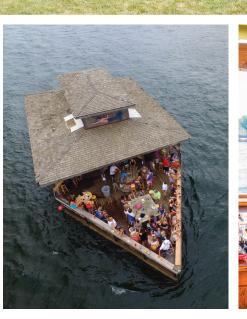
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How To...

Take The Hectic Out **Of Your Wedding Day**

events many people will ever plan. Couples often try to go the extra mile in an effort to make the day memorable for themselves and their guests. That pressure can make a wedding day feel a little frenzied. Thankfully, there are various ways to ensure the vibe of the big day is happy and not hectic.

Hire a wedding planner/coordinator

Leaving the nitty gritty to a professional wedding planner takes a lot of pressure off of couples. The renowned wedding resource The Knot says wedding planners are clued into everything there is to know about a wedding and they can be tapped to take care of just about anything on couples' to-do list.

Consider a package deal

All-inclusive resorts are popular vacation spots because variables like entertainment, lodging, food, drinks, and more is all taken care of, leaving vacationers with little to do other than show up and relax. Couples can apply that same approach on their wedding day. Host the ceremony and reception at the same site, which takes the potentially problematic issue of getting guests to and from out of the equation. Some venues may even provide in-house vendors like photographers and florists. Such vendors' familiarity with the venue reduces the risk of surprises that can derail wedding day schedules.

Pick your priorities

Avoid getting bogged down on a million details by making a list of your priorities when planning. Couples can revisit this list a couple of days before their wedding so they remember what's most important to them on the big day. This refresher can ensure couples don't get too concerned if minor issues arise during their big day, helping them remain calm and keeping a focus on all the fun to be had during the

It's easy for couples to feel a little overwhelmed on their wedding day. Some simple strategies can take the hectic out of couples' wedding day and ensure they keep their focus on one another and their loved ones.

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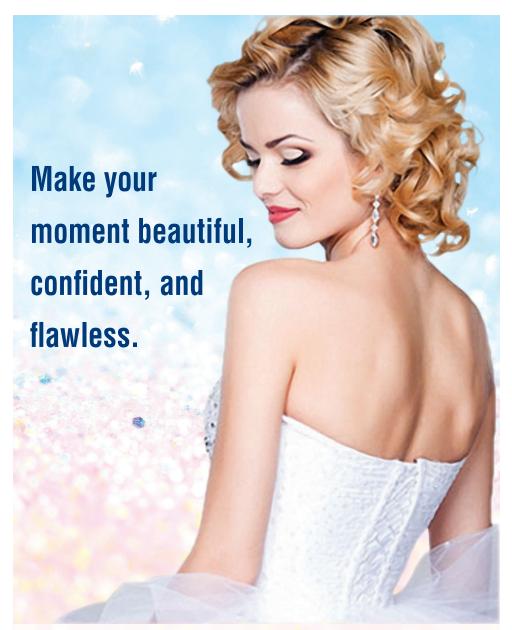


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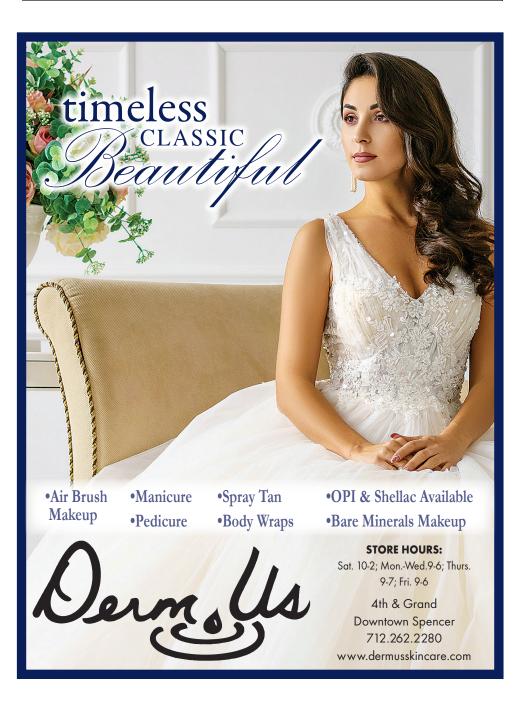
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by Mary Meinking Chambers

How could two souls, born a world apart, find one another and lifelong love? This love story began in Norwich, England, where with the young lass, Cathy Ackroyd, was born and raised. Little did she know that half way around the World, her prince charming, Cody Davis, awaited her arrival to Iowa. The magnetic power of love was pulling them together, from across the globe.

In 2002, Cathy's family relocated to Spirit Lake, Iowa, from England. There she enjoyed riding horses with friends and family. At the same time, there in Spirit Lake, Cody was busy playing sports of all kinds. But this couple's paths never crossed.

That wasn't until April of 2018 when they both attended an event with mutual friends. During the evening, Cody wove "some of the most ridiculous stories" Cathy had ever heard. The talking never stopped from that day on. Daily conversations turned into dating. An average date for them was dinner and a movie. But sometimes they'd play mini golf, as Cody loved trying to show off his sports abilities. Soon love grew.

In August 2019, Cathy took Cody on their first big trip together, to England, to show him her motherland. There she introduced him to her family, her country and driving on the left-hand side of the road. Cody loved her family, but not the driving or the British soda pop. They enjoyed visiting some interesting locations and were bumped up to first class on the long flight back home to Iowa.

Cody decided to propose to Cathy in their home, with their dog Samara, on May 9th, 2020. And she quickly said, "yes!" Cathy expected that the proposal was on the horizon since she helped pick out the triple banded diamond ring from Spirit Lake Silver & Gold. A wedding date was set for a year later, in May 2021 and the wedding planning began.

Meanwhile, Cathy's mother, Clare, became terminally ill. Cathy involved her mom as much as possible in her wedding planning. Bridal showers were held early to include her Mom. But sadly, Clare passed away on December 5, 2020. With heavy hearts and her mother's blessing, the wedding plans continued. Cathy had a painting done of herself with her mother, which was displayed at reception, in remembrance of her mom.

Cathy found her white Martin Thornburg ball gown-style wedding dress, at Elegance, in Okoboji. The attendants' Christina Wu dusty blue dresses and the men's gray Portofino tuxes were also from Elegance. Cathy said, "We worked with Courtney and she was the one who helped

make sure everything matched. I personally could not recommend them more. They were phenomenal to work with and had such great selections to choose from."

The wedding flowers were designed by Ferguson's Garden Center, in Spirit Lake. The bouquets were

filled with hydrangeas and cream and dusty pink roses. They also included some gray Dusty Miller to add more volume to Cathy's bouquet.

The rehearsal dinner was celebrated with the bridal party, friends and family at Softail Saloon, in Superior.

As the big day approached, Cathy had her nails done at Lavish Nail Bar, in Spirit Lake. "This is my favorite place to go to," Cathy said. "They are so friendly and professional and go

above and beyond. Kim did a phenomenal job with my manicure and pedicure! They really made sure everything was looking exactly how I wanted for my wedding weekend!"

Finally the big day, May 22, 2021, arrived! Cathy had her hair and makeup done by Jenn with J. Lynae Beauty, from Ankeny Iowa.

The wedding ceremony was held at St. Mary's Lake. The nervous groom, Cody, anxiously awaited his princess, Cathy who was walked down the aisle by her father, Ian. Afterwards, the bridal party was whisked away in the All 4 Fun party bus out of Sheldon, Iowa, who took them around the lakes and to the reception location.

The wedding guests gathered at Arrowwood Resort beef, with garlic mashed potatoes and vegetables.

The delicious cupcakes and the couple's cut cake were made by Eventful Sweets Bakery, in Estherville, Iowa. "Everything was delicious and all of our guests absolutely devoured the cupcakes. We didn't even have one left over. They are the absolute sweetest to work with and will do what they can to make everything exactly how you want it," Cathy said. "We also used them for some desserts for my bridal shower and then also for our rehearsal dinner!"

The white chair covers, dusty blue bows and gold chargers were provided by CinTa Party Rental, in Spencer. Decorative cylinders were filled with gold and white pearls suspended by water beads, which gave the illusion that the pearls were floating in air. Cathy learned the hard way that leaving the expanding water beads overnight could cause the cylinders to overflow onto the tables. This made for a mad dash to clean up before the wedding could begin.

Cody and Cathy's wedding party included friends and family. Cody's best man was high school friend Scott Maudlin. His groomsmen were Jonathan Brunsvold, Austin Davis and Hunter Davis. Cathy's maid of honor was Marissa Mancilla with bridesmaids Holly Norgaard, Mallary Zulk and Hannah Copple. Their ring bearer was the family friend, Finley Brunsvold.

Music filled the air at the reception. DJ Barry Roberts, of Worthington, spun tunes for the wedding dance; playing fun wedding games and songs to get everyone out on the dance floor. The newlyweds' first dance was to "Waiting for you" by Russell Dickerson.

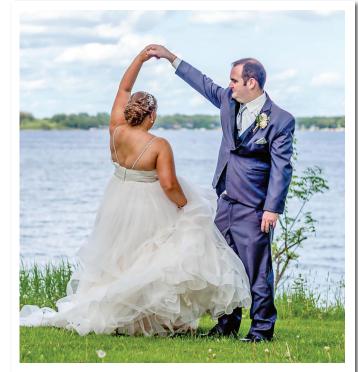
Their special day was captured by the vid-

expecting a new little prince, in March 2022. The newlyweds currently live in Spirit Lake. Cathy's continues riding her horses at her father's acreage outside of town. She's hoping to pass on her love of riding to their new little bundle of joy. Cody is a supervisor at Pure Fishing, in Spirit Lake and Cathy is a scale operator at Green Plains Renewable Energy, in Superior, Iowa.

Congratulations, Cathy and Cody! Your powerful love pulled you together from across the globe. As in all great fairy tales, may you also live happily ever after!

"Love doesn't make the world go 'round. Love is what makes the ride worthwhile." ~ Franklin P. Jones











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Band or DJ? How About Both?

ple's wedding day more than entertainment. of both worlds. There is nothing that says a

While factors like the weather are beyond couples' control, ensuring guests have an opportunity to dance or sing along to some good music is something couples can emphasize as they plan their weddings.

When it comes to music, the two main options for weddings are a live band or a disc jockey. Each has

its share of advantages and disadvantages. A live band may be more expensive, but it can get the crowd excited. A good bandleader also acts as a master of ceremonies and can pay attention to the vibe of the room, tailoring a playlist around that overall mood. Plus, bands offer live performances, which adds an extra special element to the occasion that can't be replicated at home.

A DJ is a popular choice, and today's DJs are often artists in their own right. They know just how to select and seamlessly mix music to create the mood and really keep the party going. Couples who prefer to hear original versions of particular songs — especially for their first dance song — often prefer DJs. The popular wedding planning resource The Knot also says that it is often no problem for a DJ to find and play a song from an extensive digital library, while bands may not be able to learn and perform a song in time.

Couples who can be flexible with their enter-

Few elements can make or break a coutainment budgets may be able to enjoy the best



wedding cannot feature both a live band and a DJ. Such a wedding may just take a little more planning. Consider the scenario of bringing in a band for the cocktail hour and perhaps an hour or more during the dinner service of the reception when live music can accompany the meal. After that, a DJ can take over and drive the festivities up another notch with a late-night dance party.

Some music vendors also do a combination of live and prerecorded music. They may have live singers who accompany recorded tracks, or digital instruments like keyboards and drum pads that can enhance recorded songs. These also are options when selecting wedding music.

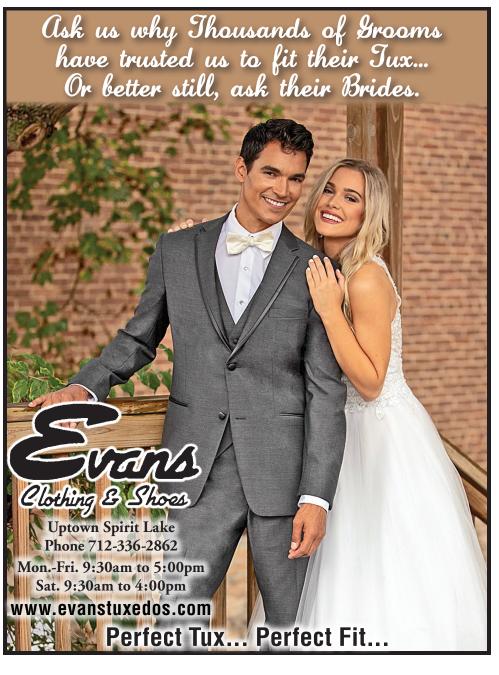
There is no right or wrong answer when it comes to setting the soundtrack for a wedding. A band, DJ or combination thereof can make the occasion even more memorable. ometrocreativeconnection









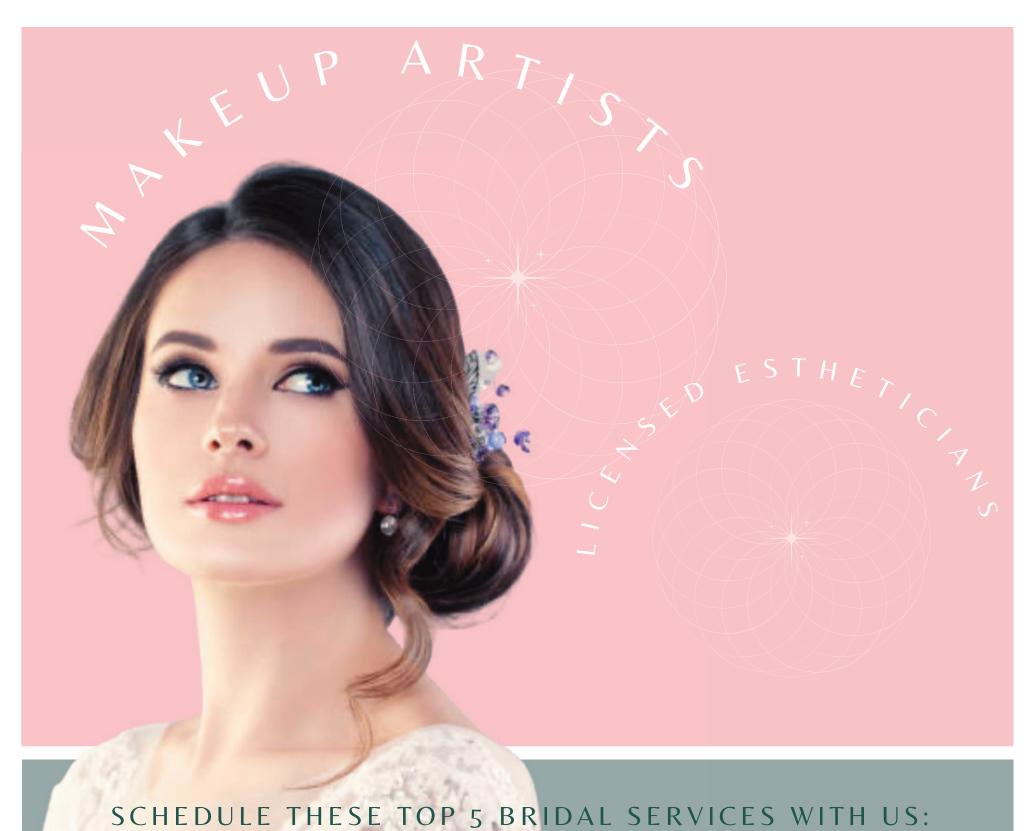






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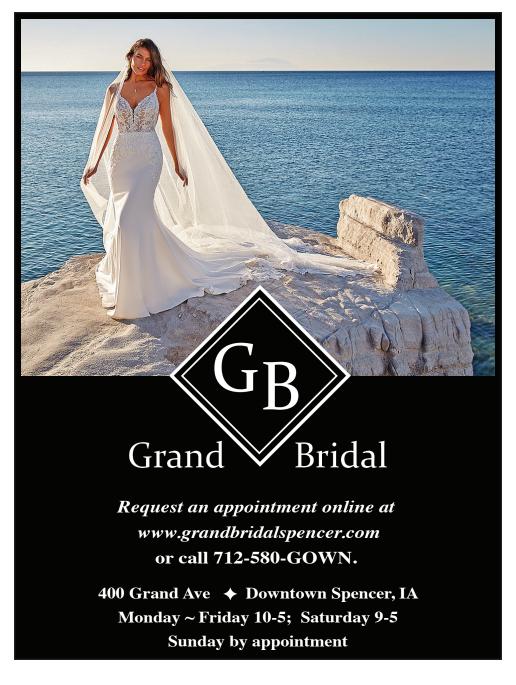
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by Jenna Snyder

Our story began when Josh and I met for the first time at The Gardens in Okoboji on May 16, 2015. We danced all night and got to know each other through conversations on the deck. You could say that after 'last call' we didn't want to leave one another and ended up spending that whole summer together. Later that fall we decided to purchase a home where we could start making memories as a family. Josh's daughter Avery was only 5 years old at this time and a lot has changed since then. We welcomed the sweetest little boy, Graham, into our family in March 2019.

Josh proposed to me at The Outrigger on April 7,2021; he and I had our first date there and it was my late grandparents' favorite place to go. It was an incredible evening surrounded by family. Avery and Graham were there as well as my parents and brother. We had talked countless times about getting married someday but little did I know that day was going to be here before I knew it.

Josh picked out a beautiful engagement ring from Nelson Jewelry in Spencer, Iowa. It's a 14 karat white gold diamond wedding set with one .25 carat diamond, two .05 carat diamonds

on each side, and three .05 carat diamonds on the band. I also picked out his wedding band from Nelson Jewelry, a durable tungsten band with a beveled edge that featured one 2.5 mm natural diamond in the center. He was super happy with my choice!

Jenna & Josh

We knew we wanted to have a fall wedding in Okoboji. As we were going through the calendar, trying to pick a weekend that we knew would work for most of our friends and family, we narrowed it down to a weekend in September. We chose September 18, 2021, to marry one another just as

my Grandparents John and Shirley Van Iperen did back in 1956.

The big day was just 6 short months away and I needed to start planning. The first item on the to-do list was checked when I

found the perfect Stella York dress at Elegance by Sarah Ruhs in Okoboji. It had beaded laces that intertwined toward the center front plunge. The beautiful floral laces floated over my collarbone and down my back creating a seamless look. The French tulle skirt made the dress light, airy, and comfortable. I wanted a dress that would allow me to pick up my son, dance around, and be comfortable all night. Everything about my dress was absolutely perfect!

My wedding party included Marisa Moldan, Karissa Brewer, Samantha Caven, Cassandra Seeders as Bridesmaids and Avery Snyder as Junior Bridesmaid and Flower Girl. Josh's wedding party included Kyle Snyder, Seth Morris, Luke Logan, and Rick Bloom as Groomsmen and Graham Snyder as Ring Bearer. All of my bridesmaids had the same color of evergreen dresses in different styles made by Sorella Vita. Avery picked out an adorable sage green dress with rhinestone straps. The groom and groomsmen wore ultra slim Brunswick suits in sand, accented with evergreen bow ties with brown leather suspenders and Josh wore a white floral tie. We purchased Graham a matching Brunswick suit in sand with matching suspenders as well. He was the cutest little boy in that suit! All dresses and suits were from Elegance by Sarah Ruhs.

I wanted to have a lakeside wedding with a rustic and woodsy vibe so we decided to get married at the Lutheran Lakeside Camp in Spirit Lake. The venue was perfect. We had East Lake in the background, lots of mature trees, and the event center to use. Our wedding was going to be in the fall so I knew I wanted to incorporate beautiful autumn colors but wasn't quite sure how. I chose to work with Kim at Ferguson's Garden Center and she did an incredible job. She made the visions I had

come to life. I wanted a small bouquet that wasn't going to overpower me, unlike the bouquets that are in style right now. I had to incorporate some family mementos into my bouquet too. I included my great grandma's handkerchief that my mom had in her own wedding bouquet and Lilies of the Valley that had been in my mom's hairpiece. My mom also got me my "something new" that she had Kim incorporate into my bouquet to surprise me with, a picture of my grandma, Shirley Van Iperen, with a message that said, "Missing you as I walk down the aisle." When I saw my bouquet for the first time, I was speechless and instantly started crying. My grandma meant so much to me and I was so sad she wasn't here to celebrate our special day, one that we were soon going to share with her and my grandpa for years to come.

The beautiful flowers we chose were a mix of quicksand roses, white majolica spray roses, toffee roses and caramel terracotta carnations. We incorporated Italian and Israeli ruscus, dried bunny tails, dried baby's breath, and dried palms as well. The boutonnieres were a mixture of bleached ruscus, dried bunny tails, wheat, and baby's breath. Josh and I had a custom triangle arch made for us by Brad Danbom with Danbom Designs. We used the arch at the altar and it was decorated with





the different colors of roses, pampas grass, spiral eucalyptus, and dried baby's breath.

Now that I had the venue and flowers picked out and knew what look I was going for, I needed to figure out decorations. Cheryl at Eventful LLC in Estherville was hired to do the decorating. We softened the event center's inside look by adding in white, sheer, ceiling drapes and lighting. We rented multiple pieces of furniture, decorations, napkins, vases and so much more from Eventful. Cheryl and her team do a great job and I highly recommend working with them. We also rented whiskey barrels and a custom bar top from Lakes Laser Engraving in Spirit Lake.

The week of the wedding, all of my bridesmaids and I had our nails and toes done at Top Nails in Arnolds Park. All hair was done by Caitlin Clark, stylist at Bella Via Salon and Day Spa in Okoboji, and Tessa Schoonhoven, stylist and owner of The Hair Team in Spirit Lake. I had a friend of mine, Kelli Vellema, do make up and eyelashes for all of us girls.

Our rehearsal dinner took place at the Outrigger and we surprised Josh with a groom's cake, something special representing his favorite tastes and hobbies. This was one wedding detail that was all about him. We picked his favorite flavor, confetti cake with vanilla frosting, and decorated it with his favorite things, hunting, snowmobiling, softball and being a dad!

Shaela Elise Photography in Milford captured the day in pictures and Clayton Walters Videography, of Cedar Rapids, captured video of our special day that we can cherish forever. I did a first look with my dad, where I gave him a letter I wrote, thanking him for everything he and my mom have done for me and for shaping me into the woman I am today. I will never forget the way my dad looked at me in my wedding gown. Tears started falling for both of us and I thought my makeup was ruined for sure. I also wanted to do a first look with my future husband as we were having our photos taken before the ceremony. We had our backs to one another as we read our letters to each other. After we were finished reading, I asked Josh to turn around, so he could see me for the first time. He was in awe, he had no words at first. All he could say was, "Baby, you are so beautiful. This is everything I thought it would be, and then some."

Shades of soft greens and autumn colors set the scene for our beautiful outdoor ceremony, officiated by our friend Matt Sewell, which took place at the Lutheran Lakeside Camp on The Great Lawn overlooking East Lake. Josh and I tied the knot in front of all our family and closest friends on September 18, 2021. After being pronounced husband and wife we could feel the stress and nervousness of everything lift off our shoulders. One of our favorite songs, "Look At Us Now" was playing

as we exited the ceremony. Its lyrics explain our story perfectly... "Look at us now, there's a ring on the finger that I'm wrapped around, Look at us now, we got a baby with my eyes and he's got your smile. Livin' that good life with you baby, everyone thought that we were crazy. Look at us now." This was one of those moments we will never forget.

The reception was held at the Lutheran Lakeside Camp inside the event center. We had unique rattan chargers with terracotta napkins tied up nicely on the plate with gold silverware. A mixture of vintage vases with dried baby's breath, fresh flowers, lanterns and gold bells set the mood for the evening. Dinner was a choice of brisket or drunken chicken, cheesy hash browns, baked beans, cold pasta salad and dinner rolls, catered by Crazy Bob's in Hartley. Nothing Bundt Cakes out of Omaha, NE catered our dessert and we had Bundtinis in five different flavors: confetti, white chocolate raspberry, carrot, pumpkin, and pecan praline. Our wedding cake was an 8 inch confetti Bundt cake with vanilla frosting. Everyone was commenting on how delicious the bite size Bundtinis were. After dinner, a few members of the bridal party chose to give a toast. My dad gave a never ending speech and he was the most nervous but he did a great job. Needless to say, there were a lot of laughs, blessings and heartfelt words shared that night.

DJ NateT, of Okoboji, was our entertainment for the evening. He does a great job of engaging the crowd and he chooses songs that get everyone on the dance floor. Our first dance was to "The Rest



of Our Lives" by Drew Green. Josh chose this song because of the lyrics "here's to forever, the rest of our lives, me being yours and you being mine, as long as you love me and I love you, here's to the rest of our lives." During the reception we did a garter auction and a bouquet toss. Everyone had a blast celebrating and dancing the night away!

We received many lovely gifts from our bridal registry at Interiors and Mary's Gift Shoppe in Spirit Lake. We were also registered at Target and Amazon to make gifting easier for those who didn't live here.

Our Honeymoon began just a few days after the wedding. Josh and I love the outdoors so we decided on the Black Hills. We rented a SXS and ventured out on trails for a day and then a Polaris Slingshot to explore the Needles and Custer State Park. While we were there we saw the Buffalo Round Up, which takes place only once a year. The best part about our Honeymoon is that we were able to spend some quality time together, just the two of us. We have some pretty awesome memories of our first week of marriage.

Josh works at Overhead Door in Arnolds Park as an installer and I'm an account executive at The Lakes News Shopper, in Milford. We recently purchased a home together in Lake Park where we can raise both our kids, Avery, and Graham. We would like to thank everyone involved who made this day so incredibly special for us.

"I will love you always $\mathcal E$ forever, infinity x infinity."















Explore Various Wedding Styles

During Planning

Every wedding is different, even if many share some common components. As couples plan their weddings, learning about some popular wedding styles can help them create a ceremony that suits them.

Classic wedding - Classic weddings are the storybook traditional weddings that many people dream about for years. Key elements include a tuxedo for the groom and a white gown for the bride. Formal attire is reserved for the rest of the wedding party. The ceremony is conducted in a place of worship before everyone retires to a fancy catering hall for the reception. Traditional weddings also may include the time-honored customs like toasts, cake cutting, bouquet toss, and parent-child dances.

Beach wedding - Beach weddings often are casual, laid back affairs. Dresses may be less structured and flow with sea breezes, while guys may even don shorts with linen shirts or jackets. Guests can expect the party to be much more free-flowing and the traditions of classic weddings may not be part of the celebration.

Bohemian wedding - Free-spirited individuals may dive head first into a bohemian style wedding. According to wedding planner David Tutera, a boho wedding is casual and comfortable. It tends to come off chic but appears that way with minimal effort. Decor is typically humble and blends harmoniously with nature. A boho wedding may take place outdoors or in another less traditional venue, such as a farmhouse or botanical garden. Wedding party attire may be mismatched and showcase each person's individual style.

Modern wedding - Brides and grooms who crave contemporary and current trends



may prefer a modern wedding. Graphic color schemes, clean lines and minimalistic flowers might be part of a modern wedding. Attire may be angular and edgy, and the venue may run the gamut from sleek museum to a city rooftop.

Destination wedding - Couples who love to travel and don't want to worry about the minutiae of wedding planning may find a destination wedding is a good fit. Destination weddings last more than one day and focus on relaxation, activities and lots of fun. Destination weddings tend to be less formal and less traditional than classic weddings. Due to the remote locations, destination weddings also can be smaller and more intimate, as many invitees may be unable to attend. Yet those who can attend often get to enjoy tropical islands or mountain retreats.

Wedding styles are as unique as the people getting married. Choosing a theme that has the right feeling can help couples make the most of their special days.

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Create a Chocolate Charcuterie Board

This recipe is an opportunity for people to share their love and affection and of course, sweet treats. While a heart-shaped box of chocolate certainly makes for a delicious gift, those looking to increase the wow factor can put together a trending assortment.

Charcuterie boards have become a staple when entertaining or dining out. Charcuterie boards traditionally feature a variety of cured meats, cheeses, bruschetta, and even olives. But boards can be adorned with any tasty morsel their creators desire. Borrowing from that idea, savvy home chefs can create a sweets-based charcuterie board that's sure to

To start out, figure out which nibbles your loved one will desire the most. The chocolate charcuterie board can be entirely sweet, or a mix of sweet, savory and even salty offerings. Some ideas for a chocolate charcuterie board include:

- chocolate truffles
- chocolate-dipped fruits
- chocolate-covered pretzels
- chocolate bark
- melted chocolate fondue and assorted dippers
- Classic chocolate candies
- Assorted nuts like almonds and cashews
- Fudge squares
- Homemade turtle candy
- Chocolate nut rolls
- Dried fruits, such as figs and dates
- Graham crackers or butter cookies

Just as you would for any charcuterie board, choose an attractive wood board large enough to hold all of the desserts. Arrange the chocolates and other foods with an eye for presentation. Use fresh berries or mint leaves to fill in any gaps and add a little extra flair to the arrangement. If desired, think about pairing chocolate and sweet elements with traditional charcuterie offerings like cured salami, brie cheese, hard cheeses, crackers, and chutneys. @metrocreativeconnection

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How to Give Weddings a Modern Touch

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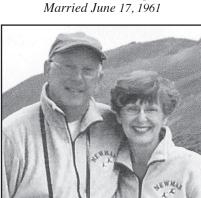


FROM OUR FILES 2021

Recognizing your commitment to one another, thank you for the example you have set for us to follow •••



60 YearsBruce & Jan Johnson of Spirit Lake *Married June 17, 1961*



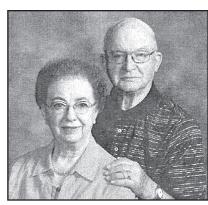
60 YearsGary & Beverly Hurley of Spirit Lake *Married July* 24, 1961



65 Years Jack & Ginny Yore of Spencer Married September 1, 1956



60 Years Norm & Mary Swanson of Primghar *Married March 11*, 1961



65 YearsBob & Shirley Mann of Spirit Lake *Married June 17, 1956*



65 YearsBill & Sharon Whiting of Spirit Lake *Married August 11, 1956*



60 YearsLarry & Sharon Anfinson of Spirit Lake *Married October 15, 1961*



62 YearsDarrel & Shirley Ramhorst of Spirit Lake *Married March 14*, 1959



75 Years
Darial & Dorothy Determan of Milford
Married September 10, 1946



60 Years Ed & Jan Purdy of Spirit Lake Married August 18, 1959



69 Years Tom & Peggy Muhlbauer of Milford *Married November 20, 1952*



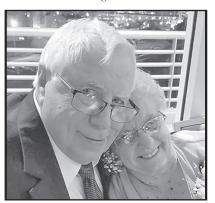
75 YearsKenneth & Hope Rimmer of Spirit Lake *Married April 10, 1946*



60 YearsBob & Jeanine Gunderson of Lake Park *Married June 25, 1961*



60 YearsJerry & Mary Ann Bishop of Spencer *Married August 12*, 1961



65 YearsRussel & Beverly Stump of Estherville *Married January 17, 1957*

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Timeline Tips: Factors to Consider When Planning Your Wedding Day Timeline

The notion that "timing is everything" is applicable in many situations, perhaps none more so than on a couple's wedding day. Many couples spend months, if not years, planning their weddings in the hopes that all that hard work will ultimately result in a day they will cherish forever.

The sheer volume of things to do on a wedding day can make couples feel overwhelmed. Those feelings can be overcome by emphasizing timing on the day of the wedding. Wedding day timelines will differ depending on variables that are unique to each couple's wedding, but the following are some factors to consider as couples organize the big day.

• Venue(s): The schedule couples adhere to on their wedding day will be greatly affected by their choice of venue. Does the venue have somewhere on premises for the couple and their party to get ready? Are the ceremony and reception being held at the same venue? Before creating a timeline, consider the location of the ceremony and reception venue(s) and the accommodations each provides. Getting to and from multiple facilities won't be an issue if couples choose a multipurpose venue where they can get ready, tie the knot and dance the night away all in one place. Couples who will be moving from venue to venue throughout the day must build the time it takes them and their party to get about into their timelines.

• Wedding party: The size of the wedding party also bears consideration when planning a wedding day timeline. Large parties will require more time to get ready, and that should be factored into couples' timelines. Large parties also may be harder to corral and transport from place to place, so couples should build some extra time into their timelines to account for



that. Small wedding parties can be easier to manage, so couples with small parties may be able to begin their timelines a little later in the day than those with large wedding parties.

• Weather: Weather is the most unpredictable variable couples need to plan for on their wedding days. As the wedding day approaches, couples can monitor the day's forecast and then make any necessary changes to account for inclement weather. Getting around in a rainstorm will likely take longer than moving about on a sunny day, so some minor tweaks to the timeline may be necessary if storms or another type of inclement weather is in the forecast

Couples can access wedding day timeline templates on various websites. But it's important that couples remember that their weddings are unique, so online guidelines might not be realistic. A careful consideration of a handful of variables specific to couples' weddings can help them craft timelines that make their big day go smoothly. *emetrocreativeconnection*

Getting Here to There on Your Wedding Day

You've planned the date, met with the officiant, decided on what to wear, and booked the venue. But how are you going to arrive in style?

Arranging wedding transportation can be tricky, even if it seems like it's a relatively minor detail. However, getting not only the bride and groom, as well as the rest of the bridal party and guests, from point A to point B and even point C is often a taller task than it seems.

The wedding planning resource The Knot says couples should begin focusing on transportation between four and six months before their weddings. If the wedding will be held during prom or graduation season, couples may want to reserve vehicles even earlier due to high demand.

While rented transportation is not necessary, it's a luxury many couples prefer, as it allows them to leave the driving to someone else. Generally speaking, hired cars will pick up the bride and groom separately before the ceremony; otherwise, they will arrive to the ceremony by other means and then utilize a

limo or other vehicle afterward. The transportation will then take the married couple and typically members of the bridal party and immediate family to the reception venue.

Depending on the head count and how many other people will be getting a lift, two or more vehicles may be necessary. And since the limos will leave after the reception drop off, some other

form of transportation will be necessary to take the couple and whomever else rode to the reception back home (or to the airport). This may require dropping off one or more personal cars at the reception venue in advance.

Budget also will dictate if transportation is provided for other guests. The majority or guests will drive their own cars to the wedding. However, if the ceremony and reception site are far apart or if the journey is arduous and out of the way, some well-meaning couples will arrange for transport. Many times couples will have to opt for function over form when tasked with transporting a large number of people. Pricing out different options can yield the most cost-effective route, which very well may be a school or charter bus instead of several limousines.

Couples can start the process by asking their reception venue for transportation recommendations. Or if there are hotel accommodations after the party, the hotel may have connections or offer shuttle services. ometrocreativeconnection







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Horoscope

ARIES – Mar 21/Apr 20

Aries, you keep looking inward to realize your goals and you're making very good progress in that regard. Communication is a key to success, so keep dialogues open.

TAURUS – Apr 21/May 21

Lately you seem to radiate success in all you do, Taurus. Others naturally want to flock to where you are and spend more time with you. Enjoy the spotlight while it lasts.

GEMINI – May 22/Jun 21

If communication with family members has been difficult lately, you may find that things change in the next few days, Gemini. This is a welcome change.

CANCER - Jun 22/Jul 22

Disagreements are not necessarily a bad thing, Cancer. They can open people up to discussions that can be enlightening. Disagree, but don't let it get heated.

LEO – Jul 23/Aug 23

Romance may be on your mind a lot more than usual, Leo. This can be a good thing. Use your free time to foster nuances in your relationship.

VIRGO – Aug 24/Sept 22

Virgo, you may have to take a different route than you initially expected in order to reach a destination. The journey could be very eye-opening and inspirational.

LIBRA – Sept 23/Oct 23

In order to be the brightest and the best you can be, you may find that you rub certain people the wrong way, Libra. Find ways to make amends.

SCORPIO - Oct 24/Nov 22

Scorpio, a challenging week ahead will require some focus and a willingness to accept support. Surround yourself with people who have your back.

SAGITTARIUS – Nov 23/Dec 21

An especially busy social schedule may leave you feeling a little tired for some time. Schedule some time for rest and relaxation to recharge your batteries.

CAPRICORN - Dec 22/Jan 20

A great deal of unexpected information is coming your way, Capricorn. You may have to sort through it to figure out what is useful and what is not essential.

AQUARIUS - Jan 21/Feb 18

Don't neglect the help that people are willing to offer you, Aquarius. Teamwork makes the dream work, and working with others is beneficial to all involved.

PISCES - Feb 19/Mar 20

Use creativity in any way you can to solve issues that come your way, Pisces. You may be surprised at what you come up with.

Famous Birthdays

February 14 - Danai Gurira, Actress (44)

February 15 - Ross Duffer, TV Producer (38)

February 16 - The Weeknd, Singer (32)

February 17 - Michael Jordan, Athlete (59)

February 18 - John Travolta, Actor (68)

February 19 - Millie Bobby Brown, Actress (18)

February 20 - Olivia Rodrigo, Singer (19)











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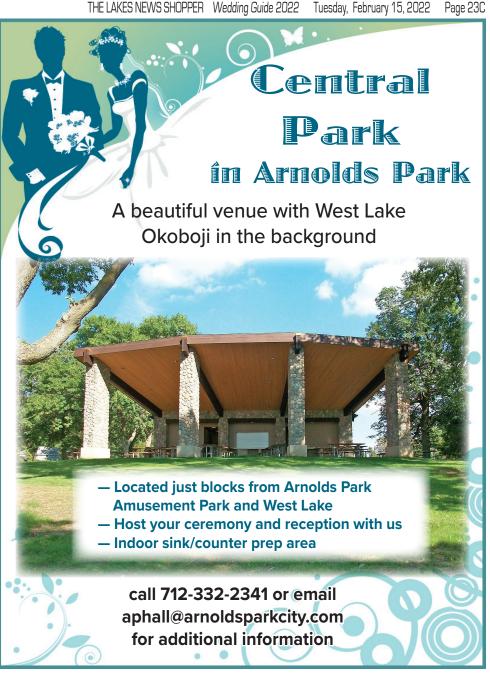


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