

2021

# Bridal Guide

EDGERTON ENTERPRISE

FEB. 10, 2021



Britany Moser Photography

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# Britany Moser Photography - Documenting the moments that matter

We asked local photographer Britany Moser to tell us about her photography business. Britany is a self-taught photographer who has been taking wedding photographs for about six years. Here is some information about her business in her own words!

### Did you go to college or technical school for photography?

No I did not. I like to say I went to YouTube University. I taught myself everything by watching YouTube tutorials and then just gaining experience in the business over the years. I keep up my education by attending workshops and some retreats by other photographers in the business.

### Did you work under another photographer before going out on your own?

I second shot a couple weddings with another photographer in the area and then did my first wedding about six months after I picked up a camera the first time. My dad told me, "I hear as long as you don't get into weddings, photography is great." Well, I got into weddings. And in fact, now, that's pretty much all I do. I offer family, newborn, and senior sessions on a limited basis, but my specialty is couples and weddings!

### Do you have an assistant who works with you?

If you count my husband, then yes! Otherwise no. My husband Jeff second shoots for me at weddings and does videography for me as well. I have also worked with some up-and-coming photographers here and there who are wanting to gain experience in the business.

### Why did you decide to become a photographer?

I always struggle with this question because I feel like the answer should be "I grew up with a camera in my hand or I always dreamed of it." But that is not the case. I bought my sister a camera for her wedding. She was pregnant with her first child and I wanted her to hire a photographer to do maternity photos for her but she didn't want to spend the money. I decided I would do maternity photos for her. But I didn't want them to suck, so I decided I should figure out how to use a camera in manual mode, not just automatic, and also how to edit.

So I took a crash course on YouTube and did her maternity session. They actually turned out really good for the first time using a camera "professionally."

After that I took photos of my younger sisters a few times and then people just started asking me to take their photos. I was hooked after that! I kept researching and honing my skills and decided to go into full time photography last year! I am part owner of Christensen Broadcasting as well as a radio DJ on KISD and KLOH.

### How many weddings do you typically shoot in a year?

In 2021, I have 30 weddings

booked! This is actually going to end up being a little much. I took more because I knew that brides were struggling to find photographers because of many 2020 brides pushing their weddings into 2021. Typically, I would say I would do 25 weddings a year.

### How has COVID-19 affected business?

From February to about May, we were really unable to do many sessions because of the quarantine in Minnesota. Also it has been a unique year with brides needing to push their weddings because of the government orders and stipulations on weddings. However, because we live in southwest Minnesota and so close to South Dakota, many of my brides decided to move their wedding across the border to South Dakota because the restrictions were much more lenient. Some of them did that immediately when they heard about the restrictions and others waited it out and then had to make last minute decisions.

I have booked more elopements because of COVID-19. Many brides and grooms decided to do a destination elopement or small backyard wedding because they still wanted to get married, but obviously couldn't have a big wedding. So might as well still make it amazing! I had two Grand Teton National Park weddings and a Joshua Tree elopement.

### What makes you different from other photographers?

My personality and how I really make my sessions totally unique. I am an extrovert in pretty much every way - which is probably good, but sometimes bad. But I feel like it really lends itself to a photographer! In no way does that mean that you can't be an introvert and a photographer. I know many that are absolutely amazing at what they do! However for me, being able to talk to anyone and make any couple feel comfortable and having fun is my number one goal. I would



Koty and Jake Frick were married in Grand Teton National Park.

like to think I'm also pretty fun and funny, but maybe my couples are just being polite by laughing along!!

We have a lot of fun during engagement sessions and even the wedding day. We play a ton of different games during the session and I try to just let the pictures come naturally instead of an overly posed session or poses that just feel so uncomfortable.

I always stress that your wedding should really be enjoyed and fully taken in!

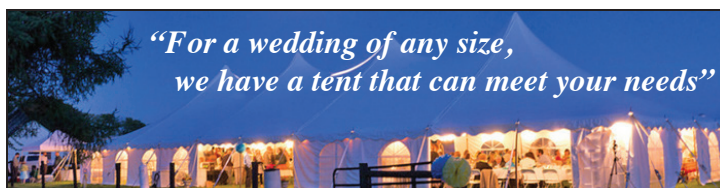
I remember my wedding. I just felt overwhelmed and didn't really take in the day. It didn't help that it was the hottest day of the year and the air conditioning stopped working at our venue.

I try to keep things going smoothly the day of the wedding, and try to make sure the bride and groom are enjoying themselves. Once the photos are done, let's move on and enjoy the rest of the day!

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Chelsey and Scott Gorter of Pipestone. Photos by Britany Moser Photography



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# Elegance on the Prairie

Diana Hensley

Interested in a unique meal for your wedding? Consider calling the Bluestem Catering Company.

Located in Luverne, Minn., the Bluestem Catering Company is family owned and operated by Chef Skyler Hoiland, who was raised locally on a farm on the southwestern Minnesota prairie. Coming from a long line of great home cooks, Hoiland was 8 years old when he started cooking and loved home economics through middle school and high school. As a senior he participated in a cooking competition at Le Cordon Bleu College of Culinary Arts in the Twin Cities. He won the contest, and a scholarship to attend the school. "I was fortunate to know what I wanted to do with the rest of my life," Hoiland said.

After culinary school Skyler worked in Boulder, Colorado, learning to cook with fresh local foods. With the freshest food available, he was able to put top quality on patrons' plates. In 2012, Hoiland came back to his hometown of Luverne and brought that process with him. Alongside his parents, Lynette and Michael Hoiland, he opened The Bluestem Restaurant in Luverne. Skyler continued utilizing fresh, locally sourced foods as often as he could, offering local customers a unique dining experience.

Noticing there were only a few local caterers available to those planning events, Hoiland began plans to expand into catering. His approach was a challenge to himself: serving wonderful food to 300 people should be no different than serving to one person. With that in mind, he forged ahead. In May 2016, Bluestem Catering Company opened, offering people another option to consider when choosing their caterer.

Learning to work at providing large quantities of high quality food, all ready at the same time, was what Hoiland learned to do. Bluestem Catering Company staff can deliver hot meals to events up to 90 miles from their kitchen in Luverne.

Hoiland still prefers using locally sourced food. Due to costs of producing high volumes of food, locally sourced isn't always possible, but he does incorporate it when he can. He even incorporates produce from his family's garden.

Bluestem Catering Company handles events large and small. They provide food for small business luncheons, retirement parties, banquets, family reunions, and, of course, weddings. The staff is happy to



Bluestem Catering Company has a wide variety of options for multiple budgets. They even have separate pricing for children's meals.



Chef Skyler Hoiland attended the Le Cordon Bleu College of Culinary Arts in the Twin Cities. Pictured above is turkey tetrazzini, a dish that he prepares.

work with couples to create the menu that they want for their big day.

Jessie Vande Hoef, manager and event coordinator, recommends engaged couples make a few crucial decisions right after their engagement. "First decide on the venue, second on the photographer, and then on the caterer and DJ," advises Vande Hoef.

Bluestem Catering Company has a wide variety of options for multiple budgets. They even have separate pricing for children's meals.

Concerned about providing gluten-free options for your guests? "We've got a lot of tricks up our sleeves," says Hoiland. "Decide what you want for your meal," Hoiland recommends to the bride and groom. Let Blue-



stem Catering staff find a suitable option for your guests with special diets.

"We've got many skilled kitchen workers," stated Hoiland. "We enjoy what we do and have fun doing it. We could not execute our events without them." Says Hoiland, "Wherever they can have an event, we'll be there for them. Any venue, any time!"

For those who have long enjoyed dining out, Bluestem Catering Company began to offer Take and Bake options in late March of 2020. Many patrons of Bluestem Restaurant have enjoyed this opportunity to enjoy the unique fare created by Chef Hoiland and the talented kitchen staff who work with him. On Monday, February 8th, 2021 Bluestem Catering Company will be opening a Grab and Go storefront at 602 East Main Street in Luverne. Customers will be able to choose from several options including hot breakfast, lunch specials, Take and Bake options they've enjoyed for almost a year now, hot coffee, cold drinks, and more. Hours of operation will be Monday-Friday 6:30 AM - 6:30 PM, Saturday 8:00 AM- 3:00 PM

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# All you need is love and football

Jill Fennema Getting married in 2020 made it hard for anyone to have the wedding of their dreams. For one southwest Minnesota family, they had two weddings to plan and orchestrate in the throws of a pandemic.

Don and Sandy Van Eck of rural Ruthton had two of their children get married in 2020. Their son Cody married Jade Wolf and their daughter Kiley married Eric Wiering. Both weddings had to deal with restrictions on the number of guests allowed and last-minute changes.

### Wedding 1.0

Jade Wolf and Cody Van Eck met in 2014, started dating in 2018, and got engaged in 2019. Cody proposed to Jade surrounded by friends and family members at a Labor Day bonfire. Neither of them wanted a long engagement and May seemed like an ideal month to get married.

They thought the weather would be nice in May and they wanted to give everyone an extra day to travel and recover after the wedding, so they chose to set the date for May 23, the Saturday before Memorial Day.

After booking the church, a reception venue, the DJ, and a photographer, they were ready to "Save the Date." They did not send out "Save the Date" cards, choosing rather to post their photograph and the date on multiple social media platforms. They also created a wedding website with all the details.

Their original plan was to get married on May 23, 2020, surrounded by all their family and friends. Their original guest list included over 600 people. The plan was to have the ceremony at the American Reformed Church in Woodstock with a reception to follow at Royal River Casino in Flandreau, S.D. The couple planned on purple and gold for their colors and wanted a Minnesota Vikings theme for their receptions.

"Planning everything was a pretty easy process with my organization skills," Jade said. "It was a fun and a stress-free process, which was pretty much done within a month after getting engaged, which then started the seven-month waiting game."

On New Year's Day 2020, they were starting to get pretty excited, and then mid-March, COVID-19 hit the United States and changed everything. They waited until the end of April to make any decision about changing the wedding.

"At the end of April, less than a month out from our scheduled wedding day, we decided to postpone and look for available dates in the coming fall," Jade said. After verifying with their wedding party, families, the church, the photographer, and the venue, the new proposed date of September 26 seemed to work for everyone except the DJ. The problem was that the one wedding detail that Cody had wanted to make sure happened was that the DJ be Jeff Erickson from KJOE radio.

Most DJ's were booked as it was the heart of the wedding season and they were only a few months out from the new date. After emailing numerous DJ's, they found Brody Wright with Wright Music & Entertainment, a DJ out of Fulda. He embraced their theme and did everything they wanted and more.

Jade and Cody decided to get married on their original date of May 23. But because of mandates by the governor of Minnesota, they were not able to have a big celebration. They could only allow 10 people into the ceremony, including the couple, their parents, the best man and maid of honor, and the pastor.

Although there were no governor orders in South Dakota, Royal River Casino was closed at the time, opening up less than one week after their scheduled wedding day.

"We realized that we were not going to be able to celebrate like we had originally planned and began the process of moving our wedding celebration to a later date so people would be more comfortable in attending," Cody said.

They set the reception date for Sept. 26, hoping that by then there would be fewer restrictions.

They were legally married on May 23. After the ceremony, they went to Jade's dad's house, her family threw them a little wedding celebration with friends and family members from her side present. It was held in the garage, which was fully decorated in purple and gold and there were about 40 people in attendance.

"We ended the day dancing and it was really a sweet and thoughtful surprise," Jade said.

The following day they celebrated with some of Cody's family and friends with a grill out and a bonfire.

### Wedding 2.0

They did hold another ceremony on September 26, once again at the American Reformed Church in Woodstock. This time, Jade wore her wedding dress and the whole wedding party was present.

"Walking down the aisle in a wedding dress is what every girl dreams of and deserves,"



Cody and Jade (Wolf) Van Eck

Jade said. "We both knew we wanted this moment to happen with our bridal party and family and friends being able to witness it. This second ceremony was everything we hoped and dreamed it would be."

The pastor knew the couple's personalities and love of all

things having to do with the Minnesota Vikings. To their complete surprise, he included whistles, flags thrown, off-sides calls, and other football lingo throughout the ceremony.

Cody called a "timeout" moments before saying "I Do" and

Continued on Page 5



Cody and Jade Van Eck with Don and Sandy Van Eck, (left) Jami Wolf (right) and two witnesses, Chris Opdahl and Elena Borah on May 23, the day they were legally married.

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Cody and Jade Van Eck with their wedding party at their second wedding.



The wedding and reception had a very "Vikings" theme.

huddled up with his groomsmen to converse. Cody had no idea the pastor had anything up his sleeve and the pastor had no idea Cody had anything up his sleeve and everything was a complete surprise to Jade!

"It was full of laughs and we couldn't have asked for a more perfect day," Jade said. Cody added, "It made the ceremony lighthearted and fun, and we were able to enjoy the moment more, rather than being nervous. Not many people get to say they got married twice, in one year, to the same person."

After their second wedding, they took their honeymoon through several states. They had wanted to travel outside the country – to some place warm and tropical, or maybe to the Netherlands where Cody's ancestors are from. Instead, they saw the Wisconsin Dells, several cities south of here including Louisville, where they went to the Louisville Slugger Museum and Lynchburg, Tenn., where they went on a tour of the Jack Daniel's distillery.

One of their stops was in Nashville where they rented "The Nashville Tractor" and rode around the town at night. "That was super memorable," Jade

said.

While everything did go very well with the change in dates, there were many expenses with having to change everything and hold two ceremonies. They lost their security deposit with their original DJ. They also had some "reprinting" expenses including printing new "Do Not Disturb" door hangers (which were printed for guests who would have stayed at the casino), printing new ceremony programs, and printing new water bottle labels (for hotel bags).

Jade also had made about 20 extra hotel bags for guests that ended up canceling their rooms

### "Plan more for your marriage than your wedding."

a couple days before the wedding and celebration. Items included in the hotel bags were two bottles of water, a bottle of ibuprofen, a bag of popcorn, gra-

nola bars, mints, Hershey kisses, fruit snacks, cheese crackers, and freshly baked mini chocolate chip cookies.

Even at their second ceremony, the threat of COVID-19 (and people who were sick or on quarantine) kept some people away and their headcount was off, so they ended up paying for 100 meals they did not use.

What is their advice to anyone trying to plan a wedding now, even as the pandemic drags on and there are still restrictions in place?

Jade said, "Bluntly, good luck. But sincerely, it's more than just a one-day celebration, it's about the rest of your lives together. Cody and I embrace the motto, 'Plan more for your marriage than your wedding.' Things will not go exactly as planned, but make the most of it. Keep a positive attitude regardless if anything goes wrong. At the end of the day, you will still get to marry your best friend."

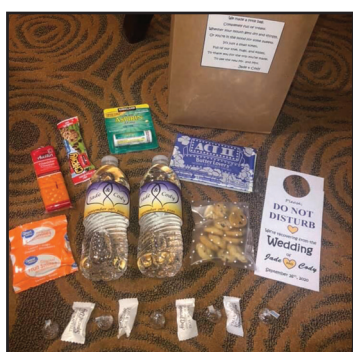
"Remember it is your day," Cody added. "Make it what you want it to be."



The groomsmen in a huddle during the second wedding ceremony.



Every guest received a rally rag with Cody and Jade's May wedding date on it.



The items Jade bought for the hotel bags for the wedding guests.

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# Change can be a good thing

Jill Fennema  
Eric Wiering and Kiley Van Eck became engaged on June 9, 2019. Earlier that day, the couple went hiking and Kiley was hoping that he was going to propose while they were out enjoying nature, but he did not.

Earlier that year, Eric had given Kiley a great gift for anyone who loves the outdoors: state park passes for Minnesota and South Dakota and a framed map of Minnesota, that could be marked with push pins to show where they had visited.

When they arrived home later that evening, he invited her out on the deck to put the pins in the map, and out popped a ring, a proposal, and their friends!

“He got down on one knee and asked me to go on an adventure for the rest of our lives and to marry him!!” Kiley recalls. “I was so in shock because all of my closest friends popped out from behind the house and surprised me! It was the easiest ‘yes’ ever!”

They decided on a longer engagement and chose August 29, 2020, as their wedding date. That date was special to them because it was the two-year anniversary of when they met. It was also right in between their parents’ wedding anniversaries, so they thought the date was perfect.

“I am a planning type of person, so within a week of being engaged I had all of the major details figured out and most of them booked,” Kiley said. “So most of our engagement was normal until six months before our wedding, when COVID-19 hit.”

At first Kiley and Eric were sure that the pandemic would be over by the time their wedding rolled around. But then reality set in, and Kiley started to make a few small changes and contacting people making sure they could still have the ceremony at the Woodstock American Reformed Church and Breezy Barn. But they told Kiley they had a guest limit and their guest list was too big. So one month before the wedding they decided

to find a venue in South Dakota where the restrictions were fewer.

“I was devastated. I always dreamed about getting married in a barn and now it wasn’t going to happen,” Kiley said. “But we decided that we were still having the wedding no matter what.”

After a week of searching, they discovered Buffalo Wallow Lodge in Volga, S.D. They had just opened and renovated an old church camp barn that summer. They had never had a wedding reception there, but assured the couple that everything would be ready to go for August 29.

There were other small things that happened the week leading up to the wedding that they had to make last minute changes as well. One of the biggest challenges was deciding what to do with the tent, chairs, and tables they had already rented. Friends and family stepped up and helped get all the detail changes out to the public and to the vendors.

“It was stressful, but it all worked out in the end,” Kiley



Kiley Van Eck and Eric Wiering were married on August 29, 2020. They had to move their reception from Lake Shetek to South Dakota because of COVID-19 restrictions in Minnesota.



The bride’s bouquet also had two small photos included, in memory of Kiley’s grandpa, Elmer Walhof, and niece, Clara Schaap.

said. “Our vendors were absolutely amazing when it came to being flexible and supportive with the location change at such short notice, which we are so grateful for.”

Kiley and Eric were married at the Woodstock American Reformed Church on August 29, 2020, by Pastor Brian Dengler,

just as they had planned. Kiley’s sister, Kaitlin Schaap, was the matron of honor and her bridesmaids were Jasmin Hansen, Tessa Bolluyt, Macy Hanson, Jade Van Eck, Mara Mouw, Regan Davis, and Jessica Hively. The bride wore a creamy white dress with a lace bodice and the

Continued on Page 7

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Kiley and Eric Wiering with their wedding party. (Photos by Britany Moser Photography)

Continued from Page 6

bridesmaids wore floor length dusty blue dresses in a variety of styles. They carried bouquets that included burgundy and cream colored roses and greens.

The best man was Eric's brother, Brent Wiering. The other groomsmen were Tylan Gylling, Brant Etrheim, Jake Schueller, Kyle O'Toole, Erik Maisch, Cody Van Eck, and Dan Paluch. The men all wore gray suits.

There were also several ring bearers and flower girls. One of the flower girls, Olivia Schaap, carried a teddy bear down the aisle in remembrance of her twin sister Clara who passed away. The other flower girls were Addie Schaap and Ann

Hively. Jase Schaap and Connor Hively were the ring bearers.

Justin Schaap and Jared Hively served as ushers and Kiley's personal attendants were Shelby Moeller and Bernice Van Hulzen. Her friend Emilee Johnson was supposed to be a personal attendant, too, but she had COVID that week and could not attend.

During the wedding, rather than lighting a unity candle, the couple planted a braided stem hibiscus tree together. Eric and Kiley filled a pot with dirt from the place where they would be making their home together. Each of their fathers took dirt from the farms Eric and Kiley grew up on (where they grew their roots) and poured those in the pot, too. The braided stem represented their lives and families being joined together. One thing that was especially meaningful for Kiley was the fact that her dad took dirt from the grave of her favorite 4-H show cow, Blitz.

While the tree was being planted, Cody Van Eck and Er-

ic's cousin, Laura Wiering, performed special music.

After the ceremony, everyone made their way to Volga, which is not far from Brookings, S.D.

"The reception was absolutely amazing and beautiful, and everything I could have ever dreamed of," Kiley said. "I don't think there is anything I would have done differently."

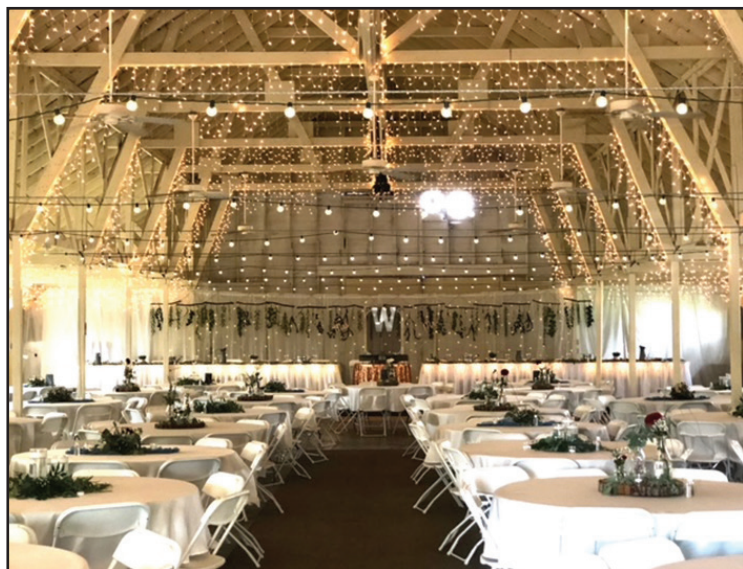
She added that there was a bit of chaos, because the same week of her wedding, her parents moved into their new house. Their previous farmhouse had burned down in October 2019.

Because of COVID-19 concerns, they did have some people decide not to attend the wedding at the last minute, so they ended up with leftover food, but the family divided it up, and all was good to go!

"So many people stepped in to help make it the most perfect day, surrounded by those who love and care for us the most. There isn't much I would change," Kiley said. "I think with the way



Eric and Kiley's first dance as husband and wife.



Buffalo Wallow Lodge has a reception hall in a remodeled barn.

everything ended up and how beautiful the weather was and the reception location turned out – I'm glad it all happened the way it did.

"At first I was very stressed

and sad because I never thought I would have to change the plans for my dream day, but God had a better idea in mind and it definitely went off as the most perfect day for Eric and I!"

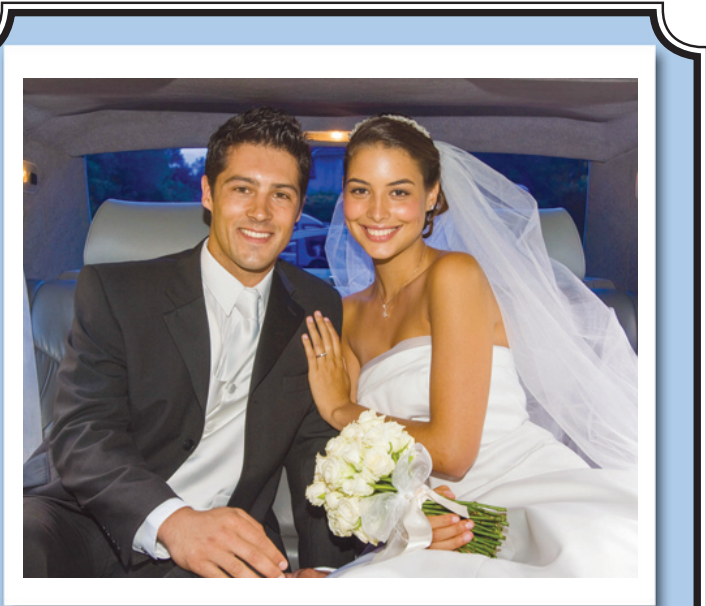
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# Bringing harmony to your wedding day

Diana Hensley  
Harmony Gardens offers a wide range of floral options for your special day. Owner Noreen Hawes grew up near Luverne. Both of her grandmothers and her mother were gardeners. She has been growing and interested in flowers since she was a child.

Before opening Harmony Gardens, Noreen worked in the floral industry in Sioux Falls. Creating arrangements is a special passion of hers and she began to offer fresh flower arrangements soon after opening. Making beautiful bouquets, corsages, and other arrangements for gifts, funerals, weddings, or other special occasions, Hawes now delivers them to surrounding communities, including Sioux Falls.

Harmony Gardens storefront sits nestled next to a row of evergreens, with many other shrubs and flowers all around. Across the driveway from the storefront is a large gazebo with a sitting area and fruit-bearing bushes and flowers curving around the west side creating a colorful buffer between it and the main entrance. Rustic metal art sits outside the main building, and barnwood is mixed with beautiful glass containers

and succulents in one half of the gift shop. Behind the main building, perennials and young bushes sit in pots on each side of the walkway, with established bushes and trees lining the west edge of the business. Two greenhouses are filled with young plants, and beyond those are more of Hawes' mature trees, shrubs, and flowers, which she utilizes in her floral designs. She also sources additional materials from her floral supplier. Combining what she has at her fingertips with items most people generally use allows Noreen to share her creativity in unique ways.

Noreen grows many flowers at Harmony Gardens, including over 50 types of lilies, several varieties of peonies, and an assortment of filler plants, including the common Babies Breath. She also grows seeded eucalyptus and succulents. You may not think of these as items to consider for a wedding, but a bride chose them, and Noreen was able to create a stunning one-of-a-kind bouquet for her.

"Lisianthus is another great option to consider putting in your bouquet. It's a little like a rose, but looser. It lasts a long time, and

there are lots of colors to choose from," recommends Hawes. "One thing I do that's different is to take people into the garden and the coolers so they can see the flowers and pick them out."

Don't forget about centerpieces. Noreen can help you design them, and prepare them for your big day. She can even construct one-of-a-kind rustic boxes for centerpieces, or help decorate your containers. "Many people are choosing to go a simpler route," said Hawes. Succulents in glass or wooden containers, or even artificial plants make set-up on wedding day a cinch.

Hawes is a wealth of information and ideas. Thinking outside of the box, she is able to recommend unique options for a couple's special day. One option she recommends is to consider serving cupcakes, and putting flowers on them. (Did you know that some flowers are edible?)

The season in which the wed-



Surprisingly, in addition to being used in centerpieces, succulents can be used in bouquets. Here they are paired with Seeded Eucalyptus.



The current trend is outdoor weddings with free-flowing, whimsical bouquets. Noreen Hawes at Harmony Gardens designed this one, carried by a local bride, here with her groom.



Two floral arrangements designed by Noreen Hawes of Harmony Gardens. According to Noreen, there are many unique stunning flowers for all different types of weddings.



ding will be held will likely have an influence on the available floral and greenery options. For example, a December bride will likely not be able to have lilacs in her bouquet. Hawes says these days some couples are opting for whimsical weddings. Floral arrangements and bouquets for those are usually loose and free-flowing, rather than tight and

perfect. "Seeded Eucalyptus is a good one for that," Noreen suggests.

Hawes grows many unusual things, which allows her to incorporate unique plants and flowers into her floral arrangements. Making an appointment is an option to see what Harmony Gardens has to offer when planning your special day.

*If you are concerned about having your wedding with the current situation in our world, you have a few options,*

- 1) Consider holding festivities outside as much as possible.
- 2) Offer hand sanitizer as party favors.
- 3) Design a floor plan around family groups.
- 4) Consider livestreaming the wedding for those who are more comfortable staying home.

*Remember to breathe! You put a lot of work into your wedding. Go with the flow and enjoy it!*



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# Capturing Memories

Amber Post  
A wedding is a monumental day in both the bride and groom's lives, and the memories made throughout that day deserve to be captured on film. That's exactly why SWC senior Ella Veldkamp began her business of wedding videography - to capture the memories and emotions of that special day for the bride and groom. Wedding videography is a newer form of documenting that "special day" where the videographer captures different moments of the day and puts them all together in a chronologically ordered video for the bride and groom to cherish forever.

The process begins when a client reaches out to Ella through one of her social media platforms - you can reach her through her Instagram, @terracottafilms; email, terracottafilms@yahoo.com; or through her website, terracottafilms.wixsite.com/ella. About eight weeks before the date of the wedding, Ella will approach the couple with a few questions about how they want their special day to be captured and maybe ask for the itinerary. "Some couples will want you to capture certain people or items," says Ella, "but usually I will start with the bride getting ready, then the groom, then we do the first look, bridal party pictures, the ceremony, reception, the dance if they have one, and then the send off."

Ella's goal through this experience is to capture the day and the emotions, mainly for the bride. She also didn't discredit the importance of a wedding photographer, but acknowledged that there are certain emotions and memories that can be captured only with a video, and she would be one to know. Ella has been

making videos since around sixth or seventh grade, giving her around five to six years of experience! Specifically she didn't start filming weddings until June of 2020, and since then she has filmed three weddings and began her booming business. Currently, Ella has six or seven weddings booked for the year 2021, running from May through October. Her first experience filming a wedding was for one of her older sister's friends. "It's a lot of pressure filming someone's day," says Ella. "I really like doing it now, and I had thought about doing it before, but I was scared." She stated how the lower pressure of filming a friend's wedding instead of a complete stranger's was one of the ways that she became more comfortable with the process.

In order to create these cinematic masterpieces, Ella uses a Sony A7III camera with dual SD cards to prevent any loss of footage. She also has purchased a stabilizer to prevent the clips from seeming bumpy as she films. But before Ella can send the couple their film, there is a lot of editing work that needs to be done. On average, Ella puts in between thirty to forty hours towards editing the video; "I sometimes watch Netflix in the background, though, so that helps," she added with a smile. The editing process is a long one, involving a multitude of steps. First, Ella downloads and saves all of the footage to a hard drive, then downloads it into her editing software. From there, she culls the footage and makes sure it is in chronological order; finally, she will add filters or music, and maybe text at the beginning and end of the video. She will then check over the film multiple times, making sure

that the lighting stays consistent and that none of the clips are blurry or unnecessary. Overall, she strives to make the wedding video last from six to eight minutes.

Since wedding videography is a newer element to capture a wedding, there are not a lot of people that know about all of the work that goes into creating these cherished videos.

In order to choose a wedding videographer, Ella recommends that the bride and groom find someone who is good at communicating with them and films in a style that suits what they are looking for, as each videographer has their own way of creating videos. In order to expand her own knowledge, Ella has watched the work of other wedding videographers, as well as talking to the photographers or videographers at the weddings she has attended, and also reaching out to those she can over social media. In the future, Ella sees herself pursuing this hobby alongside her future career; she is thinking about taking up a minor in entrepreneurship, and has considered making her major either nursing, or, more recently, business marketing.



Ella Veldkamp is a wedding videographer.

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# Wedding dance munchies

Michele Bruxvoort

There are many details to planning a wedding. Not the least of all is the food. Once you have the reception menu planned, it's time to decide on wedding dance munchies, and appetizers.

Your guests will have had a great time dancing and visiting with your friends and family. Two hours into the dance would be an excellent time to bring out some fabulous finger foods. What will you be serving?

## WHAT'S IN YOUR WALLET?

Everybody has a budget. You'll need to know how much you can spend before embarking on your wedding dance munchies menu. Following that, you'll be able to formulate a plan with a local caterer that best suits your budget and needs.

There are a few things that will influence your budget:

- time of day you'll be having your dance – some caterers charge an extra fee for late-in-the day service
- if you are using the same caterer as the wedding reception



Image by Hans Braxmeier from Pixabay

they may give you a discount

- having a specific meat – market prices may be high or low
- the simplicity of the food – served hot or cold
- type of crowd you'll have at the dance: small children, teens, adults, and senior citizens all affect what you'll be serving
- whether or not your reception hall allows you to bring in your own food or requires them to be from a catering service
- a theme you're incorporating throughout the wedding celebration

## KEEPING IT SIMPLE

If you want to keep costs low you'll want to consider a smaller, simpler fare. Snacks that are pleasing to all ages for your wedding dance menu will keep preparations easy. Consider making a munchies bar out of pretzels, popcorn, a variety of chips as well as tasty dips. Add to it a selection of dessert bars that can be mass made such as brownies, chocolate chip bars, and the like.

You can also keep your drink selections simple as well. Lemonade in different flavors as well as coffee, or offer your guests a variety of cool and warm beverages. You'll also enjoy the ease with which a few friends can easily set up this selection as well as maintaining it for the remainder of the evening.

## THEME THROUGHOUT YOUR WEDDING CELEBRATION

Some wedding celebrations keep with a theme throughout the day. Everything from the food to decor expresses the theme. This will take considerable planning to incorporate the theme for the food you will serve at the dance and perhaps, making the cost



Image by Pexels from Pixabay

higher.

For example, if your wedding has a cowboy theme, you would want to have food items that reflect cowboy life or represent cowboy ideals. Your reception might be a BBQ with all the fixings, cowboy table service, napkins, and cups. You may have a signature drink designed for your cowboy reception. Even a special cowboy dessert will add to the theme.

## TRENDY AND FUN APPETIZERS

But if keeping it simple isn't your thing, then I have some great suggestions for making your wedding dance appetizers and munchies the "talk of the town." Here are some ideas:

- fried chicken and biscuit sliders – nothing says yum like a small piece of breaded fried chicken with a special sauce slid between two homemade biscuits!
- mini hotdogs on mini hotdog buns with a fixings bar – cute and lots of fun for little kids
- warm soft pretzel bar with dips – great for filling up folks as well as for dipping in cheese, salsa, or frosting for cinnamon sugar pretzels
- meatball varieties, fried mac-n-cheese balls with sauces for dipping – all very handy to have on their own toothpick
- bacon-wrapped items bar with sauces and dips – you simply can't go wrong with chocolate-dipped bacon, bacon-wrapped



Image by biggifraley from Pixabay



poppers, bacon-wrapped water chestnuts...

- mini tacos with sauces and fixings – another hit with kids
- fresh fruit bar – great for spearing with toothpicks, super healthy as well
- fresh vegetable bar with dips – healthy and a great alternative to sweets
- donut bar with different drizzles and toppings – warm donut holes, different icings, and different flavored donuts
- cheesecake bar with toppings – have guests design their own favorite piece of cheesecake
- a variety of soups and bread – great for fall and winter celebrations, allowing your guests to warm up and fill up.

Those are just a few examples, but if you'd really like to splurge, look up local or not so near "food trucks" and let your guests order what they'd like.

With so many options to choose from, there is sure to be something that fits your budget and your guest's tastes. Swing on over to Pinterest if you need a little nudge. Happy Wedding!

## Wedding Videography

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Ella VeldKamp

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# Wedding Plan Checklist

## Sixteen to Nine Months Before

- o Start a wedding folder or binder.
- o Work out your budget.
- o Pick your wedding party.
- o Start the guest list
- o Hire a planner, if desired.
- o Reserve your date and venues.
- o Book your officiant.
- o Research photographers, bands, florists, and caterers.
- o Confirm theme and color palette.

## Eight Months Before

- o Hire the photographer and videographer.
- o Book the entertainment.
- o Meet caterers.
- o Purchase a dress.
- o Reserve a block of hotel rooms for out-of-town guests.
- o Register.
- o Launch a wedding website.

## Seven to Six Months Before

- o Select and purchase invitations.
- o Start planning a honeymoon.
- o Shop for bridesmaids' dresses.
- o Meet with the officiant
- o Send save-the-date cards.
- o Book a florist.
- o Arrange transportation.
- o Start composing a day-of timeline.
- o Schedule a tasting session with caterer.

## Five to Four Months Before

- o Book the rehearsal and rehearsal-dinner venues.
- o Check on the wedding invitations.
- o Select and order the cake.
- o Send your guest list to the host of your shower.
- o Purchase wedding shoes and start dress fittings.
- o Schedule hair and makeup artists.

## o Choose your music.

## Three Months Before

- o Finalize the menu and flowers.
- o Order favors, if desired.
- o Finalize the order of the ceremony and the reception.
- o Print menu cards, if you like, as well as programs.
- o Purchase the rings.
- o Send your event schedule to the vendors.

## Two Months Before

- o Touch base again with all the vendors.
- o Meet with the photographer.
- o Review the playlist with the band or DJ.
- o Send out the invitations.
- o Submit a newspaper wedding announcement.
- o Enjoy a bachelorette party.

## One Month Before

- o Enter RSVPs into your guest-list database.
- o Get your marriage license.
- o Mail the rehearsal-dinner invitations.
- o Visit the dressmaker for your last dress fitting.
- o Send out as many final payments as you can.
- o Confirm times for hair and makeup and all vendors.
- o Assign seating
- o Purchase bridesmaids' gifts.
- o Write vows, if necessary.
- o Get your hair cut and colored, if desired.

## Week of the Wedding

- o Reconfirm arrival times with vendors.
- o Delegate small wedding-day tasks.
- o Send a timeline to the bridal party
- o Pick up your dress.
- o Check in one last time with the photographer.
- o Set aside checks for the vendors.

- o Book a spa treatment.
- o Send the final guest list to the caterer and all venues hosting your wedding-related events
- o Break in your shoes.
- o Pack for your honeymoon
- o Prepare a list of payment envelopes.

## The Wedding Day

- o Your day has arrived!
- o Be sure to wear a button-down shirt for your hair and makeup appointments.

## After the Wedding

- o Get your wedding dress cleaned and preserved.
- o Preserve your bouquet.
- o Write and mail your thank-you notes.
- o Complete your name-change kit.
- o Check into your store's bridal registry completion program.
- o Meet with photographer and videographer to finalize albums/video.

# Britany Moser, cont.

Continued from Page 2

## How much of the wedding day do you usually photograph?

I capture it all! I typically get there while the bride and groom are getting ready and then some of my favorite photos are dancing photos, so I always try to stay for part of the dance as well.

## How much time do you have to spend editing photos?

A.....LOT!!! Editing is most definitely the longer progress. I edit around 700-900 photos for a wedding and I edit each and every one of them. Some photos are obviously easier to edit than others, but yes editing definitely takes awhile, especially since I am very picky with how my edits should look and many times I will edit and then go back and re-edit until they are perfect.

**Do you provide a proof book with photographs or do you supply a digital copy of the proofs?** I actually don't do proofs, I provide all edited photos in an online gallery. They are then able to print directly from their gallery or they can download and purchase prints anywhere they please.

**What is the best way to contact you?** Go to my website <https://britanymoserphotography.mypixieset.com/> and fill out my contact form and see my work on Instagram.



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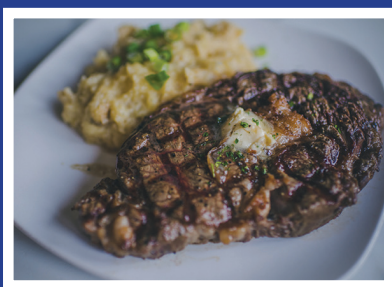
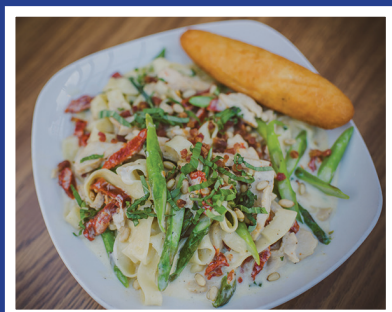


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