

Plan the Perfect Wedding

Prepare hands-on invitations, secure a venue, and employ some helping hands.

Your Unique Ceremony

Host a casual wedding, or add a natural flair by hosting a rustic wedding.

...And Much More!

Buy the perfect engagement ring, rent the best tux, save on wedding costs, and more!

Bridal Guide

January-February 2018 · Section A

Butler County Tribune-Journal · Buffalo Center Tribune · Wright County Monitor · Clarksville Star · Eagle Grove Eagle
Eldora Herald-Ledger · The Leader · Grundy Register · Hampton Chronicle · The Eclipse News-Review
Pioneer Enterprise · Sheffield Press



Tux-renting basics for grooms-to-be

Brides-to-be may invest thousands of dollars into their wedding day ensembles. Grooms generally have a much easier and less expensive experience with their wedding day attire. In fact, grooms often rent their tuxedos for minimal cost.

Renting a wedding tuxedo has its advantages, namely in the cost savings. However, it's easy for a guy to fall into the trap of renting something that will not help him look his best if he isn't educated about the process. Looking sharp involves a little more than just showing up to the shop and picking a tux off the rack.

Choose your retailer wisely

Many stores sell or rent suits and tuxedos. As is the case with many aspects of wedding planning, getting a recommendation from friends or family members can help grooms identify the shops that offer exemplary service. When attending others' weddings or special events, pay

attention to the look of the groom and his groomsmen. Find out where they got their tuxes. Price alone should not dictate where to shop.

Once bridesmaid dresses have been selected, the groomsmen can begin to shop around for tuxedos. This way, ties and vests will coordinate. Initial tux selection should begin between four and six months before the wedding.

Get a proper fitting

It is important to be fitted for a tux or suit properly. Find a professional to handle the measurements. Shoulders should be close to the body in the jacket but not restrictive. Sleeves should fall so that they show a quarter- to a half-inch of shirt sleeves when arms are at the sides. An ill-fitting suit or tux can make a gentleman look sloppy. It is key to pay attention to sizing and use a shop that has a variety of styles that fit various body types.

Choose a classic style

No one wants to look outdated in their wedding pictures. By choosing a classic cut and color in a suit or tux, guys will look stylish no matter the year. Fun can be had with vest colors or bow ties.

Confirm the order

The entire wedding party can visit the tuxedo shop for selections and fittings. The groom should call the store at least a month prior to the wedding to ensure that everyone has been fitted. Tuxes should be picked up a few days in advance of the wedding and tried on to ensure that everything fits and all accessories are included. This way last-minute alterations or substitutions can be made.

Grooms and groomsmen can look dapper by selecting a classic suit or tuxedo, having it properly fitted and confirming that all wardrobe components are ready to go in time for the big day.



The right fit can help a groom and the groomsmen look like a million bucks come wedding day.

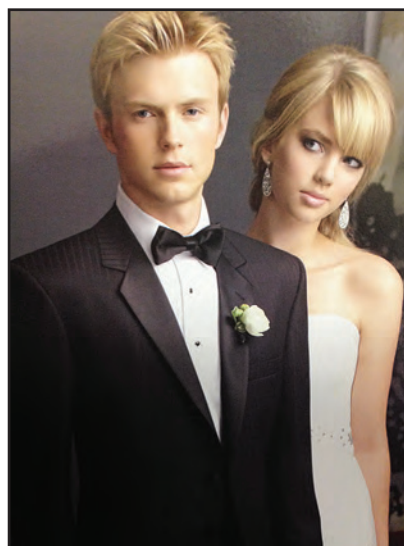
STYLE. SERVICE. SELECTION.

-- Latest colors and styles available
-- Grooms tux FREE with five paid rentals

**Complete
Tuxedos for
the Entire
Wedding
Party!**



Milroy's
Formal Wear



Dralle's WHERE THE WISE
ECONOMIZE
THE STORE THAT SERVES YOU BEST

122 E. Traer • Greene, IA • 641-816-4158

Hours: M-F 8 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.; Sat. 8 a.m. - 2 p.m.



Holly A. Narber, Agent

Serving you in Clarion & Hampton

Clarion: 515-532-2492

Hampton: 641-456-2198

www.hollynarberinsurance.com

Bilingual Staff:
se habla español

**Wedding
bells?
Give me
a ring.**

I CAN HELP.

Newly married?

Make sure your new life together — your car, your home and your future — are protected.

**GET TO A BETTER STATE.®
CALL ME TODAY.**



State Farm®

The steps involved in securing wedding venues, licenses

Getting married is an exciting time in a couple's life together. Wedding planning is the next logical step after the engagement announcement, and while couples often get swept up in planning their dream parties, it's important to note that ultimately the ceremony is the star of the day.

Before booking a wedding reception venue or getting one's heart set on a particular date, couples need to secure their ceremony sites as well as apply for a marriage license. In some instances, ceremonies are held at the same site as the wedding reception, while some couples choose to tie the knot in their church or synagogue. Each of these types of ceremonies will be governed by the schedule of the house of worship or civil site.

Finding a venue

Once couples choose a wedding date, it is a good idea for them to visit their ceremony site of choice to check the calendar. It helps to have some flexibility in the wedding date in case the first choice is unavailable. Although summer weddings used to be the most popular, today's couples are tying the knot more often in September and October than other times of year.

Even though a couple's wedding is special and unique to them, ceremony locations handle hundreds of weddings. Couples must recognize that competition for certain venues may be steep, so it helps to keep more than one venue in mind when planning a wedding.

Getting a marriage license

While laws may vary from state to state within the United States, getting a marriage license generally involves filling out the application and paying a fee at the county clerk's office. Both applicants are typically required to bring identification, such as a driver's license, passport, or birth certificate. There may be a waiting period between submitting the application and the license being issued. Couples can pick up the license or have it mailed to them.



A marriage license is not the same thing as a marriage certificate. The marriage certificate typically becomes available after the ceremony has taken place and the witnesses and officiant have signed off on the proceedings.

Getting married is a multistep process that begins with determining where the ceremony will take place and acquiring a marriage license. With these items in check, couples can focus on creating memorable wedding days.

Did you know?

Wedding insurance can provide couples who are about to tie the knot with some peace of mind on their big days. Many wedding venues require couples carry liability coverage in the case of accidents, injuries or incidents. But wedding insurance policies may even surprise couples with regard to what they cover. Each policy is different, and couples may be able to customize wedding insurance policies to cover a host of items. Many policies cover couples in the wake of cancellations or postponements due to weather, damage to the

facility or even a change of heart on the part of the couple holding the policy. But some policies may provide coverage for couples should their photographers and/or caterers fail to appear. Policies may also cover lost, stolen or damaged items, including equipment rentals, bridal gowns, jewelry, and/or gifts. Couples should speak with their wedding venue representative to determine if the venue offers extended coverage and ultimately compare those offerings to policy estimates they receive on their own.



The latest trend in fine
wedding printing...

Save The Date Cards
Invitations
RSVP Cards
And More

We also do the latest
trends in wedding print

**THE ACKLEY PUBLISHING
COMPANY**

Quality Letterpress Printing Since 1895

617 Main St - Ackley, IA
641-847-2623

www.ackleypublishing.com
ackleypublishing@mchsi.com

Wedding costs – what to expect

Newly engaged couples may experience an array of emotions when they sit down to plan their weddings. Some couples cannot wait to jump into planning and want to catalog every aspect of the process, while others may proceed with caution because they don't know what to expect – particularly in regard to cost.

Many couples find it difficult to create their wedding budgets because they have no previous experience to draw on. The average wedding cost in the United States is \$26,720, with most people spending between \$20,000 and \$34,000. Such costs can vary greatly depending on couples' preferences, including where they hope to tie the knot.

By breaking down wedding expenses, couples can get a clearer picture of how much they may need to pay for their weddings and where they may need to cut costs.

Reception site

Couples can expect their receptions to eat up the largest chunk of their wedding budgets. Wedding reception venues may cost between \$10,000 and \$15,000. The average price for catering per person is roughly \$70. Bar service may be around \$2,000 for a three- to four-hour party. Some reception sites combine the room cost with the food and beverage



costs, while others have à la carte fees.

Cake

Wedding cakes tend to be multitiered intricate designs, so they will cost more than birthday cakes. Wedding dessert can come in around \$390.

Music

Wedding bands can cost around \$3,500, which is more

than twice as much as hiring a deejay (\$1,200). Soloists or ceremony musicians may cost around \$650.

Wedding planner

Many couples employ wedding planners to make planning their weddings easier. Wedding planners cost an average of \$1,300.

Transportation

Limousines and other transportation prices vary depending on the vehicle(s) couples choose. The Knot notes that budgeting between \$400 and \$500 for transportation might be wise.

Wedding gown

Brides-to-be should expect their gowns to cost around \$1,100 and the veil or headpiece to be roughly \$120.

Photography and Video

Preserving wedding day memories can cost around \$2,800 for video and photography services.

The smaller details, such as accessories, gifts, officiant fees, stationery, spa services, and favors can quickly add up as well. Couples should be sure to leave some wiggle room in their budgets for incidental expenses that may pop up.

Engagement ring buyer's guide

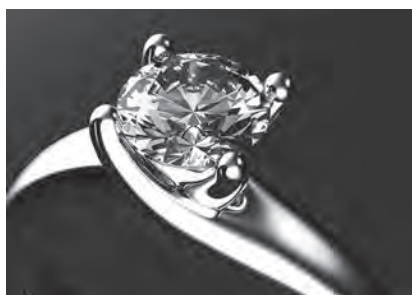
Wedding planning often begins moments after couples get engaged. Once a ring is presented, a new chapter in a relationship is born.

While couples remember the sentiments and the style of their engagements forever, the engagement ring serves as the lasting symbol of that momentous occasion. Choosing the right engagement ring is complicated. Such a decision involves knowing what a future spouse desires in a ring and balancing those desires with budget.

Shopping for an engagement ring can be both nerve-racking and exciting. But there are ways to make the process go as smoothly as possible.

Listen carefully anytime jewelry is discussed

Getting an idea of which style of jewelry the love of your life prefers requires keeping your eyes and ears open anytime jewelry is mentioned. Subtle hints may be dropped and pages to magazines may be folded back to provide a nudge in the right direction. It's also perfectly fine to ask for your future spouse's input, particularly if you've already spoken about marriage and know that an engagement is on the horizon.



Have a good idea on the shape of the stone

All gemstones need to be cut in particular ways so that they reflect light and sparkle. Stones are also cut in specific shapes that provide the overall form of the stone. These include round, princess, emerald, oval, marquise, and pear, among others. Many people have distinct preferences when it comes to the shape of the ring. Keep in mind that some shapes are more common than others and some may be more expensive as well. Round cut diamonds are the most popular today and also some of the most expensive. Marquise and oval also tend to be pricey. Princess and emerald cut diamonds may be more affordable, offers Genesis Diamonds.

Know all the specs

Buying an engagement ring means being armed with a lot of knowledge. In addition to shape, there are the four Cs to consider. These refer to the stone's cut, carat, clarity, and color, and will determine the financial value of the gemstone. Take some time to learn about each of the four Cs so you can make a more informed decision when visiting the jeweler.

Shop around

Not all jewelers are the same, and you want to find one with whom you feel comfortable and believe you will get the best value for your money. Believe it or not, you can purchase the ring in two parts — opting to shop for a setting from one place and a stone from another. Jewelers will often do whatever is necessary to make their customers happy, so don't be afraid to ask for customization.

Engagement ring buyers may also want to consider gemstones other than diamonds. Buyers also must know their beloved's ring size before buying the ring.

When shoppers are prepared, the engagement ring-buying process is that much easier.

WHEN LIFE HAPPENS,
we're here for you.



**AMERICAN FAMILY
INSURANCE**®

TONI NEDERHOFF AGENCY

1120 Edgington Avenue, Eldora, IA (641) 858-2318
803 G Avenue, Grundy Center, IA (319) 825-2318 Bus
655 S. Oak St., Iowa Falls, IA (888) 320-9487 Toll Free

Rustic bouquets add natural flair to wedding celebrations

Couples opting to get back to basics, streamline their nuptials and create more intimate and less superficial affairs often gravitate toward rustic celebrations to showcase their ideals. Rustic weddings also may appeal to environmentalists and men and women who want their weddings to be as eco-friendly as possible.

Rustic weddings may include those ceremonies and receptions that take place outdoors or in abodes, such as barns, wineries, castles, or converted silos or town

factories. In fact, barn weddings have never been more popular – among both urban and rural couples alike.

Coordinating a rustic wedding may mean letting go of perceived notions of how everything from food to favors to flowers should be. In fact, one way to describe rustic weddings – and especially the floral arrangements that adorn them – is “purposely imperfect.”

Rustic wedding bouquets may seem like they were plucked right out of the garden

or grabbed through a stroll in a meadow. They’re rarely symmetrical or feature the customary flowers of more formal wedding celebrations.

When designing rustic bouquets, florists may keep the stems of wildflowers or other blooms untethered for a relaxed feel. Long stemmed arrangements are quite popular, and trends point toward bouquets that are loosely tied with raffia, twine, vines and other natural materials rather than more refined ribbon.

Another way rustic bouquets set themselves apart is with the introduction of other elements into the arrangements. Not merely blooms and greenery, rustic pieces may feature twigs, vines, berries, scabiosa pods, ivy, and feathery ferns. The heights of elements in the bouquet are varied, and the bouquets will not have an overly uniform shape. Rustic bouquets are far from pretentious, and brides shouldn’t feel that these bouquets are delicate or will fall apart when handled.

When planning a rustic wedding, couples can work with their florists to create bouquets and arrangements that fit with their visions.




Apparel & Accessories
for all your special occasions!

• Unique Clothing •

Friends Studio Boutique
612 G Avenue Grundy Center, IA 50638
319-883-9117
Located with *The Fleurist*

ROOM RENTAL JUST \$250⁰⁰

FULL PROFESSIONAL STAFF
FULL BAR

WEDDINGS UP TO 300 PEOPLE
GROOM'S DINNERS

— and of course —
food that will truly impress your guests

with prices from \$7²⁵ - 14⁹⁵



Call today to reserve your special event!
641-584-2912


BRANDING IRON
135 N Jackson Street, Thompson, Iowa

The vows have been said.
The cake has been cut.
Your guests are all gathered
and its time to dance as Mr. and Mrs.

We've got your song
...plus a whole lot more
to keep your guests dancing all night!

Over 29 years experience.
Customized music and lights.
Reasonable rates.

Let us help you - so you can enjoy your party!



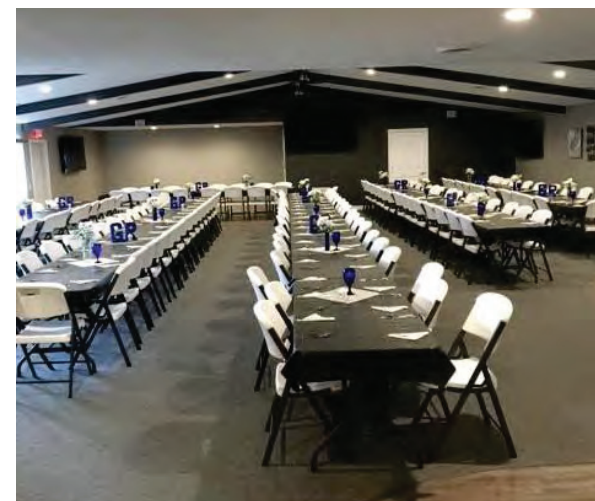
d j s y s t e m s

Harley Olsthoorn
Owner & DJ

jamdjsystems@qwestoffice.net
Look for JAM dj systems on Facebook

641-923-3372

We'll do the cooking.



- * Complete Catering
- * Grilled or Smoked Meats
- * Full Bar
- * All Sides
- * Mobile Catering
- * Event Center Seats up to 265 People

PT GRILLERS Event Center



24735 U Ave. (T55), Reinbeck, IA
(319) 939-2794



*When Only the Unique
and the Original Will Do!*

LR Jewelers

Your Local Diamond Source

VISIT
lrjewelers.com
to view these
3 rings from
this collection

WITH ONE OF THE
LARGEST
BRIDAL & DIAMOND
SELECTIONS IN THE AREA

**IN STORE MASTER JEWELER
AND MASTER WATCHMAKER
WITH OVER 48 YEARS
EXPERIENCE**

Our traditions of Trust, Knowledge, Service,
Fair Pricing and Value to our customers has
always been and will always be our mission.

323 MAIN STREET, CEDAR FALLS, IOWA 50613

Larry & Connie Rasmussen www.lrwelers.com
LRJewelers@gmail.com Phone: 319-266-1705

LR Jewelers



Employ helping hands during wedding planning

Accepting the honor of being in a friend or family member's wedding means more than dressing in the fancy clothing and showing up on the designated date. The wedding party – particularly the bridesmaids and groomsmen – should understand that standing alongside the happy couple generally means doing some work during the planning period as well as on the big day. It's the wise wedding couple who can recognize the strengths of their family and friends and put those attributes to work in productive ways.

The average wedding party includes four people on each side. That means eight extra people who can lend their eyes, ears and hands to the bounty of tasks that comprise the wedding planning to-do list. Here's how to delegate with flair.

Ask and ye shall receive

First off, it is never safe to assume that the wedding party will be taking on extra work. Even if tradition suggests wedding party members lend a hand, it's in the best interest of the couple to graciously ask for help. This helps establish good will at the start.

Be specific when assigning tasks

Rather than just asking for generalized help, make a list of the tasks that seem the most challenging and then delegate accordingly. If a member of the bridal party is excellent at getting travel deals, have him or her help arrange the honeymoon. Someone with an intimate knowledge of cuisine can come along to food tastings and help plan the reception menu. Friends with a flair for organization can be in charge of disseminating information to the entire wedding party or keeping a running list of gifts given at various parties so thank-you notes can be sent.

Make wardrobe suggestions

Couples can rely on their most honest bridal party members when picking out wedding attire. These no-holds-barred individuals can set them straight on fit, look and comfort.

Trust these people in helping to make the entire wedding party look stylish and feel confident.

Extend the host/hostess duties

It can be tiring for couples to tend to the needs of all their wedding guests. Couples can enlist the help of their wedding party to ensure that elderly or disabled guests get the assistance they need. The wedding party can also step up to serve as stand-in dance partners or to help grab drinks or escort people as needed.

Get the party started

Couples can usually count on their wedding parties to help fill the dance floor at the wedding reception – even when others have not yet built up the courage to showcase their dancing skills. Those bold and loveable friends and family members will help keep the energy up and make the wedding a blast.

Planning and hosting a wedding is a large undertaking. With the help of the wedding party, it can be that much more enjoyable.



Town's End
WINERY

Our facility is available for rent to host your wedding or private parties.

We have an indoor room for bridal showers, bachelorette, tasting parties, gift openings, and other events.

We have an outdoor stage for entertainment.

Town's End Winery is a beautiful setting to hold your outdoor wedding.

Call 641-456-2836 for more information

Open by appointment January through April

www.townsendwinery.com

2138 160th St. • Hansell, IA, 50441 • 641-456-2836



BOOK YOUR BRIDAL DATE EARLY

Tuxedo Rental

Bride and Bridesmaid Bouquets

Boutonnieres

Flower Girl Baskets

Corsages

Table Decor and Centerpieces

Cake Toppers



WE DELIVER

119 1ST ST. NE, HAMPTON | 641-456-4580

www.carolsflowerbox.com | HOURS: Mon-Fri: 9-5 • Sat: 9-Noon

3 tips for couples considering Friday or Sunday weddings

The cost of weddings continues to rise, with many couples spending more than \$20,000 on their wedding. With such a high price tag, it's no wonder happy couples look for ways to save money.

One of the ways couples can save a sizable amount of money on their weddings is to tie the knot on Friday or Sunday instead of hosting a more traditional Saturday afternoon or evening wedding. Wedding ceremony and reception venues may charge considerably less to host weddings on Fridays or Sundays. Reception venues tend to be the largest wedding expenses, so reducing those rates can go a long way toward helping couples stay within their budgets.

While the cost-savings of Friday or Sunday weddings may be the main focus for happy couples, it's important that grooms- and brides-to-be recognize that planning Friday or Sunday weddings may require some unique planning.

Avoid holiday weekends

Three-day holiday weekends may seem like the ideal time to host Friday or Sunday weddings, as guests likely already have Friday or Monday off from work. But the cost of travel and lodging may be much higher on holiday weekends than non-holiday weekends.

That may compel some guests to decline their invitations. In addition, many families have holiday weekend traditions and it may be unfair for couples to ask them to interrupt or cancel those plans to attend their wedding.

Consider the timing

When hosting a Friday wedding, couples may want to start the ceremony later than they might if they were getting married on a Saturday. That's because out-of-town guests who don't want to use more than one vacation day to attend the wedding may be flying in on the day of the wedding. A later start time gives guests more flexibility when booking flights. Starting later also allows local guests to work a full day and still make it to the ceremony on time. Couples who opt for a Sunday wedding may want their ceremonies to start earlier than they would on Saturday to

accommodate guests who need to go to work on Monday morning.

Confirm vendor availability

Wedding vendors are accustomed to working on Saturdays, when the vast majority of weddings take place. So couples should not simply assume a favorite deejay, band or catering company will be available to work their Friday or Sunday weddings. Couples who have particular entertainers or caterers in mind should confirm the availability of these vendors before booking a wedding and reception facility. It's also important that couples getting married on Sundays confirm that hotel rooms will be clean and ready in time for their guests to make it to the ceremony. Many hotels host wedding parties on Friday and Saturday nights, and some might not be able to turn rooms around in time to accommodate Sunday wedding parties.

Tying the knot on a day other than Saturday can save couples money and help make their weddings more unique. But it's important that couples consider more than just cost-savings before agreeing to get married on a Friday or Sunday.




*The Best
for the
Bride.*

- Hair
- Airbrush Makeup
- Eyelash Extensions
- Nails & Pedicures
- Tanning
- Airbrush Tanning

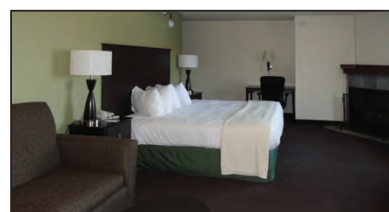
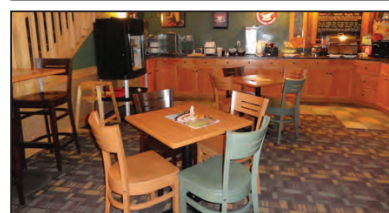


623 Washington Ave.
Iowa Falls, IA

641-316-1103

2011sovereign@gmail.com

INNpressive Wedding Accommodations



Reserve your bridal suites
and rooms for your wedding
guests with us.

- Spacious, quiet, masonry constructed rooms
- Welcoming lobby with fireplace
- Free enhanced continental breakfast
- Children 12 and under stay free with an adult in the same room
- Block rooms for Wedding Guests
- Indoor pool - Whirlpool
- Private whirlpool & fireplace suites
- Cable TV and movie channels
- Hospitality room available for up to 40 people
- Close to Convention Center for receptions



Welcome to the end of the day.™
702 Central Avenue W.
Highway 3 • Hampton, IA 50441

Special
Discount for
Bride & Groom on
Honeymoon Suite

**FOR RESERVATIONS CALL
641-456-5559**

Taking a hands-on invitation approach

Invitations are a key component of wedding planning. Not only can invitations set the tone for a wedding – giving guests an idea of whether it is formal or casual while offering clues to the theme – but also they are essential for conveying important information about the festivities.

While it was once common to work with a specialized printing and engraving company when ordering wedding invitations, couples tying the knot now have more options. Due in large part to computer and internet access, and myriad user-friendly design applications, it's easier than ever to design high-quality wedding invitations.

To maximize efficiency and come away with wedding stationery they will love, couples can employ the following tips and techniques.

Start with the paper

The heavier the stock, the more luxurious the invitations will feel. Quality stock also costs more. Wedding invitations should be printed on substantial stock so they don't bend or feel flimsy. Industry experts say that 100 percent cotton paper is the most costly paper. Couples can choose from linen stock and textured surfaces as well. Expect to pay more for natural or handmade papers. Those concerned about price can choose the highest-quality stock within budget and then play with other invitation elements to conserve funds.



Couples have many options to design and produce their wedding invites.

Engraving and letterpress

Engraving and letterpress techniques are an art form and create unique wedding invitations. Engraving creates raised lettering while letterpress presses the lettering into the paper. Many people do not have the equipment necessary to produce these designs at home, and if they want a truly high-end invitation, they'll need to use a professional printing service. Thermography is an alternative that can deliver raised print using heat and special inks.

Printing companies

Options abound in regard to in-store printing companies. Many companies offer self-service design templates that enable customers to tweak text and placement of some graphic elements and then have the invitations printed and shipped to their homes. Companies may provide stock samples and examples of lettering so that couples can touch and see the invitations prior to placing an order.

At-home printing

One of the more accessible invitation production methods is at-home printing. However, there are some limitations when printing at home. For example, couples who do not have a high-end printer may find that the text on their invitations is not as crisp and the ink may smudge. Also, paper options may be limited to what the tray feeder can accommodate. Stock that is 80 pounds or 12-point stock is preferable, but anything more may jam around the print head. It may take some trial and error (and wasted paper) to perfect alignment and achieve the desired look.

DIYers also need to know about "bleed" designs. Bleed is a printing term for design elements or images extending beyond the trim edge so that unwanted white space is eliminated. Again, it may take some practice to get the desired look.

Couples have many different options when designing their wedding invitations, and some may even be able to design and produce their own.

Entertain guests in the comforts of
home.



Come in...
We will Deal!

"Remember - Adams Brothers will never be undersold on like quality furnishings."

**Adams Bros. Furniture
& Floor Coverings**
Downtown Iowa Falls

Phone 641-648-4194 or 641-373-4000

OPEN: Mon.-Fri. 7 a.m.-6:30 p.m.; Sat. 7 a.m.-5 p.m.

TERMS: Cash, Visa or MasterCard. Free Delivery
We are home-owned and appreciate your business

*Because you and your
guests deserve the best...*

- Modern facilities
- Seating available for up to 380 guests comfortably
- Ability to serve alcohol
- Kitchen
- Handicap Accessible



**Alden American Legion
Community Center**

506 West St., Alden, IA

For reservations contact City Hall - (515)859-3344

We're here to help you

celebrate.

The ideal place for your wedding/reception.

Full facility, complete with kitchen and bar, available for rent throughout the year.

**Call or visit us online
at ackleyrecclub.com
for pricing and start
preparing for your
special day!**

Full facility will seat 325 people

Ackley
Recreation Club



ackleyrecclub.com

Ph. 641-847-3475
Ask for Manager Jill Schneck

AckleyRec@gmail.com

902 8th Ave., Ackley

How to host a casual wedding

Weddings tend to be formal affairs, but there are no laws prohibiting happy couples from hosting more casual affairs. In fact, many couples confronted with the rising costs of tying the knot are doing just that.

The high price tag of a wedding often doesn't even include the couple's honeymoon. Some couples may not have the means to finance such lavish affairs, while others may want to save for larger expenses, such as a house, while still being able to celebrate their nuptials with family and friends. Casual weddings can provide that opportunity. However, while casual weddings are less formal, couples will still need to keep some things in mind to make their ceremonies and receptions both fun and memorable.

Let guests know the wedding will be casual

Perhaps the most important thing couples can do when hosting a casual wedding is inform their guests that the ceremony and reception will not be formal affairs. Be as specific as possible regarding the dress code so guests don't feel embarrassed if they overdress.

Don't abandon tradition entirely

Couples hosting casual weddings may not feel beholden to all the traditions associated with more formal affairs, but that does not mean tradition should be abandoned entirely. For example, fathers-of-the-bride may still hope



to share a spotlight dance with their daughters, while siblings or friends may still hope to serve as bridesmaids or groomsmen. Just because a wedding is less formal does not mean it has to be completely void of tradition, especially those traditions that can let couples' closest loved ones know how much they are loved and appreciated.

Create your own traditions

Embracing some tradition does not mean couples cannot simultaneously create their own wedding traditions. Guests at casual weddings will likely be expecting something different than they're used to, so couples should not hesitate to provide that. Couples should strive to keep things tasteful but not shy away from unique ideas that fit into the casual theme.

Plan to feed guests

While couples having casual weddings may choose to have their receptions somewhere other than banquet halls, they should still plan to feed their guests. Some guests may be traveling and staying in hotels to attend the wedding, and it's a nice gesture to show appreciation for their efforts by providing them with a meal. A meal also offers a great chance for guests to mingle with the married couple and fellow guests. Something simple like a backyard barbecue or a catered meal at home fits nicely with a casual setting.

Don't overlook logistics

Small details, like transportation, parking and lodging will still need to be arranged. If hosting guests at home after the ceremony, make sure guests will have ample places to park their vehicles. In addition, make the same efforts regarding lodging for guests that you would if planning a formal wedding, as out-of-town guests will still need a place to sleep.

*Heritage Town Center -
a perfect venue for your wedding events*



Showers
Rehearsal dinner
Reception and dance
Opening gifts

Heritage
Town Center
Just off Highway 9
Buffalo Center
641-562-2505



Get more information on our web page:
www.heritagetowncenter.com
Call today and reserve your dates!

Redo For You Beth Matheson

Bridal Registry Now Available

Custom gift baskets
available upon order.

Offering vintage, new,
repurposed, handmade,
and custom pieces.

Featuring new/used wedding
decor for your special day!

Call for more information!

201 N. Main St. • Buffalo Center, IA 50424

515-538-0298



Like us on Facebook at
Redo For You Established 2015

Did you know?

Brides prefer their wedding guests purchase wedding gifts from their registries. According to a poll conducted jointly by The Knot and Kohl's Bridal Aisle, nearly 85 percent of the 15,000 brides polled said they want their guests to buy items from their registries. Wedding guests need not worry about the accessibility of those registries, as the poll also found that 98 percent of brides have at least one registry online or in a store. Brides-to-be can improve their chances of getting gifts from their registries by registering with nationwide stores their guests can visit regardless of where they live and/or by linking their registries to their wedding websites. Couples who do not plan to create wedding websites can include registry information with their wedding invitations.



Planning tricks the professionals use

Wedding planning can be an exciting undertaking, but couples who have already walked down the aisle can attest that wedding planning also can be stressful. Ensuring all of the details come out right can prove overwhelming at times.

Hiring a wedding planner is one way to alleviate some of the stress associated with wedding planning. Couples who do not have the money to hire wedding planner can borrow some of the tips and tricks professionals rely on when planning weddings.

Make guests the first priority

Even though it may seem like weddings should be geared around couples tying the knot, many wedding planners advise couples to focus on accommodating their guests. Having a handle on the number of people who will be attending, any of their specific needs (allergies, mobility issues, etc.), providing a comfortable environment (addressing bugs, weather, seating shortages), and knowing how much space guests will require can make choosing a venue that much easier.

Rent what

you don't have

Renting rather than purchasing items can save couples money. Wedding planners do not stockpile items such as tables, chairs and decorations. Instead, they rely on rental companies to provide what is necessary. Even couples working with small budgets can enhance or elevate their weddings by working with rental companies.

Flush out foliage

Wedding planners know that flowers cost a great deal of money, especially flowers that are not native to the region where couples are getting married. The process of making arrangements can be time-consuming. Also, many flowers no longer produce strong scents because they're bred for longer stems and a lengthy vase life. Interspersing potted plants with arrangements that are lighter on blooms and heavier on filler can help cost-conscious couples stick to budget.

Trust vendors' advice

Wedding vendors tend to

know one another and can be good sources of information. A wedding photographer, for example, may be able to tell couples which reception venues photograph particularly well, and a reception manager may know which DJs or bands are best at getting guests on the dance floor.

Negotiate before signing the contract

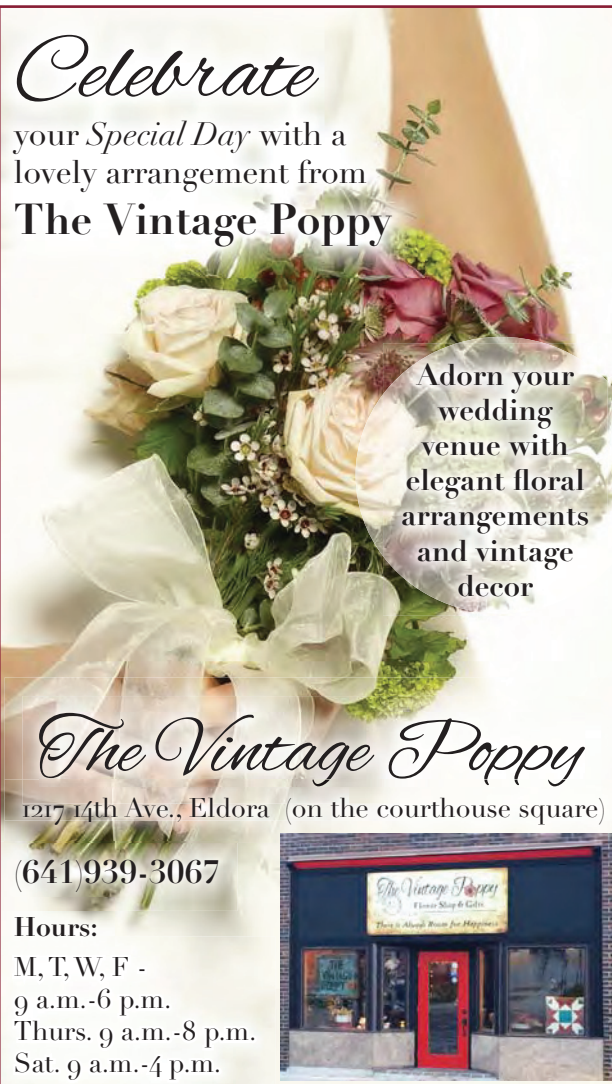
Wedding planners understand that vendors may be more willing to offer perks or extras rather than adding up a la carte pricing before the contract is signed. This way they secure the reservation on good will. Negotiating for more later on may be difficult.

Get organized

Organization is key. Brides- and grooms-to-be may want to enlist friends or relatives with a flair for organization to help with details.

Borrowing tricks from wedding planners can help couples save money and avoid stress.

Celebrate
your *Special Day* with a lovely arrangement from
The Vintage Poppy



Adorn your wedding venue with elegant floral arrangements and vintage decor

The Vintage Poppy

1217 14th Ave., Eldora (on the courthouse square)

(641)939-3067

Hours:

M, T, W, F -

9 a.m.-6 p.m.

Thurs. 9 a.m.-8 p.m.

Sat. 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

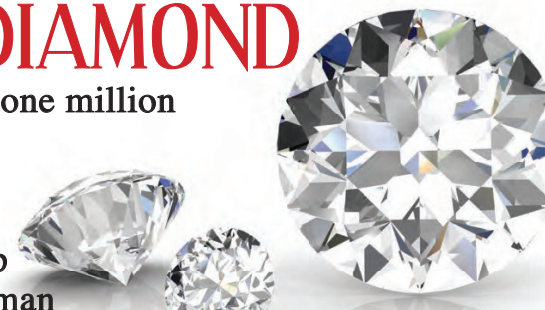


COMMITTED FOR LIFE

TAKE HER BREATH AWAY WITH A CHRISTENSEN'S OWN

JULIET DIAMOND

- ◆ So rare, only one in one million diamonds qualify.
- ◆ Each stone half carat or more.
- ◆ Hand cut in Antwerp by our master craftsman
- ◆ Perfect polish
- ◆ Cut to exact proportions
- ◆ Excellent symmetry



WE INVITE YOU TO STOP BY CHRISTENSEN JEWELRY TO SEE A JULIET DIAMOND UP CLOSE

We import diamonds from Antwerp, the world's diamond capitol, and that means YOU SAVE!
In fact, if you find the identical item for less within fifteen days, WE WILL REFUND DOUBLE THE DIFFERENCE.

If you want the PERFECT RING, bring it to us!

Find it on social media and we will make it for you.



ARIEL DIAMONDS
BEAUTIFULLY ENHANCED
GET A LARGER DIAMOND FOR LESS MONEY

We will design a 3D resin print for you to try on and make sure the look and fit are PERFECT!

CHRISTENSEN JEWELRY

specializes in selection and value with OVER 200 ENGAGEMENT RINGS and HUNDREDS OF DIAMONDS in stock every day.

From *solitaires* to custom made *one-of-a-kind* masterpieces.

All at the GUARANTEED LOWEST PRICE with the best service in north Iowa.



WITH YOUR ENGAGEMENT RING PURCHASE COMES CHRISTENSEN JEWELRY'S COMMITMENT TO YOU:

- ◆ Lifetime sizing and prong maintenance.
- ◆ Lifetime trade in privileges and appraisals.
- ◆ Free men's titanium wedding band

OUR GIFT TO YOU FOR CHOOSING CJ
Your first year of insurance, completely FREE!



FINANCING AVAILABLE UP TO 12 MONTHS.

641-456-3473 or toll free 866-4AJEWEL

Mon.-Fri. 9 a.m.-5:30 p.m. • Sat. 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

MasterCard, Visa, Discover, American Express and Christensen's Charge

(12 months Interest Free with qualified credit).



Your Wedding Day Prepared to Perfection

Let us attend to every detail,
so you can enjoy your
special day to the fullest

HyVee

EMPLOYEE OWNED

Catering

Allow us to make your special event extraordinary with outstanding food and service.

We offer a variety of catering and menu options to meet your needs and fit your budget with uncompromising quality.



Wedding Cakes

Our custom cakes are available in a virtually endless variety of delicious flavor combinations.



Floral

Bridal Bouquets
Boutonnieres • Corsages
Floral Headpieces
Ceremony Florals
Centerpieces



1616 Edgington Avenue
Eldora

641-858-2361

HyVee

EMPLOYEE OWNED
hy-vee.com

632 South Oak St.
Iowa Falls

641-648-4644



Treat Your Guests

Unconventional menu ideas,
perfect your guest list,
guest seating tips

Wedding Party

Determining 'plus one' etiquette,
hosting a modern wedding party

...And Much More!

Choosing a honeymoon
destination and more.

*Bridal
Guide*

January-February 2018 · Section B

Butler County Tribune-Journal · Buffalo Center Tribune · Wright County Monitor · Clarksville Star · Eagle Grove Eagle
Eldora Herald-Ledger · The Leader · Grundy Register · Hampton Chronicle · The Eclipse News-Review
Pioneer Enterprise · Sheffield Press



Wedding website dos and don'ts

Technology continues to infiltrate all areas of life. So it should come as no surprise that apps and digital organization play a prominent role in many couples' weddings. Couples may now feel it is necessary to design a wedding website to keep their guests up-to-date.

Though they're useful when planning a wedding, websites are not a must-have,

according to bridal etiquette experts. However, those who choose to delve into the world of wedding websites can keep these pointers in mind when navigating.

DO

Use the wedding website as a central hub for putting pertinent information about the wedding that may not be covered on invitations or save-the-date cards.



DON'T

Ignore the potential for identity theft and privacy. Wedding websites can put quite a deal of personal information out for public consumption. Not only will the website advertise when the wedding takes place (when your home and the homes of all your guests will be empty), but also it could include birthdays, maiden names, and other information that would normally be more difficult to track down.

DO

Use a wedding website provider that gives you the option to password protect

your website. Urge guests not to share this protected information with others.

DON'T

Caption engagement photos, bachelorette party photos and more with dates and names on the wedding website and on other social media.

DO

Skip the wedding website if you are strongly opposed to it. When properly composed, a wedding invitation will convey all the pertinent details. A group email or phone calls can alert guests to any changes after the fact.

DON'T

Forget to link to gift registries.

DO

Use the wedding website to collect responses and then make a table seating arrangement online. This will help you stay more organized and streamlined.

Wedding websites are yet another tool couples can use to stay organized as they plan their weddings.

The Flower Farm
Over 20 years of Bridal Floral Experience.

Choose the perfect bouquet for the perfect day.
Rent the latest trends in Tuxedos.

CALL 641-869-3574
to schedule an appointment

401 N. Adam St., Wellsburg
flower_farm@ymail.com

UNIQUE & ORIGINAL DESIGNS
THE FLEURIST

Wedding Party Flowers
Event Planning Reception • Venue Decorating • Rental Items

THE FLEURIST ~ Michelle Appel, Owner
319-883-9117 • 612 G AVENUE
GRUNDY CENTER, IA 50638
15 YEARS OF EXPERIENCE
Located with Friends Studio Boutique.
The Floral Business is our only business ~ It's not just a sideline.

Host your **Wedding at a Winery**

Enjoy our beautiful views, perfect for outdoor weddings! We have a wedding area, party tent, and plenty of parking! Ask about vineyard rental, special wine pricing, and custom wine labels with your names and special date! The vineyard has full-service restrooms and if you like, a unique camping area.

99 BOTTLES WINERY and VINEYARD

www.99bottleswinery.com • 641-425-6003
Located four miles southwest of Hayfield, Iowa, near Garner and Forest City. We are family owned and run.

Auctioneer Mark A. Newman – Available for Benefits and WEDDING GARTER AUCTIONS! 641-425-6003

Open Saturdays Memorial Day Weekend through October!

Get a grip on your guest list

Cooperation is key for couples planning their weddings. Compiling the guest list is one area of wedding planning where couples oftentimes must embrace both cooperation and compromise.

Putting together a wedding guest list can cause some tension. That tension may be confined to couples, but it may even occur between couples and their families. Getting a grip on their guest lists may be one of the more difficult tasks couples encounter when planning their weddings, but there are ways to make creating the guest list go smoothly.

Recognize the need to compromise

Couples who recognize the need to compromise in advance of compiling their guest lists may find it easier to pare down that list if the initial number of guests is too high. Couples can create lists of people they want to invite, breaking these initial lists down into categories such as "friends," "family," "acquaintances," and "coworkers." Couples may not want to compromise on inviting friends and family, but each person should be willing to remove some coworkers and acquaintances from their final lists.

Don't succumb to parental pressure if mom and dad are not paying the bills

Couples who are financing their own weddings should not feel beholden to their parents' wishes when compiling their wedding guest lists. Politely explain to parents you're



Time to kick off your shoes and *relax.*



2101 Commerce Dr., Grundy Center, IA

For reservations call (319) 824-5272

working on a budget and that you have a predetermined number of guests you're capable of inviting. Couples can appease their parents by encouraging them to compile a list of people they hope to invite, and then telling them these people will be invited if other guests are unable to make it. Couples whose parents are footing some or all of the bill must be more receptive to their parents' wishes than those paying for their own weddings.

Agree on a kids policy

A policy regarding kids may help couples as they create their guest lists. Couples working with tight budgets may decide that the only children who will be invited are their nieces and nephews. Young cousins likely won't feel slighted if they don't make the cut, and their parents may even appreciate a night out without the kids in tow.

Employ the "future versus past" formula when paring gets tough

When all else has failed, couples faced with difficult decisions regarding their wedding guest lists can ask themselves if prospective guests are people they expect to see again in the future or if they are people from their past. Including the former might be a good idea, while removing the latter may also make sense, especially if it's been a long time since couples have seen people who fall into the "past" category.

Creating the guest list is one of the more difficult parts of planning a wedding. But couples willing to compromise may find the process goes smoothly.



The Perfect Venue

Banquet Seating for 250+ for

- Wedding receptions
- Company Gatherings
- Family and Class Reunions
- All Types of Gatherings
- Golf Tournaments

Take advantage of our newly remodeled kitchen.

Fully stocked bar

DJ's and caterers available.

See us about your bachelor party golf outing.



Hubbard Golf & Recreation

Ph. 641-864-2647 | Cell 515-450-3782

Hubbard

Factors to consider before choosing a wedding venue



Did you know?

Engagement rings can be quite expensive. Online wedding resource The Knot says the average ring costs more than \$5,000. To protect their purchases, consumers can listen to experts and ask their jewelers to mark stones with an identification number so lost or stolen rings can be identified and potentially returned. The diamond can be laser-inscribed with the diamond's certificate number or a jeweler's designation. Such inscriptions are only visible under magnification and can cost between \$40 and \$200. Some insurance carriers also will offer discounts on policies insuring inscribed diamonds, so it can be well worth the extra investment.

Once couples become engaged and share the good news with their friends and families, the next step is to begin planning their weddings. While couples must make a myriad of decisions during the wedding planning process, perhaps none is more significant than where to tie the knot.

A big portion of a wedding cost is spent on the venue. Because the wedding venue comes with such a potentially high sticker price, couples should give ample consideration to a host of factors before choosing where to get married.

Size

Until they can agree on a guest list, couples might want to delay even looking for venues. However, some couples might want to first look at some venues so they can determine just how many guests they can afford to invite. Whether they're hosting small affairs or large parties, couples should choose venues that can comfortably accommodate all of their guests. If possible, look for venues with multiple reception areas, which might allow for some wiggle room if the guest list grows or dwindles during the planning process.

Availability

Some couples might have an ideal time of year they hope to get married. Some even know the exact date they hope to get married. While that can help with the planning, it can also limit couples with regard to their venue options. Some venues may be booked for as much as a year or more in advance during peak wedding season. September



and October are two of the most popular months to get married. Couples who hope to get married during these months may need to book their wedding venues well in advance. Those who can be more flexible regarding their wedding dates may find it easier to book their dream venues.

Insurance

Ask about the venue's insurance policies, including the policies the venue has to protect itself. In addition, ask if the venue requires couples to have their own wedding liability insurance for protection in the event of injury, property damage or incidents related to alcohol. Couples may also want to make the investment in cancellation/postponement insurance, and

some venues may even require it.

Financials

It's easy for couples to be focused on the bottom line when choosing wedding venues, but it's also important that they get a complete grasp of the financials before choosing a wedding venue. Ask about the amount of the initial deposit and if that deposit is refundable. In addition, ask when the deposit is due and when each subsequent payment is due until the balance is paid in full. This can make budgeting easier and planning less stressful.

Couples should have fun choosing their wedding venues while recognizing that certain factors must be given ample consideration before signing any contracts.

ALLY ELIASON & TARA SOBEK
 aeliason@commlnet.net
 1-641-762-3711

TALLY'S TASTEFULLY YOURS CATERING
 An elegant flair, to any catered affair!

Tally's Tastefully Yours Catering was established in 1990. We are a family owned and operated business priding ourselves in providing exceptional food and service.

It would be a pleasure to serve you and your guests at your upcoming event.

1-515-293-1409 cell
 114 East Second Street
 P.O. Box 7
 Kanawha, Iowa 50447

BIG or small...
 ...the Hardin County Fairgrounds are the perfect backdrop.

Celebrate your: Family Reunion, Graduation, Wedding, Meeting
Offers: Table and Chairs, Full Kitchen, Portable Bar, Seats 350

 For more information, call **Whitney** at 641-373-4809
 Available for rent all year round

Hardin County Fairgrounds
 301 11th St., Eldora
 hardincofair@heartofiowa.net

Looking beyond gender for modern wedding parties

Couples are increasingly bucking long-established trends to make weddings uniquely their own. One of today's more popular tradition-busting trends is not adhering to gender lines when couples select friends and family members for their wedding parties.

Until recently, the vast majority of wedding couples selected members of the same sex to fill the roles needed for the ceremony and reception. For example, grooms would choose fellow males to serve as their groomsmen while brides choose other females for their bridal parties. The days of having men on one side and women on the other are gone. Coed wedding parties enable brides and grooms to have their favorite people by their side, regardless of gender.

Over the past year, weddings across Australia and other areas of the world have seen a rise in "groomswomen" and "bridesmen," blurring the lines of wedding traditions. Couples have often said that choosing whomever they desire to stand beside them during the wedding is more authentic than separating people simply because of gender.

Take for example a groom-to-be who is especially close to his sister. Such siblings



may serve as bridesmaids, but grooms may want to have their sisters by their sides on their big day.

Foregoing gender roles may make for a unique, customized wedding. However, it does create the question of what wedding party members will wear. Again, there are no firm rules, but coordination can make for better photos. A woman standing on the groom's side can coordinate with the color of the bridesmaids dresses, but wear a different style. Or she can wear a dress that matches the color of the groomsmen's suits. A man standing with the bride can have

accessories, such as tie, vest and pocket square, that match bridesmaid dresses.

One of the areas where mixing and matching genders may get a tad sticky is with older, more traditional guests. They may not understand the freedom of choice in the wedding. However, couples can discuss their bridal parties to select people who they think might prefer couples adhere to tradition.

Another possible snag is with bachelorette parties and bachelor parties. A solution to this dilemma may be to simply organize a getaway weekend for the entire bridal party, and not separate parties for each side.

Couples are increasingly deviating from tradition for their weddings by looking beyond gender when picking wedding party members.

Give the Gift of HEALTH • MIND • BODY

- Massage • Reiki
- Pedicures • Manicures
- Body Wraps • Waxing
- Air Brush Tanning
- Makeup Application
- Brow & Lash Tinting
- Lash Perming • Ear Candling
- Raindrop Technique
- Microdermabrasion
- Reflexology
- Capillary, Skin Tag & Ruby Point Removal
- Chakra Stone Massage
- Customized Facials
- Eyelash Extension

Relaxing Spa Packages Available!

Call or stop by to find out more about our new ADVANCED LIGHT THERAPY and turn back the clock on aging! LumiLifts for lines, wrinkles and sagging LumiFacial for minor acne, redness and pigmentation - LumiCell for cellulite

Don't forget... *Gift Certificates make the Perfect Gift!*



4700 4th St. SW, Suite C, Mason City
(Hwy 122 in front of Cinema West)

HOURS: BY APPOINTMENT ONLY • (641) 423-1811
TUES.-FRI. 10 A.M.-7 P.M.; SAT. 10 A.M.-4 P.M.



RENT THE FARM for your Destination Wedding



- **Whole House Rental** •
- **6 Bedrooms** •
- **Perfect Wedding Setting** •

For more information,
call **641-456-4036** or visit
www.countryheritagebb.com



Start your
new life with
your dream
home ...

Give us
a call



655 S Oak • Iowa Falls, IA 50126
Office: 641-648-4044 renaudreality.com



Flawless Bridal Florals for a perfectly elegant day.

Let our
professional
staff sit down
with you to
make your
wedding
flowers
exactly what
you want
for your
special day.

Call to reserve
your date.



(641)939-2166 **(800)584-5028**
Mon.-Fri. 9-5 • Sat. 9-noon efginc@heartofiowa.net
1226 Washington St. • Eldora, IA



Choosing wedding color palettes

Some brides may feel beholden to the color white on their wedding days, at least in regard to their gowns. Those who do often embrace the opportunity to showcase their personal styles and set the mood for their nuptials by embracing various colors throughout their ceremonies and receptions.

Color can be a critical component when establishing the ambiance for a wedding. Color can evoke certain moods and set the tone for the day. Some colors work better together than others, so while choosing a color scheme may seem like an easy undertaking, some couples may find it requires more careful consideration than they first imagined.

Wedding colors can give couples a starting-off point for all of the other details of their weddings. This ensures the wedding ultimately has a cohesive look. Colors need not necessarily match, but borrowing on similar hues can make it easier to plan wedding party wardrobes, flowers, table linens, and much more.

Colors can come from anywhere, but many couples try to coordinate their



color schemes with the season in which the wedding takes place. In fact, couples who are finding it difficult to decide on a palette can look to seasonal colors for inspiration. For example, pastels and blooming flowers can set the scene for spring weddings, while jewel tones and

rich reds and greens may be fitting for winter ceremonies.

Some couples opt for more loosely defined color palettes, such as neutral and natural colors. Country and garden weddings can borrow ideas from the landscape, with natural linens paired with wildflowers. Using

whites, grays and beiges enables couples to add a pop of color without overwhelming the setting.

Couples should avoid choosing too many colors. A maximum of three with one metallic can ensure that things look cohesive without being over-the-top. Also,

brides and grooms needn't feel pressured by the "hot" colors of the moment. As with clothing and hairstyles, trends change. It is better to select colors that will stand the test of time and look good for years to come.

Couples may have to incorporate colors already at their wedding venues to enable customization.

Having a basic knowledge of the color wheel can help. Typically, colors that pair well together are those that are opposites on the color wheel. Also, colors that share proximity on the color wheel will have similar tones and play well together. Examples of opposite colors include purples and yellows, reds and greens, and oranges and blues.

Couples should not be afraid to take some chances with their color palettes, especially if they want to make a bold and modern statement.

Classic. HISTORIC. Scenic.
Your dream wedding awaits.

\$250 Includes set up one day prior and access to riverfront dock.

Ask about renting the Empress Riverboat to enhance your wedding experience!

Unique, historic lodge located on the scenic Iowa River.

www.empressboatclub.org
empressboatclub@gmail.com

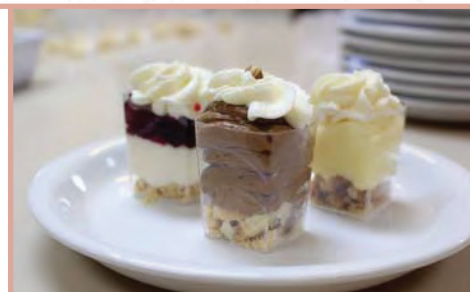
Iowa Falls | 641-648-9517



peppercorn
PANTRY

We've got just the place for you.

Bridal Showers
Rehearsal Suppers
Catering Weddings
Cakes and Desserts



Visit our website or call for more information

Aplington, IA

319-347-2797



thepeppercornpantry@gmail.com
http://www.peppercornpantry.com



Did you know?

In adherence to traditional wedding wardrobes, brides wear white and veils to complete their ensembles. While many people may view veils as a symbol of purity and chastity, various sources indicate veils had a more prominent purpose. Veils may have first become popular in ancient Roman times, when brides were covered head-to-toe in a red sheet called a flammum. The sheet was intended to scare off any evil spirits that might ruin the wedding. Veils eventually replaced the flammum to disguise the bride from those naughty spirits. Veils also were used to hide brides' faces from grooms in an era of arranged marriages when grooms had never seen their brides before their wedding days. Thankfully, today's veils are more about fashion than function.



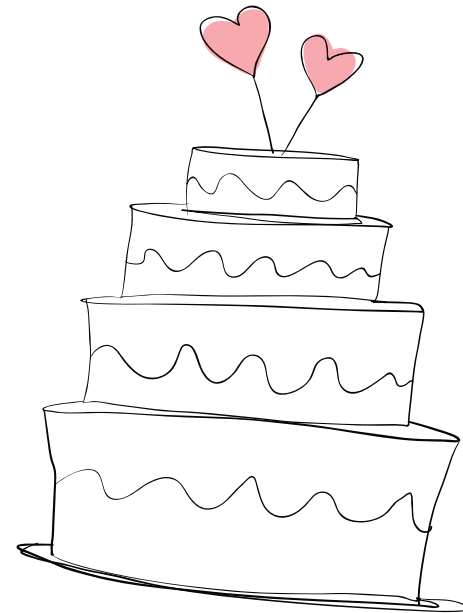
Frosting-free cakes the latest trend

A new trend is taking hold both in North America and on the other side of the Atlantic Ocean. Cakes are being pared down so that frosting and fondant coverings are now nearly absent from the confections.

They're called "naked cakes," and these simplified desserts showcase the texture of the cakes and their fillings. Many pastry chefs and bakers are hopping on the naked cake bandwagon.

Just because these cakes may be short on exterior buttercream doesn't mean they fall flat on flavor or visual appeal. Cakes can be embellished with fresh blooms, gum pasted flowers, edible pearls and gems, fresh berries, and much more. The Knot notes many naked cakes are garnished with flavors that are included in the cake, such as chocolate chips, crumbs, cookie dough, or candy sprinkles.

Couples who are stripping down their weddings to include more basics and natural effects may be drawn to these naked



cakes. They're also an option for those who find frosting, buttercream and fondant too sweet for the palate. Naked cakes enable the interior flavors to really shine.

Jessica's Country Kitchen & The Farm

Jessica offers a variety of services and products such as:

- Catering for weddings and other events.
- Craft works of her own and items from within Iowa.
- In store wine selection.
- Ready made frozen meals for just you or the whole family.
- Sells local honey.



Hours
 Wednesday - Friday
 9:00am-5:30pm
 Saturday
 9:00am-2:00pm



To contact or find more information

223 West Broadway
 Eagle Grove, IA 50533

The Farm 515.851.9390
 Jessica's 515.851.0718
 jessicacountrykitchen@gmail.com
 www.jessicacountrykitchen.com



'Plus one' etiquette for weddings

Couples tying the knot typically want to share their excitement with as many friends and family members as possible. Preliminary wedding guest lists can be quite extensive, but many couples ultimately shorten such lists in adherence to their budgets.

One fuzzy area in regard to guest lists is whether or not to include a "plus one" on the invitation for single friends or

family members. A "plus one" refers to single guests' dates. Party planners may extend the courtesy of giving single guests the choice of whether they would like to bring someone along to the event or attend solo. The rules concerning plus ones are flexible, and ultimately, it may be up to the couple to create their own plus-one rules. The following tips can help couples determine which way to go.

Length of relationship

One way to set limits on plus ones is to look at invitees on a case-by-case basis. Think about unmarried guests and the type of relationship status they currently claim. For example, a cousin who has been dating someone for several months can be encouraged to invite this serious boyfriend/girlfriend.

Recently divorced or widowed guests may not feel comfortable bringing a date along, but because this person was in a committed relationship so long, it may be well worth the courtesy to allow these types of guests to bring someone along so they can feel more comfortable.

Whenever possible, all guests should be addressed by name on the invitation. Couples can ask single friends whether they plan to bring a date to the wedding and who their dates might be.

Number of single friends

Another consideration is how many single people will be invited to the wedding. If it's a small number, a blanket plus-one rule can be established. However, if many

guests are single, which tends to happen when young couples are getting married, the cost can be prohibitive. Single friends and family can be seated together so that they can converse and have fun.

For the guests...

It's important for people on the receiving end of a wedding invitation to understand some key plus-one rules as well.

- If the invitation does not say "plus one" or "and guest," that means you have been invited alone. It is rude to bring a guest unexpectedly.
 - Avoid asking to bring someone to the wedding if you were not originally given the option.
 - If you were given plus-one status, be sure to respond with your guest's name. If you can't confirm who you will be bringing or don't know if you will have a date for the evening, it is better to come alone.
 - Don't use the plus one as a chance to bring a friend only for the free food and drinks.
- Weddings can be complicated to plan, and negotiating plus ones for single guests is part of that planning.

J&J SPORTS
Clothing • Equipment • More

Score a great deal on our tuxedo rentals and a look to match.



Open
Mon-Fri
8-5:30
Saturday
8-1

515.448.3557
118 W Broadway
Eagle Grove, IA



Wedding Guests?



Treat your guests royally by booking a reservation in Garner Inn & Suites.

TripAdvisor has given a **Certificate of Excellence to Garner Inn & Suites for 3 years in a row based on favorable comments received by guests!**



Each room has:

- Refrigerator
- Microwave
- 32" flat screen TV
- Free Fiber optic wireless internet
- Hot breakfast including omelets, sausage, fresh baked cinnamon rolls
- Evening reception with fresh baked cookies
- Whirlpool & other suites available



641-925-1000 or 855-925-1001

785 US Hwy 18 W Garner, IA www.garnerinn.com

Unconventional wedding menu ideas

Traditionally, one of the more memorable aspects of wedding receptions is the food. Whether it was fun, tasty or something entirely new for guests, food tends to leave a lasting impression.

More than ever, couples are seeking menu ideas that reflect their personalities as a couple as they seek to make a statement at their events. Celebrating with delicious, unique foods can make receptions that much more amazing.

Bite-sized bursts

Tapas and a movement toward small bites has started to take hold at wedding receptions. Such a choice allows guests to try many different flavors without filling up too quickly. From sliders to mini grilled cheese to soup shots to bite-sized pizzas, many of these small bites feature flavors borrowed from familiar comfort foods – just presented on a miniature scale.

Comfort stations and bars

Couples who love comfort food can put it on display with a crostini station, a mashed



Taste reigns supreme at weddings featuring creative menus.

potato bar, a gourmet popcorn snack station, or a ramen noodle bar.

Food trucks/carts

Outdoor weddings can be enhanced

with the addition of trendy food trucks. These restaurants on wheels can inject burgers, sandwiches, international delights, crêpes, noodles, and so many

more flavors into a wedding.

High-end options

Couples may want to give guests a taste of the lavish with olive oil and vinegar tasting stations, whiskey bars, French hors d'oeuvres, Kobe beef sliders, lobster tails, risotto stations, and more.

Childhood favorites

When it comes time for dessert, some couples opt to avoid or downplay wedding cakes in favor of something simpler. A cookie-and-milk bar, doughnut holes, soft pretzel stations, pie pops, or dessert shot jars push creativity and sweetness to new levels. Do-it-yourself dessert stations, such as s'more-making and ice cream sundae stations, also can be big hits.

Couples are increasingly feeling less beholden to traditional wedding reception menus as they look to infuse their personal tastes into the foods they plan to serve their guests. Many catering managers and chefs welcome the chance to work with couples looking to create unique reception menus.

Estimating wedding attendance

In a perfect world, men and women invited to weddings would respond promptly and, for unmarried guests, indicate whether or not they're taking a date. But not all guests respond quickly, and some may forget to respond at all, even if they intend to make the wedding. Couples should assume 80 percent acceptance for a traditional wedding and 60 to 70 percent for destination weddings. Weddings that fall during weekdays, take place on holidays or during times of the year when the weather can be difficult may affect attendance as well.

Some couples may be tempted to create a "B" invitation list of people

who may not make the first cut due to budgetary constraints, but can be invited if family members cannot attend. This is a delicate situation, and some people may be offended if they find out they were not among the initial list of invitees. As a result, it can be better for couples to narrow down guest lists early on and mail all

invitations at once. Send the invitations early enough so adjustments can be made with vendors, including the receptive venue and the caterer. When estimating costs based on wedding guests, it's safer to round up than down so couples are not caught unaware. Overbuy and save receipts as items can be returned later.

Your place for Tuxedo Rentals

Check out our latest styles and colors. The perfect fit for weddings and prom.

Call or email today to schedule a fitting

515-971-6764

travelnow@heartofiowa.net

travelnow

306 W. Market, Steamboat Rock



B
BOULDERS
INN & SUITES

Elevated Comfort.

500 Central Avenue W
Clarion, IA 50525
515-602-6634

Book your stay today!
BouldersInnAndSuites.com



Did you know?

Since Ancient Roman times, June has been a popular month for couples to tie the knot. The month's namesake, the goddess Juno, was said to be the protector of women in every aspect, but most notably in regard to marriage and childbearing. Therefore, it made sense to get married and take the first step toward creating a family in June. For practical reasons, June also has been a prime month for marriage because the month is neither especially hot nor especially cold in many areas of the world. While dressed in formalwear – whether having an outdoor wedding or an indoor one – no one wants to be overheated or uncomfortably cold.

While June is a still a popular month to get married, the wedding resource The Knot indicates that autumn, in particular the months of September and October, has overtaken summer as the most popular wedding season. Warmer-than-average temperatures in autumn over the last few years as well as a dazzling display of natural color help make the fall a popular time for nuptials. Interestingly enough, perhaps due to a slightly cooler climate, a 2015 survey found August to be the most popular month to get married in Canada, and that 67 percent of weddings in Canada that year occurred between June and September.

How to handle seating wedding guests

Receptions may be big or small, lavish or casual. But regardless of their size or style, receptions all share a common element: They will require couples set up seating arrangement for guests. Even though assigned seating isn't mandatory, selecting seats for a sit-down dinner makes things simpler and reduces confusion. Some reception venues may even require assigned seating so that catering staff can service tables accordingly.

Seating guests can be tricky, but employing a few strategies can make the process go quickly and smoothly.

Use a seating chart

A seating chart, whether it's venue-specific or one couples make themselves, is essential. If you using a self-made chart, inquire with the venue about the shape of tables, how many guests each table can seat, and the location of tables around the space.

Start with the wedding party table

Couples can ease themselves into the task of seating by doing the easy tables first. The primary one is the wedding party table. This traditionally can be a dais or a sweetheart table flanked by the wedding party. The table should be centrally located and the wedding couple should sit in the middle. A male-female pattern follows on either side of the couple, consisting of the ushers, bridesmaids, best man, and maid of honor. If much of

the wedding party is already married, couples may opt to have the wedding party sit with their spouses instead of at the dais.

Organize family tables

Tables for parents, grandparents and immediate family members of the bride and groom also are high priority. Both families can be combined at one table, or they can be separated into two tables. These tables should be the closest to the bride and groom.

Consider mobility issues

Next seat guests who have specific needs at tables. Elderly guests may want to be away from the band, deejay or speakers. Guests in wheelchairs may need an accessible seat near the exit.

Get some help

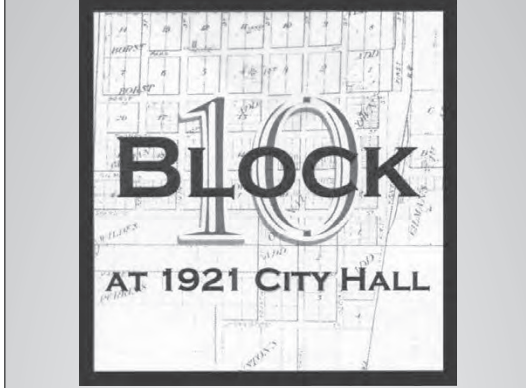
Enlist the help of parents to seat their friends and extended family members. Parents may know best who gets along and who should be separated.

Seat dancers near the dance floor

To encourage dancing, place guests who tend to be lively close to the dance floor so others can see them getting up to dance and join in.

Couples can use apps, lists or self-made charts to plot their reception seating arrangements. Create place

cards or a central chart so guests can find their seats promptly and easily.



GREAT FOR ALL YOUR *Space* **Party NEEDS!**

- WEDDING RECEPTIONS
- WEDDING REHEARSAL DINNERS
- GIFT OPENING BRUNCH
- BRIDAL SHOWERS
- ANNIVERSARIES & GRADUATIONS
- CLASS REUNIONS & MEETINGS
- COMPANY PARTIES

309 GILMAN, SHEFFIELD, IA 50475
641-892-1059 BLOCK10@YAHOO.COM

Tips for choosing a honeymoon destination

Once couples have tied the knot, hit the reception dance floor and thanked their friends and family for joining them, their thoughts might start looking ahead to their honeymoons.

Statistics vary in regard to how much couples spend on their honeymoons, but those heading overseas can expect to pay thousands of dollars on such getaways. Couples planning their honeymoons want to get the most for their money while also ensuring their first trip together as newlyweds is as memorable as possible. The destination couples choose can

go a long way toward making that happen, and couples can consider various factors as they work together to choose a locale for their honeymoons.

Activity level

Some couples might want their honeymoons to be filled with activities, while others might prefer more low-key trips spent relaxing at seaside resorts. Couples can discuss which types of trips they prefer and be willing to compromise if their desires differ.

Travel

Some couples may prefer to travel throughout their honeymoons, while others may want to stay at the same resort for the duration of their trips. Couples who want to travel may find a backpacking trip to Europe is a romantic way to indulge their sense of adventure, while those who prefer something more quiet may find a beach resort more to their liking.

Budget

Budget is a strong consideration for many couples as they plan their honeymoons. Because honeymoons can be expensive, couples who don't want to sacrifice on their first trip together as a

married couple can begin planning their trips early, even looking for ways to cut costs on their ceremonies and receptions if their honeymoons are a bigger priority.

When planning their honeymoons, couples also can take steps to save money. For example, delaying a trip until a few months after the wedding can help couples get back on their financial feet and enjoy their dream getaways. Couples visiting resorts also may want to opt for all-inclusive packages, which can provide great value, particularly on food and beverages.



FOR YOUR Special Day!

- Guest Registry and Books
- Pen Holders
- Invitations
- Candlestick Holders
- Photo Albums
- Wedding Frames
- Willow Tree Cake Toppers
- Classic and Pillar Candles

Wedding Cards and Gifts for the Bride and Groom

Hallmark GOLD CROWN As You Like It

Like us on  Manly Drugstore

625 G Avenue • 319-824-5446

Your Wedding Specialists

- Groom's Tuxedo Free with 5 more paid rentals
- 1/2 Price Ring Bearer Tuxedo with 5 or more paid rentals
- 20% Savings on Honeymoon Attire (one time purchase)
- 10% Savings on your Engraveable order



savvi
FORMALWEAR

No Confusing Promotions, Just The BEST Prices in Town!

Expert Fitting
On-Site Tailoring
Friendly & Knowledgeable Staff
Next Day Service

Best Selection & Price
Nedrebo's Color Match Guarantee
No Appointment Necessary

Suits to purchase starting at \$149. Inquire for details.

Moorman CLOTHIERS

The Only Tuxedo Store You'll Ever Need!



1 South Federal Ave, Mason City, IA 50401

641-423-5222

226 Main St., Ames, IA. 50010

515-232-3261

info@moormanclothiers.com

 Find Moorman Clothiers on any of these social media forums to stay on top of the latest in fashion and formalwear! 


AWARD WINNING WEDDING PHOTOGRAPHY

VOSS
STUDIO

AUSTINVILLE • 319.347.5518
WWW.VOSSSTUDIO.COM



NOW BOOKING SPRING, SUMMER & FALL WEDDINGS
CALL TODAY!

like us 

One part of your big day taken care of.

YOUR INVITATIONS ARE A BIG PART IN PLANNING YOUR WEDDING. WE WILL HELP YOU CREATE CUSTOM WEDDING STATIONERY TO FIT YOUR STYLE & BUDGET.

- Save the Date
- Invitations
- Programs
- RSVP's
- Place Cards
- Envelopes
- Guest Books



Stop in & let us help make your big day even more memorable.

SAVE
THE
DATE

Custom wedding stationery doesn't have to be expensive.

WE MAKE IT POSSIBLE FOR YOU TO GET EXACTLY WHAT YOU WANT WITH OUR FREE NO-OBLIGATION QUOTES.

Contact our Custom Printing Department to get started!



641.456.2585 • 1-800-558-1244

CustomPrinting@MidAmericaPub.com

www.MidAmPublishing.com



Wedding Style

Styles for short-haired brides,
airbrushed makeup

Post-wedding Plans

Preserving wedding memories,
planning a perfect honeymoon, and
maintaining honeymoon beauty.

Bridal Guide

January-February 2018 · Section C



Mid-America
PUBLISHING
Corporation

Butler County Tribune-Journal · Buffalo Center Tribune · Wright County Monitor · Clarksville Star · Eagle Grove Eagle
Eldora Herald-Ledger · The Leader · Grundy Register · Hampton Chronicle · The Eclipse News-Review
Pioneer Enterprise · Sheffield Press

Unique gifts for your groomsmen

Weddings are steeped in tradition, and one of the more enjoyable ones is the custom of gifting members of the bridal party. With regard to picking out tuxedos and planning the wedding, grooms may not spend as much time with their groomsmen as brides do with their bridesmaids. But that does not mean grooms don't want to go above and beyond when gifting their groomsmen. The following are a handful of unique groomsmen gift ideas.

Guys' day out

While it's customary to gift groomsmen with mementos of the wedding that they can keep for years to come, there's no law forbidding grooms from gifting an experience. Grooms can book a guys' day or night out for after the wedding, buying each groomsmen a ticket to a ballgame and paying for dinner for the whole crew. Or consider a more adventurous outing, such as a group bungee jump or whitewater rafting trip. Provide a memento by ordering a handful of specially designed commemorative T-shirts.

Commemorative photo

Many grooms ask relatives and friends they have known for much of their lives to be their groomsmen. So it's not uncommon for groomsmen to know each other very well. If each member of the party has known one

another for years, grooms can try to find a photo of all of them together when they were much younger. Have the photo professionally framed, noting the date of the wedding with an engraving on the frame. If each groomsmen is from a different period in the groom's life, then the groom can find a photo from early in each relationship to present as a gift.

Commemorative beer

Many grooms and groomsmen bond over beer, so grooms who have raised many a pint with their groomsmen might want to create their own commemorative beers to show their love and appreciation for their best guy friends. Many craft breweries offer brewing classes that teach beer aficionados the finer points of making beer. Grooms can attend such classes on their own and create their own batch specifically for their groomsmen or pay for the whole group to attend the class together.

Movie poster

Grooms with a creative side and a love of movies can create movie posters that mimic those of iconic guy films like "Goodfellas" or "Animal House," swapping out images of the film's stars with likenesses of themselves and their groomsmen. Have the finished products framed before presenting one to each groomsmen.

Eagle Grove Greenhouses, INC.

120 South Iowa Ave. • Eagle Grove, Iowa

Flowers for Wedding Party & Events

• Decor • Bridal Registry • Gifts



The Wall Flowers

Event Planning

• Custom Designs • Rentals

By Yalonda Amonson & Ann Wilde

We offer party planning packages, handmade invitations & programs, Custom pinterest projects and so much more!!

Greenhouse Phone

515.448.5181

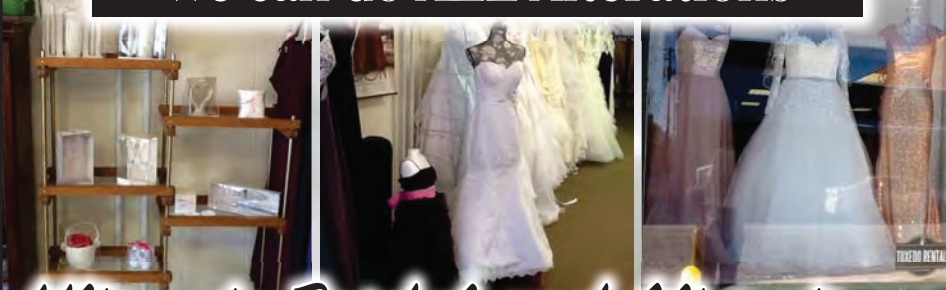
ann.wilde92@gmail.com

yalondaamonson@gmail.com

The perfect wedding starts with the perfect dress...



We can do **ALL** Alterations



Ultimate Bridal and Alterations

313 Stevens St., Iowa Falls, Iowa

(641) 648-6029

ultimatebridal6029@gmail.com

Shirley Awe, Alterations Expert

We'll help show you the way to financial security. No map necessary.



Contact me to make a plan that lets you focus on being good at life.



Brad A. Scheideman, CLU®, LUTCF®, MS
Financial Adviser offering investment advisory services through Eagle Strategies LLC, a Registered Investment Adviser

Scheideman Financial Strategies
Financial Representative offering securities through NYLIFE Securities LLC (member FINRA/SIPC), A Licensed Insurance Agency
808 4th Street NE, Hampton, IA 50441
(641) 456-4106
bascheideman@ft.NewYorkLife.com
www.scheidemanfs.com

Insure. Prepare. Retire.



Proud to Offer



**Perrin Inn
Bed & Breakfast**



**Bridal Showers
Rehearsal Dinners
Honeymoon Night**

**501 N. 1st St. Greene, Iowa 50636
641-816-4166**

Serious wedding style for short-haired brides

On a day when all eyes and cameras will be trained on them, it's natural for brides and grooms tying the knot to want to look their best. As a result, many couples invest a portion of their budgets into spa and beauty treatments, with many even hiring salon stylists to ensure their wedding-day looks are flawless.

Women with short hair may lament that they do not have many options when styling their hair for their wedding days. Some may even consider growing out their locks. However, plenty of creative styles exist for ladies without long locks.

Experiment with color

One way to "tress to impress" is to experiment with some color. Well-placed highlights, balayage treatments, ombre, or peek-a-boo underlights can add an extra spark to a bride's normal hairstyle. Speak with a qualified stylist about what you plan to achieve with a wedding-day look, so color can be applied correctly.

Retro glamour

Brides may want to harken back



be placed into the front or rear crown of the head to look like a hair halo or crown.

Use embellishments

If short hair cannot be gathered into a braid or bun, you can opt for adorned pins, barrettes or headbands to add a touch of sparkle to the look. Ask a stylist to tease the crown of your hair to achieve a little more height and impact.

Half-up style

Many women with short hair find that using bobby pins to pin up select areas of their hair can help achieve a partial up-do look without the need for longer locks. Experienced stylists will know how to manipulate hair effectively to create this look. Small tendrils of hair can be left free and curled for a less structured, more natural effect.

Brides-to-be with short hair do not need to fret nor make drastic changes to their hairstyles to look beautiful on their wedding days. Short hair can be manipulated into many camera-ready creations.

to an era when glamour reigned supreme. Replicate one of the short styles of the 1940s or 1950s, paying homage to Audrey Hepburn, Marilyn Monroe, Lauren Bacall, or Judy Garland.

Braids and plaits

Braids can add whimsy to shoulder-length or shorter hair. In addition, braids can anchor short locks when an up-do is desired. Braids can

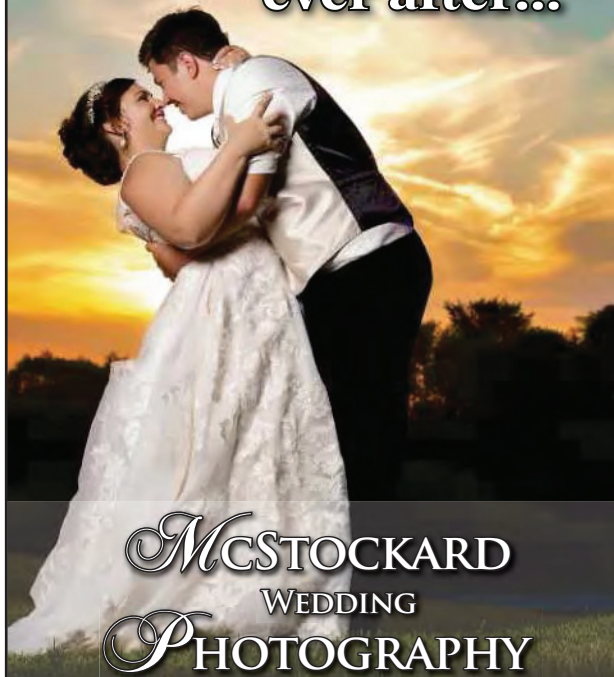
**She said YES to the dress
and NO to combining their
auto insurance**



Call us for the details on saving money and combining your insurance

**Ibeling Insurance Services
Ackley • 641-847-3555
www.ibelinginsurance.com**

**Capture your
happily
ever after...**



**MCSTOCKARD
WEDDING
PHOTOGRAPHY**

**Whitten, Iowa
641-750-9188
mcstockard.photography@gmail.com**

**The perfect
*blooms***



for the

Bride & Groom

The Rustic Rose
Fresh Flowers, Plants & Gifts

Alison Smith, Owner
311 East Main
New Providence, IA 50206
641-497-5525
cyalismith@yahoo.com

Is airbrushed makeup the way to go?

Hair and makeup is an important part of wedding day planning. Brides and grooms want to look their best on their wedding days, when they will no doubt take dozens of photos, if not more. Men may apply some oil-absorbing powder to tone down shine on their skin, but women tend to pull out all the stops when selecting bridal makeup – often hiring professional makeup artists to create a signature look.

Airbrush-applied makeup is an option women may want to explore. The wedding resource Makeup airbrushing is quite popular in the world of movies and modeling and is now becoming more popular among brides-to-be. When applied correctly by a professional, airbrush makeup can have a number of perks.

Understanding airbrush makeup can help brides determine if it's the best choice for them.

Airbrush makeup is comprised of a very thin liquid makeup that is applied



with the use of an air gun. This produces a thin, even layer of foundation, often creating a matte finish. Makeup artists can custom-blend shades to get the right match for their customers' skin tones. And because the fine mist of

airbrush makeup enables true skin tone to show through, it can appear much more natural.

Many airbrushed formulations are silicone-based, enabling long-lasting wear and water-resistant properties. This is

advantageous when hugging and kissing on one's wedding day. Some airbrush makeup can last up to 16 hours.

Some airbrush formulations are water- or alcohol-based. Alcohol-based options can be used to cover tattoos or birthmarks.

Touchups are minimal with airbrush makeup, and the formulations can be layered to cover blemishes. Airbrush makeup also creates a pristine finish for applying other makeup.

Airbrush makeup is compatible with well-moisturized skin and takes to it well, but dry skin may flake, crack and look flat.

Brides who end up shedding tears of joy on their wedding days might find that airbrush makeup can streak, which can be difficult to cover up.

Because it requires a certain skillset and equipment, airbrush makeup tends to be more expensive than traditional makeup when done by a professional.

Airbrush makeup can create a flawless look and may be an option for brides to consider.



Taste the

Difference...

Book both your Rehearsal & Wedding Meals with us & save 10% off your entire purchase!

With **Triple T Catering**, you'll taste a **difference** because we offer homemade: *Appetizers, Salads, Sides, Entrees, Breads, Desserts and Beverages—*
We serve them all, no gathering is too big or too small.
We will "Meat" your needs!

- Rental Items**
- Tent 40'x20'.....\$250
 - Punch Fountain with Light up Center.....\$75
 - Pony Keg Fridge....\$100

Take-out or Delivery Daily Lunch Specials Served Monday - Friday, 11am - 1pm

401 Sherman Avenue • Ackley, Iowa 50601
Phone: 641-847-0031 • www.tripletmeats.com
Open Monday - Friday from 8am - 5pm & Saturdays, 8am - 12pm

Our Retail Store Offers:
Smoked Meats, Sausages, Steaks, Pork Chops, Baked Goods and more!

Various ways to preserve wedding memories

Couples' wedding days are momentous occasions, and couples want their memories of the day they tied the knot to endure long after the final guest has departed.

Weddings can be amazing, but they only last a few hours. Memories can be forever if they are effectively documented. The following are some ways for couples to permanently memorialize their wedding days.

Dry the bouquet

Wedding bouquets can be freeze-dried and/or chemically preserved so that the colors, textures and the volume of the blooms can appear just as vibrant as they were on couples' wedding days. After preservation, the bouquet can be displayed in a vase or in a specially prepared shadow box with other mementos.

Create a custom locket

Brides can wear a piece of their wedding gown day after day with a custom necklace or locket. All they need to do is trim a small piece of the lace or other embellishment from the gown and enclose it in the locket. Jewelry designers also may be able to convert a section of the gown pattern into metal through a casting process.



Have guests sign the label

Purchase a special bottle of wine or champagne and ask guests to sign the label or the bottle itself. Store the bottle until a special occasion, such as a memorable anniversary, and then toast to a happy marriage.

Make a cake replica

Ask an artist to make a miniature replica of the wedding cake out of pottery. Put the clay cake out for display or ask for it to be made small enough to serve as a Christmas tree ornament.

Teddy bear transformation

Have tuxedo fabric or wedding gown material turned into a keepsake teddy bear. Bowman Bears produces such bears, which can be passed down to future generations.

Create bouquet jewelry
Encapsulate favorite wedding flowers into a resin pendant, bracelet or earrings.

Frame the invitation
Display the wedding invitation in a beautiful frame with custom matting.

Revisit the site
On their anniversaries, couples can visit their ceremony site or have brunch or dinner at the venue where the reception took place. Take an "after" picture to display with the "before" shot from the wedding day.

Make an invitation ornament
Cut the wedding invitation into strips and place it inside of a hollow glass ornament. Seal the top and hang with a ribbon.

Design a greeting card scrapbook
Turn all of those special handwritten messages and well-wishes into a scrapbook so that memories can be revisited time and again.

The planning may take months and the wedding mere hours, but well-documented wedding day memories can last forever.



Did you know?

The phrase "tying the knot" is synonymous with getting married. Although the words can represent the symbolic joining of two lives together, in some cultures, getting married actually requires tying a knot. The custom traces its origins to an ancient Babylonian tradition in which threads from the clothes of both the bride and groom were tied in a knot to represent the couple's union. Other cultures have embraced this tradition, and couples tie ceremonial knots during their wedding ceremonies.



- Wedding Plans*
- call ventures Design & Print for...
 - Save-the-Date Magnets
 - Wedding Invitations
 - Wedding Programs
 - Reception Signage
 - Thank you cards
 - Schedule FREE consult with them 641-486-2211

Creative Expressions for lasting Impressions!

HEART OF IOWA VENTURES, LLC

Design & Print
Center

Find us on Facebook

641-486-2211

Tips for planning the perfect honeymoon

Honeymoons are big business. The average couple spends more than \$5,000 on their honeymoon, indicating just how much meaning couples assign to their first official trip as newlyweds.

It's important for couples working on budgets to realize that there are plenty of ways to plan memorable getaways without breaking the bank. Couples can keep the following strategies in mind as they plan their honeymoons.

Plan and book early

The average engagement length is 15 months. That gives couples plenty of time to plan their weddings, but also a great chance to book their honeymoons well in advance of their wedding days. Fifteen months affords couples the chance to piece together the perfect honeymoon on their own or shop around for package deals.

Delay the honeymoon

Couples without much wiggle room in their budgets or those who simply want to save money can delay their honeymoons, choosing to take their getaways months after they tie the knot. This provides couples with more traveling flexibility. Depending on when couples get married, delaying the honeymoon may push the trip into the vacationing off-season, when more affordable deals can often be found.

Don't shy away from your newlywed status

Resorts might not advertise it, but many offer special amenities to honeymooning newlyweds. Some may provide complementary spa services, while others might offer free room upgrades if they have any vacancies. Such amenities may be grand or small, but no matter their size, they can make honeymoons feel more special.

Give ample consideration to all-inclusive packages

Whether couples are working on tight budgets or planning their honeymoons without regard to cost, all-inclusive packages may be worth the extra money upfront. All-inclusive packages tend to include meals, some beverages and fun activities that couples would otherwise have to pay for à la carte. All-inclusive packages may also remove some of the work of planning the honeymoon because couples won't need to tirelessly research activities and find the most affordable local vendors. Couples can examine the nuts and bolts of all-inclusive packages to make sure they include activities and foods they're likely to enjoy.

Planning a honeymoon takes work, but much of that work is fun, and couples who do their due diligence can save substantial amounts of money.

Start your life together with a business who knows long term....Christ Furniture



Gifts, decor, and more!



FREE DELIVERY
Quality Home Furnishings

CHRIST Furniture and Mattress

STORE HOURS:
Mon. - Fri. 9 - 5:30
Saturday - 9 - 5

448-3413 4 Floors

EAGLE GROVE
www.christfurniture.com

1948 70th 2018
CHRIST FURNITURE EAGLE GROVE IA

Preppy Farmer

Find the perfect personalized gift



Shirts



Platters

Email
preppyfarmer@gmail.com

Phone
515.602.6446

Hours
Mon & Fri 10-4
Tues-Thurs 10-5

Stop in and find out what more we have to offer!



Cutting Boards



Tumblers & Glasses

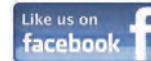
108 N Main St. Clarion, IA

The Red Shed event center



Weddings • Reunions • Meetings • Parties

Julie Dunker
(515)851-0797



908 2nd Street NW
Clarion, Iowa

Maintain honeymoon beauty

Most couples who choose to have traditional weddings take a honeymoon. Around 1.4 million couples in the United States depart for honeymoons around the world each year, spending an average of \$4,466 on the trip.

Though not nearly as pressure-filled as wedding planning, honeymoons do require some planning to ensure a fun and memorable trip. Many couples indicate they are most likely to worry about wardrobe, swimsuits, sunglasses, sunscreen, and luggage when getting ready to depart.

Couples who want to look their best on their honeymoon and in their honeymoon photos should not forget to pack the following items.

Sunscreen

Sunscreen is a must whether you're traveling to the pink beaches of a tropical island or the slopes of a ski resort. Choose a product that protects against both UVA and UVB rays, and be sure to reapply every 80 minutes or so, especially after perspiring or swimming. Sunscreen will help prevent damaging and painful sunburns that can adversely affect a trip.

Makeup-remover wipes

Even high-end resorts may not provide the correct face bar for removing makeup and refreshing skin. Makeup-removing wipes can offer deep cleaning in a few convenient swipes.

Hair refresher

Brides who want to get a few extra days out of a wedding day hairstyle should pack a hair refreshing spray to tame static and add UV protectors that keep locks pampered until they're ready to wash. Dry shampoos also allow for a little refreshing of hair between daytime adventures and evening dinner.

Eye cream

There may be a few late nights while you're enjoying romantic, candlelit meals or hitting up the hot spots around a resort. Ensure honeymoon photos do not show tired eyes with an eye cream that can reduce puffiness and dark circles.

Tinted moisturizer or BB cream

A high-quality tinted moisturizer or BB cream will hydrate skin and add just a sheer wash of color to even out skin tone. Pair with lip balm and a waterproof mascara and your honeymoon face will be ready.

Teeth whitening treatment

Couples who invested time and money into achieving whiter teeth for their weddings don't want to let all of that hard work go to waste. Brush on whitening product after eating and drinking to prevent stains and freshen breath.

Blotting papers

Humid climates may cause perspiration and oils to leach out of the skin. Tame shine and that greasy feeling with blotting papers purchased from a cosmetics retailer.

Light fragrance

Heavy perfumes have no business on breezy honeymoon escapes. Find a light, flowery scent or something tied to nature, like citrus in a travel-sized atomizer.

Stick-on bra cups

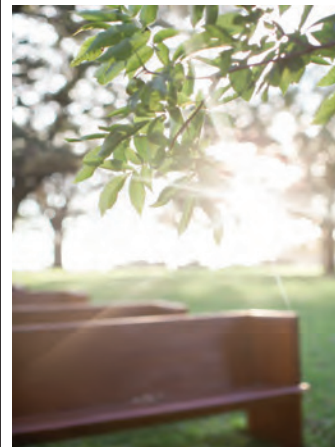
To feel more stylish and comfortable in strapless and/or backless dresses on their honeymoons, brides can use stick-on bra cups that offer support and lift.

Travel brow kit

Keep brows tamed and looking great with mini-tweezers, brow filler and gel. Honeymoon beauty is easy to achieve if the right supplies are brought along on the trip.



Jenni O Photography



For a love so sweet

Glory Cakes

22379 245th St., Hubbard, IA
641-849-0335
glorycakesiowa@gmail.com



diamondoakevents.com

Clear Lake, IA 641-357-1075

Heritage Photography Co

We Are Here For All Your

Wedding Needs



We rent most everything

EVENT SOLUTIONS

We pride ourselves on providing only the finest products to our customers.

RENTAL ITEMS

Tents • Lighting • Tables & Chairs
Gazebo • Arches & Columns
Dance Floor • Back Drops
Centerpieces • Chafing Dishes
Table Covers & Skirting
Mirror Tiles • Candelabra
China & Flatware
Coffee Makers • Glassware
Chocolate Fountain • Punch Bowls
Beverage Fountains • Cake Tiers
Popcorn & Snow Cone Machines
Cotton Candy & Slush Machines
Inflatables

SALES ITEMS

Aisle Runners
Decorations
Over 25 colors of:
• Plates
• Napkins
• Table Covers
• Cutlery
Concession Supplies

We are serving you out of the following two locations:

EQUIPMENT:
MASON CITY RENTALL
518 S Pennsylvania Ave.
Mason City, IA 50401

PARTY:
EVENT SOLUTIONS
111 6th St SE
Mason City, IA 50401

RENT-ALL

FOLLOW US ON
FACEBOOK & TWITTER



641-424-4949 www.mcrentall.com