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BRIDE & Joy WEDDING GUIDE



Featured Stories

Christine & Travis

With Two in Heaven...
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Molly & Ben

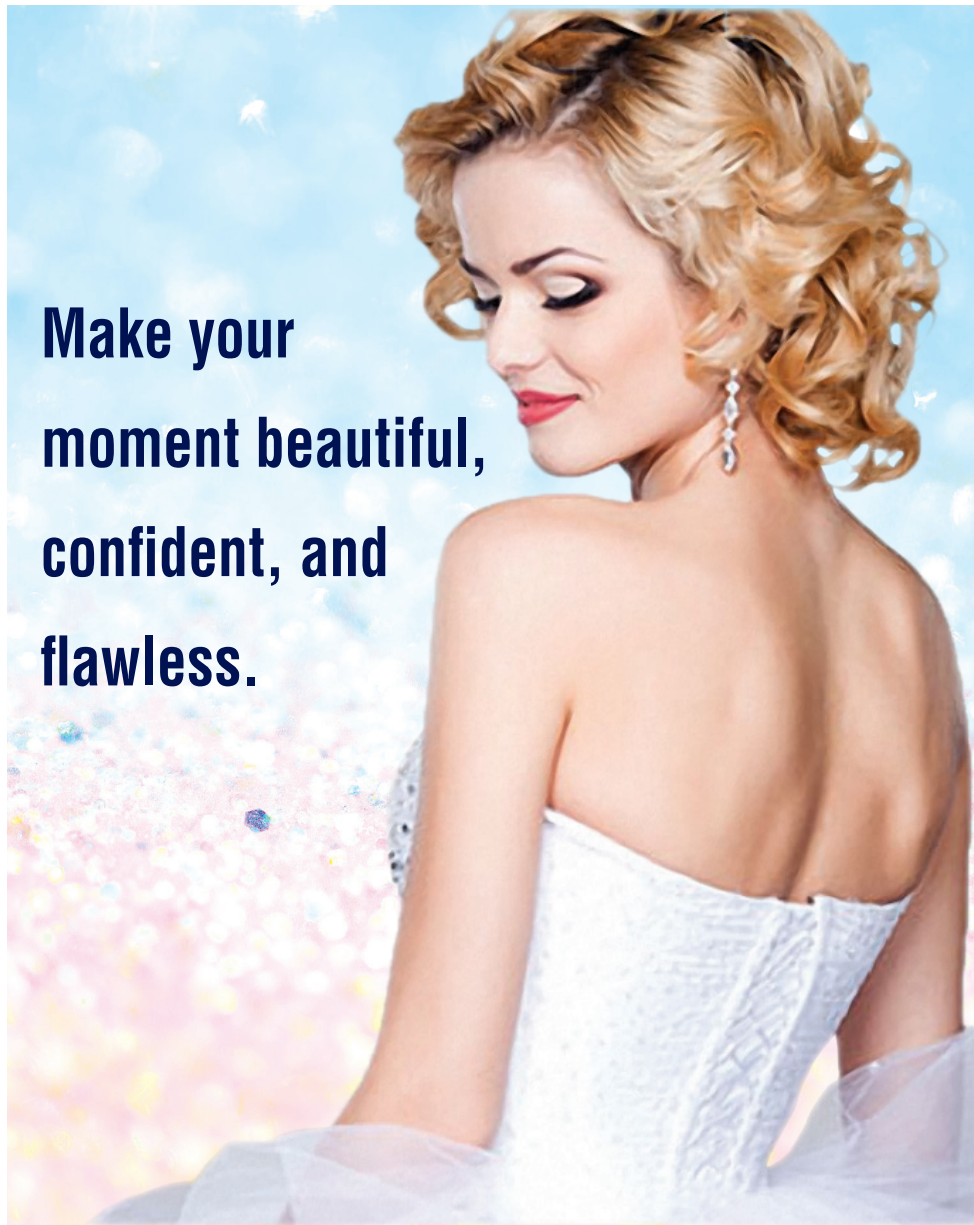
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Music is an Important Component of Wedding Celebrations

Few things set the mood of a wedding more effectively than music. Beautiful songs often are incorporated into wedding ceremonies, and romantic or upbeat songs intermingle to create a festive mix at receptions.

Playlists curated specifically for weddings can be found online to help couples narrow down their options. According to Wedding Forward, a wedding planning guide, wedding planning experts and modern couples agree that wedding playlists should have a 60/40 split of classics and new wedding songs.

Music is a personal choice, but couples may benefit by considering who will be in attendance at their weddings. In so doing, couples can ensure the music played at their weddings reaches as many people as possible there:

- **Wedding processional song:** The wedding processional is the moment the wedding party walks down the aisle. Music may be a traditional hymn, classical music or a favorite contemporary song.

- **Bridal processional song:** In many traditional wedding ceremonies, the bride walks down the aisle separately, with her father or both parents. She customarily will have a different song from the rest of the wedding party. While "Bridal Chorus/Wedding March" is a traditional choice, some brides may prefer a different tune.

- **Wedding recessional song:** Again, depending on the ceremony location and choices, the recessional may be a classical piece or a hymn. Some couples choose an upbeat song for their first official promenade as a married couple.

- **Wedding party entrance song:** Couples can ask their music vendor to put together the majority of the songs for their reception, but they may want to choose their own wedding party



entrance. This song typically is a fast-paced, upbeat song that gets the crowd pumping and ready for a fun night. Think "Dynamite" by Taio Cruz or "Can't Stop the Feeling!" by Justin Timberlake.

- **First dance:** The first dance song is another personal choice for the couple. Slow songs traditionally are chosen, but couples who want something a little different have increasingly selected faster songs and paired them with rehearsed choreography. "Thinking Out Loud" by Ed Sheeran has become a popular first dance song.

- **Other songs:** Couples also will select songs to complement dances with their parents, cake cutting, garter toss, and any other special traditions or moments. They also can make requests to include songs of different eras to appeal to guests of all ages.

Music is an important component of wedding celebrations and deserves some extra consideration to ensure everyone has a great time while cutting a rug. *©metrocreativeconnection*

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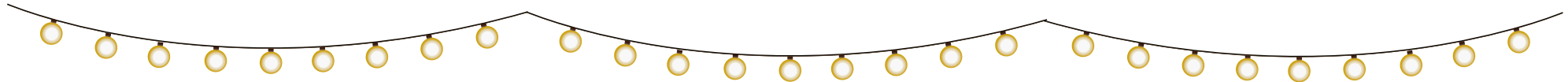


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Did you know?

Christmas Day is the most popular day to get engaged. According to the 2020 WeddingWire Newlywed Report, more couples who were married in 2019 got engaged on Christmas Day than any other day during the year. Christmas Eve was the second most popular day to pop the question, while the Sunday before Christmas Eve came in fourth (New Year's Day rounded out the top three). The appeal of Christmas-time proposals helped make December the most popular month to get engaged, as more than 19 percent of couples who married in 2019 got engaged in the final month of the year. July proved the second most popular month to pop the question, as 9 percent of couples who wed in 2019 reported getting engaged in July. Tradition still has a place in wedding proposals, as 84 percent of proposers reported asking on bended knee, while 65 percent acknowledged asking parents' permission prior to popping the question. metrocreativeconnection.com



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— by Mary Meinking Chambers

Molly Heidebrink and Benjamin Chambers grew up just across the lake from one another. They knew of each other, but never dated during their years together at Spirit Lake High School. It wasn't until Molly returned home from Colorado in March 2017, that they reconnected. Soon love began to grow.

Ben decided to propose to Molly at sunset on July 3rd, 2018. Both of their families were together, looking forward to the annual Big Spirit fireworks show. Ben and Molly walked to the end of the dock amongst their swimming, splashing nieces. Soon Ben popped the question with a blue sapphire and diamond ring. Molly quickly said, "yes!" A colorful fireworks display capped off their momentous day.

A "Tie the Knot" bridal theme was put in place for a September 2020 wedding. But when COVID-19 hit, the guest list was cut by 80% to only immediate family. They sent out new save-the-date cards to everyone else, with a summer 2021 reception date.

Molly found her white A-line wedding dress, at Elegance, in Okoboji. The attendants' two-piece burgundy dresses and the men's navy suits were from Elegance as well. Molly said, "everyone from Elegance was amazing, especially Shannon, who helped me from looking for my dress to my last fitting! Everything was flawless!" The two flower girls and ring bearer wore matching burgundy tulle dresses.

Their family friend, Donna Mau, designed the bouquets of hydrangeas cut from her garden. Molly's bouquet was burgundy and white silk calla lilies. The men's boutonnieres included a knotted rope, to "tie" into the nautical theme.

The rehearsal dinner was held at Kazarelli's, at Miller's Bay. The couple's original pasta bar plan was changed because of COVID-19 restrictions to a menu of seafood cannelloni, tobacco sirloin, chicken parm and lasagna. "Dan (the chef/owner) was so flexible with the menu and working with the COVID rules," Ben said.

As the big day approached, the bridal party ladies had their nails done at B Polished, in Spirit Lake. Molly and her attendants had their hair done at the Hair Team, also in Spirit Lake.

On September 12, 2020, Missy Webber officiated the lakeside wedding ceremony at the brides' parent's Big Spirit Lake home. That morning, rain clouds threatened from across the lake, so they constructed a tent over the wedding arbor, provided by Elements of Arnolds Park. Elements also provided the guest chairs. Everyone quickly gathered umbrellas and the ceremony proceeded, since a few sprinkles couldn't stop their big day.

Molly chose her brother, Jimmy Heidebrink, as her Man of Honor and Ben chose his sister, Brit-

tany Salton, as his Best Woman. Molly's brother and niece, Ryan and McKayla Johnson, and her best friend, Jess Van Dyke, stood up for her. Ben's side included his brother-in-law, Jason Salton and college friends Cory and Katie Mayo. Elise and Nora Salton, Ben's nieces, were the flower girls. Emma Johnson, Molly's niece, was the ring bearer and escort of the couple's dogs Loki and Lilly.

With impending rain, the outdoor reception was moved indoors to Gull Point State Park Lodge. Campus Cleaners, in Spirit Lake, provided the white table linens.

Smokin' Jakes, of Arnolds Park, provided the tasty food. Happy hour munchies included cheese and crackers, veggies and dip, and fresh fruits. Dinner was pulled pork sandwiches, baked beans, pasta salad and cheesy potatoes. Terry Heidebrink, the bride's father, made nine varieties of wines, which guests sampled along with other beverages.

To follow the lake theme, people signed wooden oars instead of the typical guest book. Lit wine bottles decorated the tables. Mary Heidebrink, the bride's mother, created the head table's decorations.

Susie Dreckerman Hofman, of Orange City, made the delicious almond, lemon, carrot, chocolate raspberry and red velvet cupcakes. A Ferris wheel of candies and chocolates accented the "sweets table." The bride's mother made the chocolate and peanut butter cake for their cake cutting ceremony.

Jimmy Mac Entertainment, of Okoboji, DJed the wedding dance. He played fun wedding games and pop/rock songs to get everyone out on the dance floor. The newlyweds' first dance was to "Your Song" by Elton John. Ben chose it because of the lyrics "how wonderful life is, while you're in the world."

Katie M. Burkhardt Photography captured the day in pictures. Drew Dau Photo and Film created a video of the day, set to the same Elton John song.

The newlyweds' first night was spent at The Inn Hotel, in Arnolds Park. Their honeymoon was delayed due to COVID-19, but they plan to reschedule it, once things return to normal.

Ben is a welder-fabricator at VW Docks, in Spirit Lake. Molly is an LPN at MercyOne Clinic, in Hartley, Iowa. She is also continuing her nursing degree at Northwest Iowa Community College. The newlyweds currently live in Spencer and look forward to celebrating with everyone this summer.

Congratulations, Molly and Ben! May you LIVE together in a marriage full of LOVE and happiness as you enjoy life at the LAKES!

"A knot that becomes wet is extremely hard to untie. Therefore, when you "tie the knot" on a rainy day, your marriage is as hard to unravel!"
~ Hindu traditional belief



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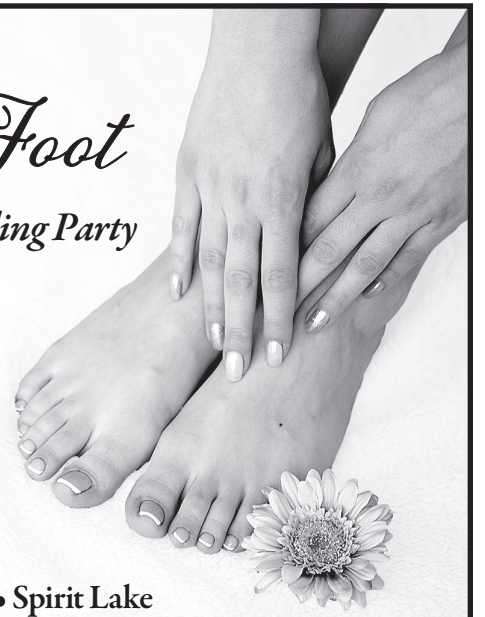
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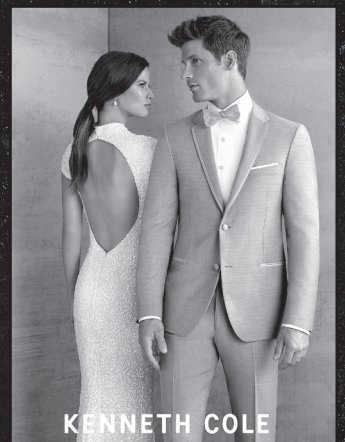
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Make a Statement with Your Wedding Cake

Brides and grooms may pour over every detail of their weddings, but few components of the festivities may be as fun, especially for foodies, as deciding what the wedding cake will look like. Couples who want to deliver show-stopping visuals often express some measure of their creativity and personalities through statement wedding cakes.

Many couples now eschew the classic three-tiered white cake in favor of a dessert that garners instant attention. Whether the cake is brightly colored or hand-painted, a towering architectural marvel or shimmering in metallics, couples are opting to make a statement with their confections. Apart from clever cake-toppers, here are ways to stand apart when dessert is served.

- According to the Perfect Wedding Guide, a rising trend in cakes is to cover a white or naked cake with translucent glaze tinted in the couple's wedding colors. This artistic expression can be especially stunning in boho-chic weddings.

- Statement tiers also are popular. The cake may be traditional in nearly every way, but couples then set the cake apart by featuring an elaborate design or a different hue in one tier.

- Martha Stewart Weddings advises that more than just color can be used to make a statement. Lifelike sugar flowers can really set cakes apart. Guests may not be sure if they

can consume all aspects of some cakes. But delicate sugar flowers taste as good as they look.

- Hand-painted tiles on a cake are another way to add panache. A bride and groom may be inspired by a European vacation or the stained-glass effects of religious windows and want to add that feel to the tiers of the cake.

- Sometimes a statement comes by way of texture. Even an all-white cake can be dressed up with interesting textural effects. Ruffles, lace, embossing, and 3-D rosettes are different textural components that can be incorporated in cake designs.

- Couples also may want to tell their

unique stories with cake. Individual tiers designed to reflect various milestone moments from the couple's relationship can be quite engaging.

- Capitalizing on the trend of edgier weddings, couples may opt for darker hues on their cakes — even a black tier — or nontraditional geometric shapes to the cake itself or its design elements.

Statement cakes can really say something about the couple getting married. Much like other wedding elements, cakes provide a window into the minds of happy couples. *@metrocreativeconnection*



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Okoboji Love Stories Have a Beautiful RING to Them

“Kylie and I met, by chance, at the 2018 Winter Games in Okoboji 3 years ago. We just seemed to click right away. We both felt super comfortable with each other, and it seemed perfect... It was perfect. She was going to school at Iowa State and I was working in Spirit Lake so it was a long-distance relationship, but I knew it would be worth it. It was a year or so after when I began to realize how much Kylie meant to me. She helped make me realize how amazing of a person I really could be. She makes me the best person I could ever begin to dream of and I am so lucky to have her and to be a part of her family, and for her to be a part of mine. We both knew this year the 2021 Winter Games were going to be different with all the COVID-19 protocols, but I was sure to still make it special by scooping a walkway out onto the ice out-front of the Johnston Residence, with a trail of rose petals and asking her that magic question: if she would be mine. She said yes with no hesitation and it was another magical Winter Games for the two of us in Okoboji, Iowa. And after three years of long distance, we’re finally going to settle down and build a life ... together. Working with both Shelley, Melinda, and the team at Spirit Lake Silver and Gold, could not have gone better! I came in with zero knowledge of rings/diamonds and with a sketch on how I wanted the ring to look and they made it happen! Absolutely perfect, on the first try!! It was done super quickly, and they made me feel like I was important! I will always use Spirit Lake Silver and Gold!” - Axel J.

process, how artistic and original the piece is. It all takes time and we talk about the price and their budget so there are no surprises.”

Like Brian, many guys bring their special someone into Spirit Lake Silver and Gold so she can help with choosing the ring of her dreams. This makes the occasion a special and memorable experience for everyone.

Here’s what Brian had to say about his experience,

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Lake Silver and Gold customers and without knowing what we were looking for, Karen helped us find the perfect engagement ring! She made the whole process easy, enjoyable and best of all, stress-free. When we returned a few weeks later to look at men’s rings, Shelley and Melinda shared in our excitement and were very accommodating. Not only does Spirit Lake Silver and Gold have an expansive inventory with something for everyone, but they also have the most knowledgeable and sweetest staff!”

At Spirit Lake Silver and Gold, we love helping couples create the jewelry of their dreams and feel so honored and appreciated when they send us their friends and family to take care of as well. That trust that the customer has in us makes us get up each morning excited to help whoever walks in our store.

These are only a few of the many Okoboji love stories we have been a part of and we are so excited for many more in 2021! If you are looking into custom design, stop on into Spirit Lake Silver and Gold and join the many happy customers before you!




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Shelley, Spirit Lake Silver and Gold’s manager of 30 years and Custom Design Expert, talks a little about the process, “I really think a key is the open, honest, sincere communication between my customer and I. We talk about the design





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3 Tools for Keeping Wedding Guests Informed

Weddings give couples an opportunity to share the joy of joining their lives together with a host of friends and family members. Guests liven up the party and help make the celebration that much more memorable.

According to The Knot 2019 Real Weddings Study, the average wedding in the United States hosts 131 people. Data indicates this number has been slowly decreasing over the years, after the average wedding size reached an all-time high of 153 in 2007. No matter how big or how small the guest list, keeping guests informed of what's happening regarding the upcoming nuptials is a courtesy couples can provide. Couples can explore various avenues for keeping guests informed and ensuring they'll be able to take part in the festivities.

Save-the-date announcements

Save-the-date announcements have become an increasingly popular component of wedding planning. Instead of waiting on the wedding invitation, which traditionally arrives one or two months prior to the wedding itself, save-the-date cards provide guests with an advanced advertisement of the celebration to come. According to the photo and invitation specialists at Shutterfly, it's customary to send save-the-date notes around six months before the wedding. For a destination wedding, which will require extra travel plans, an eight- to 12-month advance can be helpful.

Save-the-date cards generally have basic information, including the wedding date and the venue. Many will feature a photo of the couple as well. If you're planning on sending save-the-date announcements, coordinate with your photographer to have a photo taken exclusively for these cards.

Wedding website

Couples are increasingly embracing technology as they plan their weddings. Brides magazine states that, during the typical 15-month engagement period, 48 percent of couples will launch a wedding website. A wedding website is a versatile tool that can help answer questions that guests may have. The website can

spell out specifics, including dress code, whether children are invited, the names of wedding party participants, overnight accommodations, transportation providers, and even restaurants near the hotel for a quick bite between ceremony and reception.

Wedding websites also can be used as fun ways to keep guests engaged. "Throwback Thursday" photos or funny memories and anecdotes can be included.

Video conferencing apps

As the world continues to adapt in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, video conferencing applications like Facetime, Zoom and Microsoft Teams enable people involved in the planning process to routinely "gather" and go over details about the wedding, helping to limit in-person meetings as much as possible. These apps also can prove invaluable when conferring with wedding vendors, such as florists or musicians.

You also can schedule smaller meetings with specific guests who may be playing key roles in the wedding, such as those giving speeches, doing readings, escorting guests, or serving in other capacities.

Certain resources can help couples keep guests informed about what's to come in regard to their weddings. metrocreativeconnection.com





— by Jenna Van Iperen

The story of Travis Jostand and Christine Stahly is unique and beautiful. Two broken hearts not looking for love again but finding it in each other.

Travis and Christine met for the first time in December 2018 when mutual friends decided to have a Christmas themed game night at Christine's house and Travis came along. Christine

knew of the recent loss of his long-time girlfriend Bethany to cancer. This caught Christine's attention because she knew Bethany, and had also just lost her husband Justin unexpectedly, in a snowmobile accident a few months earlier. Christine mentioned that her heart went out to him a little extra when she heard of their unfortunate news. Travis and Christine started out that night not really speaking much to each other, but as the night went on, they found themselves distanced from the group, laughing together. Neither Travis nor Christine wanted to find love again, but they kept finding themselves in that same position, unexpectedly being at the same places, gravitating towards each other, even when they tried to stay away. Christine said, "We have so many mutual friends, it's crazy how our paths probably crossed countless times, but the universe waited for the perfect time for us to actually meet. An old tailgating photo from a 2011 Iowa football game showed Travis right behind her in the picture.



Fun Fact about the night they met: Christine was wearing a Mike Tyson face tattoo.

One day, while his truck was in the shop, Travis asked Christine to run him to Nautical for lunch and they haven't been apart much since then!

Travis proposed to Christine in May of 2020. He had been asking her almost daily for months if she was going to marry him someday- but she definitely wasn't expecting it the day he pulled out the ring. Christine stated that it was a routine night at home. Travis was downstairs with his daughter Jaelyn and her kids, Jake and Hayden. He pulled the oldest, Jaelyn, aside first, and wanted to get a sense of what her thoughts would be, so he showed her the ring. Jaelyn was instantly excited and her first response was an idea on how to propose to Christine. Travis definitely took that as the green light! Jaelyn told Travis to pretend that he had a magic trick, that Christine would have to close her eyes, and then he would pull out the ring. She was so excited that she ran to tell Jake and Hayden what was about to happen. Christine was upstairs in the bathroom getting ready for bed when the girls came into her room giggling like they were up to something. Just a minute later, Travis came into the bathroom and closed the door. Travis asked Christine to close her eyes, she instantly assumed some kind of prank was coming, so she refused. He took Christine by her hands, told her how much she meant to him, along with all kinds of incredibly heartfelt things that she will always keep between the two of them, Travis pulled the ring out of his pocket, and got down on one knee. Immediately after Christine said yes, the kids were all banging on the door asking if they could come in yet!! Travis later told Christine that he had planned a different proposal, but knowing the kids wouldn't be able to keep his secret, he asked her on the spot. After the proposal, the

kids instantly got on their phones to call their families and closest friends to share the news for Travis and Christine. Then all went out to celebrate their engagement in their pajamas!

Travis had picked out a beautiful engagement ring from Blue Nile. It's one colorless, brilliant cut diamond surrounded by sixteen smaller ones in a Platinum French Pavè set, with two bands, each with a single row of nineteen of the same luminous faceted gemstones; "They shine brighter than any diamonds I've ever seen," said Christine. They later read that some think that three rings means, "I love you today. I love you tomorrow. I love you always." Travis and Christine went to Silver and Gold to pick out Travis's wedding band. He picked out a Black Titanium ring. It was the first one he chose and it actually fit!

Christine began to plan for the big day that was coming up in just 4 short months. On the checklist: a joint bachelor and bachelorette party on the Barefoot Barge with some of their closest friends; Christine mentions it being "an absolutely perfect day!"; and a rehearsal dinner and 40th birthday party for the bride at The Hutt in Arnolds Park. The first item on the to-do list was to find herself a dress. She





found a beautiful ivory, Stella York strapless lace dress, and added a rhinestone belt. All the bridesmaids picked out their own style dresses in shades of blue that they chose and some wore rhinestone feather hair clips to represent their guardian angels. The men wore ultra slim Brunswick suits in sand. All dresses and suits were from Elegance by Sarah Ruhs in Okoboji.

The flowers Christine chose were mostly pale pink or white cabbage roses and hydrangeas mixed with eucalyptus leaves and hints of blue thistles. The boutonnieres were mixtures of roses, baby's breath, and eucalyptus leaves. All flowers were done by Elements Design Studio in Arnolds Park. All the bridesmaids hair was done by Amber Mortenson and makeup was done by Shelby Kunerth, both at Euphoria Salon in Okoboji. Christine painted her own nails in the windy parking lot of the Okoboji High School, while she caught ten minutes of her son Jakes' football game in between hair, makeup, and pictures. Luke + Savannah Photography in Sioux Falls, SD captured the day in pictures for Travis and Christine.

Christine pictured a small wedding because it was in the middle of a pandemic, but Travis was the one who wanted to tour The Roof Garden. They both thought that the space would be nice for those who wanted distance so they decided to go big! Shades of dusty blue, off white and gold set the scene for the beautiful ceremony, officiated by their friend Matt Sewell, which took place outside at Preservation Plaza. Travis and Christine exchanged their vows in front of all their family and closest friends on September 19, 2020. She mentioned that they both started to giggle after being pronounced husband and wife. It was her favorite moment, favorite photo and best memory!

The bride's wedding party included Allison Cacek as her Maid of Honor, Bridesmaids were Janna Christiansen, Marcee Irlbeck, Alejandra Knight, Missy Jostand, Hayden Stahly, and Jaelyn Jostand. The groom's wedding party included Jacob Jostand, as Travis's Best Man with Groomsmen, Chris Weyhrich, Jamie Jostand, Chad Clary, Dallas Merten, Seth Feller, and Jake Stahly.

The reception was held at The Roof Garden in Arnolds Park. A mix of rustic wooden slabs, flowers, gold geometric shapes and candles set the mood for the reception. Travis and Christine wanted to integrate Justin and Bethany into their special day, so they displayed their pictures with a heartfelt message about them. "Treasured in my heart you'll stay, until we meet again someday."

Dinner was a choice of broasted chicken or roast beef, catered by Hi-Lo Restaurant and

Catering in Lakefield, MN. The cake was a tiered display of Wyman's Spudnuts donuts, topped with a simple 6" cake by Hy-Vee. They also had Spudnuts donut holes, which Christine stated were all gone by the time dinner started! After dinner they went down the line and let any of the wedding party speak, who wanted to. Christine mentions that there were some very heartfelt words shared that night, a few tears, and a lot of laughs.

Travis and Christine chose DJ Greg Spaethe aka Biggie G Entertainment out of Lake Park, IA, to keep the party going! The dance went on for 4 hours. "There were kids and adults on the dance floor all night long," Christine said. Everyone had such a blast at the reception that they completely forgot to cut the cake which the new couple cut the next morning during tear down.

The Jostands are putting the Honeymoon on hold because of the Coronavirus. "We are going to wait to see if things start opening back up before we decide," said Christine. They look forward to spending that special time together.

Travis is Operations Manager at Clary Lake Service, in Milford. Christine is an associate in the Special Education Class at Okoboji Elementary. They have 3 kids together, Jaelyn, Jake, and Hayden. Congratulations, Travis and Christine! With Two In Heaven You are Now a Family of Seven!

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Horoscope

ARIES – March 21/April 20

Aries, you are feeling ambitious this week, so it might be time to try a new hobby or other interest. Write down your goals and see if any align with potential hobbies.

TAURUS – April 21/May 21

Taurus, some nice surprises are likely to come your way, especially in your private life. Enjoy every moment as it unfolds and express your appreciation when applicable.

GEMINI – May 22/June 21

Gemini, you are likely to upstage everyone else this week because people simply cannot get enough of your magnetic personality. If you grow weary of the limelight, take a break.

CANCER – June 22/July 22

Cancer, clear your social schedule in favor of some quiet time at home. Such a respite can provide a great opportunity to reflect and make a new plan.

LEO – July 23/August 23

Leo, you have a goal to meet someone new and there's a good chance you will discover that person in the days to come. Accept the possibility that hopes and dreams can come true.

VIRGO – August 24/September 22

Virgo, friends often end up filling familial roles. Even though a person may not be related by blood, certain friends can be relied upon through thick and thin.

LIBRA – September 23/October 23

Even though the holidays are over you may still want to continue the celebration, Libra. Find a way to socialize with friends or family in a responsible manner.

SCORPIO – October 24/November 22

Scorpio, you may be finished with the business that made last month hectic. Now you are ready to start a new chapter. A calm period is ahead.

SAGITTARIUS – November 23/December 21

Sagittarius, a potentially lucrative opportunity may present itself in the days to come. Consider all of your options and give equal thought to all of them.

CAPRICORN – December 22/January 20

Capricorn, even if you don't say much, there is a lot of chatter going on in your head. Take some time to find a quiet place and meditate for a while.

AQUARIUS – January 21/February 18

Sometimes you just have to take a risk without vetting all of the possible outcomes, Aquarius. If it feels like it's a good time to make a change, embrace the opportunity.

PISCES – February 19/March 20

This week is the ideal opportunity to show strength and exhibit your organizational skills, Pisces. Don't be afraid to think big.

Famous Birthdays

February 14 - Freddie Highmore, Actor (29)

February 15 - Matt Groening, Cartoonist (67)

February 16 - Ice T, Actor (63)

February 17 - Ed Sheeran, Singer (30)

February 18 - Vanna White, TV Host (64)

February 19 - Millie Bobby Brown, Actress (17)

February 20 - Trevor Noah, Comic (37)

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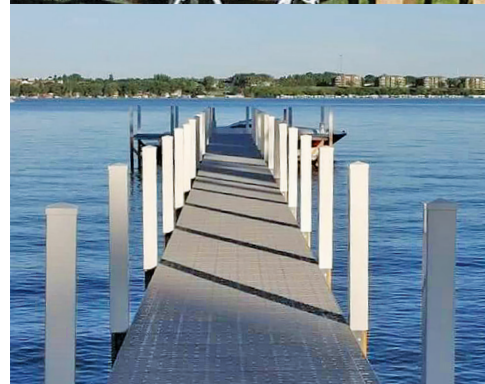
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Photo courtesy of A Couple Moore



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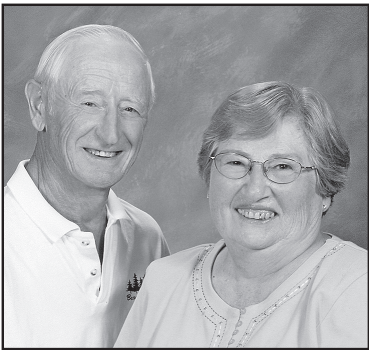
60 Years
Chuck & Judy Lewis of Spencer
Married June 11, 1960



65 Years
Don & Gloria Lamb of Milford
Married June 12, 1955



70 Years
Wayne & Mary Christensen of Estherville
Married August 1, 1950



60 Years
Wayne & Glatha Langel of Milford
Married August 6, 1960



60 Years
Harrold & Sunny Fronk of Spirit Lake
Married August 7, 1960



65 Years
Bob & Betty Sneitzer of Spirit Lake
Married June 11, 1955



65 Years
Jim & Mareen Erwin of Spencer
Married August 26, 1955



70 Years
Virgil & Marietta Wahlman of Milford
Married September 3, 1950



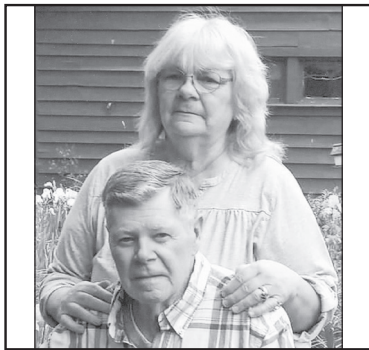
65 Years
Fred & Margaret McKim of Arnolds Park
Married October 15, 1955



70 Years
Bill & Vangie Harris of Spencer
Married November 10, 1950



70 Years
Bernard & Marlene Kelley of Terril
Married January 14, 1951



60 Years
Pete & Sally Jepsen of Terril
Married February 11, 1961



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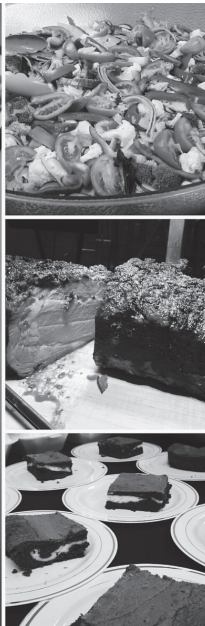
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Dos and Don'ts of Caring for Wedding and Engagement Rings

Jewelry is a key component of weddings. The financial resource CreditDonkey notes that, in the United States, the average amount spent on an engagement ring is \$5,500, while Canadians spend an average of \$3,500. Jewelry costs can add up, especially when adding in the cost of wedding bands, which can cost as much as \$1,000. The cost of jewelry only underscores the importance of learning how to care for it and preserve its value.

The best way to maintain jewelry depends on the makeup of the rings. The online jewelry guide Jewelry Notes says gold rings without gemstones can be cleaned effectively with only soap and water. Simply prepare a solution of lukewarm water and mild dish soap in a small bowl. Soak the rings for 20 to 30 minutes. Use a soft brush or cloth to clean the jewelry of dirt. Rinse the residue under clean water.

Rings with diamonds can be treated similarly with a mild soap-and-water solution. The Diamond Information Center also says to soak the diamond ring in equal parts cold water and ammonia for half an hour and let it air dry. Brand name jewelry cleaner also is another good option. This method only should be used with diamonds; ammonia can't be used with other gemstones.

Maintaining jewelry also should include twice yearly visits to a jeweler who can check the prongs and make sure the setting is not loose; otherwise, the diamond can become dislodged,

according to Martha Stewart Weddings. Avoid touching diamonds and other gemstones as much as possible when putting rings on and taking them off. Precious stones often are magnets for dust, dirt and body oil, according to Taylor Lanore, diamond consultant and engagement ring designer for Lauren B. Fine Jewelry and Diamonds. Grab the ring by the band.

Use discretion when wearing rings while engaging in hands-on activities. Activities like cleaning dishes, moving furniture, gardening, or diving through waves at the beach warrant caution; otherwise,

you risk damaging or making jewelry unnecessarily dirty. Store the ring in a safe location until you can safely wear it again.

One of the most important steps to safeguard wedding and engagement rings is to insure the jewelry. The description of the ring, its cut, carat weight, metal, and other information offered through a certified independent jewelry appraisal will be needed to insure the ring. Take a close-up photo of the jewelry as well. Other items like laser inscription or a home security system can qualify jewelry owners for discounts on insurance. Consumers also can add a jewelry rider to a homeowner's or renter's insurance policy.

These are some ways to care for wedding jewelry. Always consult with a jeweler before attempting to clean items made of various materials. *@metrocreativeconnection*





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Features to Look for in an Outdoor Wedding Venue

Couples will remember their wedding day for the rest of their lives. The day a couple says "I do" is often the culmination of months of planning, and much of those efforts are dedicated to creating a special ceremony that will create cherished memories.

The choice of venue is a significant decision, and today's couples have more options regarding where to tie the knot than ever before. Many couples on the cusp of getting hitched are looking to do so in the great outdoors.

Nature took center stage at weddings in 2020, as many couples moved their ceremonies outdoors to adhere to government guidelines issued in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Couples considering outdoor venues for their weddings can look for certain features that can make the big day as special as it is safe.

- **Backdrop:** An awe-inspiring backdrop, whether it's the natural beauty of a mountaintop or a beach with the sound of ocean waves crashing into the shoreline, can make for great photos and a ceremony couples and their guests will never forget.

- **Plan B:** Couples may work hard to ensure everything goes off without a hitch, but ultimately the elements are in control during outdoor wedding ceremonies. So couples hoping to host an outdoor ceremony may want to look for sites that have a readily accessible indoor option just in case Mother Nature is not cooperating. Many reception venues are capable of hosting indoor and outdoor cer-

emonies as well as dinners, so this might be the best option for couples who want to have outdoor weddings during times of the year when weather is typically inclement or unpredictable, such as winter, early spring or late fall.

- **Lighting:** What's awe-inspiring in person may be hard to capture on film. Couples may want to bring their wedding photographers along as they search

for outdoor ceremony sites. Professional photographers can help couples determine which sites will make for great photos and which ones might make it hard to capture the beauty of the site's surroundings.

- **Accessibility:** Couples will want to make sure all of their guests can be there to witness the ceremony. Before choosing an outdoor ceremony site, consider those guests who may have mobility issues, such as grandparents. A midday hike up a mountain might be doable for most guests, but it may exclude others from witnessing the ceremony. Try to find an outdoor ceremony site that's readily accessible to everyone. In addition, keep in mind that the more accessible a site is the easier it is to get away and get indoors if the weather takes a sudden, unexpected turn for the worse.

Outdoor weddings are wildly popular. Couples who find outdoor ceremony sites with certain features may rest easier knowing they and their guests are safe and sound no matter what Mother Nature has in store come the big day. *@metrocreativeconnection*



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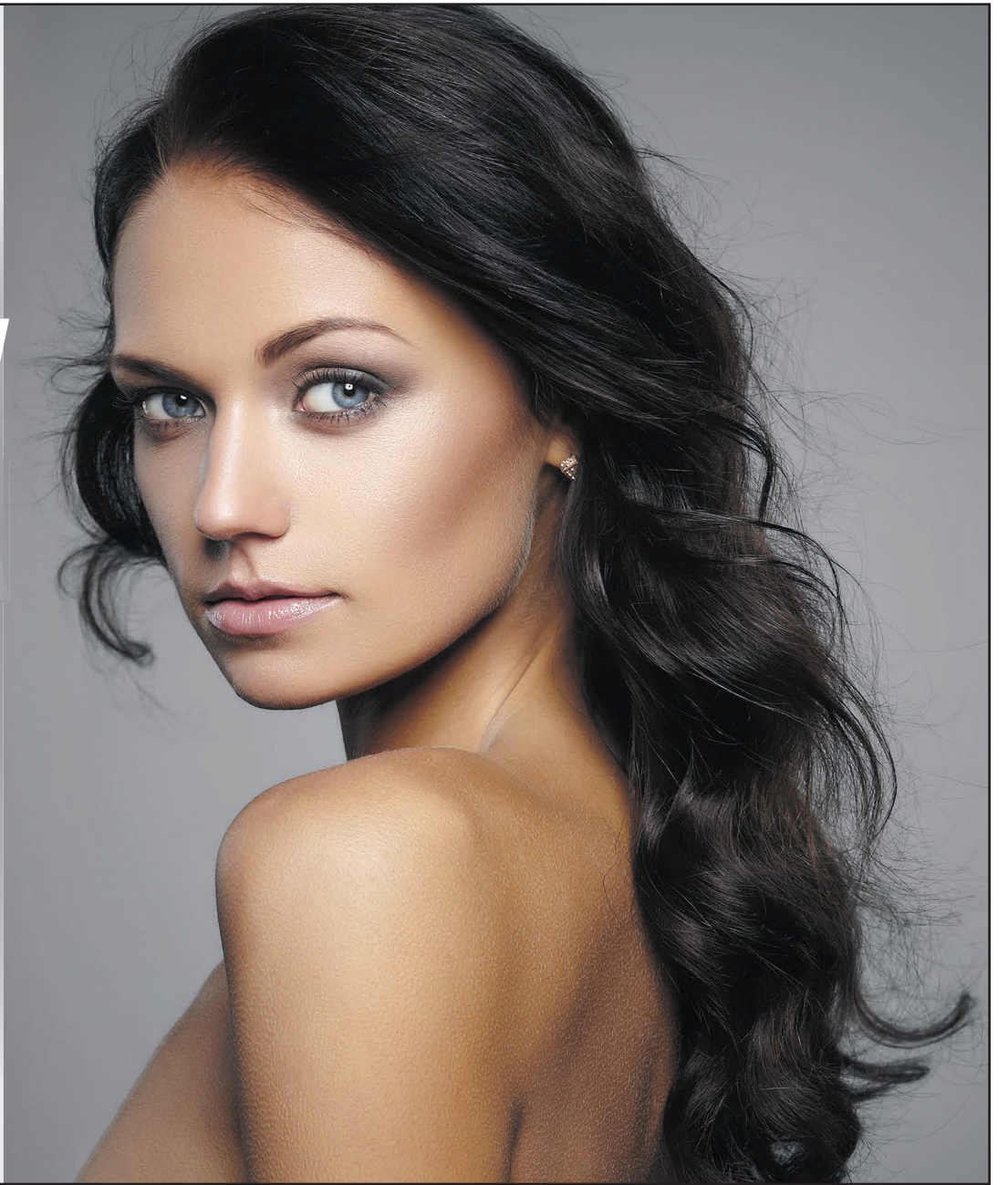
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