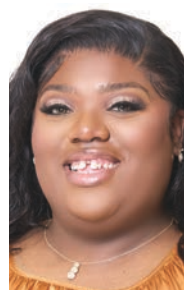


Camden Inc.

Camden County's
Monthly Business
Publication

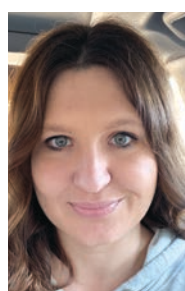
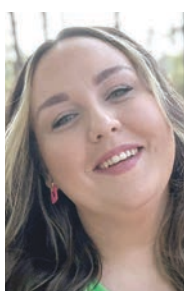
Thursday, June 22, 2023

Vol. 1, No. 4



40 UNDER 40

Honoring community and business
leaders in Camden County





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40 Under 40

Honoring Camden County's best

Allow us to dispel a rampant rumor: There is plenty of hope for the future. Camden County has a robust collection of young leaders ready to guide this community.

But like any fact-gathering organization, we wanted to prove our hypothesis. This month's edition of Camden Inc. is our evidence. And it's overwhelming.

A few months ago, we asked Camden County residents to nominate people who are 40 or younger who serve as community and business leaders. We were bombarded with emails from Camden County residents. One resident alone nominated nearly 20 people.

In fact, we received nearly 100 nominations and the only inexact science was selecting our first class of 40 Under 40 Camden County leaders. If the response to our prompt is any indication, it will not be

our last.

Far too often, we hear folks lament the need for young leaders to emerge and guide our community. It is true that our history disappears a little every day, but that doesn't mean the future is bleak.



Bryan

In fact, we surmise that the future is even brighter. The people we have highlighted in this section will guide this community, our community, to even better days. While we must be mindful and respectful of our elders and those who came before us, these 40 Under 40 professionals can blaze a path to the future.

Camden County is blessed. We live in a beautiful community on the coast of Georgia. A major interstate runs through the middle of Camden County, offering economic opportunity. Our school sys-

tem produces excellent scholars. And the Camden County Chamber of Commerce does a marvelous job uniting the business community and helping businesses find willing and able partners within the boundaries of this county.

We hope you enjoy this month's Camden Inc. Included are question-and-answer profiles on our 40 professionals. Some are prolific writers, and their answers were too voluminous to print in our pages, but do not fret.

Next week, we'll publish all 40 questionnaires on our website, tribune-georgian.com, and share them, one by one, on our Facebook page.

We believe it's important to highlight, recognize and honor these young professionals. But we also wish to note that they aren't just the "future" of Camden County.

The future is now.



CONGRATULATIONS

TO OUR EXECUTIVE PASTOR

Joshua Cribbs

ON YOUR NOMINATION
FOR THE

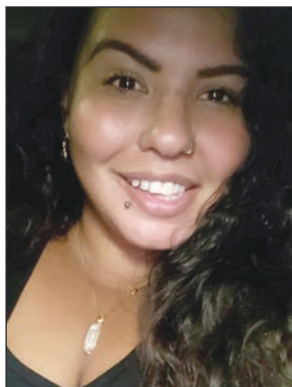
40 UNDER 40

COHORT OF BUSINESS AND
COMMUNITY LEADERS OF
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Tiffany Acebo, 38
Business Owner

Business: Unleashed Camden
Lives in: Kingsland

Professional responsibilities: Currently, I'm in the race to have one new gray hair a week. All jokes aside.

Accomplishments/Honors: Being one of the biggest leagues in the country, our town has created a family.

Community Involvement: Unleashed Camden provides a fun, safe and family enriching environment for our community while also celebrating our Hometown Heroes. The Kingsland Police Department and the Camden Country Library have been crucial for the growth and success of our company.

Why did you go into your particular field? Camden County lacked entertainment for families or for individuals of all ages.

As a child, what did you want to be when you grew up? An astronaut, so even if I couldn't reach the moon, I'd still land in the stars.

What was your first job? Dry cleaning business

What is the best advice you've ever received? What are you waiting for?

What's your favorite thing about your job? That I'm able to be a role model for young women and minorities — that they are able to know that they can own their own business and succeed at bringing together a community.

What do you know now that you wish you knew when you first started your career? Not being afraid to ask for help. It takes a village to support small businesses.

Who do you consider to be your greatest mentor and why? My father. He came to this country with nothing and made sure his family prevailed above.

When you're not at work, what do you do to relax? Make memories with my kids

What is something about you that most people don't know? I can play the piano.



Maria Beaulieu, 31
Child & Youth Program Teen Lead

Employer: Naval Submarine Base Kings Bay MWR Child & Youth Teen Program
Lives in: Kingsland

Professional responsibilities: Create programming and monthly calendars for teen program for youth ages 13-18 still in high school. Coordinate field trips, workshops, events and provide scholarship opportunities, along with maintaining in ratio, driving bus.

Accomplishments/Honors: 2021 Boys & Girls Clubs of America National Keystone Advisor of the Year; 2022 First Boys & Girls Club of America National Military Youth of the Year; 2022-23, helped develop Military Teen Ambassador Program for all branches of service in partnership with Clemson University & Boys & Girls Clubs of America.

Community Involvement: Booster club at Lisa Allen Dance Works; Do various service projects with our Teen Program; Farm to Table food giveaway, Winn-Dixie grocery giveaway, volunteer local-based events.

Why did you go into your particular field? I went into youth development because of a teen director that became not only a mentor but like a father to me. Growing up in a single-parent home, my mom needed a place for us to go while she worked, so we went to the local Boys & Girls Club. At the club, I met Carl Porter, the teen director, and he opened the doors to so many opportunities and experiences. It allowed me to go to a safe place and be a kid. It was because of him that I went to college, was named the 2010 Southeast Region Youth of the Year and met President Barack Obama at the Oval Office, and learned so many life skills that would prepare me for real world. As I got older, I realized I wanted teens to have that same experience to have a fun, safe place, filled with opportunities, experiences and build life skills just like the other adults did for me when I was growing up.

As a child, what did you want to

be when you grew up? As a child I wanted to be a nurse, or go into a field where I could help others

What was your first job? At 15, I worked in the Boys & Girls Club of Cleveland summer program with summer camp and lunches.

What is the best advice you've ever received? Networking is key, along with keeping an open mind to be able to continue to grow as a youth development professional and allow our teen program to continue to grow. Building relationships with other youth development professionals allows me to be able to gain new ideas and learn more.

What's your favorite thing about your job? My favorite part of the job is watching my teens grow, learn and realize just how amazing they are, getting to see them reach their goals, and walk the stage at high school, along with watching their confidence grow, and trying new things or trying things for the first time.

What do you know now that you wish you knew when you first started your career? How emotionally attached/invested you would be to these phenomenal young people. Graduation is always bittersweet super proud of all their accomplishments and sad that they will also be graduating from the teen program.

When you're not at work, what do you do to relax? I love to spend time with my family and friends. I love to travel and explore new places, and try new things.

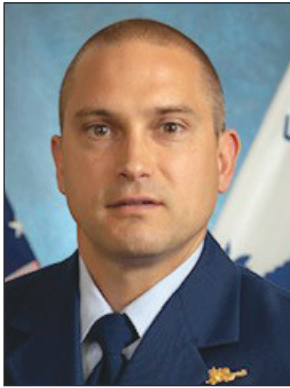
What is something about you that most people don't know? Something that most people don't know about me is that I love doing art projects.

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Brook Blount
Chief Warrant Officer

Employer: U.S. Coast Guard
Sea Dragon, Kings Bay
Lives in: Kingsland

Professional responsibilities: Commanding Officer

Accomplishments/Honors: Navigated the enlisted ranks up to Senior-Chief before earning a commission as Chief Warrant Officer. Received an assignment as Commanding Officer of a Coast Guard Cutter in my hometown in 2021.

Community Involvement: Speech/presentation at Kings Bay Navy League Dinner, Savannah Navy League Dinner. Adopted a highway in Kingsland (a portion of Gross Road), where we conduct quarterly roadside clean-ups. Coordinated Habitat for Humanity support by Coasties in 2021.

Why did you go into your particular field? I wanted to get into law enforcement and had a love for being on the water. The Coast Guard was just moving into our town at the time I had the opportunity to speak with some of the Coasties as I was doing some work on their building. It was a no-brainer for me!

As a child, what did you want to be when you grew up? Police officer.

What was your first job? Ace Hardware in Kingsland.

What is the best advice you've ever received? Work hard, play hard, enjoy life.

What's your favorite thing about your job? There are many things I enjoy in my position but to witness

members in my command accomplish their goals and advance in their career is something special to me.

What do you know now that you wish you knew when you first started your career? Maximize retirement contributions.

Who do you consider to be your greatest mentor and why? A Master Chief I once worked for. He loved his job and his crew, and advised me on the career path I took. His inspiration led me where I am today.

When you're not at work, what do you do to relax? Golf cart rides with the kids. I also love running. It's therapeutic for me.

What is something about you that most people don't know? I enjoy playing with dolls with my daughter, Eleanor. Maybe even when she's not around. I don't know.

How do you hope to grow in your career? I look forward to balancing my experience in new assignments as I work my way to 30 years of service.

If you couldn't do what you're doing now, what would you be doing? That's a scary thought. I don't know where'd I be without the Coast Guard. I'd like to think I'd be in law enforcement.



Shawn M. Boatright, 35
County administrator

Employer: Camden County
Board of Commissioners
Lives in: St. Marys

Professional responsibilities: Oversee and direct the everyday operations of the county; expends county funds to implement the strategic planning and priorities of the county as set forth by the Board of Commissioners; prepares and manages the county budget.

Accomplishments/Honors: Masters of Public Administration (MPA), Certified Public Manager (CPM).

Community Involvement: Foundation Trustee for the College of Coastal Georgia 2020-present; Coastal District Director – Georgia City-County Management Association, 2021-present

Why did you go into your particular field? I have always wanted to make a positive impact where I have lived and worked. Being a county administrator gives me that opportunity, as well as the opportunity to collaborate with several of our community leaders to identify ways to improve services to our citizens.

As a child, what did you want to be when you grew up? Batman.

What was your first job? Construction worker building houses, as well as the produce manager for the old IGA on Jekyll Island.

What is the best advice you've ever received? To always trust your gut instinct and treat others with fairness, respect, dignity and courtesy.

What's your favorite thing about your job? Connecting with our citizens

and showing them how the county affects their daily lives and what they can do to be a part of their community.

What do you know now that you wish you knew when you first started your career? Listen before speaking. Trust, but verify.

Who do you consider to be your greatest mentor and why? Personally, my father. Professionally, I have a multitude of amazing mentors that I am grateful for, but I would not be where I am now professionally without the advice from my professor, Dr. Mary Eleanor Wickersham.

When you're not at work, what do you do to relax? Enjoy time with my lovely wife, Chelsea, our daughter, Madilyn, and our doodle, Allie.

What is something about you that most people don't know? I served as a foreign adviser to the Afghanistan National Army during my second deployment to Afghanistan during my service in the U.S. Marine Corps.

How do you hope to grow in your career? By identifying best management practices to increase services to our citizens, as well as providing an economic foundation for our county government to grow and build upon for decades to come.

If you couldn't do what you're doing now, what would you be doing? Pitmaster or travel extraordinaire.



Melody Bradley, 34
Digital Media Supervisor; Author

Employer: Southeast Georgia Health System
Lives in: St. Marys

Professional responsibilities: In my role as digital media supervisor for Southeast Georgia Health System, I oversee all online and digital assets for the health system's hospitals, physician practices and specialty care centers. This includes their website, team member portal, Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, YouTube, local listings such as Google knowledge panels and Web MD, e-newsletters, text alerts, physician practice waiting room and hospital hallway TV messaging, flipbook magazines, video filming and production, and more. Using these online platforms, I help to tell patient stories, keep our information current and accurate, and inform the community about upcoming health-focused events, new services and technologies, and new providers who join our practices. Additionally, I research, recommend, launch and maintain new online platforms to meet the growing needs of the health system and our patients. This includes reputation management, transparency/physician ratings and reviews, Health Risk Assessment tools, Media Management Software, Content Management System, wayfinding software, team member apps and more.

As the founder and CEO of Incendi Press, I write, independently publish, and market sci-fi romance novels under my pen-name, Melody Johnson. I oversee and maintain all online and digital assets for Author Melody Johnson, including the website, blog, Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, YouTube, TikTok, Twitter, Amazon, GoodReads, BookBub, Google and e-newsletter. Using these online platforms, I keep readers updated on new book releases, author events, giveaways, and behind-the-scenes content, like deleted scenes. Additionally, I coordinate and attend online and in-person promotional opportunities, including book tours, signings, readings, and podcasts.

As an author with Kensington Publishing/ Lyrical Press, I write paranormal romance novels under my pen-name, Melody Johnson.

As a member of First Coast Romance Writers, I participate as a contributing author to several of our published anthologies and implement marketing campaigns to promote our releases.

Community Involvement: Organizer and swimmer, Laps for Leila Cancer Fundraiser Swim-a-thon (2022); Contributing Author, First Coast Romance Writers (2020-present); President, First Coast Romance Writers (2018); Treasurer, First Coast Romance Writers (2017); Member, First Coast Romance Writers (2015-present)

Why did you go into your particular field? I've always had a passion for storytelling. From a young age, I wrote fiction stories about damsels slaying dragons, and my love for writing only grew with encouragement from family, friends and English teachers. When I was deciding on a career, choosing a field in creative writing/English seemed like the natural next step. It wasn't until I began my professional career as a copywriter with Internet Inspirations, a digital and print marketing agency, that the health care industry found me.

As a child, what did you want to be when you grew up? A competitive swimmer since age 8, I would have loved to be a mermaid, which of course was pure fantasy at the time, except that now, being a mermaid is actually a career!

What was your first job? I was a life-guard for Wyndham Resorts in my hometown of East Stroudsburg, Pa.

What is the best advice you've ever received? The best advice I ever received was from my creative writing professor, G.W. Hawkes, at Lycoming College. Knowing that I was a swimmer and sponsoring my honor's project (to complete my first full-length novel), he compared writing to a race: a novel is a

long distance event. Write too fast in the beginning, and you'll burn out before the book is finished. Write too slowly, and you'll lose your way. Find a steady pace and keep at it, every day, no excuses, because one page per day for one year is 365 pages. And 365 pages is a book.

I've applied that "steady pace wins the race" logic to every book I've written since and to professional projects outside of writing. His advice has serviced me well.

What's your favorite thing about your job? I love helping to tell people's stories, as well as sharing my own. My career began in writing, but now, my passion for storytelling has evolved into many mediums – video and social as well as writing. Whether I'm filming and editing testimonial videos for the health system to tell patient stories; interviewing physicians to write their welcome press release, biography, or a service line article; or drafting my next fiction novel, the craft of storytelling continues to bring me great satisfaction no matter its form.

What do you know now that you wish you knew when you first started your career? I wish I would have known

what a huge role graphic design and video production would play into my career. I may have taken more multi-media classes in college had I known the significance that platforms such as Photoshop and Premier Pro would play in my future, both at the health system and for Incendi Press, LLC. But technology is constantly growing, so I suppose having the ability to adapt to those changes as digital media expands is its own sort of learning as well.

Who do you consider to be your greatest mentor and why? G.W. Hawkes, my creative writing professor at Lycoming College, was my greatest mentor. He was equal parts critique and encouragement, simultaneously thickening my skin for reviewers and fostering my writing skills. Under his tutelage, I finally finished my first full-length novel (after many failed previous attempts) and had the courage and stamina to continue writing and publishing my work.

When you're not at work, what do you do to relax? I love reading at the beach. My favorite authors are Karen Marie Moning, Ilona Andrews, Laurell K. Hamilton and Chloe Neill.

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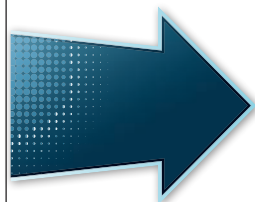
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Michael Cannistaro, 38
Chef/owner

Business: The Green Room
Sicilian Cafe and Deli
Lives in: St. Marys

Professional responsibilities:

Manage the restaurant and cook (pretty much everything that needs to be done).

Accomplishments/Honors: 10 years in business.

Community Involvement: Throughout the years, we have been in multiple parades. I was Cupid for "Love Town" when Oprah came to town, sponsored multiple Camden County sports teams. In 2021, we made 60 pizzas every Monday for the football team during the season, multiple donations, and in 2020 during the pandemic, we donated food and worked the food drive at a couple different locations. I am also on the Mary Lee Clark Elementary School committee.

Why did you go into your particular field? My dad wanted to open the cafe, so he had a place to hangout and the rest is history.

As a child, what did you want to be when you grew up? Police officer.

What was your first job? When I was 12, I worked at a blueberry farm right down the street from my house, getting paid 39 cents a pint.

What is the best advice you've ever received? If you're good at something, never do it for free.

What's your favorite thing about your job? The best feeling is watching someone truly enjoy food you just made and served them.

What do you know now that you wish you knew when you first started your career? If it was easy everyone would do it.

Who do you consider to be your greatest mentor and why? My mother and father. From a young age, we always had jobs around the house so I definitely got my work ethic from my parents.

When you're not at work, what do you do to relax? Spend time with my family and friends and eat.

What is something about you that most people don't know? Played college football.

How do you hope to grow in your career? Just have to stay consistent. No matter if I'm working or not, the food served should always taste the same and people should have the same experience day in and day out.

If you couldn't do what you're doing now, what would you be doing? Probably something in management.



Katherine Carbaugh, 35
Realtor

Employer: RE/MAX First Coast
Lives in: Kingsland

Professional responsibilities: Providing guidance and representation throughout the home selling and buying process and continuously advocating for my clients' best interests, all while making the process as simple and fun as possible!

Accomplishments/Honors:

2023 RealTrends America's Best Top 1.5% Agents in the US for transaction sides

2023 RealTrends America's Best Top 1.5% Agents in the US for volume

2022 RE/MAX Torchbearer (Top 5 under 40 in GA)

2022 RE/MAX Chairman's Club

Community Involvement: Donating to multiple local charities, such as CASA, The Salvation Army, etc.; donating to St. Marys Elementary School students to ensure all children have a chance to buy something at the book fairs; Special Steps.

Why did you go into your particular field? My love of real estate. Prior to becoming a real estate agent, I did personal investments and home staging. It was a natural fit that I genuinely love. Helping others obtain the goal of homeownership is extremely rewarding.

As a child, what did you want to be when you grew up? It changed all the time. Doctor, attorney and fashion designer were my top three.

What was your first job? My first real job was working as a registered nurse at the prison in Folkston. There was never a dull moment, that's for sure. I did serve tables here and there prior to receiving my bachelor's degree in nursing.

What is the best advice you've ever received? Nothing is more important than your beloved relationships, and if you want something, expect it to happen.

What's your favorite thing about

your job? My favorite thing about my job is developing relationships with new people and seeing clients' happiness with their purchase or sale. My main goal is client satisfaction, and I love seeing it come to fruition. I love what I do so it doesn't feel like "work."

What do you know now that you wish you knew when you first started your career? That I was going to absolutely love it. I knew it would be a good fit, but I didn't know just how good of fit it would be.

Who do you consider to be your greatest mentor and why? Hands down, my mother. My mom, Jan Outlaw, is an incredible woman. Selfless (to a fault at times), supportive, and has given me the best advice ... even when I didn't ask for it. Haha! Her mentorship has guided me to become a kind, compassionate, creative, driven woman that goes after what I want in life and that has ultimately led to my success as a Realtor. She always made me feel I could do whatever I want and be successful at it. The confidence she gave me as a child led me to believe in myself.

When you're not at work, what do you do to relax? Hang out with my children, husband, family, and friends, whether that be by the pool, playing games or vacationing when we can. I have an amazing family and am fortunate to have a great relationship with all of them.

How do you hope to grow in your career? I hope to open my own brokerage and lead others to become successful, ethical agents; however, I will never convert to strictly managing others. I will always represent clients during their purchases and sales. I also hope to write a book some day. I am unsure of the trajectory but trust God and the universe will open the doors when I am ready.



Josh Cribbs, 35
Executive Pastor

Employer: The Harbor Worship Center
Lives in: Kingsland

Professional responsibilities: Leadership development, strategic planning, pastoral care, community outreach, communication.

Accomplishments/Honors: Ordained Bishop - Church of God.

Community Involvement: Oversee annual Thanksgiving Blessing Box Outreach, and owner and operator of The Cold Cow that has partnered with local nonprofits to provide ice cream and smiles to low income areas of the community.

Why did you go into your particular field? Honestly, I felt called into ministry during a student conference when I was 16 years old. I tried to do other jobs, but ultimately knew I was called to do full-time ministry.

As a child, what did you want to be when you grew up? Police detective.

What was your first job? Chick-fil-A cook.

What is the best advice you've ever received? Keep your head up in failure and your head down in success. Be there for others, but never leave yourself behind.

What's your favorite thing about your job? Helping hurting people.

What do you know now that you wish you knew when you first started your career? The value of collaboration: Ministry is a team effort, and collaborating with others can help you achieve your goals and serve your community more effectively.

Who do you consider to be your

greatest mentor and why? Pastor Mike Sanes. I want to share a small but significant story about my mentor, Pastor Mike Sanes. When I was just 19 years old, I had a strong desire to do ministry, but I had no experience or connections in the ministry. That's when Pastor Mike gave me a chance. He saw something in me that I didn't even see in myself, and he believed in me. He gave me the opportunity to lead our small student ministry and to preach in front of the congregation. I was nervous and unsure of myself, but Pastor Mike's guidance and support helped me to grow and develop my skills. Thanks to his mentorship, I was able to gain valuable experience and confidence in ministry. I will always be grateful to Pastor Mike for giving me a chance and for believing in me when I didn't believe in myself. He truly is an amazing mentor and leader.

When you're not at work, what do you do to relax? Hunt and fish, hang out with my beautiful wife and daughters, and watch college football.

What is something about you that most people don't know? I hate eggs, and I'm an Arkansas Razorback fan and I'm not from Arkansas.

How do you hope to grow in your career? I am open to learning new approaches and techniques, and to exploring innovative ways of doing ministry. I believe that this will help me to stay relevant and effective in a rapidly changing world, and to better meet the needs and challenges of the communities I serve.

If you couldn't do what you're doing now, what would you be doing? A small business owner.



Lindsey Drury, 28
Support Services Supervisor

Employer: Trident Refit Facility
in Kings Bay
Lives in: Kingsland

Professional responsibilities: My current job entails administrative duties of the Supply Department, which include hiring, training, security and financial support for the U.S. and United Kingdom.

Accomplishments/Honors:

- Bachelor of Business Administration in Marketing from the University of North Florida, 2017
- Civilian of the Quarter, Trident Refit Facility 2020

Community Involvement: I am actively involved in a spay and neuter program for cats in the local area. Being nominated for the 40 under 40 recognition is an honor that inspires me to contribute even more to my community.

Why did you go into your particular field? Since I have always been interested in consumer behavior, I chose to get my BBA in marketing. I was fortunate to be hired into the Supply Department at TRF in 2018. This opportunity has allowed me to experience an administrative perspective of how products are transferred to customers who are key components in our nation's defense.

As a child, what did you want to be when you grew up? As a child, I aspired to be a veterinarian. Having compassion for animals at an early age and the thought of gaining skills to care for them seemed like the dream job for me. Though my career path took a different direction, compassion is a value I still carry with me today.

What was your first job? My first job was with Werner Enterprises in Jacksonville, Fla. Although it was a stepping stone in my career, my time at Werner laid a solid foundation for me to further develop two main skills: attention to detail and being an effective communicator.

What is the best advice you've ever received? Work hard, stay humble and always have a desire to learn.

What's your favorite thing about your job? My favorite thing about my job is that it is people-oriented. I have the privilege to work among an array of people, and my goal is to create a positive impact, which is something I strive for every day.

What do you know now that you wish you knew when you first started your career? I wish I had known that you do not have to be a master at your job on day one. Careers are about personal growth, self-discovery and overcoming the many challenges you face along the way. The process is more about putting in consistent effort, continuing to evolve, and knowing who to go to for help to deliver the best result.

Who do you consider to be your greatest mentor and why? Both my mom and dad have provided guidance and support in everything I have done, which has made me the person I am today.

When you're not at work, what do you do to relax? I love running. Running helps me clear my mind and gives me a sense of personal accomplishment.

What is something about you that most people don't know? I really enjoy reading. Specifically, anything related to mystery.

How do you hope to grow in your career? My goal is to learn as much as I possibly can and to share that knowledge with others. One day I would like to be a mentor to others, because I know from personal experience that having a mentor can be both inspiring and full of impact.



Jacqueline Fortier, 38
Attorney/Partner

Employer: Harrison and Fortier,
P.C.
Lives in: Yulee, Fla.

Professional responsibilities: I am an attorney with Harrison and Fortier PC, a full-service law firm in Kingsland. I have been with this firm for nearly 11 years and have been a partner for the last three. I represent families in Southeast Georgia and Northeast Florida for any of their needs. I focus my practice presently in family law, but I also represent students in school board tribunals. Our office assists individuals who have been injured and need assistance.

I also serve as the solicitor for the city of Kingsland, representing the city in the prosecution of traffic and minor offenses, and ordinance violations in the Municipal Court.

Accomplishments/Honors:

Florida Bar 2011
Georgia Bar 2013
Southern District of Georgia 2014
11th Circuit Court of Appeals 2021
United States Supreme Court 2021

Camden County Chamber of Commerce Leadership Graduate Class of 2015; Associate Magistrate Judge Camden County 2017-21; Georgia Bar Young Lawyers Division Leadership Graduate Class of 2020; City Solicitor – City of Kingsland 2021 – present; Georgia Child Support Commission – Technology Subcommittee Member – 2023

Community Involvement:

Camden House Board of Directors 2012
Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors 2016
Choir Our Lady Star of the Sea 2014-17

Why did you go into your particular field? I became an attorney because I wanted to help people in my community.

As a child, what did you want to be when you grew up? An astrophysicist.

What was your first job? McDonald's on Kings Bay.

What is the best advice you've ever received? You cannot advocate for others if you can't advocate for yourself first.

What's your favorite thing about your job? I often encounter people in some of the worst times in their lives. I know that I can make a difference for somebody and get them where they need to be in life. It is important to me that I know I can provide someone some security, whether that's personal safety or financial security.

What do you know now that you wish you knew when you first started your career? First, the harder you work, the better the rewards. Also, relationships matter. I have been fortunate in that I have been able to build a network of people I can call to refer clients, or to ask questions, but I know my network would be even better if I had understood the value of this earlier.

Who do you consider to be your greatest mentor and why? I have been fortunate to have many mentors as my career has grown. My mother, Mary Castleberry, has never doubted that I would do whatever I put my mind to.

My law partner, Garnett Harrison. She took me under her wing as a law clerk before I had taken the Georgia Bar at a time when I was struggling to find work and has helped me become a good advocate for this community. She has encouraged me to explore additional opportunities, including serving as a magistrate judge and later as city solicitor. She has also encouraged me in my advocacy for my clients, including my appellate work.

I have been lucky to have had many other women lawyers to help grow and shape my career.



Maggie Gooch, 31
Agency Owner

Business: Maggie Gooch State Farm
Lives in: St. Marys

Professional responsibilities: To help keep the people of our community insured appropriately and actually understand their insurance by providing a level of service I would want my family to receive.

Community Involvement: I am an active member of the Camden Chamber of Commerce. I also serve as a board member for King of Peace Episcopal Day School.

Why did you go into your particular field? My dad said "Why not Insurance?" I never intended to go into insurance, but once I got here, I knew I found where I needed to be. I've have always wanted to be able to help people and what better way then help protect them from unforeseen events that can be life altering.

As a child, what did you want to be when you grew up? President of the United States.

What was your first job? Old Navy Sales associate.

What is the best advice you've ever received? Be a leader. Be good.

What's your favorite thing about your job? My customers! The relationships I have built with our Farm-ily is beyond what I could have imagined.

What do you know now that you wish you knew when you first started your career? Everything will turn out all right if you do two things: Consistently make decisions that are in line with your values and be willing to work hard.

Who do you consider to be your greatest mentor and why? My parents. They have always been there for me giving me the best advice and always supportive.

When you're not at work, what do you do to relax? Anything Disney! If we aren't at Disney, you will find my family and me at the many amazing community events we have in town!

What is something about you that most people don't know? I used to be a competitive gymnast growing up! Coach Yuri is the best!

How do you hope to grow in your career? I would like to continue to grow my business by educating people about insurance, as well as being more involved in the community. I think Camden County and its people are so special.

If you couldn't do what you're doing now, what would you be doing? I don't even know. I really think I found my passion with insurance.



Scott Gregory, 35
Lieutenant

Employer: Kingsland Fire Rescue
Lives in: Kingsland

Professional responsibilities: Supervise and directs firefighters at fires and emergency scenes, supervise and coordinate all fire suppression, rescue, inspection and emergency medical shift activities to ensure effective compliance with departmental policies and directives, directs company drills and training duties, ensuring that efficiency is maintained at a uniform level throughout the company, oversee the city's fire hydrant testing and maintenance program, oversee child injury prevention events as the Coordinator of Safe Kids Kingsland, oversee the department's fire prevention and public relation event programs, conduct fire and life safety inspections throughout the city of Kingsland, ensure fire reports are accurately completed and assist with recruitment events.

Accomplishments/Honors: 2012-13 Firefighter of the Year, 2016 Dedication, Pride and Ownership Award, 15 years of dedicated service to the city of Kingsland and the citizens, multiple Life Safety Awards

Community Involvement: Safe Kids Kingsland Coordinator: promoting injury prevention and accidental death prevention throughout Camden County and neighboring communities; member of Camden Masonic Lodge #476; softball coach with Camden PSA; promote fire safety and prevention within the Camden County Schools and to the citizens of Kingsland.

Why did you go into your particular field? I joined the fire department 15 years ago to give back and serve my community to ensure that the people could rest assure that someone was coming to help them in their time of need. I am a fourth generation public servant.

As a child, what did you want to be when you grew up? As any child

dreamed of being the next professional athlete, I had the same aspiration, however, it wasn't until I was 15 years old and experiencing the loss of my mom to cancer that I felt a burning passion to help others in their time of need.

What was your first job? McDonald's

What is the best advice you've ever received? It's not about your birth date or death date, it's about about the hash mark between the two. Also, it's about people and your relationship with people.

What's your favorite thing about your job? Impacting a child's life. You never know what a child is going through outside of school and sports and just spending 15-20 minutes can change their total outlook on life and positively change their mindset.

What do you know now that you wish you knew when you first started your career? That math actually plays a critical role in Fire/EMS.

Who do you consider to be your greatest mentor and why? Fire Chief Terry Smith. Terry is all about the people and building those positive relationships with people. Chief Smith and I both started in the fire service for the people and not the money. I always try and reach out to him with whatever road block that I encounter, whether it be personal or professional.

When you're not at work, what do you do to relax? Play video games, play guitar, fishing, spend time with wife, kids, family and friends.

What is something about you that most people don't know? That I do a pretty good Mickey Mouse impression and that I love karaoke.



Linsey Groth, 31
Accountant/Business Owner

Business: BGE Financial Consulting.
Lives in: Kingsland

Professional responsibilities: As a small business financial consultant, I help small business owners manage their finances effectively. This includes analyzing financial data, creating financial plans, providing financial advice, and helping business owners make informed decisions about their finances. Though that all sounds very overwhelming, I take pride in doing the overwhelming part for the business owner and explaining in bite-sized pieces how to grow their business to be more profitable, rather than just giving them a lot of accounting jargon they don't understand.

As a small business owner myself, I also have all of the responsibilities of running my own business, which has been a learning experience. It gives me a unique perspective to help business owners through their struggles, as I know first-hand that everything isn't about the numbers.

Accomplishments/Honors: Growing a small business from one employee (myself) to a team of seven in a span of two years.

I have also been entrusted to lead our local BNI chapter as president of the group.

Community Involvement: I sit on the Camden County Chamber of Commerce Board under which I am part of the Executive Committee. I am also a member of the Jacksonville Chamber of Commerce and the Professional Women's Council.

Why did you go into your particular field? I was originally attracted to accounting because I worked at a bank as a young adult. I specialized in small business because I enjoy helping other business owners not only keep their business alive, but make it thrive! Only 50% of small businesses survive more

than five years, and I want to help make that number much higher here in Camden County.

As a child, what did you want to be when you grew up? A mom. That was truly all that I knew I wanted to be when I grew up as a kid, and I got the privilege of doing just that for eight years while my boys were small thanks to my hard working husband who supported me staying home with them. As much as I love what I do now, I wouldn't give anything for the time I got to spend at home with my kids while they were small.

What was your first job? My first job was waitressing at one of only two restaurants with waitresses in my hometown, McRae, Ga.

What is the best advice you've ever received? "Don't ever let anyone make you doubt yourself, not even me." – McKenzie (business partner)

It's a reminder that your own self-worth and confidence should not be dependent on the opinions of others. It's important to trust yourself, maintain a strong sense of self-worth, and approach feedback with a growth mindset.

If ever anyone says anything that makes me feel small, she reminds me to look back at all that I have already accomplished just to get here.

This echoes how my dad raised me and I need the reminder often.

What's your favorite thing about your job? Taking the leap to start a business is an exciting, yet scary thing to do. I'm fortunate enough to be a part of that adventure with businesses in the area and my favorite thing is being able to help turn their dreams into realities. Not only that, but I've got an amazing team of women who I get to do all of this with!



Shanice Hubbard, 30
Minister, Influencer, Marketing Strategist, Business Owner

Business: Win Brand Marketing
Lives in: Kingsland

Professional responsibilities: Graphics, websites for business and brand development. Social Media management and promotion. I create business plans and LLCs, event hosting.

Accomplishments/Honors: Creative for Bosses Brunch Entrepreneurial Seminar; president of Confidence Culture Organization; CEO of EminentBee Enterprise; Bold Journey, NBQ, and Voyage Magazine features.

Community Involvement: Diaper drives, feeding the homeless, sexual abuse advocate, young girl mentor, motivational speaker and Christian counselor/adviser.

Why did you go into your particular field? Entrepreneurship and ministry is important in my family. My grandfather was pastor in the United Methodist denomination, and my great-grandfather was an AME pastor. So my heart for service and ministry began at an early age. At 22, my father and I built PC's BBQ restaurant on our backs and there were many lessons to be learned from marketing to our employees and more. Eight years later I have learned so much about successes and failures of any business especially a restaurant.

As a child, what did you want to be when you grew up? I always wanted to be an actress and philanthropist.

What was your first job? My first job was a customer service representative at Pizza Hut. I was in the 11th grade.

What is the best advice you've ever received? "You can't expect you from others!" - Coach Tasj

What's your favorite thing about your job? I enjoy being able to draft creative ways to promote and increase sales.

What do you know now that you wish you knew when you first started your career? Realize that you won't reach everyone but those that you do reach make sure you cater to their needs.

Who do you consider to be your greatest mentor and why? Mayor Harold Moore of Wadley, Ga. He has motivated me at the start of my spiritual journey being hands on in his community, a person of professionalism and a spiritual leader. Some of the same qualities I possess.

When you're not at work, what do you do to relax? I enjoy listening to music, writing and painting for pastimes.

What is something about you that most people don't know? So many think I was born with boldness and confidence, but those things had to be learned and are still being cultivated

How do you hope to grow in your career? To strategically network with individuals who have a mindset for expansion globally, spiritually and professionally

If you couldn't do what you're doing now, what would you be doing? I think I would be a chiropractor or massage therapist. I like to massage my family members. They say I'm pretty good at it. Also I like to hear the "cracking sounds." I've been told I have healing in my hands.



Ashley Jones, 35
Aesthetician, Business Owner

Business: Glam and Glow
Beauty and Body Services
Lives in: St. Marys

Professional responsibilities: My primary responsibility is to help clients with their skin care needs, which can range from acne to aging. Also providing them with a safe space for all their intimate services.

Accomplishments/Honors: Licensed esthetician; published MUA.

Community Involvement: I currently run a Military Spouse page called Black Military Spouses of Kingsbay. We help assist black, Indigenous and people of color with resources and support in the area.

Why did you go into your particular field? I was already a makeup artist and wanted to take my career to the next level and help my make up clients with their skin.

As a child, what did you want to be when you grew up? I honestly wanted to be a lawyer because I love a great debate. But anything where I could service/help people.

What was your first job? I worked at Wendy's as a cashier.

What is the best advice you've ever received? To T.H.I.N.K before you speak. If it's not: Thoughtful, Helpful, Intelligent, Necessary and Kind, then don't say it!

What's your favorite thing about your job? Getting to meet so many people and hear their story and connect

and listen to them, while making them feel good about their skin and body.

What do you know now that you wish you knew when you first started your career? Do not rush! Your time will come.

Who do you consider to be your greatest mentor and why? Honestly I don't have one particular person at the moment, but all of the business owners within the Camden County Chamber of Commerce have been very supportive and informative with me since I joined. It's a great support system I'm glad I have as a resource.

When you're not at work, what do you do to relax? I love chasing my 5-year-old around and catching up on the latest teenage lingo with my oldest son.

What is something about you that most people don't know? I was in the Miss Okefenokee pageant my senior year of high school in 2006.

How do you hope to grow in your career? Right now, I want to continue to use my business to help grow other small businesses within the community. I would love to expand with more suite rental for other young professionals.

If you couldn't do what you're doing now, what would you be doing? Possible interior design. I love transforming spaces.



Dylan Kaiser, 27
Business owner

Business: Bessie's on the Move
Lives in: St. Marys

Professional responsibilities: Day-to-day operations marketing, inventory, ordering

Accomplishments/honors: 2022 Reader's Choice Best Burger

Community involvement: Served on St. Marys Downtown Development Authority; multiple community fundraisers

Why did you go into your particular field? My parents told me if I wasn't going to college I had to do something.

As a child, what did you want to be when you grew up? I never had a career in mind. I just wanted to work.

What was your first job? My parents had multiple businesses growing up, and we always helped however we could there. My first real job was scooping ice cream at Sweet Temptations in Pen Argyl, Pa.

What is the best advice you've ever received? "It'll work or it won't." We can only control what we can control with the tools we have.

What is your favorite thing about your job? Interacting with customers, and forming a community.

What do you know now that you wish you knew when you first started your career? How to manually defrost the coils on a walk-in freezer and how to snake a drain.

Who do you consider to be your greatest mentor and why? My parents have always been hard workers and very much get-it-done people. I'm so thankful to have them for support and to answer my calls when I don't know what to do.

When you're not at work, what do you do to relax? I go to the gym or the beach. I'm almost always with my friends or family.

What is something about you that most people don't know? I love Taylor Swift.

How do you hope to grow in your career? I look forward to more events in Kingsland and Woodbine.

If you couldn't do what you're doing now, what would you be doing? I'd love to have a travel podcast of small cities in Georgia, like St. Marys, where I could advise people on what to do, where to eat and where to stay.



Megan Friese-Kaufman, 39
Business Owner/Founder/
President

Business: The Friese Studio of Music, Saltwater Performing Arts
Lives in: Kingsland

Professional responsibilities:

- Vocal instructor: Training vocalists of any age over 7 years old how to sing using classical techniques.
- Music Theory instructor.
- Artistic Director: Program coordinator, specialized instructor/director recruiter for both The Friese Studio and Saltwater Performing Arts.
- Performing arts event organizer.
- Director and Music Director for theatrical shows for middle school through adult.
- Choral Director for three Competition Show Choirs.
- Employer of 10 professional music instructors at my studio.
- Oversee the management of over 250 enrolled music students.

Community Involvement: Not only is Saltwater Performing Arts a community theater, but we reach out to other performing and fine arts organizations throughout the community, including our local schools, to help educate children to the best of our ability in the world of performing and fine arts. We also partner with the Kings Bay Submarine Naval Base to present on educational programs and performances. We are trying to get a grant for our performing arts military children so they can attend our some of our fee-based programs for little to no charge.

Why did you go into your particular field? Middle school was where I fell in love with singing, but it wasn't until high school when I realized I could make it a career. Once I found out, I never looked back. I had wonderful choral, theatrical and private instructor mentors that helped me succeed in what I wanted to do. I never questioned any other field of study. The only option I contemplated was the possibility of minoring in music business or focusing on my major, which was vocal performance. I decided to focus on Vocal Performance, but I fell into the music business side of the performing arts any

way. I received two wonderful degrees from prestigious schools, and the more I continue to educate myself, the more I know that this is who I was made to be.

As a child, what did you want to be when you grew up? I wanted to be a pop singer, until I found out I could be an opera singer.

What was your first job? The Corner Bakery in Southlake, Texas.

What is the best advice you've ever received? Work hard, stay humble! Stay patient, see it through. If it was easy, everyone could do it.

What's your favorite thing about your job? Seeing the students succeed. I love performing, and I will always get a personal gratification out of that side of my profession. But, when I see students thrive and get to experience the performing arts in a motivating, exciting and positive light, that's when everything I do makes sense.

What do you know now that you wish you knew when you first started your career? That I needed to pay attention better in my childhood piano lessons, I could be a much better piano player today if I had! Only vocalists will really understand that regret!

When you're not at work, what do you do to relax? I have two young boys, Marshall, 7, and Theo, 4. My time spent away from work is always spent with my husband, Ross, and my children. Most of the time that includes my parents as well. We all enjoy traveling to Fernandina Beach or Jekyll Island for brief day-get-aways and beach time.

What is something about you that most people don't know? I love animals. I especially love Pugs, and one day I aspire to be a crazy Pug lady.



Taylor Lamb, 30
Insurance Agent

Business: Lamb Insurance Services
Lives in: Kingsland

Professional responsibilities: Facilitating all of the personal and commercial insurance needs of my clients.

Accomplishments/Honors: Best Insurance Agent of Camden County 2020.

Community Involvement: Primarily donations to multiple community programs.

Why did you go into your particular field? My father, and now mother, is in the business. I sort of always knew this is what I wanted to do.

As a child, what did you want to be when you grew up? Originally a pilot, but that changed by my teenage years.

What was your first job? Cart staff at Laurel Island Links.

What is the best advice you've ever received? If you give respect, you will get respect.

What's your favorite thing about your job? I would say it's the relationships that you have with your clients. As well as helping them with whatever I can

do, to make the insurance process the easiest for them.

What do you know now that you wish you knew when you first started your career? Communication is key.

Who do you consider to be your greatest mentor and why? Absolutely my Dad. Not only in business, but in my everyday life as well.

When you're not at work, what do you do to relax? I hangout with my wife and daughter, and occasionally I lose a lot of golf balls on the course.

How do you hope to grow in your career? In my knowledge. The industry is always changing, and I hope that I can continue to adapt to the change, and continue to be successful in helping our community with their insurance needs.

If you couldn't do what you're doing now, what would you be doing? I'm really not sure. As I said previously, this is what I've wanted to do. I have not really thought about if this did not work out.



Nicholas McCoy, 32
Director of Operations

Employer: Outerbanks Bar and Grill (OBX)
Lives in: Kingsland

Professional responsibilities:

- Training new employees and providing them with on-the-job training to ensure that they are able to perform their jobs safely and efficiently.
- Establishing relationships with suppliers to ensure the restaurant has access to the products it needs to operate efficiently.
- Reviewing financial statements and sales reports to monitor business performance and make adjustments where necessary.
- Maintaining an inventory of food items to ensure that there is always enough for customers to purchase without running out.
- Scheduling staff members' shifts and making sure that they are aware of their schedules.
- Supervising employees' work performance and addressing performance issues as they arise.
- Training employees in food preparation techniques, including cooking methods and food safety practices.
- Overseeing the restaurant's operation, including hiring and dismissing staff members.

Accomplishments/Honors:

2019 Best Bartender, Tribune & Georgian; 2018 Educators Making an Impact Award, Aveda - Neil Corporate; 2017 Ambassador of the Year, Aveda Corporate; 2017 Education Mentor of the Year, Aveda - The Salon People; 2016 Highest Grossing Retail Manager, Neil TSPI; 2016 Trailblazer of the Year, Neil TSP; 2014 Most Likely to Succeed, Aveda - The Salon People.

Community Involvement: Camden County Chamber of Commerce Member, Veterans of Foreign Wars Volunteer - Kings Bay, Ga, Camden House, Operation New Hope, St. Johns Riverkeeper, JASMYN, Volunteers of America

Why did you go into your particular field?

I was 15 years old when I started my first job. The food service industry seemed to be the only "job" I could have at my age. Little did I know. The industry would end up sucking me in years later.

As a child, what did you want to be when you grew up?

A neonatologist.

What was your first job?

I worked at a coffee shop in downtown St. Marys.

What is the best advice you've ever received?

Whenever you see someone who is doing great, you better learn to enjoy the distance between them and you. Because what you see are their results. However, you don't know what they went through to get there.

What's your favorite thing about your job?

Besides my staff and the "regulars" that have become my family, it is impossible for me to predict what can happen at the restaurant on a daily basis, and I enjoy a good challenge.

Who do you consider to be your greatest mentor and why?

When I first started working for AVEDA Corporate, I was fortunate that one of my supervisors (Elizabeth Johnson) became my mentor. The two most important things I learned from her are the value of consistency and accountability.

What is something about you that most people don't know?

Ironically, I was fired from Outerbanks while in college. Several years later, the manager who let me go called and asked if I would oversee the business with her while Alfred (the late owner) traveled to China. I agreed on the three-week commitment. My time off was approved, from my corporate job in Jacksonville, Fla. Two days into me helping her out, she quit. Those three weeks have now turned into years.



Allison Murray, 39
Pastor of Outreach

Employer: Christ's Church Camden
Lives in: Kingsland

Professional responsibilities:

I oversee our church's relationship with the community and local ministry partners. My job is to make sure we are growing in our love for Camden County and that our community is better because we are here.

Accomplishments/Honors:

My greatest accomplishment and the honor of my life is being a mom. I adopted my daughter out of the local foster care system and have learned so much about myself and our local system through her life. Being Cassadee's mom is everything.

Community Involvement: Member of the Camden County Board of Education, Launched Hope1312 : Camden's Foster Care Ministry

Why did you go into your field?

I originally got into ministry to work with teenagers. My degree is in adolescent psychology, and I fell in love with the mind of teenagers. I recognized early if we could get to teenagers and help them sooner, we might just be able to create a better, healthier future for everyone. I have stayed in church ministry for the last 20 years because I love people. I love seeing people connect with the God who made them and find hope and a more fulfilling life.

As a child, what did you want to be when you grew up?

A doctor

What was your first job?

Lifeguard on Kings Bay Naval Submarine Base

What is the best advice you've ever received?

Just because you can doesn't mean you should.

What's your favorite thing about your job?

My favorite thing about my job is the incredible people that I get to work with and that I get to meet so many amazing people in our community. All my very best friends have come out of my job.

What do you know now that you wish you knew when you first started your career?

That working with people is really rewarding but equally really hard.

Who do you consider to be your greatest mentor and why?

My mom. She always showed me what it meant to be a woman who worked hard for what she wanted, how to be independent and strong, and how to love people well.

When you're not at work, what do you do to relax?

I love playing pickleball and hanging with daughter.

What is something about you that most people don't know?

I played soccer and softball in college

How do you hope to grow in your career?

I always want to grow in how I love people and how I represent myself in this community. I always want to make decisions with integrity and compassion and do what's best – even when it isn't the easy choice. My job is dependent upon me being a person of character and integrity and living a life worthy of the calling placed on it.

If you couldn't do what you're doing now, what would you be doing?

School counseling.



Tyler Murray
Agriculture Teacher, Farmer

Employer: Camden County High School, Satilla River Beef
Lives in: Woodbine

Professional responsibilities: Educator, FFA adviser, mentor, cattle producer

Accomplishments/Honors: Since 2016, I have enhanced the agriculture department at Camden County High School and increased Camden's community following in many ways, including providing my own personal animals to supplement instruction and enrich the student experience, instituting the school's meat judging team, and establishing the Camden County Livestock Show Team, which teaches students how to properly care for, raise, show and process various livestock, including pigs, sheep and goats.

Camden County High School Teacher of the Year, University of Georgia Teachers Block & Bridle Outstanding Staff Award, University of Georgia Cattlemen's Association Advising Award

In addition to these personal accomplishments, I led our Future Farmers of America chapter to receive the Camden County Clean Up Blitz Award. I also mentored and coached livestock show students to earn numerous placements and earn their way to compete at the state level.

Community Involvement: Board Member for the Georgia Farm Bureau; established the annual Boots and Chutes Rodeo; actively lead many service projects annually as an FFA adviser, such as picking up trash in the community and removing a decaying boardwalk at Crooked River State Park; and provide guidance to community members when they have animal and/or agricultural questions.

Why did you go into your particular field? Growing up in the forestry industry and helping my grandfather with his cattle, I decided to pursue a career in agriculture by attending Abraham Baldwin Agriculture College and the University of Georgia. Once I earned my bachelor's degree, I became a farm manager for the University of Georgia, managing

their Double Bridges Beef and Sheep Unit. During this time, I also earned my master's degree in animal science with an emphasis in beef production/meat science. It was my time teaching labs at Double Bridges that piqued my interest in teaching agriculture in my hometown and led me back to my alma mater in 2016.

As a child, what did you want to be when you grew up? Veterinarian.

What was your first job? Besides working on my family's farm as a kid, my first real job was working at Peeple's Feed Supply, assisting customers and loading feed. These jobs fueled by passion to work in the agricultural industry.

What is the best advice you've ever received? Be patient.

What's your favorite thing about your job? I am lucky to be able to teach a subject that I am passionate about and to share that passion with my students. Most kids do not understand that we are three generations removed from the farm and therefore do not realize where their food comes from. It's gratifying to teach students about agriculture and inspire them to seek careers in the industry.

Who do you consider to be your greatest mentor and why? While I have had many important mentors in my life, two stand out. Carlos Jones Sr., my high school construction teacher and a CCHS legend, and Dr. Dean Pringle, one of my UGA animal science professors. Both men not only taught me a trade and too many life lessons to count, but most importantly, what it looked like to be a man of God, how to lead by example, and the importance an educator plays in a student's life.

What is something about you that most people don't know? Murphy's Law should be called Murray's Law.



Jeremy Nascimento, 39
Business owner

Businesses: Headline Hair Designers, Yankee Pie Apizza
Lives in: St. Marys

Professional responsibilities: At Headline Hair Designers, I service my clients of 15 years and manage an incredible team of hairstylists and estheticians.

I also own Yankee Pie Apizza and occasionally pop in to work a shift on the ovens and crank out delicious New Haven-style pizza.

Accomplishments/Honors: In the hair industry, I have competed in three world championships, reaching a top ranking of fifth in the world. I also won first in the U.S nationals and first in South America and was featured in a PBS documentary "Hairworld: The Pursuit of Excellence." I worked as a platform artist for eight years for Schwarzkopf professional doing runway models and color educations for the top hair shows and hair salons in the world. My uncle who started the original Headline Hair Designers in Hartford, Conn., was the 1984 world champion and coached me throughout my earlier career until I started my own Headline in Kingsland.

I have always had a passion for pizza, so about eight years ago I learned to make pizza in New Haven, Conn., and was determined to one day open my own pizzeria. I purchased the former Tribune & Georgian building and decided to subdivide it with Yankee Pie Apizza on one side and the new Headline Salon and Spa.

Community Involvement: Both Yankee Pie Pizza and Headline combined currently employ more than 30 employees. We have donated and done fundraisers for countless charities, sports teams and local events. Once in the restaurant we are organizing a "slice out hunger" program to provide free pizza to the hungry in our community. The pizzeria has a free pavilion for the whole county to enjoy with their families and will host concerts, free family movies every night, cornhole, firepits and s'more making, as well as being home to third party

family fun like mini golf, bounce houses, snow cones, etc... We want to be the premier spot for pizza and family fun in Camden County.

Why did you go into your particular field? I was going to join the Marines when my uncle talked me out of it and into the hair business. I loved the creativity and ever-changing industry, but most of all I enjoy the conversations with all my clients.

The pizza business was a dream of mine and I started to spearhead bringing New England-style pizza to the South and hope to franchise everywhere below the Mason-Dixon Line.

As a child, what did you want to be when you grew up? I wanted to be a Marine and hopefully a Green Beret or Navy Seal.

What was your first job? Stop and shop grocery store in Bristol, Conn.

What is the best advice you've ever received? "Don't be lazy." — my father, Rui Nascimento

He and my grandfather immigrated here from Portugal when he was a boy. My grandfather worked three jobs without ever missing a day of work his entire career. My father was a hard worker as well and instilled that work ethic in us from our youth.

What's your favorite thing about your job? Whether I'm cutting hair or making a pizza, I love to see the smiles after they say "this is the best I've ever had." I want to make people happy. Life is short and I want to leave a lasting impression.

What do you know now that you wish you knew when you first started your career? I wish I started my pizza career earlier. I had no idea how well it would take off.



Jacob Page, 38
Business Owner

Business: Budget Blinds of The Golden Isles
Lives in: St. Marys

Professional responsibilities: Oversee business operations and sales.

Accomplishments/Honors:
2018 National Rookie of the Year for New Franchise; Sales Excellence Award Recipient - 2018-22.

Community Involvement: Youth sports coach – baseball/basketball/football; Camden County Chamber of Commerce; Christ Church Camden.

Why did you go into your particular field? Strong desire to bring a new business to my hometown.

As a child, what did you want to be when you grew up? Athlete/business owner

What was your first job? Settlement analyst at the Energy Authority in Jacksonville, Fla.

What is the best advice you've ever received? Most people overestimate what they can do in one year and underestimate what they can do in 10

years.

What's your favorite thing about your job? Meeting all of the new people moving to Camden County

What do you know now that you wish you knew when you first started your career? Start young and don't be afraid of failure.

Who do you consider to be your greatest mentor and why? My Father has always been a great example of hard work and determination. Encouraged me to go for it!

When you're not at work, what do you do to relax? Hang out with family and friends, boating, exercise.

How do you hope to grow in your career? Continue to grow the business and expand up the Georgia Coast.

If you couldn't do what you're doing now, what would you be doing? Trying to figure out a way to work for myself.



Taylor Pinson, 30
Occupational Therapist

Employer: Camden County Schools, Pediatric Therapies of Southeast Georgia, Southeast Georgia Health System
Lives in: Kingsland

Professional responsibilities: As an occupational therapist, I work with both children and adults across the lifespan and provide services to promote health and independence in their ability to complete their daily activities. These meaningful activities include taking care of yourself, your family, going to work, going to school, taking a shower, walking your dog, etc. In the school setting, I am helping children to obtain the necessary skills so that they can be as successful as possible in their academics (hand-writing, visual-motor skills, sensory processing). In the outpatient setting, I am helping children obtain skills throughout their development, which can include feeding, dressing, fine motor, gross motor, play and other age-appropriate skills. In the hospital, I am working with adults who need to regain mobility and strength after an illness or surgery so that they can return home and safely complete their daily activities.

Accomplishments/Honors/Degrees: Bachelor of Science in Exercise Science from the University of South Carolina, Master of Occupational Therapy from the University of Saint Augustine for Health Sciences, graduated with Honors from my Occupational Therapy program.

Community Involvement: Each Christmas, I host a toy drive for in-need patients and families at my work, Camden Special Steps Program, Special Olympics Volunteer

Why did you go into your particular field? I chose occupational therapy because it is a career that allows me to help others get back to living life and doing the things they love. I get to gear each session to that person and what they like to do, so that they can be as independent in their daily living as possible. Love to fish? I can make our therapy session about fishing! Walk your dog every day? We can work on skills so you

can get back to doing that! A kid loves Mario? We can work on visual-motor skills that include Mario characters! I enjoy the diversity of the career and that I can work with individuals of all ages and that there is no such thing as a boring day in OT.

As a child, what did you want to be when you grew up? I had to ask my mom this one, and she said that I never would say one particular thing but I do know I always had a baby doll in my hand, so it made sense that I now have a career working with children. I did go into college as a pharmacy major, but once I took chemistry (and realize it was not for me), I had to quickly change paths!

What was your first job? My first "real" job included keep score for football, baseball and basketball games at my hometown's recreation center. I also spent almost every weekend night in high school babysitting for families at my church.

What's your favorite thing about your job? My favorite thing about my job is that I am let in to someone else's "real." The parents of the children I work with, the children with special needs, the adults who just had surgery or are very sick – they all all trust me and allow me into their most vulnerable moments during sessions so that we can achieve their goals. It is a privilege that I try to never forget.

What do you know now that you wish you knew when you first started your career? I wish I knew that it is the little moments that lead up to the big changes. When I first started OT, I wanted every session to have some dramatic change or gain for my patient and would get frustrated if there was none. I realized that in therapy, it is the little small changes that work their way up to the big life changes.



Candace Pullum
Main Street Manager

Employer: City of St. Marys
Lives in: St. Marys

Professional responsibilities: Manages the city's Main Street Program and provides support to downtown and midtown businesses to help encourage a vibrant and thriving municipality.

Accomplishments/Honors: 2022 Graduate of St. Marys Leadership Academy, 2021-2022 My Camden Chamber Award Winner, 2022 Graduate of the Georgia Academy of Economic Development.

Community Involvement: I am a board member on the Camden County Chamber of Commerce, and I also work with the St. Marys Downtown Development Authority, Development Authority of St. Marys, as well as the Gateway Committee.

Why did you go into your particular field? I like to think I have a servant's heart; I love see people succeed. Working as a public servant allows me to do that daily.

As a child, what did you want to be when you grew up? As a child I always wanted to be a teacher. I quickly realized I did not have the patience to do that. Shout out to all the amazing teachers out there.

What was your first job? After-school coordinator for extended day program.

What is the best advice you've ever received? Listen more than you speak.

What's your favorite thing about your job? Each day is a new challenge.

What do you know now that you wish you knew when you first started your career? You won't be everyone's cup of tea, and that's OK. As a people pleaser to my core, this was a hard lesson to learn.

Who do you consider to be your greatest mentor and why? I was blessed to start my career in St. Marys with an amazing mentor, Donna Larson. She was patient, honest and candid while also being compassionate. She would allow me to share my ideas and perspectives and is a great sounding board even today.

When you're not at work, what do you do to relax? Spend time with my beautiful family, preferably at the beach.

What is something about you that most people don't know? I'm an introverted extrovert.

How do you hope to grow in your career? I hope to continue my education to grow and change with the trends and growth for the future.

If you couldn't do what you're doing now, what would you be doing? I honestly can't imagine not working with the city in some capacity. I love helping the citizens of St. Marys and being a part of all the growing and changing that the future has in store.



Trevor Readdick, 34
CEO, Camden County
commissioner

Business: Readdick
Construction
Lives in: St. Marys

Professional responsibilities: Direct management of the three core areas of business (Sales and Marketing, Operations, and Accounting) at Readdick Construction. Establishing policy and adopting an annual budget at the Camden County Board of Commissioners. Being the chief officer and presiding at membership, Board of Director, and Executive Committee meetings for the Home Builders Association of Georgia.

Accomplishments/Honors: Readdick Construction recently celebrated 10 years in business. I consider this to be a huge accomplishment that would not have been achieved without the will of God, support from my family, and a tremendous team with the drive to succeed.

Community Involvement: I'm a charter member of the Home Builders Association of Camden County, a professional trade association which is part of a three-tier federation of associations, including HBAG and NAHB. I've also been a member of the Rotary Club of Camden County since 2012. Rotary is a civic organization that performs community service while learning about local issues and opportunities to serve.

Why did you go into your particular field? I started my company in 2012 by flipping foreclosed homes in established neighborhoods. After completing several extensive home renovations, I gained a great appreciation for new construction, so I decided to shift our emphasis by building our first spec home in 2013. Today, I would consider our company niche to be classified as small volume production while occasionally building a custom home.

As a child, what did you want to be when you grew up? I feel as if the construction industry chose me. I

began following my dad, grandfather and uncles to work around 5 years old. They introduced me to heavy equipment operation, subdivision development, home building, and running the infamous sawmill. I spent many afternoons and weekends over the next decade playing in what seemed to be a life-sized sandbox. It was honestly a dream come true!

What was your first job? My first official job outside of the family was being a lifeguard during my high school years. To be completely honest, it made me a better swimmer, but not necessarily a harder worker.

What is the best advice you've ever received? It would have to be a quote from Marion Morrison, better known as John Wayne. "Tomorrow is the most important thing in life. Comes into us at midnight very clean. It's perfect when it arrives, and it puts itself in our hands. It hopes we've learned something from yesterday."

What's your favorite thing about your job? Home building is a very dynamic industry, meaning that it's constantly changing. There are many variables which are market dependent that it really becomes somewhat of an exact science. While this can lead to instability, it forces one to constantly adapt to become or even remain successful.

Who do you consider to be your greatest mentor and why? My grandfather would be one of my greatest mentors as the patriarch of our immediate Readdick family. He came from what I consider to be the greatest generation and accomplished so many things with only a ninth grade education. To this day, I come across very few people who encounter a problem and could envision a workable solution the way he did.



James Roberson, 37
Pastor, Internal Audit Project
Manager

Employer: Westside Baptist
Church, U.S. Bank
Lives in: Woodbine

Professional responsibilities: As a pastor, I lead the Westside congregation, preparing and delivering sermons and Bible studies, officiating funerals and weddings. As an internal audit project manager, I “audit the auditors” at U.S. Bank, ensuring that the audit group is consistently meeting or exceeding all regulatory, industry and company requirements.

Accomplishments/Honors: I hold the internationally recognized Project Management Professional certification.

Community Involvement: I serve as the treasurer for the Camden Wildcat Quarterback Club. I’m also a board member for the Camden/Charlton FCA.

Why did you go into your particular field? Pastoring was definitely an example of “answering the call” and realizing I needed to do more than just be church member. Getting into internal audit was a matter of needing a job, having the right connections, and the right opportunity being available at the right time.

As a child, what did you want to be when you grew up? A country music singer, a football coach or a businessman.

What was your first job? Working on the manufacturing floor for a hurricane tie-down products company.

What is the best advice you’ve ever received? God will not give you what He knows you aren’t ready to handle, so be patient enough to let that play out.

What’s your favorite thing about your job? As a pastor, being able to be there for folks when they need you most. In internal audit, having others reach out to me for advice on their work because they value the insights I provide.

What do you know now that you wish you knew when you first started your career? That while you can make and maintain great relationships with co-workers, keep it strictly business with the company you work for – because the company will keep it strictly business with you as needed.

Who do you consider to be your greatest mentor and why? My dad because I have been blessed to have him close by my entire adult life, and he is willing to provide the feedback I need but maybe don’t want to hear.

When you’re not at work, what do you do to relax? My family and I love Camden Wildcat and Georgia Bulldog football along with Atlanta Braves baseball. If I really need to de-stress, a round of golf or hitting the river to fish or swim does the trick.

What is something about you that most people don’t know? I love getting a group together and hitting a karaoke spot.

How do you hope to grow in your career? As a pastor, I hope to grow Westside Baptist to a point of sustainability where it is still ministering in this community and supporting international missions in 50, 75, even 100 years. On the internal audit side, I want to make the most of my abilities so that I can continue in helping financially support my church and the other causes I am passionate about.

If you couldn’t do what you’re doing now, what would you be doing? Something else here in Camden County – I have never had an address or home outside of Camden because I haven’t found another place I’d rather call home.



Steven Sainz, 28
CEO, State Representative

Employer: Camden Connection,
Georgia General Assembly
Lives in: Kingsland

Professional responsibilities: State Legislature: Represent all of Camden County and south Glynn County in the Georgia House of Representatives, serving more than 60,000 constituents. Appointed chairman of the Special Rules standing committee and serve on committee leadership for the House Committee on Economic Development and Tourism. Appointed the chairman of the 2nd Amendment Public Safety Subcommittee and Vice-Chairman - General Government Subcommittee. Serve as a member on the following committees: Chairman - 2A Public Safety Subcommittee, vice chairman - General Government Subcommittee.

Camden Connection: Oversee a community development firm comprising three project managers and two support staff. Lead our local government consultation division to increase out-of-area funding for special projects dealing with health and human services. Oversee compliance of all contracts and responsible for achieving the annual performance and revenue targets set by a seven-member Board of Directors.

Accomplishments/Honors:
• Authored HB 188 “Mariam’s Law” in the 2023 legislative session that was signed into law. It increased penalties and sentencing for Dangerous Sexual Predators, the most high-risk sex offenders as classified by the state of Georgia’s Risk and Review board.

• Lead in securing over \$18 million in special project funds for youth development and human service projects in the coastal Georgia region.

• Lead in developing a Camden COVID-19 Human Services Steering committee, which raised over \$90,000 in funds that were then given to direct service non-profits to aid in pandemic relief activity.

• 2015 Georgia Center for Non-Profits 30 Under 30 Leaders

Community Involvement: St. Marys Salvation Army – Community Advisory Board; Woodbine Lions Club – member; Camden County Chamber of Commerce – member; GA Prevention Professionals Credentialing Board – board member; OLSS Catholic Church – member.

Why did you go into your particular field? We are all called to love our neighbors as we are loved by Christ. I think this can look different for each of us, but I interpret it as finding a way to serve my neighbors. I try to measure each opportunity on whether or not it presents a unique opportunity for me to serve and better the lives of those around me.

As a child, what did you want to be when you grew up? Law enforcement. As a kid, I would help my dad put his police duty belt on early in the morning. It was my first example of what a public servant looked like.

What was your first job? At 15, a summer laborer with the U.S. Park Services on Cumberland Island. We spent most of the summer cutting palmetto branches off the sides of the main trail from Sea Camp to Dungeness.

What is the best advice you’ve ever received? Professionally there’s a quote that has stuck with me; it’s translated from Spanish by my grandfather on my mother’s side, Carlos Quiros. Business is a contact sport, so you better make sure to make meaningful contacts.

What’s your favorite thing about your job? Getting to work on projects that will have a meaningful impact on people’s lives decades down the road.

What do you know now that you wish you had known when you first started your career? Spend time growing a team around you, not just on the task at hand.



Roland Sanchez, 36
Business Owner, U.S. Navy sailor

Business: RJ's Bounce Houses, The Southern Bouquet, Premier Mobile Services
Lives in: Waverly

Professional responsibilities: Small business owner of three businesses, and active duty U.S. Navy sailor.

Community Involvement: Back-to-school give away every year, donations to Camden County football.

Why did you go into your particular field? Premier detailing – to provide Camden County with a professional auto detailer. Inflatables – to provide entertainment for families during parties and other events; the flower shop – to help my wife open her own store and do what she's passionate about.

As a child, what did you want to be when you grew up? As a child I wanted to be a dental hygienist.

What was your first job? McDonald's.

What is the best advice you've ever received? None, I never had a mentor. I had the drive all on my own.

What's your favorite thing about

your job? Customer satisfaction and transformations in seeing a complete difference in a car I service before and after.

What do you know now that you wish you knew when you first started your career? Invest in yourself.

Who do you consider to be your greatest mentor and why? The internet. It's been informative and useful.

When you're not at work, what do you do to relax? Think about work.

What is something about you that most people don't know? I have an extra vertebrae in my spine.

How do you hope to grow in your career? Continue to grow and prosper in opening more businesses.

If you couldn't do what you're doing now, what would you be doing? Maybe be an accountant or a financial adviser.



Nik Schuepbach, 33
Agency Owner

Employer: The Golden Isles
Agency: Allstate Insurance
Lives in: St. Marys

Professional responsibilities: Recruiting and training staff, marketing and administrative duties.

Accomplishments/Honors: Agency Achievement – Silver (second best agency in the state); Pinnacle Elite (1) (top 3% in the country); Inner Circle Elite (3) (top 3% in the country); Circle of Champions (5); and Honor Ring (8) (top 15% in the country).

Community Involvement: We organize two golf tournaments each year and donate to different organizations, such as the St. Marys Police Department and Teacher of the Year. Also, we partnered with the Historic St. Marys Fishing Classic and helped get the entire tournament to donate their catch to a local food bank at Restoration Church. So far we have had close to 1,000 pounds of fish donated in the last four years to our local families in need.

Why did you go into your particular field? I had no idea what I wanted to do with my career, but my father had been an agent for 30 years, so I figured I would learn from him and get good at something before moving into another field if I didn't enjoy it. I ended up finding an agency for sale in Brunswick and took my father's approach to business and just tried to scale his business model up.

As a child, what did you want to be when you grew up? Baseball player.

What was your first job? Server.

What is the best advice you've ever received? Overpay your good employees.

What's your favorite thing about your job? Helping develop new agents so they have a lucrative career and teaching clients about how to leverage their insurance protection.

Who do you consider to be your greatest mentor and why? My father. He created so many good processes in this business that allowed me to focus on scaling the business. He taught me hard work, dedication and leadership.

When you're not at work, what do you do to relax? Fishing, hunting and golfing with my brother, Trace, who is also my business partner

What is something about you that most people don't know? I studied abroad in Spain, and I'm very close to being fluent.

How do you hope to grow in your career? I'd like to expand to multiple states and have more locations

If you couldn't do what you're doing now, what would you be doing? I don't really know. I find the law very interesting, and I've also considered the private equity market.



Alison Shores, 40
President/CEO

Employer: Camden County Chamber of Commerce
Lives in: Kingsland

Professional responsibilities: I strive to build this community by promoting small business, connecting business owners to each other and the resources they need.

Accomplishments/Honors: Leadership Camden and Georgia Academy for Economic Development graduate.

Community Involvement: I serve on the Kingsland Convention and Visitors Bureau Board, the Coastal Counseling Center board and Special Steps Camden board. In all honesty, my entire job revolves around community involvement.

Why did you go into your particular field? I think my field chose me.

As a child, what did you want to be when you grew up? Vanna White.

What was your first job? I worked the front desk at a law office.

What is the best advice you've ever received? 1. Trust but verify. 2. Hold the vision, trust the process.

What's your favorite thing about your job? The people! Our business

community has the most talented and amazing people and getting a front row seat to their journey, chasing their dreams, has been the most rewarding.

What do you know now that you wish you knew when you first started your career? Change is hard but sometimes necessary.

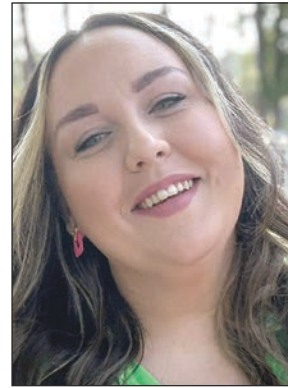
Who do you consider to be your greatest mentor and why? My mom, because she taught me how to handle things with the grace of a woman instead of the grief of a child.

When you're not at work, what do you do to relax? I go to the beach with my husband and our dog, Camden.

What is something about you that most people don't know? I am an introvert.

How do you hope to grow in your career? I hope to grow by continuously setting new goals in my personal and professional life.

If you couldn't do what you're doing now, what would you be doing? Something that involves serving others that has a positive impact.



Kaitlyn Sizemore, 32
Co-owner

Business: Southern Saint Boutique
Lives in: St. Marys

Professional responsibilities: Team management, special event planner, scheduling, inventory management, finances, customer service, social media marketing and fashion buyer.

Community Involvement: Each quarter, we choose an organization to donate a portion of sales, act as a donation site, or invite to come bring awareness to their cause. In the past we have donated to Church Girls, Special Steps Camden and Camden House.

Why did you go into your particular field? During college, I worked in the retail industry and loved working in customer service and inspiring women to feel good in their bodies and be confident in their style! Opening the boutique allowed me to curate my own space that uplifts women through empowerment and southern style!

As a child, what did you want to be when you grew up? Many things come to mind when I get asked this question. I have always been interested in many fields. Of course like most girls, I would play "dress up," but I would also play "shop" with my own clothing, pretending like I was selling my clothing to my barbies!

What was your first job? Bath & Body Works in Birmingham, Ala.

What is the best advice you've ever received? Be true to yourself.

What's your favorite thing about your job? I love interacting and getting

to know our customers! Encouraging women to try something they may never have before and helping them feel as beautiful as they already are.

What do you know now that you wish you knew when you first started your career? I wish I would have started sooner!

Who do you consider to be your greatest mentor and why? My mom is my greatest mentor without a doubt. She keeps me grounded, focused, prays for me daily, and is just my "go to" for anything business or personal.

When you're not at work, what do you do to relax? When I am not working I love being with family for dinner or around the pool, golfing with my husband and spending time with friends.

What is something about you that most people don't know? I have my bachelor's degree in criminal justice and worked in that field for a couple years, which is very different from owning a boutique!

How do you hope to grow in your career? Honestly, I love the small local boutique feeling that our boutique gives, but I would love to grow more online and be able to spread uplifting love and confidence to more people outside of our city!

If you couldn't do what you're doing now, what would you be doing? There is absolutely nothing else that I would rather be doing!



Dionte Smith, 29
Pastor, Teacher

Business: Impact Worship Center
Lives in: Kingsland

Professional responsibilities: As a pastor: Preparing weekly sermons, preaching and conducting weekly worship services. I also provide care and counseling to church members and assist them in crisis situations. As a teacher: Use a variety of teaching methods and materials to educate students about a particular subject area, providing specialist knowledge on this topic.

Accomplishments/Honors: 2021 - Emerging Leader Award, 2020 - Providence Award for Exceptional Leadership.

Community Involvement: I serve on the board of the Camden County Freedom and Justice Coalition, which handles the annual Juneteenth Celebration, and also for fighting social injustices.

Why did you go into your particular field? Pastoring and education has always been fields I've been interested in since my youth. I found joy in leading and teaching people to become the best version of themselves by using the tools and gifts God blessed me with. Building the Kingdom of God and teaching children our future gives me such joy!

As a child, what did you want to be when you grew up? Teacher, pastor and anesthesiologist.

What was your first job? Cashier at Harvey's Supermarket

What is the best advice you've ever received? 1. You'll never be big if little got you. 2. The purest form of activism is teaching children well! 3. Always remain integral and intentional.

What's your favorite thing about your job? As a pastor, seeing souls come to Christ and people hungry for God. As a teacher, watching children grow and enjoy learning. Seeing the joy on a child's face when they finally master a lesson is worth millions!

What do you know now that you wish you knew when you first started your career? That I cannot wear my feelings on my shoulders. That my mistakes didn't make me a horrible person, they were lessons that would allow me to help someone else not make those same mistakes but rather grow and become who they were meant to be.

Who do you consider to be your greatest mentor and why? My pastor, Dr. Mack De'Von Knight and my grandmother, Mary Gibbs. They are the pushers behind my success in all that I've done. It is because of their teachings, love, encouragement, correction and support that I am who I am today. When I didn't believe in myself, they pushed me into confidence that I am capable of doing whatever I put my mind to. Most of all they never judged me.

When you're not at work, what do you do to relax? Travel, fish and shop.

How do you hope to grow in your career? I plan to further my education in Seminary, and I plan to obtain my master's degree in education and then my doctoral degree. It's my desire to be a school leader.

If you couldn't do what you're doing now, what would you be doing? A funeral director.



Danielle F. Snook, 33
Assistant Public Defender

Employer: Brunswick Judicial Circuit Public Defender
Lives in: Kingsland

Professional responsibilities: Provide zealous representation to indigent defendants charged with criminal offenses in Superior and Juvenile Courts. Advocate for the best resolution for every case whether at jury trial, through plea negotiations or securing dismissals.

Accomplishments/Honors: Graduated first in my class at Savannah Law School in 2016. Excellence in Pro Bono Service Award, Savannah Law School, 2016. Progressive advancement at the Public Defenders Office.

Community Involvement: Participate in discussions with local law enforcement, government officials and jail administration regarding policies affecting Public Defender clients and case management. Volunteer for band boosters and chaperone school field trips.

Why did you go into your particular field? Criminal defense work is very engaging and challenging. It allows me to uphold client's rights, improve people's lives, work on exciting cases, and share my knowledge of the law and legal system with others.

As a child, what did you want to be when you grew up? I knew from a young age I wanted to be a lawyer. My mom always told me I should be a lawyer, because I could argue why the grass was green and why the sky was blue, and had an uncanny ability to always find loopholes.

What was your first job? Lifeguard at MWR Kings Bay Base Pool at 15 years old

What is the best advice you've ever received? "Love what you do!" - I have this quote in my office.

What's your favorite thing about

your job? I get to help people, often during the most difficult times of their life. I get to give a voice to those who are often overlooked and voiceless.

What do you know now that you wish you knew when you first started your career? I wish I knew, and I wish more people knew, how unfair and one-sided the criminal justice system can be to those accused of crimes, especially those who are indigent.

Who do you consider to be your greatest mentor and why? My greatest mentors are my fellow attorneys at the Brunswick Judicial Circuit Public Defenders Office. We all mentor each other in a sense, with experienced attorneys mentoring new attorneys, and the experienced attorneys learning a thing or two from the newer attorneys. I love how we are a family, and we share our triumphs, experiences, and struggles, and can all learn from each other. I especially look up to the senior attorneys in our office including Jonathan Lockwood, Sophia Butler and Alex Smith.

When you're not at work, what do you do to relax? Spend time with my family - my kids.

What is something about you that most people don't know? I worked full-time for a federal contractor and DFCS while getting my bachelor's degree. I earned my master's degree in public administration, while working full-time, before I went to law school. And I was a single parent through all of my master's program and law school. My son was 4 when I started law school and I graduated shortly before his seventh birthday. I didn't have a typical college or law school experience, and had to overcome many difficulties, but still graduated top of my class.



Laurel Sphar, 38
Library Director

Business: St. Marys Public Library
Lives in: Woodbine

Professional responsibilities: Supervisory responsibility in accordance with policies, procedures and applicable laws, including interviewing, hiring and training staff; planning, assigning and directing work; appraising performance; rewarding and disciplining employees; schedule training and testing; coordinating leave time; and addressing complaints and resolving problems. Plans long-range goals, objectives, organizational structure and overall direction for the department.

Accomplishments/Honors: Master's degree in library science.

Community Involvement: I do a lot of community outreach: Participate in events, etc., currently I have a community garden and seed library I started. Check out our Facebook. Too many things to list.

Why did you go into your particular field? It was accidental. I needed a full-time job, and I was part time at the fire department as their admin and the fire chief at the time (Robby Horton) set up an interview for me at the library. He believed I could accomplish a lot, and it would be a good fit for me. He was right.

As a child, what did you want to be when you grew up? Movie star.

What was your first job? Operated the kiosk at Crooked River State Park.

What's your favorite thing about

your job? Interacting with the people. I never know who is going to walk in and what they will want or need makes for an exciting day.

What do you know now that you wish you knew when you first started your career? Libraries are more than just books!

Who do you consider to be your greatest mentor and why? I have two, Connie Brazell and Janet Loveless. Connie took me under her guidance when I first started at St Marys library in 2011. I fell in love with youth services because of her. When I briefly worked in Florida, Janet took me under her guidance and help me become a better manager and helped me to have a better understanding for working as a team and how to solve problems.

When you're not at work, what do you do to relax? Spend time outdoors.

What is something about you that most people don't know? I am a first generation born American. My dad came to this country from London, England, with his family as a young boy.

How do you hope to grow in your career? I have just been accepted into the doctoral program at Valdosta State University for D.P.A.

If you couldn't do what you're doing now, what would you be doing? Something with criminal justice.



Lindsey Sweat, 35
Child & Youth Program Teen Lead

Employer: Southeast Georgia Health System's Camden Primary Care and Summit Sports Medicine and Orthopaedic Surgery
Lives in: St. Marys

Professional responsibilities: Primary care and non-operative sports medicine provider for the community, including Camden County, Charlton County and Brantley County high schools.

Accomplishments/Honors: Sideline physician for the 2018 National Champion Clemson Tigers football team.

Community Involvement: Sideline physician for high school football games, only concussion medical provider between Savannah and Jacksonville.

Why did you go into your particular field? I started out pursuing physical therapy in college. While shadowing, I was allowed to observe orthopedic surgery and fell in love with medicine. Combined with my love of sports, primary care sports medicine was the perfect fit.

As a child, what did you want to be when you grew up? Surprisingly a doctor.

What was your first job? Cashier at the Bulloch House, a restaurant in Warm Springs.

What is the best advice you've ever received? Don't make decisions based on others. Follow your heart and what's meant to be will find a way.

What's your favorite thing about your job? The growing relationship with

patients and seeing their joy when a problem they thought was impossible to fix gets solved.

What do you know now that you wish you knew when you first started your career? Don't be afraid to ask for help. Know yourself and admit your limitations.

Who do you consider to be your greatest mentor and why? Andrea Pitts, M.D., Medical Director for Anderson University Athletics and Assistant Director of the AnMed Health Sports Medicine Fellowship. She is an ambitious, empathetic, gifted physician who continues to pursue endeavors while being a fantastic mother of three boys and living a Christ-centered life.

When you're not at work, what do you do to relax? Spend time with my husband, Chap, and 15-month-old daughter, Kathryn

What is something about you that most people don't know? I'm ultra-competitive and will refuse to play any game I cannot win.

How do you hope to grow in your career? Continue to expand my knowledge and ability to care for others while never lacking compassion.

If you couldn't do what you're doing now, what would you be doing? Basketball coach or sports commentator.



Braylee Swick, 35
Attorney, Partner

Business: The Law Office of
Strain & Yackel
Lives in: St. Marys

Professional responsibilities:

- Prepares and reviews legal and transactional documents for real estate closings and real estate related transactions including but not limited to the creation of business entities, security agreements and closing documents.
- Drafts, reviews and negotiates business contracts, wills, trusts and other estate planning tools
- Manages day-to-day business operations, including marketing, compliance matters, staff management, client experience, etc.

Accomplishments/Honors:

Licensed to Practice Law in Georgia and Florida; firm was voted "Best law firm in Camden County" 2022

Community Involvement:

Involved at Sugarmill Elementary, where her oldest son is a student and volunteers/donates annually to their various causes; former board member for Habitat for Humanity of Camden; member/affiliate of the Camden/Charlton County Board of Realtors

Why did you go into your particular field? I knew the law would afford me a unique opportunity to help others and make a difference in their lives while continuing to challenge myself on an intellectual level. Specifically with respect to my focus on real estate, I have always been interested in real estate but grew especially interested after my husband and I purchased our first home. I remember feeling so lost throughout the process even as a licensed attorney. From then on I was passionate about creating a closing experience that focuses on the client to ensure they feel comfortable and confident throughout the process.

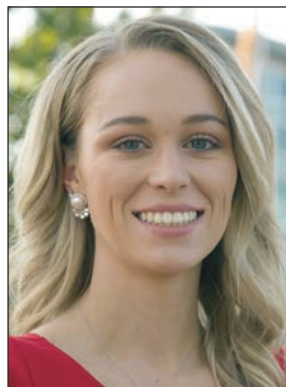
As a child, what did you want to be when you grew up? I wanted to be a lawyer for as long as I can remember.

What was your first job? When I was 16 I worked after school as a salon assistant at Shabangs hair salon, which would explain my many hairstyles in my teenage years. It was such a fun and creative place to work!

What is the best advice you've ever received? "Don't compare your beginning to someone else's middle, or your middle to someone else's end." It's so easy to compare where you are in your career to someone else's and that can rob a person of so much positive energy and really hinder that forward momentum. Instead, focus on you and be authentic to yourself. My life took a pivotal turn in the direction of my dreams when I really focused on myself and my own personal and professional growth.

What's your favorite thing about your job? Undoubtedly it's the opportunity to work with and meet so many different people each and every day. I'm an incredibly social person so I need to be where the people are. This career allows me to work with so many different people from different walks of life. I learn where they're coming from, where they're going, how they came to Camden and all of the things in between. I love hearing their stories and helping them through whatever it is we need to – whether it's a consult or a closing. I just love it.

What is something about you that most people don't know? Inshore fishing is a hobby of mine, and I'm pretty good at it. I think most people would be surprised to learn that because many in the business world likely perceive me as quite the "girly-girl" but that's just one aspect of my personality. I love the glam but I'm happy to get out on the boat, bait my own hook and get a little dirty.



Brooke Vanzant, 19
Student, 2022-23 Miss Georgia
Forestry

Employer: Abraham Baldwin
Agricultural College
Lives in: St. Marys

Professional responsibilities: Being a student who majors in agricultural education and a voice for the agricultural industry in Georgia

Accomplishments/Honors: Miss Georgia Forestry 2022; All-Star Athlete 2021; FFA Day at Georgia State Capital 2022; Senator of Agriculture and Natural Resources for ABAC's Student Government Association 2022-23

Community Involvement: FFA Alumni Member and member of Kingsland First Baptist Church

Why did you go into your particular field? Agriculture was something I never thought I would be a part of. During COVID-19, I was a current junior/rising senior in high school at Camden County High School. I knew that I needed to pick a career that I could rely on if the world ever shut down again. I decided to be a veterinarian and attend ABAC to earn my degree in animal science before attending UGA to receive my doctorate in veterinarian medicine. Tyler Murray is good friend with my family and told my dad I needed to take his FFA class to start preparing for college. I told him there was no way I was going to take a class about farming because I'm not a farmer. Yet, my first day of my senior year of high school, I somehow ended up in his class. Little did I know I would fall in love with all things FFA and agriculture related. Two months after starting school at ABAC, I decided to change my major to agriculture education with the goal of being a high school agriculture teacher. Taking that FFA class was the best thing that ever happened to me, and let me to finding my passion in life.

As a child, what did you want to be when you grew up? Growing up I was super athletic. In high school I was on the cross country team, swim team, and track team. I thought I would attend college on

a cross country scholarship and major in sports journalism. I always loved watching the sports broadcasters on ESPN and grew up around sports broadcasting due to my grandfather, J.C. Outlaw, "The Voice of the Cats". I loved every moment I got to spend in the press box at Wildcat football games on Friday night.

What was your first job? Being a student has always been my first job. I've been blessed to have two amazing people who support me with everything I do. I've always been overly involved with school clubs, church events, and sports that I've never had time for a job.

What is the best advice you've ever received? "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight." - Proverbs 3:5-6

Knowing that God has a plan for me has truly helped me in my hardest times. I've struggled with lots of things – school, sports, pageants, etc. There's been times where I want to give up and move on, but I don't. I keep pushing because I know God has a plan for me and trusting in him keeps my heart and mind at ease.

Who do you consider to be your greatest mentor and why? My high school ag teachers, Tyler Murray and Haley Teston. They have been there for me during the happy parts of my life and the sad parts of my life. When I decided to change my major the ag ed, they were the first two people I called to tell me no don't do it (and, well, they didn't tell me no). The impact these two people have on me is so deep and they'll never know how much they truly mean to me. From Mr. Murray getting me started in FFA and Mrs. Teston for guiding me through my life at ABAC. They have shown what it truly means to be a teacher, friend and mentor to me. My goal is to hopefully one day be as great of an ag Teacher they are.



Jessica Warren, 38
Camden County Extension
Coordinator and Agriculture and
Natural Resources Agent

Business: UGA Camden County
Extension Office
Lives in: Kingsland

Professional responsibilities: My job is to disseminate research-based, unbiased information to the public on all things natural resources and agriculture related. This includes answering questions on landscape, garden, wildlife, pond and insect questions, and helping clients navigate and interpret the testing services that our office offers. I'm also responsible for offering in-person and virtual programming on these topics that demonstrates impact. In addition, I serve as the department head and supervisor of our office.

Accomplishments/Honors: Achievement Award from the National Association of County Agricultural Agents, Young Professional Award from the National Association of County Agricultural Agents, National Silver Award for Websites-Apps-Educational Technology from the Association of Natural Resources Extension Professionals, Early Career Service Award from Epsilon Sigma Phi, Search for Excellence in Forestry and Natural Resources State Award from the Georgia Association of County Agricultural Agents, Coastal Cleanup Award from Rivers Alive.

Community Involvement: I have served on a number of local boards and projects over the years, especially related to hazard mitigation and resiliency. I currently serve on the Keep Camden Beautiful board, Woodbine Tree Board, Coastal Georgia Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area Steering Committee, and Georgia Adopt-A-Stream state board.

Why did you go into your particular field? I've always had a passion for nature and the outdoors, as well as animals. When I was working on my undergraduate degree in wildlife I realized that there was a large disconnect between the research and science being conducted – and its implications, and the general public's understanding and awareness of

this research. I decided to use my skills in communication and my understanding of science and research to help make this knowledge more accessible and digestible for the lay person. This is why my graduate degree focused on conservation education.

As a child, what did you want to be when you grew up? A veterinarian.

What was your first job? My first job was as a sales associate at a Banana Republic factory store. It was the only job I've had that wasn't somehow related to natural resources. My second job was much more interesting. It was managing an experimental aquaculture facility at my high school that was grant funded.

What is the best advice you've ever received? To find joy in what you have and live within (or preferably below) your means.

What's your favorite thing about your job? I love to see people connect with and get excited about the natural world. I feel privileged to be able to help foster that connection. It's wonderful to see people gain an understanding and empathy for something bigger than, and beyond, themselves.

What do you know now that you wish you knew when you first started your career? You don't have to do everything at once. Don't stress, take it all in stride.

When you're not at work, what do you do to relax? Read, hike, go to the beach, run (not far and not fast), spend time with my dogs and husband, craft, garden, sew, travel, nature and wildlife photography.

What is something about you that most people don't know? I make a lot of my own clothes and jewelry.



Michael Christopher Yonz, 38
Medical Doctor

Employer: Southeast Georgia
Health System's Summit Sports
Medicine and Orthopaedic Surgery
Lives in: St. Marys

Professional responsibilities: Orthopedic surgeon; Chief of Surgery, Southeast Georgia Health System's Camden Campus.

Accomplishments/Honors: Best of Camden Orthopaedic Provider (Tribune & Georgian).

Community Involvement: Special Olympics physicals for Camden County High School's Hero Club, CCHS football doctor.

Why did you go into your particular field? I wanted to help make patients feel better and make a difference.

As a child, what did you want to be when you grew up? Professional baseball player for the Atlanta Braves.

What was your first job? Custodian for operating room of Satilla Regional.

What is the best advice you've ever received? Stay the course and

never give up.

What's your favorite thing about your job? Having the opportunity to serve and help the community to help make patients feel better. I love working with my awesome team.

Who do you consider to be your greatest mentor and why? My youth pastor from high school.

When you're not at work, what do you do to relax? Golf and spend time with family outdoors.

How do you hope to grow in your career? Continue to grow our practice so that we can provide the best care possible to our community.

If you couldn't do what you're doing now, what would you be doing? I cannot see myself doing anything else. I love helping patients.

Briefcase

A look at recent hires, promotions, highlights of Camden County business people.

To submit an item for Camden Inc's Briefcase, email editor1@tds.net.

Rawl re-elected to Georgia Transmission Corp. board

Steve E. Rawl Sr., of Waverly, was recently re-elected as a director and vice chairman of the Georgia Transmission Corp. Board of Directors.

In addition, he serves as first vice president of Okefenoke Rural Electric Membership Corp. (REMC).



Rawl

During Rawl's most recent three-year term as a director, Georgia Transmission:

- Invested \$568.8 million in infrastructure, completing 299 capital projects, including the addition of more than 75.23 miles of transmission lines and the construction of 22 new substations;
- Consistently improved reliability and achieved record low numbers for both the frequency and duration of power outages;
- Set a new all-time peak of 10,787 MW on Dec. 24, 2022;
- Continued monitoring developments — and making investments — in cybersecurity tools, training and protocols; and
- In 2022, incurred no environmental violations and no lost-time incidents for the ninth consecutive year

"Georgia Transmission is committed to delivering safe, reliable and cost-effective electricity to its members," Rawl said. "The strong partnership between Georgia Transmission and Okefenoke REMC means that, together, we are making the investments that will continue to deliver the benefits of that commitment to the members of Okefenoke REMC, and the communities of southeast Georgia and northeast Florida."

Rawl was elected to serve a three-year term by the members of Georgia Transmission at its annual meeting. The corporation elected officers to one-year terms at its

board meeting in April.

Pineland Bank taps new lender in St. Marys

Pineland Bank announced that Christy Clifford recently joined the bank in its St Marys banking location, as the office manager and lender.



Clifford

Clifford is from St. Marys, where she worked for Synovus for more than 25 years. During her tenure, she worked as a teller, relationship banker, lender and retail market manager.

In addition to banking, she has served at the Lutheran Food Bank of Camden as well as the financial secretary for Holy Trinity Church, where she is a member.

"Pineland Bank is excited to have Christy Clifford join our team in Camden County," Camden County Market Executive John Minor said. "She is a wonderful addition here and will be a great asset. She is eager to meet our clients and looking to build strong relationships for Pineland Bank."

District 1 commissioner selected for leadership spot

Camden County District 1 Commissioner



Brant

Lannie Brant was reappointed to serve as chairman of the Association of County Commissioners of Georgia (ACCG) Natural Resources and the Environment Policy Committee for the 2023-24 policy year. This committee is one of ACCG's seven standing policy committees.

"It's an honor for me to continue repre-

senting Camden County through serving on the ACCG Policy Council," Brant said. "This is another opportunity to ensure that Camden County's voice is heard at the state level."

The ACCG Natural Resources and the Environment Policy Committee works to promote protection and sustainable use of natural resources by developing consensus positions and advocating on behalf of Georgia counties on issues such as water supply, water quality, air quality, water and sewer utilities, land use planning, and solid and hazardous waste management.

Camden County hires new deputy county administrator

The Camden County Board of Commissioners has hired Seth Collins as the deputy county administrator.

In this role, Collins will provide oversight to specific county departments, including Animal Control, Code Enforcement, Curbside Collections, Facilities Maintenance, Grants Management, Information Technology, Solid Waste and Two Rivers Gun Range.



Collins

A Camden County native, Collins has worked for the Cenikor Foundation, the city of St. Marys and the city of Cairo.

A large portion of his career was spent as chief administrator for Galveston County, Texas, serving as the management executive to the County Commissioner of Precinct 1.

Collins, a Camden County High School graduate, has a master of business administration from Texas Tech University, a graduate certificate in public service management from Texas A&M University and a bachelor's degree from Valdosta State University.

How to negotiate a job offer

To submit an item for
Camden Inc's Professional
Development section,
email editor1@tds.net.



Metro

Job offers can spark a whirlwind of emotions. After spending weeks or months trudging through job postings, remote interviews, phone calls, and reference requests, individuals may be eager to sign on the dotted line and get to work. Though it's easy to let that excitement take over, professionals must carefully study a job offer to ensure it's in their best interests.

It's not uncommon for professionals to worry that careful consideration of a job offer can make them appear greedy or unappreciative. However, any firm worth working for will allow candidates ample time to consider an offer and even negotiate terms if the need arises. In such instances, professionals can consider these negotiation tips.

- Work with a recruiter. A professional recruiter can be your best advocate. Recruiters function as the intermediary between candidates and companies. These individuals can

help professionals negotiate a fair offer and benefits in line with market compensation levels and current trends, according to LinkedIn. Employers may take recruiters seriously, and recruiters will have no qualms about negotiating because they are third parties in these conversations and can serve as the proverbial "bad guys" if need be.

- Think about what you want most. Negotiation terms should reflect what matters most to you, which may differ from person to person. Salary is not the only negotiable. Perhaps a certain amount of vacation time is important because you routinely travel to visit with family? Maybe you need an alternative start time to accommodate childcare needs? Or you may want to solidify retirement savings and can negotiate for a larger match to your 401(k) plan? Focus on one or two negotiation points to get the best employment terms.

- Verbally negotiate with the hiring rep. It's important to negotiate before a written offer is presented. This is when you have the most

leverage. Once an offer is put on paper, managers may be more reluctant to change terms. Take a day to mull over the offer and make a list of wants; then ask for a call with the recruiter. You never know what you can get if you don't ask.

- Expect some give and take. An employer likely will not cave to all of your demands unless they are desperate to fill the role. Negotiations often are marked by trading one thing for another. For example, an uptick in personal time off may come at the compromise of having to work longer hours each day. While you may not be able to get a big salary increase, the employer may be able to offer you a better title, which can translate into more upward growth in the industry when you move on to another job. Again, if money is an issue, an employer may be willing to make up for a certain salary by offering stock options, expense account allowances or other perks.

Job seekers shouldn't be afraid to negotiate offers with prospective employers.

Advice

Dress for success on your next interview

To submit an item for Camden Inc's Professional Development section, email editor1@tds.net.

Metro

In his masterpiece "Crime and Punishment," author Fyodor Dostoevsky wrote, "We sometimes encounter people, even perfect strangers, who begin to interest us at first sight, somehow suddenly, all at once, before a word has been spoken." The great Russian novelist is referring to the fact that impressions can be made even before conversations begin. This is an important notion to grasp and can do a job seeker a world of good in every interaction during the hiring process, including the interview.

Recruiters may have an understanding of you as an applicant from your résumé and other correspondences,

See **DRESS**, page 28





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Dress

from page 27

but it is during the interview — whether it’s in person or remote — that a hiring manager can really get a sense of your energy and professionalism. While no one wants to be judged on appearance alone, what you look like and how you dress affect others’ first impression of you. Doing all you can to tip the scales in your favor may lead to favorable job outcomes. The best outfit to wear on an interview varies depending on the company and the job, according to *The Balance: Money*. But there are some guidelines for dressing to make the best impression.

- Follow the employer’s dress code. If you can gauge dress code in advance, dress to mirror what others are wearing and then take it up

a slight notch. For example, while you wouldn’t wear a suit if you’re interviewing as a park ranger, you may eschew work boots and faded jeans for a collared polo shirt and khaki pants. For a tech start-up or creative company that favors casual wear, something that is more business casual may be appropriate for the interview.

- Err on the side of caution. If you do not know the company dress code, it is always better to be overdressed than underdressed. A sports jacket and a button-down shirt for gentlemen and tailored pants and blouse for women may fit the bill.

- Less is more. Distractions can derail an interview, and wearing too many accessories can be distracting to the interviewer and even candidates during the interview. Keep jewelry to a minimum and mute all alerts on a smartwatch and smartphone. If you have piercings, you may want to remove them until you

learn more about which types of body art are acceptable at the company, which you should be able to discern when visiting the office. Distractions also can include heavy or drastic makeup and hair styles. Tone things down until you have a firm understanding of dress policies.

- Choose neutral colors. Wear neutral or classic colors over more flashy options. You want to be judged on your qualifications, and neon shirts or a busy print dress could cause an interviewer to lose focus. During a remote interview, choose a high-contrast interview outfit so that you don’t blend in with your background.

- Wear clean, tidy clothes. No matter how formal or informal the attire, it should be freshly laundered, free from wrinkles or damage, and fit properly.

Interview attire can make or break first impressions, so attention should be placed on what to wear.

Southeast Georgia Health System congratulates team members for being named three of **Camden County’s 40 Under 40.**

WE ARE PROUD TO HAVE EACH OF YOU ON OUR TEAM!



Melody M. Bradley

Supervisor, Digital Media, Marketing & Public Relations



Lindsey E. Sweat, MD

Southeast Georgia Physician Associates-Primary Care
Summit Sports Medicine & Orthopaedic Surgery



M. Christopher Yonz, MD

Summit Sports Medicine & Orthopaedic Surgery



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