came together for one magical day.

Picking the date

Eric put a ring on it Wednesday, Sept. 30, 2015. By Thursday, Oct. 1, I had already sent a few texts to the three most important vendors that I had to have be a part of my wedding day: the photographer, the videographer and the caterer, of course. I skimmed over my work schedule for the upcoming spring and told them all to tell me what dates they had available. I knew I didn't want a long engagement. My thoughts are if you are planning to spend your life with someone you should "plan on spending your life with them" as soon as you make that adult decision.

After talking with my mother and a few friends April 9th kept being a fit. When I told Eric's Aunt Mitzi the date, tears filled her eyes. Eric's father passed away when Eric was 2 on April 9th, 1978. My groom wiped away the tears from my eyes when I thought I had to start over and told me April 9th was the day we should be married. Before, it had been a day that reminded him of what he didn't have, but from now on it would be a day that would remind him of what he did have.

The Dress

Picking a dress was less than ideal for me. I didn't have "that moment" when I knew I had found the right one – there were no tears, or time of blissful happiness. I knew in my head what I thought I wanted, but I am short and curvy, so having what I wanted might not have been ideal. I had hundreds of dresses pinned on my Pinterest board, but when my feet hit the ground to go look, I found myself not searching for any one of those particular ones I had previously fell in love with.

My mother and sister told me to go in and try on everything. So that is what I did, I tried on EVERYTHING! I tried on strapless, ballgown, lace, sequins, long sleeves, cap sleeves, satin, mermaid, A-line. If they made it, I tried it on. While visiting many times with Elle Taylor at Promenade, I had told her what I kept going back to in my head and hadn't been able to find it just yet. Elle called me one day and told me she had just had new gowns arrive and she had one she wanted me to see. I fell in love with it, and that was "my dress." Nobody else loved it like I did, and that made me have lots of doubt between when I ordered it and my wedding day, and that's all I am going to say about that. But on April 9, there were lots of tears and joy over my perfect dress.

Wedding Party

Ahhhh, there is not enough room to write all the love I have for every single person that Eric and I had gather around and stand by our sides on our wedding day. I joke and say we will forever be known as the couple that "married when they were older." I can just hear my grandmother saying

that now. We were 34 and 40, so our wedding party included friends that we had long-standing relationships with, couples that we both were friends with and family members, including his beautiful pre-teen niece and my perfect and precious new twin niece and nephew.

I envisioned our wedding as formal and elegant, and I wanted it to be unlike any other. We opted to go for black formal suits for the guys. Joseph A. Banks had the perfect selection, and they were able to customize each attendant. Eric also gifted the groomsmen with custom-made shirts and ties from J. Hilburn to complete the well-dressed groomsmen look we were going for. I had my eye on gold sequin dresses since the first time I





had ever seen them. I wanted something that had never been used. I had thrown out the idea of looking for something that could be worn again for the girls early in the game. Let's be honest, that's been said a million times, and I don't know of many times people have actually worn the dresses again. Elle came through again and started carrying the line I was looking at shortly before I needed to make a decision. The cost was a little higher than most usual bridesmaids dress, but I talked to my friends and they were open to whatever made me happy. I will forever be happy about those dresses and the friends I had by my side.

Invitations

If you think picking a wedding invitation is easy, you must not have done it recently. The options are endless. We chose to go with a basic yet classic option that had separate reception and RSVP cards. I think RSVPs for weddings is a lost tradition that should be revived. It's exciting getting all those cards back in the mail anticipating opening each one and getting to look forward to people celebrating with you.

It never fails; there will be a few people who will forget to write their name on the card. You try to decipher the handwriting, but it's always an unsuccessful attempt. After I had sent my invitations, I ran across a numbering trick to use on the back of those cards in correspondence to your guest list that would leave the guessing out of receiving blank cards. Unfortunately, for me, I came across that trick too late, but research it; you will need it.

Flowers

I had no idea what kind of flowers I wanted; I knew more of what I didn't want. Actually a week before my wedding I still hadn't made plans for flowers. My sister married just a few years earlier, and my mother booked that florist again for my wedding. I just let him run with it. Mother and I met with Carl Cassidy from Lola's and all I remember telling him is I don't want people attending my wedding to think they were attending a repeat of my sister's ceremony. I told him what I didn't want and left his shop not really understanding the vision he and my mother had. I just trusted it to be beautiful. It turned out being more beautiful that I could have imagined.

Caterer

Jill Larkin, of Jill's Sweet Memories, has become a dear friend to me, so her being the caterer was a no-brainer. I have worked with Jill during the past few years on different events, both personally and professionally. I wanted to do something different and something that was "us." I chose to do a sweet potato bar, because I prefer that over regular mashed potatoes any day. Eric could eat macaroni and cheese every single day of his life, so it was only fitting that we have a macaroni and cheese bar, too. Jill also brought in miniature cans of Dr. Pepper and Diet Coke to give it another signature of our own. I love Jill and her husband Mike, and I was glad they were part of our special day.



Capturing the Day

I can't remember if someone said this or if I read it in one of the hundreds of wedding magazines I have looked at over the years, but whichever it was it stayed with me. "When the cake is gone, the flowers are dead, and the dress doesn't fit any more, you will always have your pictures and video, so invest in that." I chose a photographer who understood me and what I wanted. Heather Sherrill with Create Portraiture let me tell her what I wanted, and she made it happen. I also have built the relationship with Heather through the years, and I was comfortable telling her what I didn't like. She used her skills and talent and captured our wedding day perfectly. I made a list of pictures I wanted, and Heather made sure each one was made.

A videographer is something many people don't think is necessary because so many people

have the equipment to record the event. Wedding videographers, however, have developed their skills into an art form. Al Hammond with Awaken Films is the best in the business. Bigger cities don't have what Al and his team offer. I can't say enough about the love I have for these people and how I will forever treasure my wedding photos and video.

Make-up

I like so many are very particular about my makeup. I always said that I couldn't imagine paying someone to do my makeup and that they would never do it like I liked. Well, I take that back! Hands down the best money spent was having someone come in and do my makeup and just let me sit and relax. Monica, of Monica Aday Makeup, was amazing. I am so glad she helped me change my mind and completed my wedding day look.



Wedding Date
Saturday, April 9, 2016

Ceremony
Grace Life Church of the Shoals

Florist
Carl Cassidy of Lola's

Caterer
Jill's Sweet Memories

Photographer
Heather Sherrill of Create Portraiture

Videographer
Al Hammond, Awaken Films

Reception Location
Tuscumbia Depot and Roundhouse

Reception Entertainment
Replay

Parents of the Bride
Anthony and Celista Davis

Parents of the Groom
Clay Hammond and the late Janice Hammond,
and the late James Dwight Brumley



Matron of Honor
Crista Corley, sister of the bride

Bridesmaids
Melanie Hester, Amanda Hollander, Leah Robison,
Amy Moncus, Jessica Leesburg, and Katie Wallace

Junior Bridesmaid
Mallie Hester

Best Man
Jamey Hammond, brother of the groom

Groomsmen
Hank Corum, Cameron Davis, brother of the bride,
Jeremy Robison, Mack Moncus,
Noah Richardson, and Doug Corley

Junior Groomsmen
Briggs Rutter

Flower Girls
Maudie Hester, Mattie Hammond, niece of the groom,
and Piper Corley, niece of the bride

Ring Bearer
Tripp Corley

Wedding Coordinators
Lisa Knight, Betty Ann Crawford and Sarah Freeman



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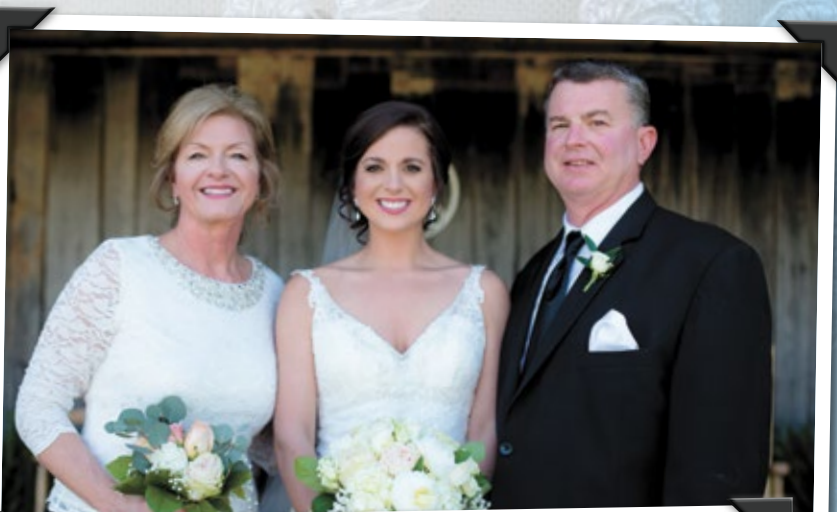
Lauren Leigh Thornton and Andrew Scott Duffey were united in marriage during an evening ceremony Saturday, May 7, 2016.

Friends and family gathered to witness the couple exchange vows at Ava's Place in Florence. The Rev. Dr. Tom Whatley officiated.

Parents of the bride are Dale and Traci Thornton, of Muscle Shoals. She is the granddaughter of Carol Hayes, of Muscle Shoals, and the late Bill Hayes, of Decatur; Edward and Shelia Smith and Reba Thornton and the late Jesse Thornton, all of Muscle Shoals.

Parents of the groom are Scott and Edie Duffey, of Birmingham. He is the grandson of Aubrey and Pam Duffey, of Carrollton, Georgia; Sam and Sharlot Anders, of Lithia Springs, Georgia; and the late Lonnie and Jane Nail.

The ceremony was held in the upstairs of the barn, decorated in elegant greenery and a myriad of seasonal flowers designed by Carmelitta Coan.







Sean Smith, cousin of the bride, served as the soloist for the traditional Christian ceremony.

The bride chose an ivory matte-side lustre satin gown overlaid with ivory lace by Stella York from Promenade in Tuscumbia. The gown featured a scalloped lace hem, low back and court-length satin train under a chapel-length lace veil. The neckline and shoulder straps contained hand-sewn Diamante beading and the back of the gown was lined with crystal buttons.

Maid of honor was Brook Yordy, of Muscle Shoals.

Bridesmaids were Amanda Smith, Georgia Smith, Jennifer Creel, aunts of the bride, Zoe Wynn, all of Muscle Shoals; Nicole Williams, of Tuscumbia; Katie Bolton, Meredith Filippini, Lucy Lavette and Erin Duffey, sister of the groom, all of Birmingham.



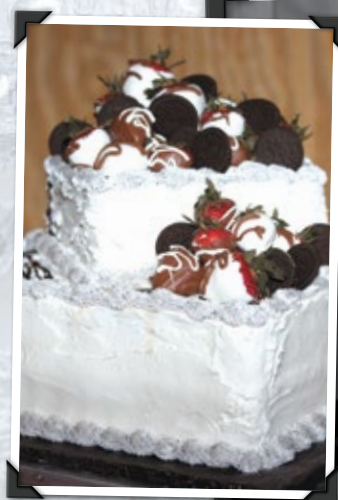
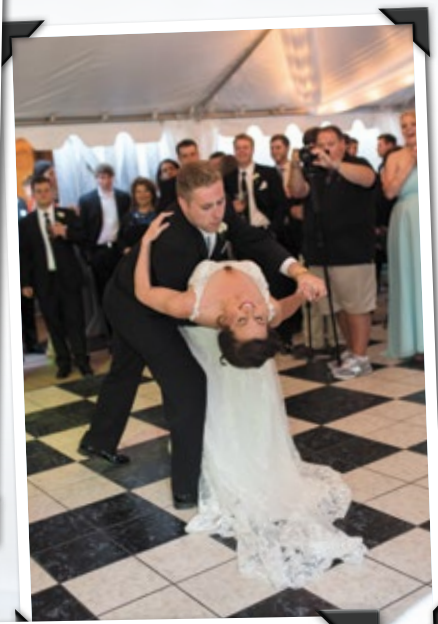
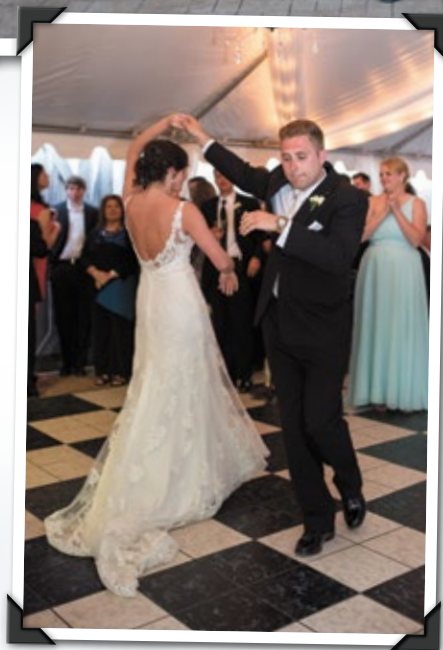


Best man was the groom's father.

Groomsmen were Scott Duffey, of Birmingham; Seth Thornton, brother of the bride, Zach Wynn, both of Muscle Shoals; Chase Brooks, Jay Busby, both of Birmingham; Zeth Olive, of Florence; Zach Gourgeot, of Decatur; Ethan Cassady, David Dobson, both of Oneonta; and Alex Mitchell, of Atlanta, Georgia.

Lindsey Kahn and Tara Bush, both of Birmingham, served as the program and guest book attendants.

The wedding was directed by Ashley Winkle. Tara Parker and Katie Rickard with Blush Imagery captured special moments of the day through photography, while Awaken Films videoed the event.



A reception followed downstairs at Ava's Place. Catering for the buffet-style meal was provided by Jill's Sweet Memories.

The Midnighters provided the music for the reception.

After dancing through the night with their guests, the couple departed the reception under a shower of sparklers for their honeymoon at Excellence Resort in Punta Cana, Dominican Republic.

The newlyweds live in Birmingham. The groom will continue his career as a financial adviser. The bride is completing her fourth and final year of Harrison School of Pharmacy, Auburn University. She is a candidate to receive a doctor of pharmacy degree in May.



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Favorable gifts for guests

by JENNIFER CROSSLEY HOWARD

Giving wedding guests a memento or favor to take home from the reception is as much of a part of the day as the cake these days. But you'll need more than rice, bubbles and bird seed to impress, though sending home edibles and other useful tchotchkes are hits, according to Ashley Ashwander, owner of The Paper Chase, a stationery and gift shop in Decatur.

Keeping meaning in mind is the best way to choose a favor, Ashwander said.

As a wedding planner, she has worked with couples to incorporate their heritage, favorite drinks and local color into their big day. One groom gave a nod to his ancestry with a take-home dessert.

"The groom was of Italian descent, so we had Italian Wedding Cookies," Ashwander said.



Handmade gift boxes.
(Metro Creative
Connection Photo)



Custom printed mason jars with
handwritten wooded-carved
and decorated name tags.
(Associated Press)



Blowing bubbles has become an alternative to throwing rice at weddings. (Associated Press)

If couples already have established a household or do not need gifts, requesting donations to their favorite charities is popular, said Gina Bailey, owner of Pickett Place in downtown Florence. The pre-Civil War era house formerly housed fashion designer Billy Reid's store, and now hosts weddings and other special events. Giving seeds and terra cotta pots to guests at spring weddings is a seasonal creative favor Bailey has seen.

A couple marrying in December at Pickett Place requested guests bring new toys to be donated to children in need. Bailey said honoring a parent or grandparent who is no longer here — by giving their favorite candy bar, for example — is a way to include them. On the more traditional end, monogrammed cookies, ice cream and bubbles still please traditionalists. But even cookies can be fancy. Bailey recalled one wedding where the couple gave away cookies with collages of photos from their childhoods.

Coozies printed with the date and couple's names and miniature bottles of champagne are examples that favors can run as thrifty or as extravagant as desired.

For weddings with many out-of-town guests, couples fill gift baskets and leave them at hotels. They include snacks, tissue and water, useful items after a long journey. Those baskets might have cheese straws or candy from local shops and notes, to personalize them. Trusty Pinterest inspiration includes a morning-after hangover kit for guests partying into the night comprised of bottles of artisan water tied with small pouches of aspirin.

The point is to choose a favor with meaning attached to it, "as opposed to what are we going to give people," Ashwander said.

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Before Anna Beth Graham, front row second from left, married in the summer of 2016, she and her attendants traveled to Charleston, South Carolina, for a weekend getaway.

bridal getaways

by JENNIFER CROSSLEY HOWARD

Being a bridesmaid in 2017 means a little more than agreeing to wear the bride's chosen dress design and maybe hosting a shower. Fashions have evolved and so have, in many instances, the roles of the bride's right-hand women at the altar.

The bridesmaid getaway, usually a mini vacation by car or plane to get out any last-minute demons of singledom or wedding planning, is a tradition almost every bride Chelsea Kennedy works with partakes.

"A lot of them do the beach or Nashville," said Kennedy, who plans

weddings through Chelsea Kennedy Events in Muscle Shoals. "Some of them actually fly somewhere."

Oftentimes bridesmaids plan the trip and even pitch in on rooms and transportation. Lingerie showers and nights on the town are customs planned for the trip.

When Anna Beth Graham, an elementary school teacher in Tuscumbia, went on her getaway last summer, she chose Charleston for its food and outdoor activities. In fact, riding bikes to Battery Park and downtown with her bridesmaids was the highlight of the trip.

"The roads are open to biking and walking, so when we got there, we went out to eat and walked around," Graham said.

Seven of Graham's eight bridesmaids visited Charleston in anticipation of her wedding in December. The women also took a three-hour boat ride on the Atlantic Ocean.

"It was beautiful, Graham said. "The weather was perfection when we went."

They dropped by bars on King Street and shopped at City Market, a vibrant row of vendors housed in a brick Greek Revival building where slaves once were sold.

Graham and her bridesmaids planned themed nights to dinner where everyone dressed in black and the bride, of course, wore white.

Nashville is an easy destination for many Shoals bridesmaid parties at just over two hours away. Groups tend to stick to Lower Broadway or Midtown, an entertainment district near Vanderbilt University, said Martha Davis, marketing assistant with the Nashville Convention and Visitors Corp.

"Bridesmaids groups in Nashville can always be spotted up and down Lower Broadway, whether they are heading to a concert or a game at Bridgestone Arena, tearing up the dance floor of a honky tonk or getting loud and rowdy on a pedal tavern," she said.

New Orleans draws bridal parties for its culinary and music scenes as much as for the raucous French Quarter. It offers

Shoals brides a different taste of the South without traveling too far.

Festivals in The Big Easy offer everything from fried chicken to beignets, and there are plenty of cooking schools that offer lessons to the public.

"Frenchman Street, located just steps from the French Quarter, offers a two-block stretch of live, local music clubs offering a groups a taste of New Orleans music and culture," said Rachel Fund, tourism sales manager of New Orleans Convention and Visitors Bureau.

It turns out that bridesmaid getaways are becoming an international trend, as well.

"We have the wonderful opportunity to work with brides from Canada, the United Kingdom, Germany and Australia to name a few," Fund said.

One reason Anna Beth Graham chose Charleston for a weekend getaway with her attendants was because of the outdoor activities, including bike riding.



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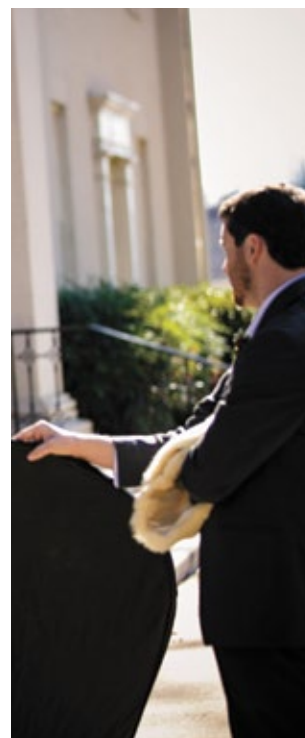
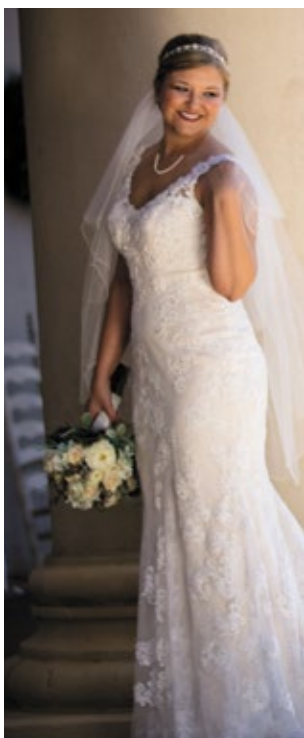
PICTURE-PERFECT WEDDING

by CARA WALKER
Photos by APRIL WARHURST and
REBEKAH BEVIS

Every bride wants a picture-perfect wedding. And to help achieve that goal, Heather Sherrill, owner of Create Portraiture in Florence, says after the venue is set, booking a photographer is the first thing a newly engaged couple should do to make sure every moment of the big day is captured.

Depending on how many hours the couple needs for coverage, Sherrill says most packages run from \$1,900 to \$4,000, but more importantly than the budget, she stresses the importance of finding a photographer with the right style.

"We all have a different style, whether that's clean, vintage, fine art ... there's so many different styles so a couple needs to research so they can find exactly what they want," Sherrill said.



Sandris Hollis, of Hollis Photography in Florence, suggests asking to see a full wedding session, not just the handful of samples most photographers display, during an initial meeting to get a feel for their work.

She also says the bride and groom should ask people who have used the photographer before, and a good photographer should have a list of clients who would be willing to give them a reference.

"The best thing a bride can do is talk to someone who has used the photographer before," Hollis said.

After booking the photographer, the bride and groom should sit down for a consultation, where they provide as many details about the wedding as possible, including the venue, the size of the reception, the size of the wedding party and the size of the family.

"We need all of this to make sure a couple is getting the coverage that best fits. It's not a one size fits all kind of thing. We can customize it just for you and your wedding," Sherrill said.

Hollis says this is the time to tell the photographer about any specific requests the couple has such as a certain family member to



include in the family session or a meaningful spot at the venue. Giving these details also lets the photographer get to know the bride and groom and be more prepared for the wedding.

"We really like to get to know our bride and groom. I'm with the bride the entire day of the wedding. The photographer really spends the most time with them so you want to feel like you're friends," Hollis said.

Sherrill also encourages her brides to bring any examples of pictures they like to this consultation so she can run with those ideas – within reason.

"Photographers are visual people. We produce what we see. It's an art form. But don't bring us a bunch of pictures you've pinned on Pinterest that can't be recreated in North Alabama," Sherrill said. "It's important that you trust your photographer enough to let them plan accordingly."

Establishing a timeline for the day also helps photographers plan, which Sherrill discusses with her brides around one month before the wedding.

"The timeline is very important. It fully ensures that the day runs as smoothly as possible," Sherrill said.



Heather Sherrill of Create Portraiture.

In the last decade, the tradition of the bride and groom not seeing each other before the ceremony has transitioned to photographing the “first look” beforehand, which Hollis says allows her and her husband, Lee, to take all the formal pictures before the reception.

“The receptions cost so much now, and shooting everything before the ceremony lets the couple get to the reception sooner,” Hollis said. “We also don’t have to rush everything in 15 minutes. We can take our time with the bride and groom and get all the shots they want.”

Sherrill usually arrives when the bride is getting dressed and begins shooting, with the first look and bride and groom pictures starting around four hours before the ceremony, followed by the

wedding party and family sessions.

“The first look is getting more popular because it lets you take your time together. It’s very intimate – just the two of them and the photographer without the nerves of 200 people watching them when they first see each other,” Sherrill said.

Although Sherrill prefers taking pictures before the wedding, some couples still want to wait until after the ceremony, but since most photographers are transitioning to pre-wedding pictures, the brides will need to check if their photographer is willing to do this during the consultation.

Another tradition Sherrill says is typical of Southern brides is the bridal shoot, which both she and Hollis offer in their packages.

This shoot is done one to three months before the wedding, and Sherrill says is a fun time for the bride to enjoy being in her dress, usually with her mother or friends with her and without the pressure of the big day.

Hollis says it's also a good trial run for hair styles and accessories since the bride is in the dress for around an hour instead of just a few minutes in the dressing room.

"My advice is to do the bridal session as soon as your dress is altered to see if there are any last minute changes you want to make before the wedding so you are the most comfortable in your dress," she said.

Sherrill agrees that this time also lets the bride get more comfortable with the photographer and see how they work, which she says is important to getting those picture-perfect moments.

"The dress and the pictures are the only things you keep. The food is gone, the flowers die, but you can relive the memory through the pictures forever, so make sure book exactly who you want," Sherrill said.



OTHER QUESTIONS TO ASK YOUR PHOTOGRAPHER

- ⦿ Do your packages include an engagement session?
- ⦿ How do you back-up your files? Do you back them up in more than one place?
- ⦿ Do you offer retouching for the photos?
- ⦿ How do we get the photos, an online gallery or a USB drive?
- ⦿ How can family get prints of the photos after the wedding?



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CATERING

by CARA WALKER
Photos by HEATHER SHERRILL of
CREATE PORTRAITURE



From backyard barbecues to Mexican food fiestas, wedding receptions have become an opportunity for the bride and groom to serve their guests a variety of creative cuisine.

As with other aspects of the wedding, finding the right person – and asking the right questions – is the first step to ensure everyone is happy, and in this case, well-fed.

April Davis, of Southern Skillet catering in Muscle Shoals, says any reputable caterer should be able to provide several references, and the bride and groom shouldn't be afraid to ask for references during an initial consultation.

"You also want a caterer who has a true interest in what your desires are for your special day. You want someone energetic and passionate, someone who is fun to work with," Davis said.

The venue along with the date of the wedding need to be set before the caterer can

sit down with the couple and create a menu that will be best served at their wedding.

Some options won't work during an outside wedding in July, for example, and the caterer should advise the bride and groom to not select food that would be out of their control to monitor, Davis added.

The time of the wedding also influences what type of food the couple should consider choosing. Although finger foods and appetizers are a common sight at afternoon weddings, many are opting to serve full meals, especially for evening weddings.

Jill Larkin, of Jill's Sweet Memories in Florence, encourages couples who are on a budget to consider serving a full meal, which usually costs less.

"A lot of people think finger foods are the most economical, but that is really a farce. A lot of the time it is actually more cost effective



Chicken Salad in pastry cups and green bean bundles by Jill's Sweet Memories.



Fresh Dilly Cream Cheese Bites by Southern Skillet.

to serve a full meal," Larkin said.

Many of her brides who choose appetizers want five or more, and want them to be intricate and pretty, which costs more in labor.

She also says guests in this area expect to be fed a full meal if the wedding is after 5 p.m.

Most caterers price their food "by head," or by how many guests the bride and groom anticipate will attend.

Although many caterers will make more food than anticipated for weddings, it is important not to low-ball the guest list.

Davis says she will usually prepare food for 10 or so extra guests, but if a couple

say 150 guests are coming and 200 actually attend, that is not the caterer's fault.

"A good caterer will always overestimate, because the worst fear of every caterer is running out of food," Davis said.

Larkin usually meets with her brides one to two weeks before the wedding to get a final headcount and let them make any last-minute changes before she orders food, and she agrees that an accurate estimate is important.

"Be honest with your caterer on how many people you are expecting, and then expect them to be honest with you (on what is possible for your event)," Larkin said.





Several other decisions can affect the cost per plate, such as the way the food is prepared and the way it is served.

Larkin says using real dishes and utensils instead of throw-away options can bump the price up by \$2 per person.

The majority of both caterers' weddings are buffet-style, especially as mashed potato or dessert bars remain a trendy option where guests can customize toppings. Some brides still choose to have the food individually served to each guest, which could mean another increase in price for weddings with larger guest lists, Davis said.

The size and layout of the venue often affects the style of serving as well, Larkin added, which is why she asks her brides to do a walkthrough of the venue to assess the flow of the space before the wedding.

Larkin also suggests hiring one caterer for the rehearsal dinner and the wedding to make setup easier, and many caterers offer better pricing if they handle the entire weekend.

"Brides don't know how much stress it takes off at the beginning if they use the same person for the whole weekend. It's one person, one set of notes, one set of ideas. There are a lot of perks," Larkin said.

Davis says a good caterer is ultimately there to offer the bride and groom insight and guidance based on past experiences while being flexible enough to allow them to tailor the menu and style to fit their wedding.

"Ultimately this is your day, and the caterers should be, well, catering to your needs and what you want," Davis said.



Dessert Bar by
Jill Larkin of Jill's
Sweet Memories.



Jill also offers custom made cakes like this beautiful 2 tiered Naked Cake with real flower accents by Kaleidoscope Florist.

OTHER QUESTIONS TO ASK YOUR CATERER

- Do you offer sampling of food before booking?
- What are the capabilities of your facility/kitchen? How much of the food is cooked in-house?
- How is the food transported to the event? Will this require you to hire extra help? How will that affect the cost?
- Do you offer items to borrow/rent? (Linens, table decorations, chairs/tables)
- What happens to any leftover food?

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Florists

by CARA WALKER
Photos by HEATHER SHERRILL of
CREATE PORTRAITURE

Despite the groom's insistence that all flowers are roses, there are almost unlimited options when it comes to arrangements and bouquets for today's weddings, especially as florists can place orders year-round for specific flowers grown around the world.

With so many choices to make – from mother of the bride corsages to pew decorations to reception centerpieces – it's easy for the bride to get overwhelmed when designing floral decorations for the big day.

That's why Joey Kimbrough, of Kaleidoscope Florists in Florence, says it's important to have several key pieces of information before coming to the first consultation.

Number one on his list: the venue.

"It's hard for us to suggest what the couple needs without knowing what the space will be like," he said.

Bringing pictures of the venue lets the florist plan how many arrangements will be needed to make both the ceremony space and the reception space look full and decorated.

Kimbrough also suggests bringing details such as a budget range, the size of the wedding party and the wedding colors to the initial consultation, which he says should be made anywhere from nine months to a year before the wedding.

"A lot of the better vendors, especially florists and photographers, will only do one event per day. The bride is paying for the entire day, and we want to be there if they need us," he said. "So we already have weddings planned into next year."

Although he says it helps when the bride comes in with ideas of what flowers she likes and doesn't like, many times his clients come in with pictures of arrangements where the flowers aren't in season for



Flower design by
Joey Kimbrough at
Kaleidoscope Florist.

their wedding.

He can still order these flowers from areas where they are in season if the farms have enough supply, but he suggests brides have a second choice as well.

For example, he said, peonies are popular among brides because they come in such a variety of colors, but they aren't always accessible. He suggests David Alston roses, which are just as fragrant and diverse in color.

Mollie Holland, of Didgie's Belles Fleur in Leighton, agrees, adding floral photo shoots aren't usually shot in season, but bringing in pictures is a good starting point to help her get an idea of the style the bride wants.

"To let the florist know what overall look you want, start collecting ideas as you see things you like. Even little things like the shape of a bouquet can help us to make what you want," Holland said.

Holland said brides should be open to suggestions by the florist for similar substitutes, especially if they are working on a budget.

"We can usually substitute some of the more expensive flowers to still give the overall look the bride wants without the highest price," Holland said. "I've never had anyone disappointed (with the substitutions). I really try to work within their budget."

On average, the bride's family, who traditionally pays for the ceremony decorations, the reception decorations and the bouquets for the bridal party, should budget \$2,500 to \$5,000 on average, Kimbrough said. The groom's family can expect to pay between \$400 and \$600 for the bride's bouquet, the flowers for family members and the boutonnieres for the groomsmen.

Pricing really depends on the type of flowers selected and the amount used. One trend that has gained

popularity over the past year is the English garden look, Kimbrough said, which uses fewer flowers and more greenery.

"Brides can pick more high-end flowers for a touch of color, and that usually helps with the budget," he said. "It's a big showing for less money."

Holland has also seen a growing number of her clients wanting a more romantic, hand-picked look, but she warns that garlands aren't always cheaper, depending on the type.

She gives her brides an initial quote, itemized by the flowers and greenery used, and then allows them to make adjustments before ordering.

"We can always start bigger and make adjustments as needed," she said.

Kimbrough says these adjustments are normal, as brides often change their

minds as more details are planned. He likes to touch base with his brides once a month to make sure there are no major changes before sitting down for a second consultation three to four weeks before the wedding.

His second consultation involves going over every detail of the setup and designs to finalize the plans and make any last-minute adjustments before he orders the flowers.

Both Kimbrough and Holland said tailoring the decorations to each specific bride is the best part of the process.

"Every bride is so different with what they want now. It used to be that we would have an idea of what a typical bride wanted besides the color, but that's not really the case anymore. It makes our job more fun, and we get to be more creative," Kimbrough said.





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OTHER QUESTIONS TO ASK YOUR FLORIST

- Is there a consultation fee?
- How early do you come the day of the wedding to set up?
- Can I request an example be made of my bouquet?
- Have you done a wedding at my venue before?
- Can you work with my caterer to match flowers for the wedding cake?

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You really don't know until you *try it on*

by TERI THORNTON STEPLETON

As a girl, she dreams of the moment she will walk down the aisle, every head turned her way, listening to the whispered "oohs" and "aahs" from wedding guests as they see her for the first time in her "perfect" gown.

She clips pictures of gowns from bridal magazines and saves photos to her "Dream Wedding" board on Pinterest. She watches countless reality shows and sheds tears with the television bride who always finds the gown of her dreams.

When the time arrives for the young girl-turned-woman to select her wedding gown, she believes she knows exactly what she wants.

She heads to the bridal shop. Gowns are selected from the racks.

Yet when she tries the gown on and comes out of the dressing room to be admired by friends and family who accompanied her on one of the most important shopping trips in a woman's life, something's not quite right. It's not the "ah-ha" moment she has imagined.

It doesn't have to be that way.

Elle Lawler, of Promenade in Tusculumbia, suggests brides shop for their gowns with an open mind.

"A lot of brides come in with high expectations," she said. "They think if

they don't cry when they find 'the' dress, it's not really 'the' one. It doesn't really happen that way.

"You can be on Pinterest all day long and until you try on a gown, you really don't know. Most of the time, a gown will look totally different on you than it does on a mannequin or model."

Vera Rutherford, of Mary's Bridal and Formal Wear in Moulton, agrees.

"Some girls don't have that 'ah-ha' moment," she said. "The (reality) shows make you think you are going to have that moment."

While some brides feel cheated when their experience is not the same as a TV bride, there often is one person among the family who feels a sense of relief at the reality of local wedding gown shopping.

"The prices of the gowns on those shows are out of this world," said Lawler. "We have daddies thinking the wedding dress is going to cost \$6,000 or \$9,000, and they say thank goodness when the gown is only \$1,500 or \$2,000."

In addition to more conservative prices for the gowns purchased locally, the trends for Southern brides are more conservative, too.

"Right now, girls want straps, sleeves

... they want coverage," Rutherford said. "Brides here are more conservative or traditional."

When it comes to wedding gowns, lace has never really gone out of style. And satin, which seemed to have lost favor with brides a few years back, is back in fashion.

"Simple is really in right now," Lawler said. "Lace is still in, but satin is making a huge comeback. We saw a lot of it at market this year, and ordered a lot of satin."

Today's satin is a bit different from the satin used for wedding gowns of generations past.

"It's softer now," said Rutherford.

Some brides are choosing a simple satin gown with a lace top that can be removed.

"There are simple satin gowns that have a lace jacket that button or zip up the back," Lawler said. "It gives a formal look for the ceremony, and then the top can be removed for a simpler look for the reception."

Several designers offer two-piece dresses as a way to mix and match pieces.

"Two-piece dresses have been big in prom wear for a while, but it is coming



over into bridal gowns," said Lawler. "It's not to show midriff, but to give the bride the option of choosing the style top and style skirt she wants. It's sort of a mix-and-match. It's very neat."

Another way to add detailing to a gown or to change a look is with a sash.

"A lot of girls add sashes to a dress to make it different," said Rutherford. "It can completely change the look of a gown. A bride may not necessarily like the look of a gown, but if I add a sash, they change their minds."

Sashes also can add a splash of color.

Even though most people think of wedding gowns as white, few stores carry white gowns.

"I don't have a lot of white in the store," said Rutherford. "Ivory is still the top pick, but blush and champagne are popular colors, too."

And if you are concerned about where you will stash your cellphone for those all-important selfies after the ceremony don't worry. Many wedding gowns now have hidden pockets.

"Gowns with pockets are so big now," said Lawler. "When a bride is



(Tara Parker and Katie Rickard with BlushImagery)

trying on a gown and you tell them the dress has pockets, they say 'Oh my goodness, it has pockets.' Girls love pockets.

"It also makes for cute pictures to have both your hands in the pockets."

Both Rutherford and Lawler say floor-length gowns are still popular among Shoals brides. Cathedral-length veils also are in style.

"The cathedral-length veils look good in pictures," said Rutherford. "Sometimes you have to convince a bride that yes, you do want a veil. You're the bride, you need a veil." She said usually once they try it on, they're convinced.

As far as headpieces go, Lawler said beaded headbands are popular.

"People do the clips for the veil, but they don't show up," Lawler said. "And they can take the veil off at the reception and, with the headband, still have something in their hair."

No matter what kind of gown the bride has in mind, most shop owners encourage brides to shop for a dress as soon as possible.

"The sooner the better," Lawler said. "Some dresses take about four to six months to come in unless you



are buying off the rack.”

Even with buying a gown off the rack, there are alterations to consider. And most photographers want to do bridal portraits well in advance of the ceremony.

If you need help, ask for suggestions when it comes to trying on a dress.

“We had one bride who came in and she kept saying, ‘I hate lace.’ When she was pulling dresses, she would not even let me pull a lace dress. I asked her to please just try on one lace dress. She said ‘OK,’ and that’s all it took.

“You really don’t know until you try it on.”

(AP Photo/Beth J. Harpaz)



(Tara Parker and Katie Richard with Blushimagery)

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take your party *to the* spa

by JENNIFER CROSSLEY HOWARD
Photos by HEATHER SHERRILL of
CREATE PORTRAITURE

Brides and grooms have long enjoyed massages during their honeymoons, but taking their bridesmaids and groomsmen parties to a spa weekend before the wedding is becoming just as common.

Bridesmaids and groomsmen often invest a lot of time and money to be in a wedding, and a spa weekend is a way for brides and grooms to say thank you while relaxing.

Bridesmaids typically get pedicures, manicures and massages at the Marriott Shoals Hotel and Spa in Florence, said spa director, Coco Woodruff. Facials, microdermabrasion, chemical peels and eyebrow waxes are other often requested services.

"As far as timing, October is a busy month for brides," Woodruff said. "That was interesting. Normally October was not busy."



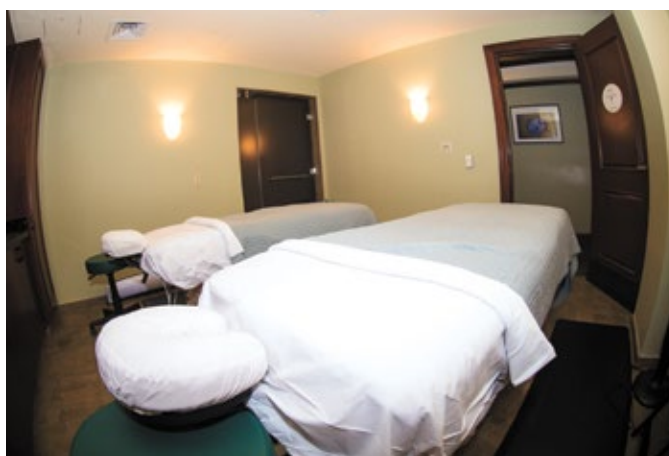
Marriott
Shoals Hotel
and Spa



During late winter and early spring, Woodruff suggests getting a salt glow or sugar scrub to exfoliate skin soon to be shown in gowns. She encourages brides who want skin consultations to call three to four months ahead of their weddings so there is time to correct skin problems.

Woodruff recommends scheduling facials two months before the wedding, but eyebrow waxes depend on the bride's preference.

At Oasis Day Spa & Salon in Florence, spring, summer and fall are the busiest months for wedding parties, said salon manager Taylor McGee. It's best for parties to come in at least a week before the wedding for spa services, but brides should come a few months early for trial runs of hair and makeup.



Groups require scheduling an appointment a month out or longer because the spa often has to block out half a day on the schedule to accommodate large parties.

Brides tend to indulge to recuperate from the stress of planning a wedding. "They do massages and facials to relax," McGee said.

While McGee says it's rare to see groups of grooms and groomsmen come into the spa, at the Marriott, groomsmen commonly schedule massages, Woodruff said.

"We do a lot of groomsmen," she said. "It's real interesting when they come in because they're shy."



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Local Brides

Alexandria Letsinger Williams

Kelsey Underwood Bradford

Rebecca Brocato Baker

Katelyn Keelon Phillips

Anna Jennings Keelon

Jordan Adams Holderfield

Karen Parks Rudolph

Priscilla Newton Taylor

Morgan Hanback Rutherford

Hanny Figueroa Witt

Heather Steele Perry

Jerra Dover Burden

Lorrie King Crawford

Abigail Duncan Dagnel

Mollie Beth Green Ball

Sarah Jones Holcombe

Mary Hayley Darby Cooper

Morgan Presley Gunn

Katheryne Hali Sledge Holt

Sarah Tyree Swann

Lindsey Smith Hughes

Kenzie Davis Balch

Catherine Stutts Marks

Nicole Bohannon Hampton

Leighton Jordan Ratliff

Grace Ratliff Johnston

Kameron Cooper Robertson

Whitney Cockburn Terrell

Jessica Barrett Springer

Shelby Putman McNutt

Ashley Johnson Hanback

Shelby Chamberlain Thompson

Audrey Hill Woodward

Abby Corum Watkins

Jasmine Tate Harden

*Letsinger,
Williams*





Alexandria Hope Letsinger and Gregory Andrew Williams were married May 14, 2016 at The Chapel on Oakwood in Sheffield with Reverend Jim Williams officiating. A reception followed at George's 217.

The bride is the daughter of Chris and Juli Letsinger of Muscle Shoals. She is the granddaughter of Bennie Frank and Shirley Letsinger of Leighton.

The groom is the son of Terri Wright of Florence and Mark and Sherry Williams of Red Bay. He is the grandson of Linda Starkey of Tishomingo, Miss.

Matron of honor was Kelsey Farris of Sheffield, friend of the bride. Bridesmaids were Kalelyn Cagle and Sydney Southern of Muscle Shoals, friends of the bride; Jessica Hubbell of Florence, sister of the groom; Aubrey Shirah of Sheffield and Mackenzie Kirkland of Nashville, Tenn., friends of the bride. Flower girl was Alyssa Hubbell of Florence, niece of the groom.

Best man was Andrew Hayes, friend of the groom. Groomsmen were Tyler Peden, Steven Herring, Justin Goodwin of Florence, all friends of the groom; JB Hubbell of Florence, brother-in-law of the groom; Joe Knight of Muscle Shoals, best friend of the bride's brother. Ring bearer was Ethan McDaniel of Killen, cousin of the bride.

Wedding director was Cecilia Brumley. Floral designer was Tuscumbia Florist. Ceremony soloist was Chelsea Yarber, reception entertainment was provided by David Crews. George's 217 catered the reception with wedding cakes provided by Amy's Cakes. Photographer was Danielle McCann and Claus Martel was videographer. The bride and bridal party's attire were from Promenade Bridal and the groom and groomsmen's attire were from Coat's Clothing.

After a honeymoon in Key West, Fla, the couple is now residing in Florence.

Photos by Danielle McCann Photography







Underwood, Bradford

Kelsey Adrianna Underwood and Collin Maston Bradford were married June 11, 2016 in a 4:00 afternoon ceremony held at First United Methodist Church of Tuscumbia with Bro. Chad Holder officiating.

The bride is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Underwood of Tuscumbia. She is the granddaughter of Mr. and Mrs. Joe Morrison of Cherokee and the late Mr. and Mrs. Bill Underwood of Tuscumbia.

The groom is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Bradford of Muscle Shoals. He is the grandson of the late Mr. and Mrs. Wallace Bradford of Muscle Shoals and the late Mr. and Mrs. Harold Willis of Tuscumbia.

Maid of honor was Sierra Kennedy, sorority sister of the bride, and matron of honor was Destin Lenz, sister of the bride. Bridesmaids were Magan Bartlett, Chrissy Shannon, and Jeri Willoughby, sorority sisters of the bride; Jasmine Bradford, sister-in-law of the groom; Taylor Countiss, Lindsey Key, and Krystle Wisdom, friends of the bride. Flower girl was Miss Kate Bonfield, cousin of the groom.

Best men were Stephen Bradford, father of the groom, and Brent Bradford, brother of the groom. Groomsman were John Harbin, T.J. Lindsey, Houston Mashburn, Cody Malone, Ford Tipps, friends of the groom; William Lenz, brother-in-law of the bride; Alex Morrison, cousin of the bride; and Austin Underwood, brother of the bride. Ring bearer was Coulter Clark, friend of the groom.

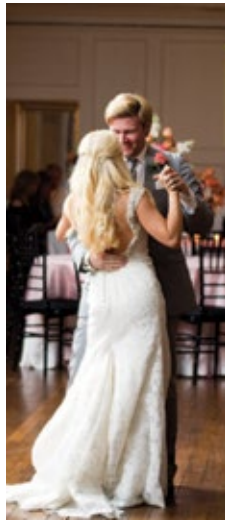
Wedding director was Terri Brown of Kiss the Bride Wedding Planning. Floral designer was Carl Casiday of Lola's Flowers and Gifts. Make-up artist was Monica Aday and hair stylist was Kayla Wilbanks of Simply Fabulous. Photographer was Butler Studios and videographer was Awaken Films.

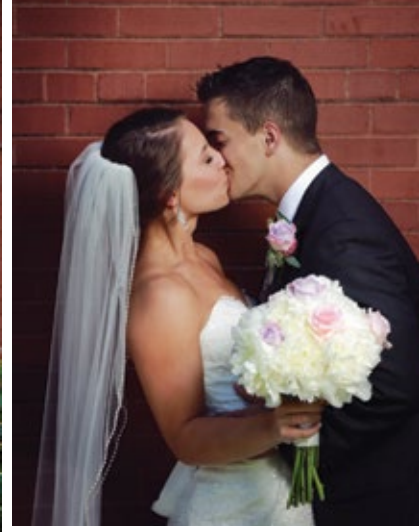
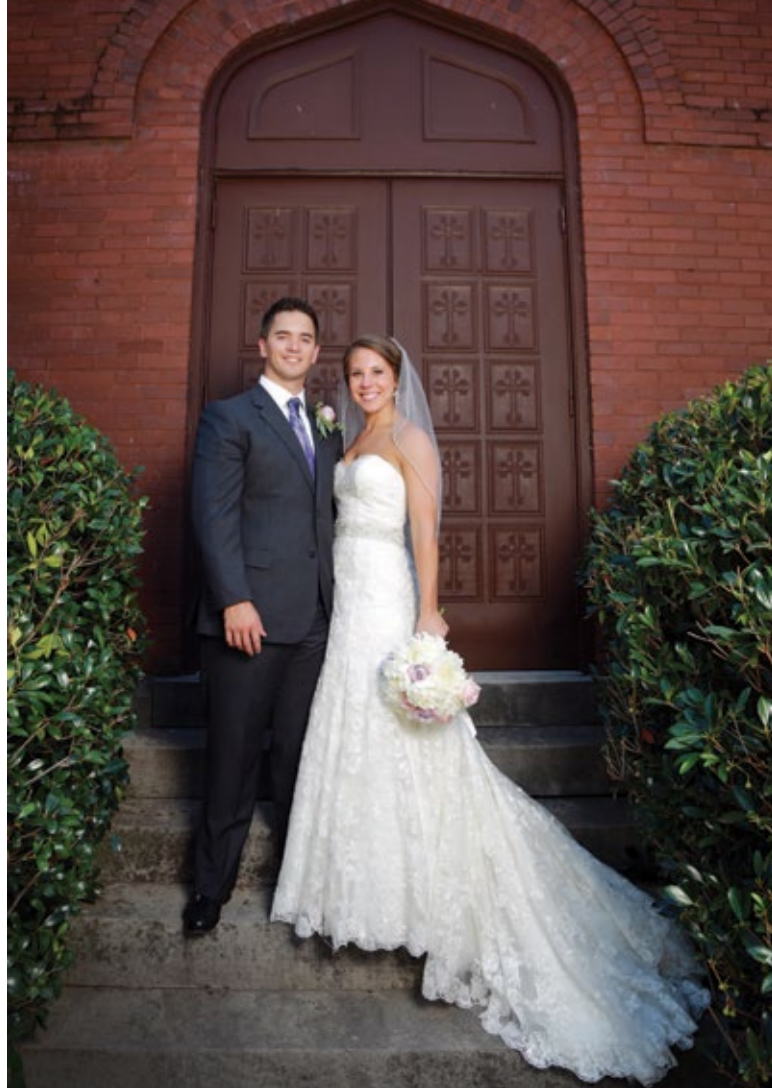
Following the ceremony, a reception was held at George's 217. The event was catered by George's 217 and Aunt Bea's Bakery provided the wedding cake. Entertaining the guests was The Midnighters.

After a honeymoon trip to Montego Bay, Jamaica, the couple is now residing in Tuscumbia.

Photos by Butler Studio







Brocato, Baker

Rebecca Brocato and Cole Weston Baker were married July 9, 2016 in a 6:00 evening ceremony held at Sheffield First United Methodist Church with Randy Burbank officiating.

The bride is the daughter of Tony and Susan Brocato of Muscle Shoals. She is the granddaughter of Tommy and Phyllis Brocato and the late Robert and Yvonne Hurst.

The groom is the son of Gary and Amanda Baker of Sheffield. He is the grandson of Fay and Una Watson and the late Roger and Aitzemnik Borget.

The bride was escorted by her father. She chose a beautiful white gown with matching veil and belt from Proposals Boutique in Little Rock, Ark.

Matron of honor was Rachel Stafford, sister of the bride, and maid of honor was Brittney Little, friend of the bride. Bridesmaids were Hannah Napier, Annabeth Crump, Caitlin Goode, and Lacey Callahan, all friends of the bride. Junior bridesmaids were Cadence Baker and Bella Claire Baker, nieces of the groom. Flower girls were Sophia Baker and Josephine Baker, nieces of the groom.

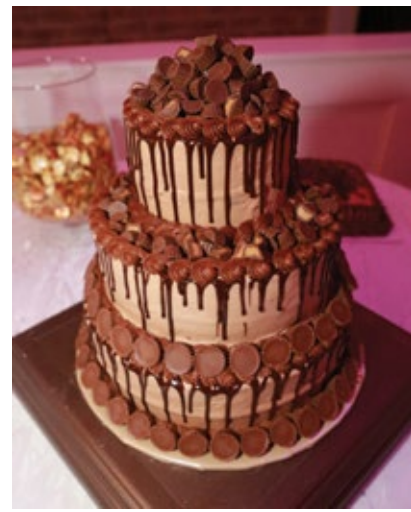
Best man was the groom's father, Gary Baker. Groomsmen were Brett Baker, Shane Baker and Ryan Baker, brothers of the groom; Josh Haselton, brother-in-law of the groom; Luke Gasque, Grant Hagedorn, Reid Napier, and Jake King, all friends of the groom. Ring bearer was Cruise Baker, nephew of the groom.

Wedding director was Truda Whitaker. Floral designer was Duggar's Florist. Performing the music for the ceremony was Diana Hudson, along with special music from Shane Baker, Gary Baker, Ryan Baker, and Frank Myers. Hair stylist was Tiffany Vandiver and make-up artist was Amy Frye. Photographer was Amanda Chapman Photography and videographer was Awaken Films.

Following the ceremony, a reception was held at George's 217 in Sheffield. Catering was provided by George's 217 and Wendy Weeks made the bride and groom's cakes. Entertaining the guests was the Eric Kirkman Combo.

After a honeymoon in Ocho Rios, Jamiaca, the couple is now residing in Birmingham.

Photos by Amanda Chapman Photography



Keelon, Phillips



Katelyn Keelon and Matt Phillips were married June 3, 2016. Vows were exchanged at 6:00 in the evening in a beautiful beachside ceremony in Alys Beach, Fla. with Bro. Tedd Vafeas officiating.

The bride is the daughter of Jerry and Marilyn Keelon of Muscle Shoals. She is the granddaughter of Denver O'Neal, Iva Dean O'Neal and the late Junior Dennis, and the late Bill and Vivian Keelon, all of Russellville.

The groom is the son of Jamey Phillips of Rogersville and Tana Hines of Lexington. He is the grandson of Larry and Yvonne Newton of Lexington and J.C. and Marsha Phillips of Anderson.

Matron of honor was Whitney Keelon, sister-in-law of the bride. Bridesmaids were Anna Keelon and Whitney Swan, sister-in-law of the bride, and Lindsay Steien, childhood friend of the bride. Flower girls were Emma Hawkins and Ella Hall, cousins.

Best man was Clint Phillips, cousin of the groom. Groomsmen were Andy Keelon and John Tyler Keelon, brothers of the bride. Ring bearer was Rex Roberson, cousin.

Wedding director was Meghan Kelly. Floral designer was Cindy Harrison. Ceremony music was provided by Bboy Productions, Lindsay Steien, Rodney Cox, and Brad Hall. Hair stylist was Brooke Miller and make-up artist was Jenelle of 30A Makeup Artist. Photographer was Lacey Marie Photography and videographer was AGAPE Wedding Films.

The reception was held at Fonville Press following the ceremony. Coordinating was Amber Lambert. Townsend Catering catered the event and the Victorian Tea Room made the wedding cake. Bboy Productions provided the entertainment (DJ and photo booth).

A 1966 Lincoln Continental, one of the bride's favorite cars, escorted the bride and groom to Rosemary Beach.

After a honeymoon in Seacrest Beach, Fla., the couple is now residing in Tuscumbia.

Photos by Lacey Marie Photography





Jennings, Keelon

Anna Leticia Jennings and John Tyler Keelon were married October 29, 2016 in a 4:30 afternoon ceremony at Eden Gardens in Santa Rosa Beach, Fla. with Lee Parker officiating.

The bride is the daughter of Steven and Celeste Jennings of Knoxville, Tenn. She is the granddaughter of the late Norman and Donna Mock of Ardmore, Okla., Luisa Menendez of Puerto Rico, and Jose Franco of Cape Cod, Mass.

The groom is the son of Jerry and Marilyn Keelon of Muscle Shoals. He is the grandson of the late Iva Dean O'Neal, Denver O'Neal of Russellville, the late Junior Dennis, and the late William and Vivian Keelon.

The bride chose a Maggie Sottero Bellissima tulle ballgown with Swarovski crystals accenting the bodice and illusion neckline, scalloped lace hemline and delicate satin belt at the waist in champagne finished with pearl buttons over zipper down the back in ivory.

Matron of honor was Angelina Reed, sister of the bride. Bridesmaids were Whitney Keelon and Katelyn Phillips, sisters-in-law of the bride, and Kallie Allison, niece of the bride. Flower girl was McKenna Reed, niece of the bride.

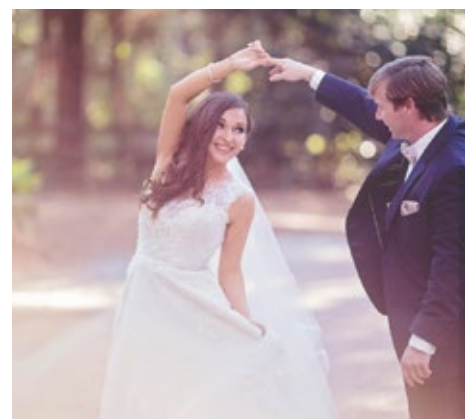
Best men were the groom's father, Jerry Keelon, and brother, Andy Keelon. Groomsman was Matthew Phillips, the groom's brother-in-law.

Wedding directors were the bride and her best friend, Paige Swann of Dandridge, Tenn. Floral designers were the bride and Cindy Harrison of Muscle Shoals. Hair stylist was Chrys of Salon Twist and make-up artist was Jenelle of 30A Makeup Artist. Photographer was Lacey Marie Photography and videographer was AGAPE Wedding Films.

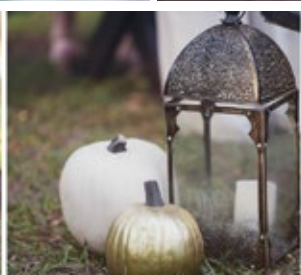
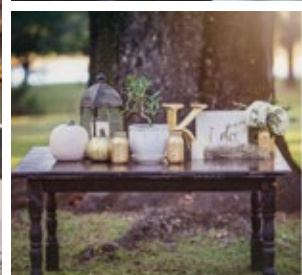
The reception was held at Eden Garden's Pavillion. Caterer was Sheilah Lane. The wedding cake was made by Angela Bowden of Sugar Art by Angela and the groom's cake was made by Katelyn Phillips. Entertainment for the reception was provided by GTS Entertainment Group and Bboy Productions supplied the photo booth.

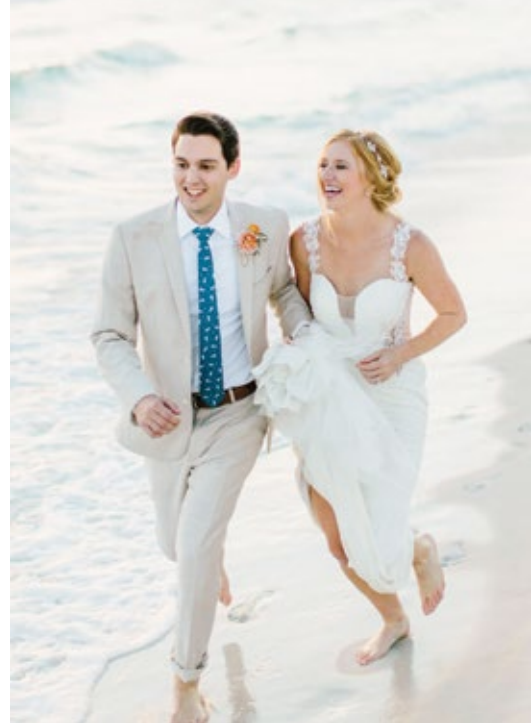
Sunshine Shuttle and Limousine provided a 1957 white classic Rolls Royce that escorted the bride and her father to the entrance for the ceremony, and was used as the exit vehicle for the bride and groom.

After a honeymoon in Rosemary Beach, the couple is now residing in Franklin, Tenn.



Photos by Lacey Marie Photography





Adams, Holderfield

Ryan and I were high school sweethearts and after we left Lexington, we both attended Auburn University. I had always known Ryan was the one, since my first day at Lexington, because when he walked into first period it was like a movie scene where everything around you stops and your crush is in slow motion, walking towards you with the fan blowing on them, and they glance and you smile and wink. I had always wanted to get married along 30A since we had been going there since I was little...

Jordan Adams and Ryan Holderfield were married October 29, 2016 at 4:00 in the afternoon in a beautiful beachside ceremony in Seagrave, Fla.

The bride is the daughter of Scott and Elke Adams. The groom is the son of Matt and Delinda Holderfield.

Bridesmaids were Baylee Newton, lifelong best friend of the bride, Jamie Moore and Whitney Rogers, college friends of the bride.

Best man was the groom's brother, Seth Holderfield. Groomsmen were Lane Adams, brother of the bride, and Josh Holderfield, cousin of the groom.

The bride's gown was purchased from David's Bridal and the groom's attire was from Perry Ellis with the pineapple tie from The Tie Bar. Hair stylist and make-up artist was Tara Russo of Powder and Paint. Photographer was Stefanie and Nathan of Be Light Photography and videographer was Milestones by Jana. Signs and programs were by Ledgewood Fine Stationery.

A reception was held following the ceremony. Floral designer for the ceremony and reception was Bella Floral. Caterer was Moe's Southwest and the wedding cake and cupcakes were provided by Sweet Henerittas. The wedding cake topper was from California Lusture. The groom's donuts were provided by The Donut Hole.

The couple is now residing in Huntsville.

Photos by Be Light Photography







Parks, Rudolph

Drs. Glenn Rudolph and Karen Parks were married on October 1, 2016 at First United Methodist Church Florence, followed by a reception at Turtle Point Yacht & Country Club.

Glenn is the son of Roy and Celia Rudolph from Muscle Shoals, and Karen is the daughter of Trey and Ginger Parks from Decatur.

Karen's brother, Kyle, introduced the couple over 6 years ago while they attended UAB. Although their initial relationship was short-lived and inevitably drowned in their dental and medical school studies, the seed had indeed been planted. A few years later, they met again at Kyle's wedding where Glenn and Karen were both in the bridal party. For a second time, the timing was not right, and they parted ways yet again.

In the fall of 2015, Karen had time off during her surgery residency in Louisville, Ky. and made her way to Decatur to visit with her family. Fortunately, Kyle remained friends with Glenn over the years, and Glenn was invited to come participate in a game night with the Parks family. It was this night that Karen finally admits that the "blinders were lifted". Karen fell in love with Glenn, and Glenn took advantage of Karen's change in heart and put a ring on it!

The newlyweds currently live in Louisville, Ky. where Karen is finishing a general surgery residency, and they will be moving to Gainesville, Fla. in the summer of 2017 where Karen will start a Vascular Surgery Fellowship.

The bride was escorted by her father. She wore a white Lillian West gown from Couture Closet in La Grange, Ky. She carried a bouquet with her baby bonnet wrapped as the bouquet handle.

Matrons of honor were Brittany Parks and Susan Parks, sisters-in-law of the bride. Bridesmaids were Ameer Rudolph, Rachel Roberts, Whitney Cook, Erin Schumer, and Stephanie Mastrangelo. Flower girl was Halle Morlan.

Best man was Rory Rudolph, brother of the groom. Groomsmen were Joe Rudolph, Kyle Parks, Chris Parks, Michael Berke, Adam Cotant, and Sean Sinclair. Ring bearer was Conner Parks.

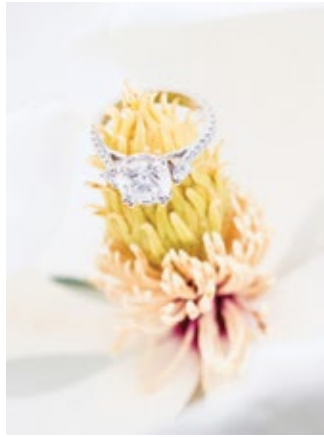
Wedding director was Chelsea Kennedy. Floral designer was Lola's Florist. Music for the ceremony was provided by organist Linda May and vocalists Jim and Mashea Maples. Wedding planner assistant was Caitlin Holland, church coordinator was Terry Buchanan, and reception coordinator was Jennifer Highfield. Hair stylist and make-up artist was Laren Lindholm. Photographer was Joel & Amber Photography.

A bridal tea was held for the bride and First United Methodist Church Tusculumbia, and bridesmaids luncheon was held at Locust Hill.

The rehearsal dinner was catered by Sweet Basil Cafe and Drum and Drummer provided the entertainment.

The reception was catered by Turtle Point Yacht & Country Club and the cakes were made by Amy's Cakes. Guests at the reception were entertained by Metropolitan D.J. The couple honeymooned at The Finest Resort in Playa Mujeres, Mexico.

Photos by Joel & Amber Photography





Newton, Taylor

Priscilla Ann Newton and Lincoln Perry Taylor were married October 29, 2016. Vows were exchanged at 4:00 in the afternoon at Lexington Methodist Church with Josh Webster officiating.

The bride is the daughter of Gary and Lori Newton of Lexington. She is the granddaughter of Sam and Elizabeth Newton and Dorris Garner, all of Lexington.

The groom is the son of Wade and Donna Taylor of Killen. He is the grandson of Frances Harrison, the late Pete Thorne, Charlotte Taylor, and the late Lucky Taylor.

The bride was escorted by her father. She wore a beautiful white lace gown with matching veil from Cherry Tree Lane and pearl earrings belonging to her grandmother.

Maid of honor was Tenna Patterson, best friend of the bride, and matron of honor was Tara Nava, cousin of the bride. Bridesmaids Molly Newton, cousin of the bride; Shelby McNutt, Katie Wallace, Jessica Robbins, Grace Ann Holden, Morgan Phillips, all friends of the bride; Morgan Taylor and Krystal Taylor, sisters-in-law of the bride. Flower girls were Grace Ann Compton and Victoria Compton, cousins of the groom.

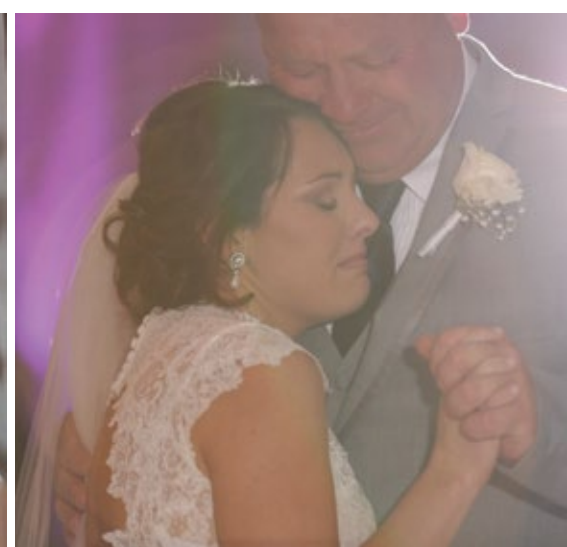
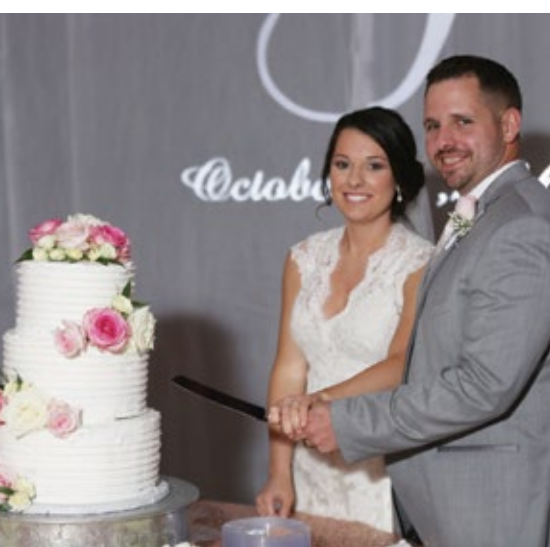
Best man was Landon Taylor, twin brother of the groom. Groomsmen were Zach Taylor and Zane Taylor, brothers of the groom; Jackson Newton and Nick Newton, brothers of the bride; Caleb Gooch, Cory Brooks, Andrew Davenport, Kyle Hogan, and Adam Matthews, all friends of the groom. Junior groomsman was Sam Newton, brother of the bride, and Brayden Taylor, nephew of the groom. Ring bearer was Hunter Nava, cousin of the bride.

Wedding director was Cecilia Brumley. Floral designers were Beth Gresham, Zach Richardson, and Justin Myrick. Hair stylists were Kala Shelton and Halley Barksdale and make-up artist was Monica Aday. Bridesmaids make-up artist was Lindsey Hughes and Associates. Photographer was Colin Riddle with Smith Squared Photography and videographer was Hannah Roberts. A photo booth was provided by One Stop Rentals in Killen, and the draping and lighting was provided by Grand Rental Station.

The reception was held in the church Family Life Center following the ceremony. The reception decorations were provided by Beth Gresham and caterer was Jill's Sweet Memories, who also made the wedding cakes.

After a honeymoon at Sandals Resort in Jamaica, the couple is now residing in Florence.

Photos by Smith Squared Photography





Hanback, Rutherford

Morgan Hanback and Jake Rutherford were married April 9, 2016 in a 6:00 evening ceremony at Rutherford Farm in Town Creek with Chris Miller officiating.

The bride is the daughter of Shane and Amy Hanback of Florence. She is the granddaughter of the late Jimmy and Olene Hanback of Muscle Shoals and Karen Cooper and the late Michael Cooper of Florence.

The groom is the son of Brian and Vera Rutherford of Town Creek. He is the grandson of Charles and Sue Rutherford, Mildred Harrison and the late John C. Harrison, and Vernon Harrison and the late Irene Harrison, all of Town Creek.

The bride was escorted by her father. She wore a mermaid style cotton lace gown from Allure, purchased from Mary's Bridal & Formal Wear in Moulton, that featured an ivory lace overlay covering a champagne satin slip, a low v-shaped back, and was accented with a beaded sash.

Maid of honor was Kayla Hanback, sister of the bride. Bridesmaids were Amber Hammond and Gabrielle Tate of Rogersville, Abby Rutherford of Nashville, Tenn., Kenzie Thomas, Megan Nelson, and Kristen Darby of Florence. Flower girl was Adley Jones of Town Creek.

Best man was the groom's father, Brian Rutherford. Groomsmen were Colin Rutherford, William Russell, Barry Pool, Nathen Liles, and Austin Harrison, all of Town Creek, and Nathan Bain of Florence. Ring bearer was Easton Curbow of Rogersville.

Wedding director was Vanessa Tate and floral designers were Vanessa Tate and Laura Terry. Hair stylist and make-up artist was Kenzie Thomas. Photographer was Jessica Rumble and videographer was Al Hammond with Awaken Films. All the wedding attire was purchased from Mary's Bridal and Formal Wear.

A reception was held at Rutherford Farm following the ceremony. The event was catered by Whole Hog Barbeque. The bride's cake was made by Wendy Weeks and Tina Russell made the groom's cake. Donnie Gibson entertained guests at the reception and also provided the music for the ceremony.

After a honeymoon trip to Disney World, the couple is now residing in Town Creek.

Photos by Jessica Rumble





Figueroa, Witt

Hanny Yesenia Figueroa and Jonathon Auburn Witt were married September 24, 2016 at 5:30 in the afternoon at The Florence House in Florence with Brother Jim Lumpkin officiating.

The bride is the daughter of David and Florentina Mattox of Russellville and the late Lazaro Figueroa. She is the granddaughter of the late Genaro and Natalia Figueroa and Rebecca Mattox and the late Junior Mattox of Live Oak, Fla.

The groom is the son of Bobby Witt and Patricia Witt, both of Muscle Shoals. He is the grandson of Denver O'Neal and the late Iva Dean O'Neal of Russellville, the late Bobby Coleman Witt, Sr. and the late Pat Witt, and the late Junior Dennis.

The bride chose a mermaid style gown by Private Collection from Mary's Bridal. It featured lace over a light gold satin slip, a sweetheart neckline, and was accented with a beaded belt. The Giselle fingertip veil featured a scalloped style with crystals and pearls.

Maid of honor was Ashley Witt, sister of the groom, and matrons of honor were Pam Uhlman, aunt of the groom, and Emily Evans, friend of the bride. Bridesmaids were Liz Allen, Brooke Shirley, Laura Bohannon, and Jillian Swafford, all friends of the bride. Flower girls were Aubree Witt, daughter of the groom; Marzia Lemus-Figueroa, niece of the bride; and Ella Hall, niece of the groom.

Best man was the groom's brother, Brad Hall. Groomsmen were Daniel Wilson, Joseph Keelon, Bryan Franks, Randy Hester, Tyler Tomas, and Jace Potter, all friends of the groom. Ring bearers were Adan Figueroa and Jadan Figueroa, nephews of the bride, and Greyson Cox, cousin of the groom.

Wedding director was Channing Wright. Floral designer was Jut's Weddings and Special Events. Hair stylist was Jada Wilson and Bethany Rogers of Avenue Salon, and make-up artist was Corey Nichols of Makeup By Corey. Photographer was Heather Sherrill of Create Portraiture and videographer was Grissom Productions. Dance lessons were by Stephanie and Leslie Garcia.

The reception was held at The Florence House following the ceremony. Jill's Sweet Memories catered the event and made the bride and groom's cakes. Fine Era Productions provided the music for the ceremony and the entertainment for the guests at the reception.

After a honeymoon in Nassau, Bahamas, the couple is now residing in Russellville.

In loving memory of my father, Lazaro Figueroa.





Steele, Perry

Heather and Taylor were both students at the University of North Alabama. Heather was part of the Pride of Dixie Marching Band Color Guard. A mutual friend in the band department who attended Taylor's church suggested that they meet. After meeting, Heather and Taylor dated for two years and Taylor set up a surprise proposal at U.N.A., between the lions den and Bibb Graves on September 5, 2015. After Taylor led Heather to believe that they were going out to celebrate new jobs and after a private proposal, they celebrated their engagement with family and friends.

Heather Steele and Taylor Perry were married September 10, 2016. Vows were exchanged at 4:00 in the afternoon at Doublehead Resort in Town Creek with Jerrie Richie officiating. The unity ceremony included braiding three strands of rope to represent Christ, the bride and the groom.

The bride is the daughter of Billy and Cheri Steele of Double Springs. She is the granddaughter of Kathy Green and the late Billy Green Double Springs, Shirley and Glynn Johnson of Hartselle, and the late O'Neal Steele of Double Springs.

The groom is the son of Barry and Melissa Perry of Killen. He is the grandson of Carolyn Austin and the late James V. Austin and the late Cortez and Jewel Perry, all of Florence.

The bride was escorted by her father. She wore an ivory full length gown with a floor length train by Bonny with a lace and sequin keyhole back that featured pearl and sequin beading, lace cap sleeves and a sweetheart neckline, purchased from Cherry Tree Lane in Florence.

Photos by Allure Photography



Matron of honor was Kimberly Rice, friend of the bride. Bridesmaids were Jessica Webb and Samantha Young, friends of the bride, and Hannah Perry, sister of the groom. Flower girls were Reagan Spires and Addilyn Spires, friends of the groom.

Best man was the groom's father, Barry Perry. Groomsmen were Chase Barnett, Eric Kelley, and Brad White, all friends of the groom. Ring bearer was Bradie Payne, cousin of the bride.

Wedding director was Amy Edwards and floral designer was Jut's Weddings & Special Events. Ceremony music was provided by guitarist Phillip Spires and violinist Cassia Mathis. Guest book attendants were Kayla Steele and Ashlyn Steele. Hair stylist was Lauren McAnalley and make-up artist was Morgan Minor. Photographer was Blush Imagery.

Special attendants also included Heather's family dog, Lil Andy, and Taylor's family dog, Mia. They were pulled in a wagon by the bride's cousins and brothers. They also had a memory table which included grandparents and an uncle that have passed away.

The reception was also held at Doublehead Resort following the ceremony. Doublehead provided the catering and Jan Bogus made the wedding cakes. Phillip Spires entertained the guests.

After a honeymoon Caribbean cruise to the Cayman Islands and Cozumel, Mexico, the couple is now residing in Decatur.



*Dover,
Burden*





A rustic, sunset ceremony was the setting for the marriage of Jerra Brianne Dover and Andrew Blake Burden. On Saturday, September 24, 2016, the couple said their vows at Ava's Place in St. Florian with Reverend Ted Vafeas officiating. After eight and a half years of dating, the couples' wedding day was everything they envisioned. They are truly thankful for each person who played a role in their "happy ever after."

The bride is the daughter of Wade and Betty Dover of Muscle Shoals. She is the granddaughter of Jerry and Faye Dover and Betty Vinson and the late Clarence Vinson, all from Tusculumbia.

The groom is the son of Andy and Tina Burden of Leighton. He is the grandson of Cleavon and Susie Burden and Wayne and Sue Goodwin, all from Town Creek.

Escorted by her father, the bride chose a lace, champagne gown with handcrafted beading from Promenade. Her wedding day attire was completed with a pair of cowboy boots given to her by her parents, which also served as her something blue.

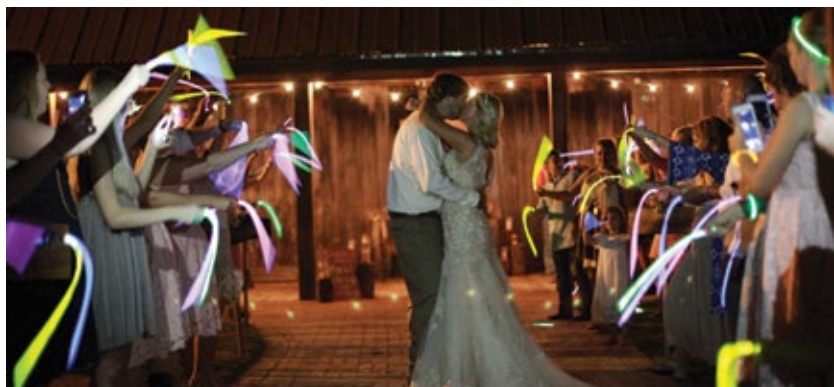
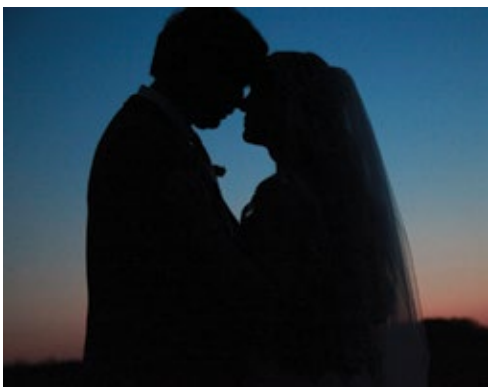
By the bride's side was her maid of honor and sister, Mallie Dover. Matron of honor was, Taylor Davenport, sister of the groom. Bridesmaids included Kara James and Kinsley Milender, cousins of the bride; Fallon Craigge, Madison Craigge, Jayci Evans, and Dianna Goins, all friends of the bride. The flower girls were Jolee Isbell, daughter of the bride's friend; Kashlyn James and Aubrey Lopp, cousins of the bride.

Serving as best man was Andy Burden, the groom's father. Groomsmen included Brantley Dover, brother of the bride; Brian Davenport, brother-in-law of the groom; Clint Isbell, cousin of the bride; Kory Davenport, Orrie Lansdell, Seth McCormack, and Ben Richie, all friends of the groom. The ring bearer was Parker Wray, cousin of the bride.

Following the ceremony, the guests enjoyed a reception at Ava's Place filled with love and laughter while dancing the night away. The bride's three-tiered cake was created by Wendy Burns Weeks, while the southern-inspired groom's cake was made by Vicky Stanfield. Floral designer was Mollie Holland. The bride and groom would like to express their sincere thanks to their parents along with Pam Elrod, Stacy Hughes, Renea Hunter, and Leah Phillips.

After a honeymoon to Cancun, the couple now resides in Leighton.

Photos by Amberly Lynn Photography





King, Crawford

Lorrie Kathryn King and Devin Daniel Crawford were married March 19, 2016 in a 4:00 afternoon ceremony held at First Baptist Church of Sheffield with Mike Noles officiating.

The bride is the daughter of Danny and Sheila King of Muscle Shoals. She is the granddaughter of Ray and Betty McKinney of Muscle Shoals, Dan King of Chattanooga, Tenn., and Frank and Joyce Coburn of Muscle Shoals.

The groom is the son of Francis and Lori Crawford of Saraland. He is the grandson of Christina Crawford of Chickasaw.

The bride was escorted by her father. She wore a beautiful white, strapless Mori Lee gown from Promenade in Tusculumbia.

Maid of honor was Morgan Bradford, best friend of the bride. Bridesmaids were Loren Pate, friend of the bride, Becca Dugger, sorority sister of the bride, and Skylar Crawford, sister-in-law of the bride. Flower girls were Kaeleigh Loveless, cousin of the bride, and Meredith Miller, friend of the bride.

Best man was the groom's brother, Caleb Crawford. Groomsmen were Jamian Spear, friend of the groom, Drew Ozier, Richard Boley, and Christopher Shindorf, fraternity brothers of the groom.

Wedding director was Kristi Sockwell. Floral designer was Lola's Flowers and Gifts. Other special helpers were Kristina Craigge and Sharon Richardson. Rachel Wammack provided the music for the ceremony. Hair stylist was Jordan Grissom. Photographer was Megan Dawson of Dawsons Photography and videographer was Steven Anderson.

A reception was held at Cypress Lakes Golf & Country Club following the ceremony. Caterer was Stacie Oliver, who also made the bride and groom's cakes. Disc jockey Sammy Mayfield provided entertainment for the guests.

After a honeymoon in New Orleans, La., the couple is now residing in Oxford.

Photos by Dawsons Photography







Duncan, Dagnel

Abigail Suzanne Duncan and Hunter Blake Dagnel were married October 1, 2016 at 5:00 in the afternoon at The Oaks at Centreville in Centreville, Ala. with Rev. Bobby Dagnel, father of the groom, officiating.

The bride is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Stuart William Duncan of Grand Prairie, Texas. She is the granddaughter of Mr. and Mrs. Roy K. Duncan of Florence and Mr. and Mrs. James William Simmons, Jr., also of Florence.

The groom is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Bobby Dagnel of Lubbock, Texas. He is the grandson of Barby Dagnel of Tyler, Texas and Velma Hyde of Frankston, Texas.

Maids of honor were Sara Young of Florence, life long friend of the bride, and Meghan Gildea of Boca Raton, Fla., college room mate of the bride. Bridesmaids were Kelley Duncan of Birmingham, sister-in-law of the bride; Miriam Biffle of Decatur, Crystal Dye of Tuscaloosa, Christina French of Birmingham, Sarah Hilliard of Phil Campbell, and Andrea Shephard of Opp, all college friends of the bride.

Best man was the groom's father, Rev. Bobby Dagnel. Groomsmen were Taylor Duncan of Birmingham, brother of the bride; Stedman Garner and Corey Tyson of Danville, Tyler Harris, Cameron Shannon and Ryan Shannon of Hoover, Grayson Martin of Dothan, and Andy Shirley of Mobile, all friends of the groom.

Wedding director was Keely Duke. Floral designer was Cindy Harrison of Florals by Cindy.

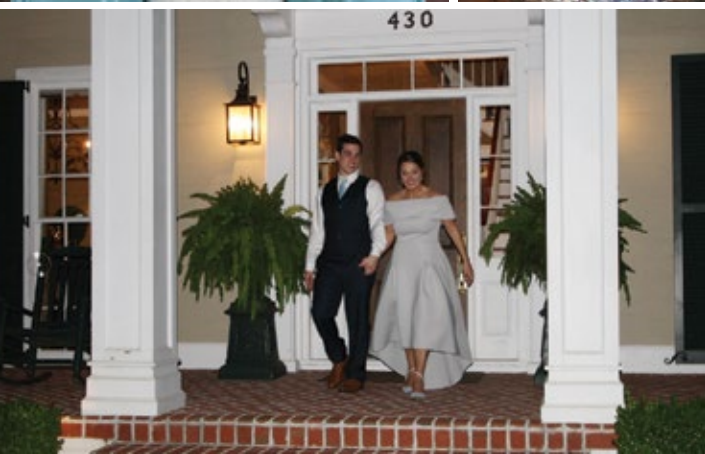
Following the ceremony, a buffet dinner reception was served in The Oaks Conservatory with dining under the lantern lit oaks. The couple has their first dance to "The Way You Look Tonight" followed by a night of dancing and photo booth fun for the guests. The evening concluded with the couple departing in a vintage white 1955 Chevy.

The couple's honeymoon at Sandals Resort in Negril, Jamaica was postponed due to Hurricane Matthew. They are currently residing in Dallas, Texas.

The bride received various showers and teas: a bridal shower hosted by friends and family at Pickett Place in Florence; a bridal shower hosted by friends in Lubbock, Texas; a bridesmaid luncheon hosted by Leza Ritter, aunt of the bride; a Panties and Pancakes Lingerie brunch hosted by friends in Tuscaloosa.

The bridesmaids, the bride and her family all stayed at the Vance-Ellison house in Centreville the weekend of the wedding. The rehearsal dinner was held at the Vance-Ellison house on the veranda in Texas barbecue theme.

Photos by Sommer Green





Green, Ball

December 5, 2015 was like any other day, so she thought. The couple went duck hunting, like they do. Mollie heard a noise and spotted a drone. Not knowing whose it was, she would not look up. Casey told her something was attached to it. Little did she know it was her engagement ring held on by a floater. Yes, it was being flown over the water. He told her to stand up and look as he was getting down on one knee. Casey asked Mollie to marry him and after the slight hit she gave him, she said "yes!". They turn around to see two friends videoing from the woods as two others drove by with drone in hand. Returning to the house, family and friends awaited to celebrate. Several friends had helped plan the day since October without ever giving the slightest hint her day was coming!

Mollie Beth Green and Casey Stevenson Ball were married September 3, 2016 in a morning ceremony held at the couple's residence on Elk River. Rickey Green, with the assistance of Dakotah "Cody" Green, officiated.

The bride is the daughter of Rickey and Alice Green of Ethelsville, Ala. She is the granddaughter of Carl and Jean Green and Dorothy Butler and the late Ingram Butler, all of Rogersville.

The groom is the son of Charles "Butch" and Patricia Ball of Rogersville. He is the grandson of the late Hulan and Ila Mae Barnett and the late Ernie and Edna Ball, all of Rogersville.

Maid of honor was Maggie Green, sister of the bride. Bridesmaids were Ashli Davis, Kristen Roberson, Katherine Menefee, and Ashley Darracott, all friends of the bride. Flower girl was Lillie Meyer, friend of the bride.

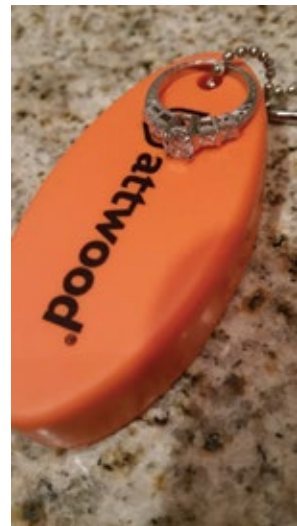
Best man was Clint Davis, friend of the groom. Groomsmen were Chase Williams, J.J. Brindley, Chad Menard, and Tyler Cosby, all friends of the groom. Ring bearers were Lake Ingram and Link Ingram, friends of the groom.

Wedding director and floral designer was Dawn Pettus. Hair stylist was Ashley Darracott and make-up artist was Abby Stovall. Photographer was Ashton Stapler of Happily Me Photography and videographer was Tyler Cosby via drone. Other special helpers were Austin Butler and Anna Tidwell, and special thanks to George Mobley with the dove release.

After the ceremony, the reception followed at the couple's home. Pop's Barbeque catered the event and Libbie Embry made the bride and groom's cakes. Second Creek Band entertained the guests.

The couple are planning a honeymoon for 2017, but right now they are enjoying their newly built home in Rogersville.

Photos by Happily Me Photography



*Jones,
Halcombe*





Sarah Ann Jones and Adam David Holcombe were married November 25, 2016 in a 4:00 afternoon ceremony held at Holcombe Farm in Waterloo with Ellis Coats, grandfather of the bride, officiating.

The bride is the daughter of Pat and Becky Jones of Florence. She is the granddaughter of Ellis and Barbara Coats and Peggy Jones and the late Paul Jones, all of Florence.

The groom is the son of David and Denise Holcombe of Waterloo. He is the grandson of William and Dot Terrell of Florence and Lawrence Holcombe and the late Earline Holcombe of Waterloo.

The bride was escorted by her father. She wore a beautiful trumpet style gown designed by Kenneth Winston made of Alencon lace with a beaded bodice, purchased from Cherry Tree Lane in Historic Downtown Florence.

Maid of honor were Courtney Murphy and Ashley Wallace, friends of the bride, and matron of honor was Alyson Holcombe, sister-in-law of the bride. Bridesmaids were Lauren Hall and Sarah Baggett, friends of the bride, and Ali Lambert, cousin of the bride. Junior bridesmaid was Lynnsey Beth Lambert, cousin of the bride. Flower girls were Piper Williams and Layla Williams, cousins of the bride.

Best man was the groom's brother, Drew Holcombe. Groomsmen were Matt Williams, Cass Woods, Josh Young, friends of the groom, and Jackson Jones, brother-in-law of the groom. Ring bearer was Dolyn Williams, friend of the couple.

Wedding director was Sheena Bryant. Floral designers were Robin Patterson and Kelsey Adnrews Interiors. Music for the ceremony was provided by Bradley Wallace. Hair stylist was Deanna Putman and make-up artist was Ashley Wallace. The groom's and groomsmen's attire was from Coats Clothing in Florence. Photographer was Heather Sherrill of Create Portraiture.

The reception was held at Holcombe Farms following the ceremony. Caterer was Jill Larkin of Jill's Sweet Memories and the wedding cakes were made by Peggy Jones, Harley Williams and Barbara Coats. Bradley Wallace entertained the guests.

The couple are planning a delayed honeymoon in Hawaii in June, 2017. They are now residing in Waterloo.

Photos by Heather Sherrill, Create Portraiture



Darby, Cooper



Mary Hayley Darby and James Kyle Cooper were married May 28, 2016 at 6:00 in the evening in a beautiful outdoor ceremony held at the bride's home on Wilson Lake in Killen with Ronnie Pannell officiating.

The bride is the daughter of Stephone and Beth Darby of Killen. She is the granddaughter of James and Margaret Darby and the late Glen and Mary McFall. Honorary cousin of the bride is Joan McFall.

The groom is the son of Jimmy and Patti Cooper of Corinth, Miss. He is the grandson of Charles and Peggy Leonard of Corinth, Miss. and Diane Cooper and the late Stanley Cooper.

The bride was escorted by her father. She wore a vintage inspired gown from Essence of Australia with an illusion sweetheart neckline and an extra long cascading lace train purchased from Bella's Bridal in Birmingham.

Maid of honor was Kenzie Davis, cousin of the bride. Bridesmaids were Amber Ashley, Julie Schlosse, Chandler Sparrow, Chelsea Spencer, and Katie Brooke Wear, all friends of the bride; Andrea Darby, sister-in-law of the bride; Laney Davis, cousin of the bride; and Ruth Ann King, sister of the groom. Junior bridesmaid was Elizabeth Hand, cousin of the bride, and flower girl was Emi-Jane King, niece of the groom.

Best man was Jimmy Cooper, father of the groom. Groomsmen were Jay Henderson, Collin Holley, Julio Macias, friends of the groom; Evan Cooper, brother of the groom; Zack Cooper, Daniel Cooper, cousins of the groom; Nicholas Darby, brother of the bride; and Lee King, brother-in-law of the groom. Ring bearer was Cole Kelley. Ring security was Bentley Kelley and Boone Thigpen.

Wedding director was Terry Brown of Kiss The Bride. Floral designer was Jut's Weddings and Special Events. Keith Behel provided the ceremony music. Hair stylist was Mellany Lancaster of Revelation 2 Studio Hair Design and make-up artist was Allison Hyde. Photographer was PbK Studios and videographer was Castleberry Video & Design.

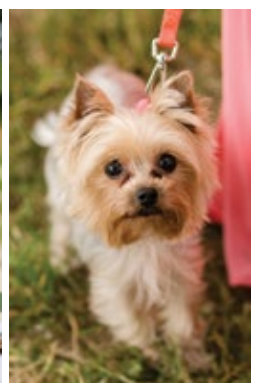
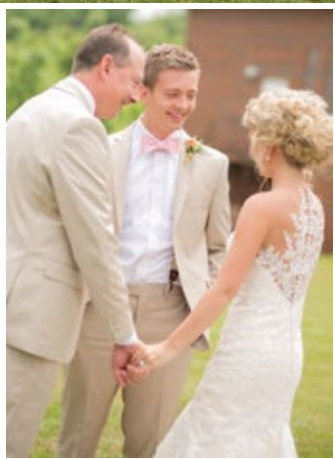
The reception was also held at the bride's home following the ceremony. Jill's Sweet Memories was the caterer, Amy's Cakes made the wedding cake and Carla Beard Cakes made the groom's cake.

The bride and groom released two white doves representing life's journey together, followed by a beautiful release of a flock of doves. The doves were provided by Alabama White Dove Release.

Art by Kevin King, Montgomery, Ala., painted during the ceremony and provided the canvas to the couple as a wedding keepsake.

After a honeymoon at the Sandals Royal Plantation in Ocho Rios, Jamaica, the couple is now residing in Florence.

Photos by PbK Studios





Presley, Gunn

Morgan Presley and Chris Gunn were married June 4, 2016 in a 6:30 p.m. outdoor ceremony at the home of Mike and Nickie Campbell with Chris McDougal officiating.

The bride is the daughter of Stacy Myhan of Tuscumbia and Micah Presley of Muscle Shoals. She is the granddaughter of Mike and Nickie Campbell of Muscle Shoals, Charlotte and Ron McKinney of Tuscumbia, and the late Rick Moody of Sheffield.

The groom is the son of Maretta Reed of Tuscumbia and Howard Gunn of Sheffield. He is the grandson of Margaret Elliott of Sheffield and Walter and Era Jones of Tuscumbia.

The bride was escorted by her father. She chose a beautiful white Maggie Sottero gown from Promenade Formal Wear in Tuscumbia.

Maid of honor was Hailey Watson of Sheffield, best friend of the bride, and matron of honor was Sarah Prejeant of Tuscumbia, aunt of the bride. Bridesmaids were Magan McNutt of Tuscumbia, Haley Hill of Centre, Alyssa Hargett of Tuscaloosa, and Keri Berryhill of Sheffield, all friends of the bride; Dakota Anderson of Killen, aunt of the bride; and Sharica Long, cousin of the groom. Flower girls were Kensley Gunn and Elise Prejeant.

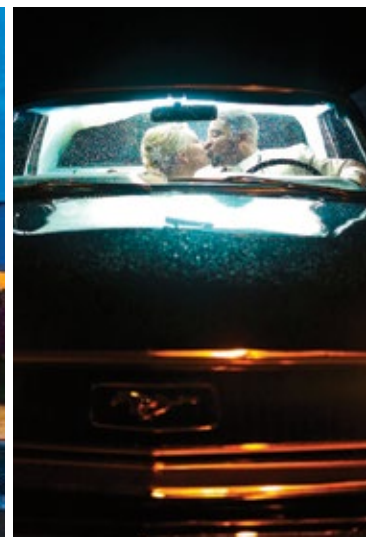
Best men were Roderick Gunn of Tuscumbia and Dewayne Gunn of Florence, brothers of the groom. Groomsmen were Evan Fleming of Tuscumbia, Julian Brown of Huntsville, Harold Wisdom of Muscle Shoals, and James Cannetti of Graz, Austria, friends of the groom; James Adkins of Nashville, Tenn., brother of the groom; and Terrence Jones of Tuscumbia, cousin of the groom. Ring bearer was Chance Sterling.

Wedding directors were Nickie Campbell and Donna Parkes. Floral designer was Duggar's Florist. Johann Robinson provided the ceremony music. Hair stylist was Ashley Watson of Parlor 217 and make-up artist was Hailey Watson. Photographer was Danielle McCann Photography. The rentals were provided by Party Pros. The groom had requested for the bride to walk across the swimming pool and Party Pros built a bridge that made this possible.

The reception was also held at the Campbell home following the ceremony. The bride and groom's cakes were made by Baker's Layne.

The couple is now residing in Sheffield.

Photos by Danielle McCann Photography





Sledge, Holt

Katheryne Hali Sledge and Antwan Kennedy Holt were married March 26, 2016 in a 4:30 afternoon ceremony held in Huntsville with Michael Roberts officiating.

The bride is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Sledge of Tuscumbia. She is the granddaughter of the late George D. and Zela Mae Sledge of Tuscumbia and the late Willie and Carrie Ealy of Sheffield.

The groom is the son of Dr. and Mrs. Kennedy Holt of Jonesboro, Ga. He is the grandson of the late Charles and Hannah Harris and the late Pat Hold and Gertrude Jackson Holt.

The bride was escorted by her father. She wore a beautiful white gown from Anya Bridal in Atlanta, Ga., along with a handmade veil with a twelve foot long cathedral from Beccas Bridal Boutique on Etsy and handmade dress belt and garters from Heirloom Bridal Boutique on Etsy.

Maids of honor were Kimbria Sledge of Tuscumbia, niece of the bride, and Leslie Minor of Atlanta, Ga., friend of the bride. Matrons of honor were Faith Sledge North of Newnan, Ga., sister of the bride, and Leah Smith Powers of Madison, friend of the bride. Bridesmaids were Devonna Freeman of Nashville, Tenn., Adrienne Malone of Sheffield, Chaz Randall of Norfolk, Va., Jasmine Putnam of Huntsville, all friends of the bride; Ashley Rucker of Atlanta, Ga., cousin of the bride; and Vanessa Loiseau of Jonesboro, Ga., friend of the groom. Flower girls were Karsyn North of Newnan, Ga. and Caitlyn Wynn of Atlanta, Ga.

Man of Distinction was Deandré Holt of Atlanta, Ga., brother of the groom. Best men were Reginald Jordan, Christopher Wells, Jovi Keo of Atlanta, Ga. and Nick Alexander of Colombia, S.C., all friends of the groom. Groomsmen were Jay Johnson of Huntsville and Martez Austin of Atlanta, Ga., friends of the groom, and Ladarrius Harris of Birmingham, cousin of the groom. Ring bearers were Kari North of Newnan, Ga. and Camden Jett Powers of Madison.

Wedding directors were Glenda Williams, Paula Malone and Gracie Davis. Floral designer was Priscilla Sledge. Ceremony music was provided by James Oliver Roy, Andre Payne/DJ Dre Smoove, and soloists Keneyta White and Princess Threatt. Other special helpers were hostesses and users Raina Sledge, Syreeta Ziegler, Christian Owens, Kayla Walker, Gail Walker, Jonathon North, Rashaad Sledge, Dalen Sledge, Bjorn Malone, and Edmond Malone. Hair stylist for bridal party was Sharell Powers and make-up artist was Shonté Baltès and Tiffany Flowers-Hurst. Photographers were Megan Dawson and Cassidy Cooper of Dawson Photography, and videographer was Stephen Young.

The reception was held at The Westin Huntsville following the ceremony. The venue provided the catering. The wedding cake was from Publix in Madison and the groom's cake was from the Madison Walmart. The mistress of ceremony for the reception was Dr. Lisa Graves Minor and the master of ceremony was Chelvis Bell.

The couple took a honeymoon trip to Cape Town and Johannesburg, South Africa, and Isreal. They are now residing in Atlanta, Ga.



I was very adamant on having the wedding outside and in March. The original date was March 12th but I ended up changing it (reluctantly) to March 26th due to some scheduling conflicts on March 12th.

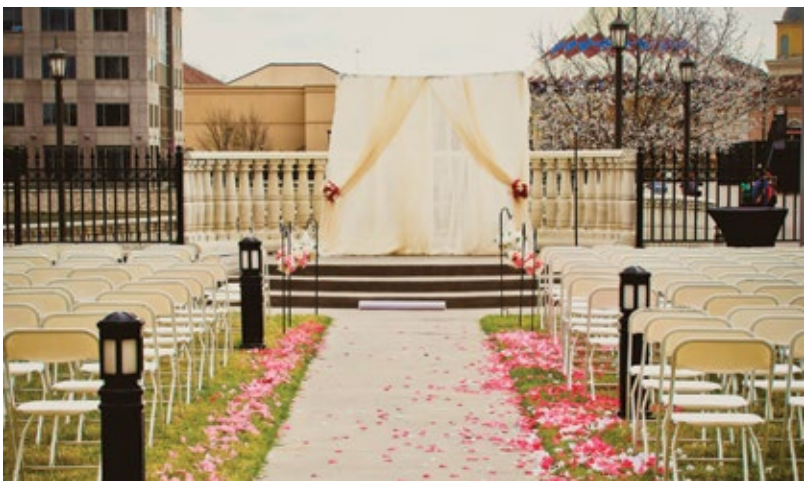
March is a peculiar time of year due to being at the end of winter and the beginning of spring. As a matter of fact, the actual date of Spring Equinox is March 20th. Therefore, the weather was unpredictable. Hence, I prayed daily for sunshine and warmth.

Furthermore, I checked the weather each day. It changed each time I checked and that was stressful! One day forecasters would predict storms, the next they would predict warmer but cloudy weather, and the following day sunny but cold weather. It was never consistent and never sunny and warm. Therefore, I was mentally prepared to move everything inside, although that was NOT my idea of a perfect wedding day.

The rehearsal was on March 25th and although it was a sunny day, it was barely 60 degrees outside...but I checked the weather one more time that day and it predicted around 70 and sunny for Saturday which was a little cooler than I wanted but it was still GREAT to see that.

The official records for March 26th 2016 was around 76 degrees and sunny...all day! I was able to have a BEAUTIFUL ceremony with PERFECT weather. It was warm enough to be comfortable without having to worry about sweating my makeup off or my guest and wedding party being in unbearable heat.

In addition to the aforementioned details, I planned the wedding from out of town which was stressful. I want to thank my mom (and daddy) for everything they did for me during the planning process (which was a lot). In addition to coordinating the wedding, I was also blessed to have my decorations and several of the flowers arrangements prepared by members of my church family, Glenda Williams and Paula Malone. I was also blessed by my Aunt Priscilla Sledge who coordinated all of the flowers and assisted with decorations. Since I live out of town I was only able to come home on the weekends to discuss details. We had meetings at my parents' house which included mock setups. I am so appreciative that they took time from their schedules to ensure my vision came in to fruition. Antwan and I also made a number of visits home to participate in marriage counseling with our minister Michael Roberts of the High Street Church of Christ in Tuscombua.





Tyree, Swann

Miss Sarah Rebecca Tyree and Mr. Ryan Wesley Swann were married on Saturday, June 11, 2016 at 6:30 in the evening. Vows were exchanged at First Presbyterian Church in Florence, Ala. with Reverend Brandon Miles officiating. Following the ceremony, the bride's family honored the couple with a dinner reception at Turtle Point Yacht and Country Club.

The bride is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Richardson Tyree of Florence, Ala. She is the granddaughter of Mrs. Fredericka R. Tyree and the late Mr. Karl T. Tyree, Jr. and Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth E. Patterson, all of Florence.

The groom is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Wayne Swann of Kimberly, Ala. He is the grandson of Mrs. Edith E. Swann and the late Mr. Julius J. Swann of Fultondale, Ala. and the late Mr. and Mrs. Joseph S. Spears Jr. of Morris, Ala.

Given in marriage by her father, the bride wore an intricate floral ivory Alencon lace gown with a hemlace chapel-length train. Her flutter edge bridal veil complimented the stunning tuelle sash with a beaded lace motif of pearls and crystals.

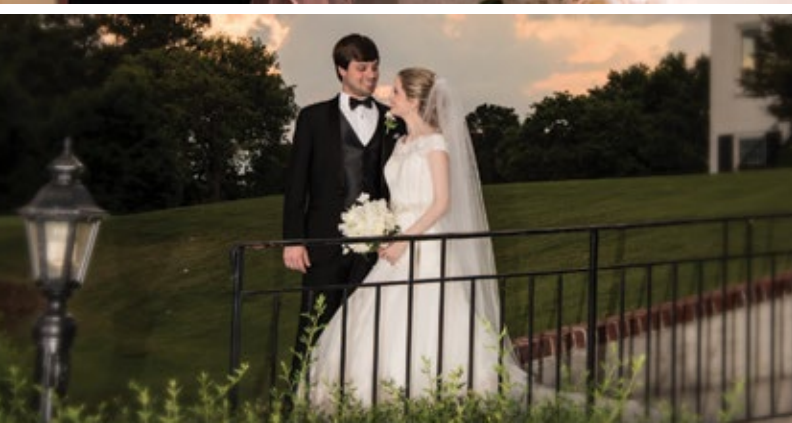
Abigail Worley of Huntsville, Ala. attended her cousin as maid of honor. Other bridal attendants included Elizabeth Crook of Houston, Texas; Kaira Klingler of Elk Grove Village, Ill.; Celeste Hobgood of Sumrall, Miss.; Megan Emery of Atlanta, Ga.; Bentley Anderson of Florence, Ala.; and Kendall Bullard of Rockford, Ala. Flower girl was Leanne Hobgood.

Standing with the groom as best man was his father, Mr. Jerry Wayne Swann. Serving as groomsmen and ushers were Steven Swann and Joseph Swann, both of Kimberly, Ala.; Caleb Harper and Taylor Williams of Birmingham, Ala.; Conrad Walko of Orlando, Fla.; Ryan Tarpey of Golden, Colo.; Caleb Swann of Auburn, Ala. and Rob Tyree Jr. of Florence, Ala. Ring bearer was Dalton Holloway. Providing scripture reading was Michael Worley of Huntsville, Ala. and Alexander Crook of Houston, Texas.

Floral designer was Carl Casiday and photographers were Sandra and Lee Hollis. Wedding directors were Chelsea Kennedy and Jo Beth Hurt. Music was provided by organist Rebecca Rockhill, and soloist Randy Pettus. The cakes were made by Heather's Cakes.

Sarah and Ryan, both graduates of The University of Alabama, departed the reception with their guests waving spirit pom poms and sending them off with a roaring Roll Tide. They are now making their home in Oklahoma City, Okla.

Photos by Hollis Photography







Smith, Hughes

Lindsey Smith and Jacob Hughes were married May 21, 2016 at Oliver's Barn in Killen with Pastor Kevin Black officiating. The reception followed at Oliver's Barn.

The bride is the daughter of Wendy Hennessee of Florence and the late Trevor Smith of Tuscumbia. She is a licensed instructor and cosmetologist at Parlor 217 in Florence.

The groom is the son of Michael Hughes of Killen and Robin Peter of Fort Myers, Fla. He attended Northwest Shoals Community College and The University of Alabama and is currently employed with Blue Springs Elementary School.

The bride was given in marriage by her brother, Hagen Hennessee. Maid of honor was Shaylie Hughes of Florence. Bridesmaids were Emily Horton and Tessa Johnson of Florence; Baylee Mixon of Tuscumbia; Katie Lopp, Megan McKinney, and Madelyn Vinson of Muscle Shoals; and Hannah Hughes of Killen. Flower girls were Savannah Lovett and Olivia Lovett of LeMars, Iowa, Audrey Sue Vinson of Muscle Shoals, and Kaylee Nesbitt of Tuscumbia.

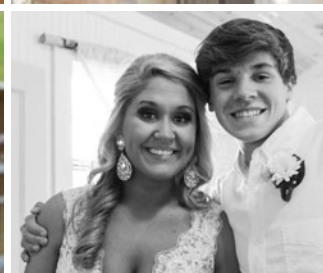
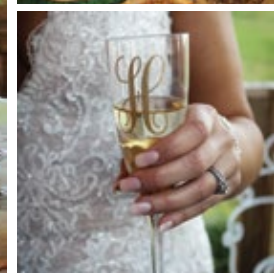
Best man was Daniel Garrett of Antioch, Tenn. Groomsmen were Scott Tubbs of Madison; Logan Simpson, Seth Clemmons, T.W. Fowler of Tuscaloosa; Caleb Smitherman of Killen; Hagen Hennessee of Florence; and Jeremy Reaves of Muscle Shoals. Ushers were Caleb Carmack and Caden Carmack of Tuscumbia. Ring bearers were Jonathan Lovett of LeMars, Iowa, Curt Smith, Wyatt Smith, and Atticus McDougal of Tuscumbia.

Music for the ceremony and entertainment at the reception was provided by Jags Premier in Muscle Shoals.

After a honeymoon trip to Disney World in Orlando, Fla., the couple is now residing in Florence.

Photos by Jessica Rumble and Tessa Johnson







Davis, Balch

Photos by Create Portraiture

Kenzie Leigh Davis and Wesley Keith Balch were married November 19, 2016 in a 6:00 evening ceremony held at Woodlawn Church of Christ with Matt Heupel officiating.

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

The groom is the son of Keith and Zilpha Balch of Danville. He is the grandson of Max and Aline Wiley and Bobby and Nancy Balch.

The bride was escorted by her father. She wore a beautiful Justin Alexander beaded tulle ballgown with a cathedral fluttercut veil and carried a bouquet of cabbage roses, seeded eucalyptus and amaranthus.

Maid of honor was Laney Davis, sister of the bride, and matron of honor was Hayley Cooper, cousin of the bride. Bridesmaids were Andrea Darby, Brianna Gwin, Haley Crowell, all cousins of the bride; Sabrina Balch, sister-in-law of the bride; Catherine Marks, childhood friend of the bride; Albany Dial, friend of the bride. Junior bridesmaids were Lilly Chandler, friend of the bride, and Elizabeth Hand, cousin of the bride. Flower girl was Grace Ann Holt, friend of the bride.

Best man was the groom's father, Keith Balch. Groomsmen were Alan Balch and Matther Balch, brothers of the groom; Cody Wilbanks, childhood friend of the groom; Nicholas Darby and Kyle Cooper, cousins of the bride; Blake Hollimon, Austin Penter, and Lee Tressillian, friends of the groom. Ring bearer was Harrison Chandler, friend of the bride.

Wedding director was Terri Brown of Kiss the Bride. Floral designer was Jut's Weddings & Special Events. Hair stylist was Lisa Sampson of Flawless Hair Studio and make-up artist was Corey Nichols of Makeup by Corey. Photographer was Heather Sherrill of Create Portraiture and videographer was Gena Sharpe of Sharpe Edge Media.

The reception was held at Sweetwater Depot following the ceremony. The event was catered by Jill's Sweet Memories and Aunt Bea's Bakery made the bride and groom's cakes. Keith Behel Music & Sound entertained guests at the reception and provided the ceremony music.

The couple took a cruise to the Bahamas and went to Disney World for their honeymoon. They are now residing in Florence.



Stutts, Marks



Catherine Clair Stutts and Jonathan Olen Marks were married June 18, 2016 in a 2:00 afternoon ceremony at Ava's Place in St. Florian with Brad McKinnon officiating.

The bride is the daughter of Jeff and Teresa Stutts of Florence. She is the granddaughter of the late John Henry and Virginia Stutts, the late James and Clarice Quigley, and the late Lois and Cora Lee Behel, all of Florence.

The groom is the son of Phillip and Susan Marks of Florence. He is the grandson of Sam and Margaret Marks and the late Frances Marks of Florence, and the late William and Mary Edna Gautney of Killen.

The bride was escorted by her father. She chose a beautiful white Mori Lee gown, along with her grandmother's wedding ring and pearls. Her father led a beautiful prayer after giving her away.

Maid of honor was Molly Stutts, sister of the bride. Bridesmaids were Conner Beckman Webster, Melanie Batchelor, Kenzie Davis Balch, all of Florence, Hannah McComb of Madison, and Kaylon Lovelace Hunt of Iron City, Tenn., all friends of the bride. Flower girls were Kayleigh Emerson of Tuscumbia, niece of the groom, and Kelsie McDaniel of Florence, family friend of the bride.

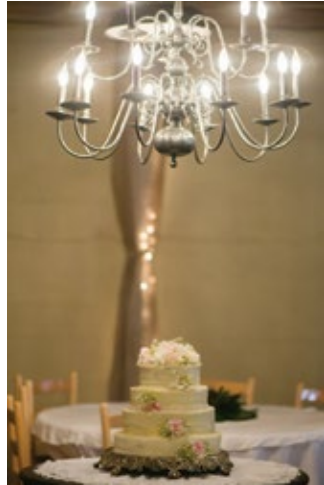
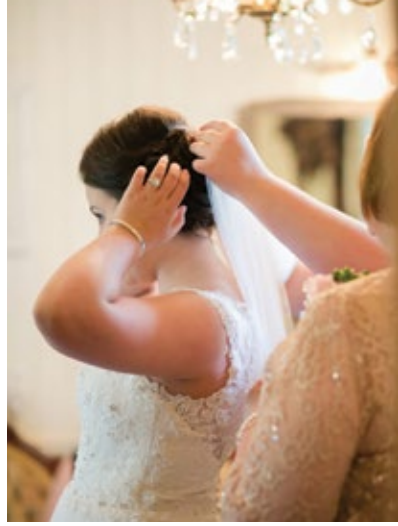
Best man was the groom's father, Phillip Marks. Groomsmen were Landon Willis, Conner White, Austin Howdyshell, Logan Foote, and Jeremy Harper, all friends of the groom from Florence. Ring bearers were Hayden Emerson of Tuscumbia, nephew of the groom, and Jamison Quigley of Collinwood, Tenn., cousin of the bride.

Wedding director was Terri Brown and floral designer was Cindy Harrison of Florals by Cindy. Hair stylist was Stephanie Ayers and make-up artist was Nancy Howdyshell. Photographers were Kayla Burgess and Lindsay Balentine of PbK Studios and videographer was Rebekah Kimbrell.

The reception was also held at Ava's Place. Jill Larkin of Jill's Sweet Memories catered the event and made the cakes. Battenburg lace tablecloths from the bride's and groom's grandmothers adorned the tables. The cake was served on the bride's grandmother's cake stand and the bride's mother's pink depression glass was also used at the reception. The bride's grandmother's tea cakes were served at the reception and the bride and groom's mother's wedding gowns were displayed. The florals featured magnolia wreaths and hydrangea centerpieces with bouquets of hydrangeas, white and pink roses and sprays of baby's breath, while magnolia leaves, roses and hydrangeas draped the ceremony arbor.

After a honeymoon in Tybee Island, Ga., the couple is now residing in Florence.







Bohannon, Hampton

Nicole Bohannon and Joshua Lee Hampton were married May 28, 2016 in a 6:00 evening ceremony held at First United Methodist Church of Tuscaloosa with Dr. Kenneth Dunivant officiating.

The bride is the daughter of Richard and Karen Bohannon of Muscle Shoals. She is the granddaughter of Naomi Lynn and the late Leldon Lynn of Muscle Shoals and Dr. and Mrs. Troy Bohannon of Sheffield. The groom is the son of Kathy Hampton of Cedar Bluff and Joey Hampton of Centre. He is the grandson of Ruth Summers and the late W.K. Summers of Cedar Bluff and Mr. and Mrs. Tom Wade Hampton of Centre.

The bride was escorted by her father. She wore a strapless champagne and ivory mermaid gown with a textural lace bodice and taffeta skirt with custom details by Bella's Bridal in Hoover.

Matron of honor was Kara Bohannon Gazaway, sister of the bride. Bridesmaids were Kaitlin Bohannon and Kristin Bohannon, cousins of the bride; Riley Crawford and Hannah Huddleston, college roommates and sorority sisters of the bride; Leigh Veillette and Kaycee Weeter, law school classmates of the bride. Flower girl was Tenlee McCullough, friend of the couple.

Best man was Tabb Sanford, college roommate and fraternity brother of the groom. Groomsmen were Hunter Bowden, college roommate of the groom; Cruz Butts and Lance McCullough, high school classmates of the groom; Jamie Hampton, brother of the groom; Jason Poeth, co-worker and friend of the groom; Kyle Wilson, cousin of the groom. Ring bearers were Jared Butts and Copelan Butts, friends of the couple.

Wedding director and floral designer was Jamie Thompson. Hair stylist was Haley Shaw and make-up artist was Emily Summerville. Photographer was Jennifer McAteer Photography and Jesse Williams, and videographer was Bradley Whittington. Doing live artwork during the reception was Callie Carmichael Art.

A reception was held at Tuscaloosa River Market following the ceremony. Caterer for the event was Kathie Simpson's One Stop Weddings. Mary Ogran of The Cottage Bakery made the wedding cake and Tammy Smith of That Cheesecake made the groom's cake. René Polcher created the monogram and paper design. The Elliott Davis Band entertained the guests.

After a honeymoon in O'ahu, Hawaii, the couple is now residing in Tuscaloosa.

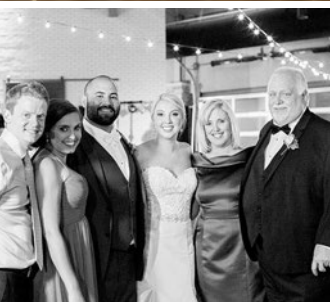
Every wedding should have touches of the bride and groom's personalities throughout—for Josh and Nicole, that meant incorporating their dogs, a ceremony in the church where they are members, an ode to the groom's work as a coach at the University of Alabama on his groom's cake, live artwork during the reception, and including a monogram designed for the wedding in as many places as possible (and of course, yellow hammers!). This rang true in the vows the couple wrote for each other as well:

Josh wrote, "Nicole, I vow to love you every day as I do today. I promise to be your partner, protector, and most of all, your best friend. I love you, my bride."

Nicole wrote, "I can't believe this day is here. What an incredible six years we have had together so far! Through peaks and valleys, exciting adventures and everyday life, you have been my partner through it all. What makes this day so special is knowing the best is yet to come. I vow to be true and loyal. I promise to have the patience that love demands. I vow to nurture your dreams. I promise to be your teammate, biggest fan, and toughest adversary. This is my sacred vow to you."

To call Josh and Nicole's relationship unexpected would be an understatement since it started as a blind date with no strings attached to the Shoals Debutante Cotillion in 2009 (thanks to best man, Tabb, for setting the two up). Right after, Josh and Nicole began a long-distance relationship during college that eventually led Josh to a dream strength and conditioning coach position at the University of Alabama while Nicole finished law school and began practicing in Tuscaloosa.







Jordan, Ratliff

Leighton Jordan and Kenneth Ray Ratliff were married May 28, 2016 at 5:00 in the afternoon at Pleasant Valley North Baptist Church in Rome, Ga. with Terry Thomas, uncle of the groom officiating. The bride and groom wrote their own vows. They chose to forego the traditional lighting of candles and communion and instead decided to worship together at the altar as well as have all their wedding guests participate in a laying-of-the-hands-prayer.

The bride is the daughter of Jim and Clemmie Jordan of Suwanee, Ga. She is the granddaughter of Claudette Underwood of Suwanee, Ga., the late Duane Fech, and the late Bob and Gloria Jordan.

The groom is the son of Randy and Denise Ratliff of Lexington. He is the grandson of M.R. and Geraldine Thomas of Killen, and the late Ken and Joyce Ratliff of Oneonta.

The bride was escorted by her father. She wore a gown from Frills and Fancies, a veil from Formally Yours, and a garter from Kenerly Kreations. The garter was made of material from her mother's wedding dress with charms and pieces of fabric added to it from women who played an important role in her life.

Maid of honor was Elizabeth Puckett and matron of honor was Breana Rounds, both friends of the bride. Bridesmaids were Jameson Kenerly, Megan Fligg, Stephanie Fisher, Tovi Svenson, all friends of the bride; Grace Ratliff, sister of the groom; and Leslie Thomas, cousin of the groom. Flower girl was Caroline Breingan.

Best man was Drew Stutts, friend of the groom. Groomsmen were Hunter Roberson, Jake Hammond, Josh Piner, Matt Burzese, all friends of the groom; Ashton Jordan and Robin Jordan, brothers of the bride; and Kyle Thomas, cousin of the groom. Ring bearers were Connor Breingan and Bryar Knox.

Wedding directors were Cassie Lee and Laura Lee. Floral designer was Claudette Underwood and caterer was Scott Wallace. The wedding cake was made by Honeymoon Bakery. The bride's grandmother made all the bouquets and the cake topper. Music during the ceremony was provided by Chase Bailey and Sydney McGuire. Hair stylist and make-up artist was Kristen White. Photographer was Clayton Brannon and videographer was Matthew Wilson of Awaken Films.

The reception was held at the Ford Dining Hall at Berry College in Rome, Ga. Entertaining the guests was Tammy Bailey.

After a honeymoon trip to Punta Cana, Dominican Republic, the couple is now residing in Birmingham. Both the bride and the groom are employed at Children's Hospital in Birmingham after receiving B.S.N. degrees from The University of Alabama at Huntsville.

Photos by Clayton Brannon





Ratliff, Johnston

Grace Ratliff and Andrew Johnston were married November 5, 2016 at 4:00 in the afternoon at The Chapel in Sheffield with Rev. Evan Stokes officiating.

The bride is the daughter of Randy and Denise Ratliff of Lexington. She is the granddaughter of M.R. and Geraldine Thomas of Killen, and the late Ken and Joyce Ratliff of Oneonta.

The groom is the son of Randy and Gail Johnston of Lexington. He is the grandson of Etna Johnston and the late Winfred Johnston and Laura Mae Pettus and the late Rollie Pettus, all of Lexington.

The bride was escorted by her father. She wore a beautiful white Madison James gown and matching veil from Cherry Tree Lane, accented with family heirloom jewelry.

Matron of honor was Danielle Stokes, friend of the bride. Bridesmaids were Leighton Ratliff, sister-in-law of the bride; Laura Thomas and Leslie Thomas, cousins of the bride; Ashlynn Atkins, Anna Beahm, Catherine Martin, and Desiree Neville, friends of the bride.

Best man was David Johnston, brother of the groom. Groomsmen were Kenny Ratliff, brother of the bride; Ty Beahm, Bobby Martin, Luke Stokes, Zebulun Williams, and Zebulun Worlund, all friends of the groom.

Wedding director was Amanda Green. Floral designer was Bonnie Stokes. Hair stylist was Ellen Young and make-up artist was Leighton Ratliff. Photographer was Armosa Studios and videographer was Bryce Scruggs Media.

The reception was held at GAS Design Center following the ceremony. The Bonnet Cafe catered the event and the wedding cupcakes were made by Stratton Abbey Cupcakery & Confections.

We were lucky to have a completely personalized ceremony performed by our close friend and Andrew's roommate, Evan Stokes, which made our ceremony even more special. Also, we are a part of our church's college ministry, The Table, and at our reception, we had a time of worship led by The Table's worship team. We wanted worship to be one of the very first things we did together as husband and wife, and we were blessed to be able to do that with our family and closest friends.

After a honeymoon at The Chanticleer Inn Bed & Breakfast on Lookout Mountain near Chattanooga, Tenn., the couple is now residing in Florence.

Photos by Armosa Studios





Cooper, Robertson

Kameron Danielle Cooper and Taylor Blaine Robertson were married September 24, 2016 in a 5:30 afternoon ceremony held at Oliver's Barn in Killen with Stan Pruitt officiating.

The bride is the daughter of Steven Cooper of Tuscumbia. She is the granddaughter of the late Linda Hall of Big Sandy, Tenn. and the late Edward Cooper of Cookeville, Tenn.

The groom is the son of Danny and Teresa Robertson of Killen. He is the grandson of Larry and Ginger McCreless and the late Harlan and Virginia Hill, all of Killen.

The bride chose a beautiful Bonny Bridal gown.

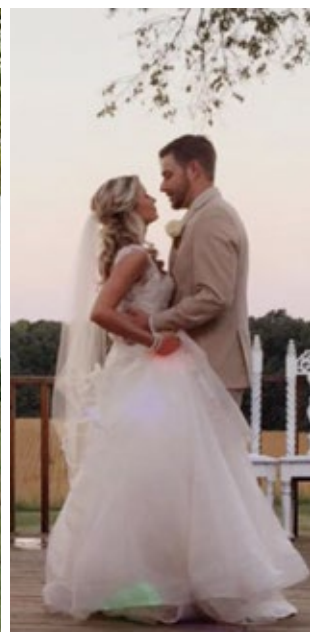
Maid of honor was Haley Robertson, sister of the groom, and matron of honor was Meagan Phillips, sister of the bride. Bridesmaids were Amber Hammond, Hope Kirk, Katie Kirk, Anna Rickman, all friends of the bride. Flower girls were Olivia Harless and Ila Kate Hill, cousins of the groom.

Best man was the groom's father, Danny Robertson. Groomsmen were Austin Hill and Drew Phillips, cousins of the groom; Austin Holt, Conor Rickard, and Matthew Scott, all friends of the groom. Junior groomsman was Noah Cooper, brother of the bride. Ring bearers were Rhyley Cooper, brother of the bride, and Brantley Phillips, cousin of the groom.

Wedding director and floral designer was Kelli Brown. Hair stylists and make-up artists were Whitney Mitchell and Lindsey Smith. Ceremony music was provided by Brooklyn Duo. Photographer was Jessica Rumble and videographer was Al Hammond of Awaken Films.

After a honeymoon at The Excellence at Playa Mjueres in Cancun, Mexico, the couple is now residing in Killen.

Photos by Jessica Rumble





Cockburn, Terrell

Whitney Renee Cockburn and Matthew Ben Terrell were married September 3, 2016 in a 5:00 afternoon ceremony held at Oliver's Barn with Jordan Craig officiating.

The bride is the daughter of Gary Cockburn and Joy Hunt of Florence. She is the granddaughter of Betty Cockburn and the late Wayne Cockburn and Rose Carbine and the late Wyndole Carbine, all of Florence.

The groom is the son of Bobby and Jamie Terrell of Florence. He is the grandson of the late Bobby and June Terrell and T.B. Haraway and the late Marsue Haraway, all of Florence.

Maid of honor was Kelley Murphy of Florence, best friend of the bride. Bridesmaids were Ryan Laine and Toni Cockburn of Florence, sisters of the bride; Kelly May of Florence, Gina Hoppe of Eugene, Ore., Courtney Scairpon of Andover, N.J., and Thao Nguyen of Tampa, Fla., all friends of the bride. Flower girl was Harper Haraway, cousin of the groom.

Best man was the groom's father, Bobby Terrell. Groomsmen were Bo Terrell of Florence, brother of the groom; Brandon Vickery, Dillon Erwin, Dylan Bratcher, Jaye Dolan, and Matt Snell, all friends of the groom from Florence. Ring bearer was Jackson Haraway, cousin of the groom. Ushers were Justin Haraway, Colby Whitehead, Blake Vickery, and Trey Harrell.

Wedding director was Lori Daniel. Guest book attendant was Nicole Darby. Hair stylist was Connie Brewer. Photographer was Jessica Hutchens Rumble.

The reception followed the ceremony at Oliver's Barn. Jeff Burgess catered the food and made the groom's cake. Lynn's Cakes made the bride's cake. Bama Border and Dylan Bratcher provided the entertainment.

After a honeymoon in Excellence Riviera in Cancun, Mexico, the couple is now residing in Florence.

Matt and I wanted our wedding to be nice and intimate, but remain true to ourselves. Oliver's Barn allowed us to do just that - it was simple, yet elegant, and filled with a lot of country flair. It was just what we wanted and made our big day so enjoyable and special.

Photos by Jessica Hutchens Rumble





Barrett, Springer

Jessica Lynn Barrett and Kyle David Springer were married October 22, 2016 at 5:00 in the afternoon at Lofty Hitchins in Lawrenceburg, Tenn. with Marty Mosley officiating.

The bride is the daughter of Pam and Shannon Barrett of Killen. She is the granddaughter of Diane Tittle, Ronnie Tittle, and the late Jessie and Marie Pigg, all of Killen.

The groom is the son of Doug and Sha Springer of Lexington. He is the grandson of Linda Truitt and the late Delbert Truitt, and Kim Springer.

The bride, escorted by her father, wore a beautiful Essense gown from The Something Blue Shoppe in Hartselle, with Cortez boots by Corral.

Matron of honor was Allison Stewart, best friend of the bride. Bridesmaids were Savannah Wright, Brittany Pruett and Chailey Brewer, cousins of the bride, and Beth Rumph, friend of the bride. Flower girl was Harper Pigg, friend of the bride.

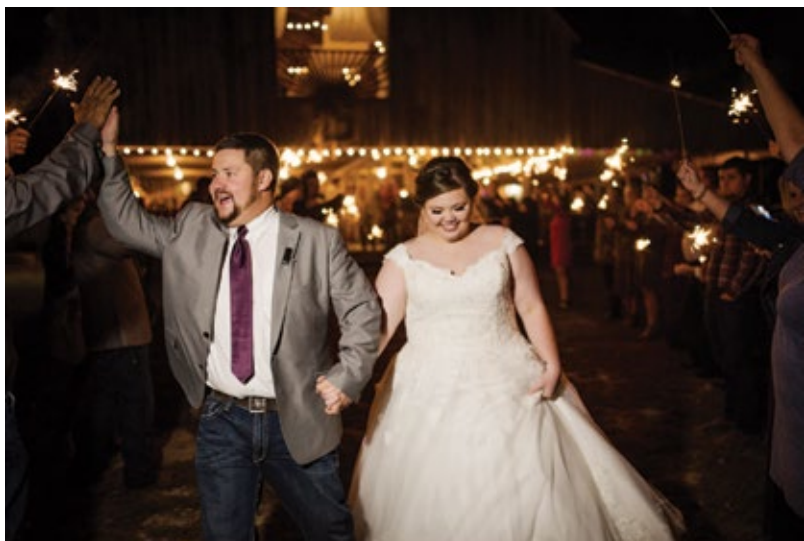
Best man was Payton Kimbrough, best friend of the groom, and mini best man was Kolton Springer, son of the groom. Groomsmen were Brandon Springer, brother of the groom, Alex Davis, Tyler Stewart, and Caleb Pigg, all friends of the groom. Ring bearer was Liam Barrett, cousin of the bride.

Wedding directors were Dawn Pettus and Melissa Pigg. Hair stylist was Kim Soria and make-up artist was Corey Nichols of Make-Up By Corey. Heather Sherrill of Create Portraiture was the photographer and videographer was Awaken Films.

A reception followed the ceremony at Lofty Hitchins. Catering was provided by Gail Dortch and the wedding cake was made by Cindy's Sweet Pleasures.

The couple are planning a honeymoon for next year, after the bride receives her Registered Nursing degree. They are currently residing in Killen.

Photos by Create Portraiture





Putman, McNutt

Shelby Elizabeth Putman and William Torin McNutt were married February 20, 2016 in a 4:00 afternoon ceremony held at Sacred Stone in Fayetteville, Tenn. with Terry Herston officiating.

The bride is the daughter of Tim and Sharon Putman of Lexington. She is the granddaughter of Ralph and Jean Fulks of Killen and Patsy Putman and the late Eulys Putman of Lexington.

The groom is the son of Kenneth McNutt of Pulaski, Tenn. and Scott and Lessie Shimer of Brentwood, Tenn. He is the grandson of Virginia McCollum and the late James McCollum of Rogersville and the late Joshua and Linda McNutt of Lewisburg, Tenn.

The bride was escorted by her father. She wore a Oleg Cassini trumpet style champagne gown with an ivory lace overlay with long lace sleeves and an open back. She also wore an ivory cathedral length veil and carried a bouquet of blush roses and ivory hydrangeas with a gold hummingbird attached in memory of her late grandfather.

Maid of honor was Priscilla Taylor, friend of the bride, and matron of honor was Hannah Michael, cousin of the bride. Bridesmaids were Taylor Smith, friend of the bride, and Carly Shelby and Maggie Bevis, cousins of the bride. Flower girl was Cooper Ivy Knox, cousin of the bride.

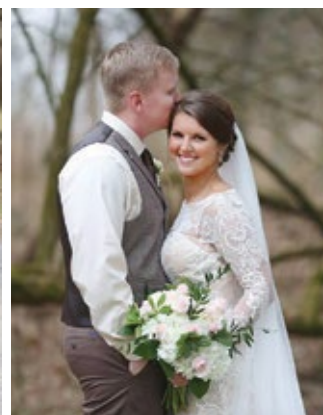
Best man was the groom's brother, Wade McNutt. Groomsmen were Mitchem Smith, friend of the groom, and Ethan Putman, brother of the bride. Ushers were Taylor Newton and Brock Shimer. Ring bearer was Finn Michael, cousin of the bride.

Wedding director was Lisa Akins. Floral designer was Barbara Ingram of Barbara's Wedding Shop. Hair stylist and make-up artist was Mellany Lancaster of Revelationz Hair Studio. Photographer was Shelley and Josh Smith of Smith Squared Photography, and videographer was Hannah Roberts. A photo booth was provided by One Stop Rentals.

The reception was held at Sacred Stone following the ceremony. Caterer was Libby Embry of The Party Basket, who also made the wedding cakes.

After a honeymoon at the El Dorado Seaside Suites Resort in Riviera Maya, Mexico, the couple is now residing in Rogersville.

Photos by Smith Squared Photography





Johnson, Hanback

Ashley Nichole Johnson and Benjamin Cody Hanback were married May 21, 2016 in a 6:00 evening ceremony held at St. Florian Fiber Farm in Florence with Brad Pierce officiating.

The bride is the daughter of Matt and Debbie Page of Killen and Matthew Johnson of Hartsville, S.C. She is the granddaughter of Hazel Mills and the late Elton Mills of Greenville, N.C., Nita Bass and the late Dave Bass of Hartsville, S.C., and the late Doris Page of Fairmont, N.C.

The groom is the son of Mike and Kim Hanback of Killen and Billie Hanback, also of Killen. He is the grandson of Sue Hanback and the late Ray Hanback of Killen.

The bride was escorted by her father. She wore an ivory and gold fitted Allure Romance gown with a sweetheart neckline and satin ruched waistline defined with Swarovski crystals from Cherry Tree Lane in Florence. She carried a bouquet of pink peonies, pink roses, pink carnations, and green hydrangeas.

Matron of honor was Hayley Davenport, friend of the bride. Bridesmaids were Keri Smothers, Kristy Parrish and Katie Hurst, all friends of the bride, and Tiffany Vandiver, sister of the groom. They wore teal chiffon dresses from Cherry Tree Lane and carried bouquets of peonies and roses.

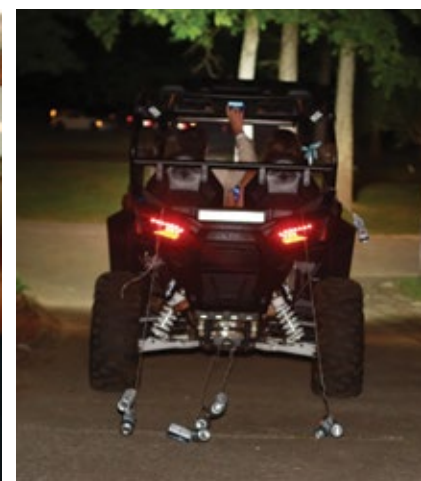
Best man was Matt Hurst, friend of the groom. Groomsmen were Chris Parish, Patrick Daniel, Justin Mabe, and Dustin Fike, all friends of the groom.

Marie Guyton, family friend, was the wedding director. Party Pros provided the groom and groomsmen tuxedos and the wedding rentals. Hair stylists for the bridal party were Laren Lindholm and Tiffany Vandiver and make-up artist was Laren Lindholm. Photographer was Amanda Chapman and videographer was Milestone Films.

The reception was held at St. Florian Fiber Farm following the ceremony. Catering was provided by friends and family of the bride and the cakes were made by Yummies Bakery. Guests were entertained by The Midnighters. The newlyweds departed in their RZR under a shower of sparklers and look forward to a lifetime of adventures together.

After a honeymoon at Coconut Bay Resort and Spa in St. Lucia, the couple is now residing in Killen.

Photos by Amanda Chapman





Chamberlain, Thompson

Shelby Chamberlain and Daniel Thompson were married July 9, 2016 in a 5:30 afternoon ceremony held at Hampton Cove Wedding Plantation in Gurley, Ala. with Terry Thomas officiating.

The bride is the daughter of Loren and Sharon Chamberlain of Huntsville. She is the granddaughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. Claude Womack of Scottsboro and Magdalena Chamberlain of Huntsville and the late Mr. Loren Chamberlain, Sr.

The groom is the son of Don and Lesa Thompson of Killen. He is the grandson of Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Moore of Killen and Reba Thompson and the late Howard Thompson of Killen.

Maid of honor was Katherine Derivaux of Huntsville. Bridesmaids were Katie Garner of Birmingham, Sarah Wilson and Tara Phillips of Huntsville, and Jenna Thompson of Killen Junior bridesmaid was Jeslynn Chamberlain of Hazelgreen and flower girl was Carley Chamberlain of Hazelgreen.

Best man was Kyle McAnally of Boston, Mass. Groomsmen were Austin Pershke of Columbus, Miss., Justin Bennett of Knoxville, Tenn., Sam Craft of Birmingham, Josiah Mullins and Trey Chamberlain of Huntsville.

After a honeymoon in St. Lucia, the couple is now residing in Huntsville.

Photos by Allison Jansen Photography



Hill, Woodward



Audrey Ann Hill and Philip Matthew Woodward were married October 15, 2016 in a 4:00 afternoon ceremony held at Hill Farms in Florence with Bro. David McKelvey officiating.

The bride is the daughter of Bart and Jennifer Hill of Florence. She is the granddaughter of Lois Hill Frost and the late Holland Hill and Frances Petty and the late Marion Petty, all of Florence.

The groom is the son of John and Clara Woodward of Killen. He is the grandson of Charlotte Woodward and the late John Woodward of Springfield, Tenn. and Elizabeth Jane Phillips and the late Julian David Phillips of Stevenson, Ala.

The bride was escorted by her father. She wore a beautiful white lace gown purchased from Cherry Tree Lane that featured a sweetheart neckline, long sleeves, and a crystal and satin sash.

Matron of honor was Ashley Hill, sister-in-law of the bride. Bridesmaids were Bonnie White, Rachel Keeton, Jenni Tucker, Haley Rhodes, Jordan Nix, all friends of the bride, and Kaley Tankersley and Jessica Brown, cousins of the bride. Flower girls were Halle Hill and Jordyn Hill, nieces of the bride.

Best man was Corey White, friend of the groom. Groomsmen were Robert Hill, brother of the bride; Ben McDonald, Stephen Purvis, Billy Tucker, Taylor Scott, Taylor Wallace, Jason Barron, all friends of the groom; and John David Woodward, brother of the groom. Ring bearer was Dylan Phillips.

The family of the bride and groom directed the wedding and designed the flowers. Hair stylist and make-up artist was Lindsey Robinson. Photographer was Heather Sherrill of Create Portraiture and videographer was RD Digital Images.

The reception was held at Hill Farms following the ceremony. Creative Catering catered the event and Heather Poole of Cakes by Heather made the wedding cake. The band Three Wheel Drive performed for the guests, as well as a disc jockey from Rock Creek Productions.

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

Photos by Create Portraiture



Corum, Watkins

Abby Corum and Josh Watkins were married November 27, 2016 in a 4:00 afternoon ceremony held at Above The Mist in Gatlinburg, Tenn. with Jordan Craig officiating.

The bride is the daughter of Wesley and Kim Richardson of Florence. She is the granddaughter of Virginia Proctor, and Jerry Richardson and the late Gwen Richardson.

The groom is the son of Roger Watkins and the late Betty Lynn Ashley and Cliff Thompson and the late Barbara Thompson, all of Florence.

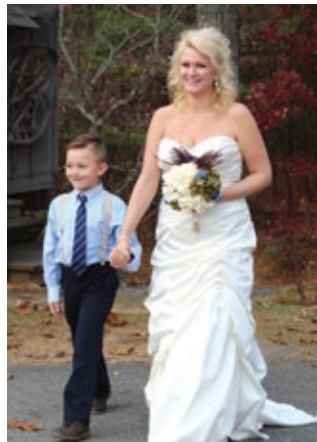
The bride was escorted by her son, Rich Corum. She wore an ivory satin gown from Juanita's Fashions.

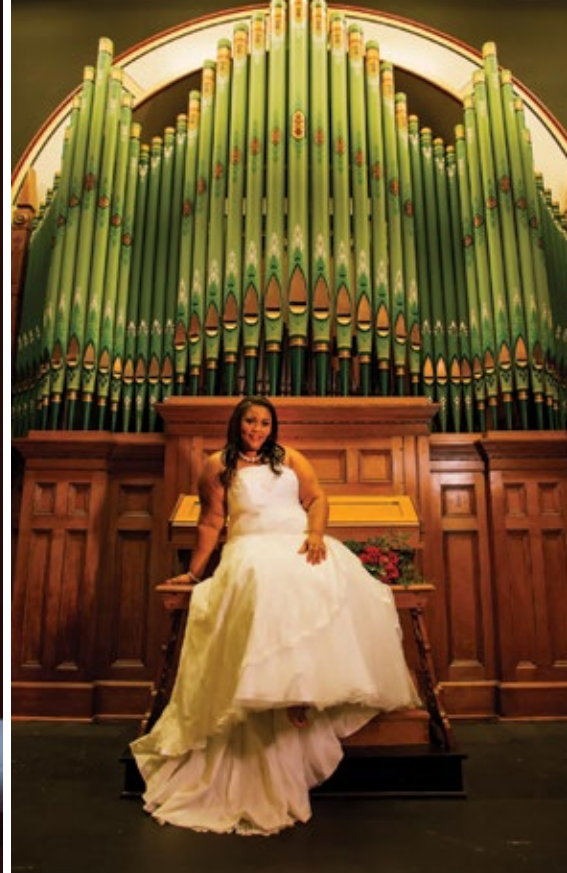
Matrons of Honor were Kim Richardson, the bride's mother, and LeighAnn Hendrix, friend of the bride. Best man was the bride's son, Rich Corum, and groomsman was Johnny Zillyette, friend of the groom. Ring bearer was Cash Corum, son of the bride.

The reception followed at Above The Mist, with their staff providing the details, such as the wedding cake and photographer.

After a honeymoon at Hemlock Hills in Gatlinburg, the couple is now residing in Florence.

Photos by Jessica, apprentice at Above The Mist





Tate, Harden

Jasmine Renee Tate and Jonathan Michael Harden were married Friday, October 7, 2016 at 3:00 in the afternoon at Sherwood Forest in Oahu, Hawaii with Dr. Karen Russ officiating. A host of family and friends attended the breathtaking beach wedding and a romantic reception later that evening. Live streaming made it possible for family and friends to view who were unable to attend.

The bride is the daughter of Nathan Washington Tate, Jr. and Aretha Smith Tate of Decatur. She is the granddaughter of Rose Webb and Kenneth Smith of Moulton, Tony Webb of Decatur, Frances Tate and the late Nathan Tate, Sr. of Decatur.

The groom is the son of Michael Darrell Harden and the late Rita Louise Collier Harden of Athens. He is the grandson of the late Thomas Collier, the late Lucille Shoulders Collier, and the late Alice Harden, all of Athens.

The bride wore a chiffon strapless ivory lace fit and flare gown with lace adorned bodice and side drape featuring a tulle inset with corset back from David's Bridal Collection. Footwear by Catherine Cole Studio, barefoot sandals Parisian collection, with elegant silver rhinestones and pearls.

Matrons of honor were Summer Burnley of Jacksonville, Fla., sister of the bride, and Stephanie Baptiste of Conyers, Ga., aunt of the bride. Bridesmaids were Breanna Webb of Decatur, cousin of the bride, and (not pictured) Desirae Washington of Tuscaloosa, friend of the bride. Flower girls were Maysa Collier and Mokara Collier of Franklin, Tenn., nieces of the groom.

Best man was the groom's brother, Docina Collier of Franklin, Tenn. Groomsmen were Demetrius Burnley of Jacksonville, Fla., brother-in-law of the groom; Michael Timberlake of Athens, friend of the groom; and (not pictured) Jarrett Collier of Athens, cousin of the groom.

Lauren and Rachel of Weddings of Hawaii coordinated the ceremony. Music for the ceremony was provided by Hawaiian Harpist. Makeup and hair styles provided by Essence Hawaii, owner Bree Chang. Photographer was Ron Corn Photography.

A reception was held at Tiki's Bar and Grill on Hina's Lanai after the ceremony, and then another reception was held on October 22 for family and friends who could not attend the ceremony at the Limestone County Event Center. Reception directress was Rosemary Robinson of Your Desire's Bridal Consulting. Caterer was Darvin McDaniel, Indelible Catering, the wedding cake was provided by Bob Johnson of Couture Cakes and the groom's cake was made by Lynn Bailey of Lynn's Cakes. Kevin Crenshaw of B the Bash was the floral designer and draping and setup designer was Frances Melicks of Shindigs & Such. Hair stylist was Katrina Suggs Dunning and make-up artist was Tessa A. Shaw. Videographer was John Landsdown Photography & Film. Reception entertainment was provided by Deejay Lenny Thompson of Lenco Productions. Invitations and programs were made by Anselm and Stephanie Baptiste and the bridal shoot bouquet was provided by Venet Roberts.

The couple spent their honeymoon at the Hilton Waikoloa Village Resort in Waikoloa Village, Hawaii. They are now residing in Jacksonville, Fla.

Photos by Ron Corn Photography



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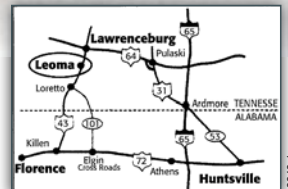
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