SEDALIA DEMOCRAT Star Journal Fall 2021 lucce Modol

Ways to save money on the big day

By Skye Melcher

skyem@sedaliademocrat.com

People spend thousands of dollars on weddings. So how can couples save money or stay within their budgets but still have the wedding they want?

Owner and Lead Event and Wedding Planner of Annabelle Events, Anne Tegerdine, offered tips on where couples make mistakes and how they can save money.

"So we offer wedding planning in two different ways," Tegerdine said. "We offer what we call wedding management and I find those couples are spending anywhere from \$10,000 up to \$40,000. We also do full-service planning and I find those couples are spending \$50,000 to six figures; they're really investing in their day."

Tegerdine also offers a one-time consultation for around \$100. This is typically for the couple with a low guest count or a lower budget. They meet with a planner and get a lot of good ideas.

"This is a great way for couples to save money," Tegerdine said. "Sitting down with somebody like us with a wedding planner that one time, we focus on their core vendors so their venue, their caterer, and their rentals because that's going to be where they spend the chunk of their money and where we see couples really make mistakes. Couples will come to us with a little bit of an idea of what they want to do and we navigate those three core things."

Tegerdine added that the biggest thing that surprises people is the number of people on their guest list and the elements involved there.

"Sometimes I break it down that each seat has a cost and in each seat, there is a fraction of the table. the table cloth, the chair, there's a slice of cake, a fraction of the floral, and whatever it cost you for food and drink," Tegerdine said.

After adding up all the costs, it could cost around \$150 per seat. Budgets tend to ramp up with the number of guests, especially over the 50-person mark.

"So an easy way to save a little bit of money is to eliminate some of those things, so not having a sit-down dinner maybe just having appetizers instead and more of a lingering reception," Tegerdine suggested.

Tegerdine said one of the

hardest parts of planning is having a conversation with mom and dad if they are contributing. She urges couples to do that as soon as possible.

Tegerdine said one of her favorite things to tell couples is that Hy-Vee makes great cakes.

"Go to your local grocery store, it's the same cake they use for a birthday," Tegerdine said. "While you're still saying wedding, people don't think of that."

She noted the word "Wedding" could increase the price of things like cakes and flowers.

"One way to save money on flowers specifically is work with a florist that will let you pick up your flowers, so they don't have to do that delivery or set up," Tegerdine said.

Tegerdine said another way is

to get bouquets and boutonnieres done at a florist and then DIY the centerpieces.

"A great way to save money when it comes to decor and centerpieces is to incorporate candles," Tegerdine added.

The DIY or do it yourselves couples can be their own worst enemies when planning their wedding.

"The biggest mistake I see people make is they try to DIY so many things because they have so many ideas," Tegerdine said.

Couples can get hung up on Pinterest and Instagram, so Tegerdine suggests couples make a new Pinterest board with the things they have already booked. She cautioned to not get caught up on things that are optional like a videographer, photographer, a lot of decor, and multiple desserts.



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"A great resource I find on paper goods, invitations, and all the little signs, is Etsy," Tegerdine added. "You can do digital download and you can print it yourself."

Michelle Quattlebaum, owner of The Venue, has seen many high-budget weddings but also lower-budget weddings at her venue.

"I think for a high budget wedding they would have a coordinator or pay a rental decorating company to come out set up, but for a lower budget wedding I think people get more stuff on sale, or on Facebook, or their friend used it also, so they try and be thrifty that way," Quattlebaum said.

Quattlebaum said the most expensive things she has seen couples spend money on are alcohol, food, photographers, and decorations.

"I would look at used rental items," Quattlebaum added. She works alongside the owner of Occasions Decor rental when helping couples rent items.

Unlike Tegerdine, Quattlebaum differs on

the food but has seen many couples do it a cheaper way.

"It's kind of hard to save money on food because you have to feed everyone, but it doesn't need to be this big five-course meal," Quattlebaum said. "A lot of people have been doing a taco bar or small plates, so that saves money."

One of the ways Quattlebaum helps couples save money is by allowing them to choose vendors outside of the list she already has. She will also allow a couple to buy their own alcohol.

Quattlebaum added that she has tables and chairs already set at The Venue that couples can use along with a sound system.

"Everything is included (in the rental price)," Quattlebaum said. "I'm such a penny pincher already. I rather them have a beautiful dress or prettier decorations or whatever they want to spend the money on."

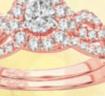
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planning to get married have lived together during the engagement period or even longer. A Pew Research Center study found that about two-thirds of married adults

who lived with their spouses before they were married say they saw cohabitation as a step toward marriage. According to Brandon Gaille Small Business & Marketing

Advice, 65% of couples who

Many couples who are

get married live together at some point before their weddings. Individuals who live together must outfit their homes with furniture and other essentials, including kitchen supplies. That means that couples may already own traditional wedding registry gifts like kitchen and bath items and accessories. Brides- and grooms-to-be can think creatively when registering for gifts if they

already have many of the items found on traditional registries. Target has partnered with HoneyFund, a free honeymoon registry and cash wedding gift registry, to allow couples to register for honeymoon travel and other experiences. Honeymoon registries can be great ways for couples who already own household items to simplify the process of gift-giving for their wedding guests.

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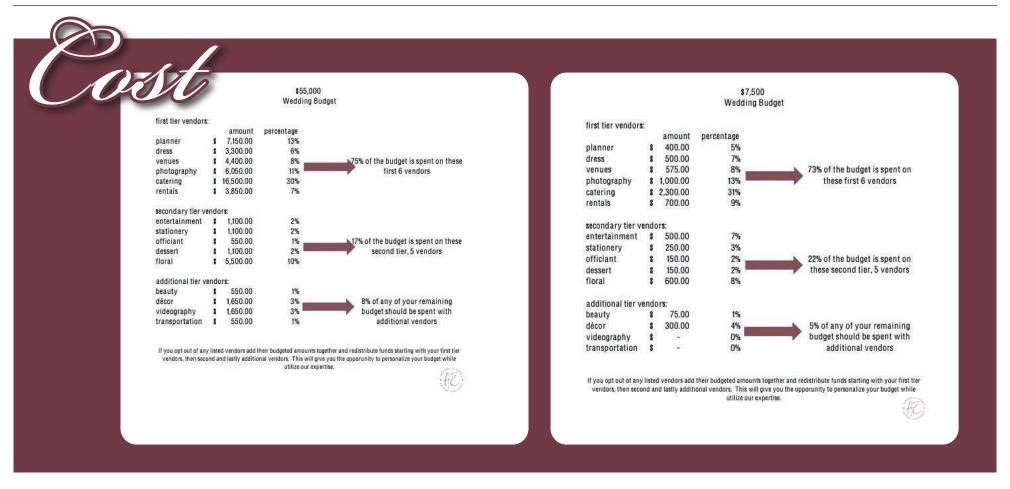








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Precautions that can keep wedding guests safe during the francemic

Happy couples planning to tie the knot in 2020 confronted a challenge they likely never saw coming. While many couples fear inclement weather on their wedding days, 2020's prospective brides and grooms had to contend with something far more fearful than rain clouds.

The outbreak of the novel coronavirus that began in the winter of 2019-20 and was ultimately declared a pandemic by the World Health Organization put many couples' wedding plans in peril. In an effort to stop the spread of the virus and protect those most vulnerable to it, governments across the globe placed restrictions on social gatherings, including weddings. Those



restrictions prompted some couples to postpone their nuptials until 2021, while others tied the knot at considerably smaller ceremonies than they initially planned for.

Couples planning to tie the knot in the months ahead can still do so, but the WHO recommends they take certain precautions as they organize their ceremonies and receptions.

• Confirm local regulations. Restrictions related to COVID-19 differ greatly by region. Areas that were not hit hard by the virus may not have as many restrictions in place as those that were devastated by the outbreak. In addition, cities or regions whose responses to the virus have been successful may have relaxed restrictions more than areas that are still struggling. The WHO notes the importance of checking local guidelines prior to planning an event, and that's especially important for couples who hope to get married in towns or cities where they do not currently reside.

- Keep guests up to date about precautions. Include detailed information about the safety measures that will be implemented during the wedding on your wedding website. Insert a card detailing this information into your invitation envelopes as well so all guests know what to expect when they accept the invitation. In addition, remind guests of the safety precautions throughout the ceremony.
- Provide sanitary supplies. Make sure hand sanitizer, soap, water, and masks are readily available for all guests. Social distance markers also can be placed on the

ground throughout the venue to make it easy for guests to stay 6 feet apart from one another.

• Choose an outdoor venue. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention notes that the COVID-19 virus spreads very easily through person-to-person contact and that the risk of spreading the virus is greater when spending time indoors. Couples can mitigate some of that risk by tying the knot outdoors and then hosting an outdoor reception where tables are kept at least 6 feet apart.

Weddings will be different until the world puts COVID-19 in its rearview mirror. In the meantime, it's up to happy couples to keep their guests safe come the big day.





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% 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.





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How to find your forist

Weddings join the lives of two loving individuals so they can share their future with one another. Various elements help make weddings both momentous and magical.

Some weddings adhere to themes that are designed to make an impression and showcase couples' personalities. Floral arrangements are key components of wedding themes, as they help to establish ambiance at both the ceremony and reception.

Flowers can easily help couples achieve a desired vibe, whether that's rustic, romantic, modern, or even whimsical. Skilled florists may use a variety of flowers and foliage, as well as dramatic displays to help create the couple's wedding day vision. According to an internal study from the wedding advice and planning resource The Knot, which surveyed more than 27,000 couples who got married in 2019, the average cost of wedding flowers was \$2,000 in

2019. However, the cost of floral arrangements can vary depending on the scope of the arrangements and choice of flowers, including whether they're in season or not.

It is essential for couples to spend time vetting potential florists to find one who will produce their desired vision at a price that fits their budget. These guidelines can make the process go more smoothly.

- Establish your theme early on. Floral arrangements will complement and enhance other elements of the wedding, including color scheme and the wedding theme. If your wedding theme ties into a specific season, you will work with the florist to find blooms and other pieces that coordinate. For example, winter weddings with white, ice blue and silver color schemes may coordinate with white ranunculus flowers, dahlias, dusty miller foliage, and viburnum berries.
 - Bring swatches and

photographs to consultations. It is easier to explain color palettes to a florist with examples in hand. Show the florist the types of arrangements you prefer and have actual fabric swatches from bridesmaid gowns or groomsmen vests so that colors can be complemented.

- Create a list of desired items. Florists may sell items a la carte or have packages of common floral pieces for wedding celebrations. Types of floral arrangements include bridal bouquet, bridesmaids' bouquets, maid of honor bouquet, corsages for mothers/grandmothers, boutonnieres for groomsmen and fathers/grandfathers, flower girl headpiece, petals to sprinkle, table centerpieces, altar arrangements, pew or chair decorations, and cake decorations.
- Go easy on aroma. Tread lightly when selecting blooms that have strong aromas. They may be beautiful, but many

people are sensitive to smells. Allergies also may be exacerbated by flowers with strong aromas. Discuss options with the florist before proceeding. • Explain your budget. Research the average

cost of floral arrangements and let the florist know what you can afford. This can help the florist narrow down options or make substitutions that fit your theme and your budget.

Couples can take certain steps as they choose floral arrangements for their weddings. Cost should not be the only factor in the decision, even though it is an important one.





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Relive the special day through photos, video

By Dustin Steinhoff

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Wedding photographers and videographers are an integral part of a wedding to brides and grooms who wish to capture moments from their special day and revisit them down the line.

"A wedding is one of those things where you're looking forward to it your whole life, it's one of the most important days of your life, and the only way you're ever going to get to see it again is if you have pictures of it," Rainy Day Productions Lead Photographer Nina Meyer said.

Myer is a University of Central Missouri graduate and has been a photographer at Rainy Day Productions for about six years.

Meyer said that when she tells people about her profession, people often tell her they regret not having a photographer present at their wedding.

"You're going to pay for this huge day, you're going to have all of these beautiful decorations, you're going to get gifts and have flowers and the only way those live on is through photos and videos," Meyer said.

At Rainy Day Productions, the process begins with a meeting between the future bride and groom and the lead videographer, Chris Moeller, and Mever.

If the couple decides to go with Rainy Day Productions, Meyer schedules the engagement photoshoot, one of her personal favorite parts of the wedding photography process.

Meyer said that in addition to getting photos of the couple, it gives them a chance to get used to getting their photos taken.

"It's when we get to know each other and get over the awkwardness

of having a camera in your face for a couple hours so that when the actual wedding day comes, you're used to it," Meyer said.

As the wedding date gets closer, they meet with the couple again to ensure scheduling and plans are all in place.

When the wedding day comes around, Meyer said she and Moeller don't have a set time limit and will stay from start to finish. Meyer said she typically arrives when the bride is getting ready to take detail shots of things such as the dress, flowers and rings.

Once the bride is ready, she grabs photos of her alongside her bridesmaids. A second photographer comes by and grabs photos of the groom and his groomsmen. Afterward, group and individual shots are taken.



PHOTO COURTESY OF RAINY DAY PRODUCTIONS Nina Meyer of Rainy Day Productions captures a memory between a bride and

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Meyer said the bride and groom have an opportunity to take a "first look" photo where they stage the first time seeing each other for photos and videos. In some cases, they also shoot photos and videos of the couple giving each other letters or presents before the ceremony.

When the ceremony begins, the four photographers and videographers capture all of the special moments that take place.

Following the ceremony, family photos, reception photos and more bride and groom photos are taken.

After the wedding day, Meyer goes through the roughly 5,000 photos taken and will post a preview album of somewhere between 20 and 100 of her favorite photos from the wedding on social media.

"That way, they have some photos to share immediately," Meyer said.

Meyer said the couple receives the complete collection of the photos about four to six weeks after the wedding and they receive the video about two months afterward as the video editing is an indepth process.

Meyer said the wedding video also includes drone footage and music picked out by the couple.

Meyer said wedding photography and videography became especially important to people amid COVID-19 when some family members and friends were unable to attend as it allows the occasion to be shared with those unable to attend the ceremony.

Meyer said the wedding industry was greatly impacted by the pandemic as many of those planning weddings for 2020 decided to push back their wedding dates while others limited the number of attendees and social distanced.

She said Rainy Day Productions' photographers and videographers were able to work with brides and grooms to reschedule their services, but she said a number of wedding venues had to permanently close during the pandemic. On the upside, Meyer said she is aware of a few new wedding venues that have since opened.

For more information about Rainy Day Productions, visit rainy-day-productions.com or the Rainy Day Productions Facebook page.

Dustin Steinhoff can be reached at 660-747-8123.





How to get the best puedding photos

By Andrea Merritt

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Local wedding photographers offering some insight on how couples can best capture their special day. They all focus on things feeling natural during the wedding, whether it be lighting, poses or outfits. Each photographer gave tips from personal experience and provided specific examples of what they think works best.

Take candid photos

The owner of Cantrell Photography, Sara Heaton, explained that couples shouldn't solely rely on posed photos for their

wedding photo gallery. She stated they should take candid photos to help convey their wedding story and capture the raw moments of a wedding.

"I want them to really just forget that I'm there; I want to capture that real enjoyment and fun moments of the wedding," Heaton explained. "I pose them as little as possible, me disturbing them as little as possible during intimate moments will make the best photos."

Heaton stated many candid photo opportunities include the wedding party getting dressed, the bride and bridesmaids getting their hair and makeup done, the couple's first look at each other after they get ready and the first dance between the couple.

To help create natural moments, Heaton suggested that a couple be intimately and directly engaged with each other.

"Being posed and smiling at the camera look really nice in frames, but I encourage them to have candid moments with each other," Heaton added. "So, I'll have them practice their first dance during photos, so you can see the natural rhythm between them."

She also does silly prompts to help them feel more comfortable and create genuine laughter.



PHOTO COURTESY OF SARA HEATON

Owner of Cantrell Photography, Sara Heaton





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"I want real laughter out of the couple, so I'll have them snuggle close together and ask the groom to whisper his favorite cereal into the bride's ear," Heaton said. "It catches them totally off guard and makes them laugh, so it catches a natural moment. Just little candid prompts like that really help."

Heaton stated that by having candid photos taken, a couple can be more in the moment at their wedding.

"The experience is the most important part," Heaton said. "Have as much fun as possible on your wedding day."

Chose clothing you

feel confident in

The owner of Lynneil Photography, Sandra Harbison, explained many tips on what clothing looks best in wedding photos, however, she stated the most important thing is that the wedding members feel confident in what they are wearing.

"I've noticed my best pictures come when the bride and the groom pick out outfits they are confident in," Harbison said. "Like if the bride picks out a dress she is totally in love with or grooms, who might not be a three-piece suit guy or used to wearing a tuxedo, wear something they are comfortable, yet classy in."



PHOTO COURTESY OF KOURTNEY APEL

Owner of Amera Photography, Kourtney Apel.

She explained that if the wedding party wears clothing that fits them, their confidence shows in the wedding photos.

"It used to be you would see all the bridesmaids in a similar style dress, but I have noticed lately brides letting bridesmaids pick out their own personal style that goes along with the wedding color," Harbison mentioned. "I've noticed if they are dressed in a style that fits them best and they are more confident and less nervous, pictures turn out better."

Harbison further explained how much confidence in clothing reflects in the pictures.

"Wedding members who aren't comfortable in their clothing, get really nervous when it comes to having their picture was taken, (have) forced smiles and (are) irritable," Harbison said. "When someone is confident in their clothing, their smile will brighten up the room, it doesn't seem like anything is forced, they'll make more natural type movements and will be really receptive to any instructions by the photographer."

Find the best lighting

The owner of Amera Photography, Kourtney Apel, stated the composition and overall look of wedding photos can depend largely on the lighting.

"Anything can be beautiful with the right lighting, or not as beautiful with bad lighting," Apel said. "But always communicate the things you love with your photographer and trust they'll guide you in the best lighting."

Apel suggested to get the best lighting, it would be wise to take the photos outside.

"Natural light is best because there is a lot of tricks a photographer can do with sunlight when taking photos outside," Apel added. "But if you are going to do photos inside, make sure the photographer brings some modified lighting or have them go to an open-source of light, like a window."

The time of day can determine what type of natu-



PHOTO COURTESY OF SANDRA HARBISON

Owner of Lynneil Photography, Sandra Harbison

ral lighting the photos will have. Apel explained what time she personally thinks works best with photos.

"My favorite time of day to take pictures is the golden hour, which is about an hour or hour and a half before sunset," Apel said. "When exactly the golden hour will be, depends on your location and like the tree lining."

Apel also stated the worst time of day to take photos is during full sun, or about noon to 2 p.m.

She continued by adding that it is important to consider that certain weather conditions can also alter the natural lighting.

"There is always what the weather is doing; for example, a cloudy day can get a pretty photo with the overcast blocking direct sunlight," Apel mentioned. "This works well if you want softer images."

Andrea Merritt can be reached at 660-826-1000.



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Kay's Bridal & Tuxedo carries a popular black and ivory wedding dress "Tristyn" by Maggie Sottero.

Brides-to-be move away from traditional weddings, dresses

By Faith Bemiss

fbemiss@sedaliademocrat.com

Brides-to-be are moving away from traditional church weddings and white dresses to more personalized wedding venues and dress attire.

Kay Shull, the owner of Kay's Bridal & Tuxedo in downtown Sedalia, said brides are becoming fond of Boho wedding dress styles, pantsuits and also black gowns instead of white. Event venues have replaced traditional church weddings also. Shull said there are around 10 different wedding venues in the local area. She has also seen a surge in destination weddings.

"Traditionally weddings were always church (and) reception," she noted. "Everything was at the church. Then we started with off-site weddings. Then we had the emergence of all the venues."

Shull added as far as dresses when a bride-to-be comes into the shop, she has them fill out a sheet of information, which in turn helps her to know what style and price range they are aiming for.

"One of the things I have down here is, of course, the date but the ceremony site," she explained. "Whatever they write down that almost tells me immediately what type of wedding they are going after and where their budget is. I call it my roadmap, it gives me an idea of what they are looking for ..."

Shull added wedding gown styles usually change every two years.

"The wedding gowns take on a new look," she noted. "This year, it's the

V-neck, the sweetheart neckline and the halter are still (popular). The sweetheart neckline is probably the most

"We have plain (dresses) to (dresses with) different layers of organza, lace and beading," she said. "The V-neckline is what the designers have (released) so that is what most everything is. I have always said that the gowns that we get, is what someone in New York has designed."

She added the Boho look this season had been the most popular style. Bohemian gowns usually have lace, dramatic sleeves, and a mixture of "fabrics and notions." The dress is comfortable with no boning or wire and moves freely. The aura of the dress gives off a carefree spirit.



"For fall weddings this year, I think the Boho look has been a big hit," Shull said.

Shull noted some brides are gravitating toward black dresses. She carries a popular design by Maggie Sottero. The dress, called "Tristyn," is black and ivory. A popular Boho design Shull carries is "Briar" made by Allure.

Shull added the shop offers alterations on all dresses and noted brides-tobe should have their dress altered six weeks before the wedding. Dress sizes offered are 2 through 28 with trending fall colors being burgundy, burnt orange, rose gold, and sage. As for jewelry, she noted gold is more popular than silver right now.

Kay's also carries popular bridesmaid dresses created by Villevkoff, House of Wu and Allure; flower girl dresses take in Tip Top and Joykids designs. The shop also offers tuxedo and tablecloth rental.

Shull added June used to be the big wedding month but now October is the "new June." She's finding a large number of weddings taking place in the fall months. Although the shop does take walk-in consultations, Shull suggests brides-to-be call for an appointment.

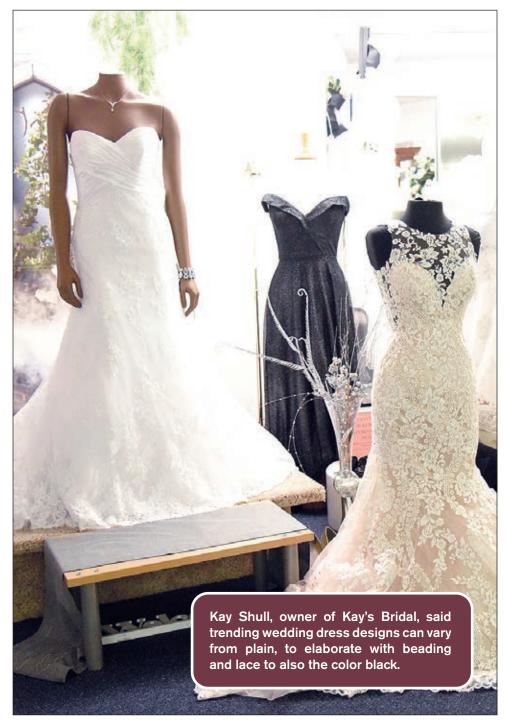
Kay's Bridal & Tuxedo, 218 S. Ohio Ave., is open 12:30 to 5:30 p.m. Monday through Friday and 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday. For more information, call 660-827-5297 or 660-620-5481.

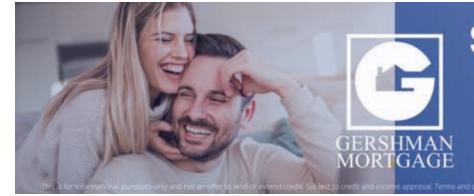
Faith Bemiss can be reached at 660-530-0289 or on Twitter @flbemiss.



PHOTOS BY FAITH BEMISS I DEMOCRAT

Kay's Bridal & Tuxedo has been in business for 33 years and offers wedding dress and bridesmaid styles by designers Christina Wu and Allure.





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