

Weddings

The Step Before
The Aisle

Contact: Katie Kenne
Waterloo Courier Bridal Account Executive
Waterloo, IA
319-291-1524 (business)
319-290-4948 (cell phone)
Katie.Kenne@wfcourier.com

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release:

"High School Sweethearts and College Lovers Say I Do"

(Waterloo, September 1) Imagine taking a romantic walk on the beach during your college spring break. You are walking on the beach with your boyfriend, talking, and watching the sail boats pass by in the distance. All of a sudden, your high school sweetheart drops down on one knee. Your heart stops and you know what is next; the biggest question you'll ever be asked. Opening that little box, he asks you to be his wife. Chocking back the tears, you say, "Yes." Whether your proposal was on the beach, over a candlelit dinner, to a high school sweetheart or a college lover, it's memorable and perfect for you. Your wedding should also be just as special and picturesque.

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Waterloo Courier Bridal Department
P.O. Box 540
501 Commercial Street
Waterloo, Iowa 50704

www.WCFCourier.com/bridal
COURIER
COMMUNICATIONS

Katie Kenne
Bridal Account Executive
Katie.kenne@wfcourier.com
319-291-1524

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Eventually, that engaged newness will fade away, allowing for the planning and budgeting hurdles to begin. Planning a wedding can be exciting, challenging, stressful, but most of all, fun. College couples say the most stressful and challenging part of wedding planning is setting a date, creating a guest list, and finding vendors to fit in their budget. Although no one can help you decide where to draw that line on the number of invitations to be sent out, there is something that can help you find the things you want for your wedding for the prices you can afford.

On September 30, 2007, the Waterloo Courier Bridal is hosting a bridal show that will bring in various vendors from all over the local Waterloo and Cedar Falls area to help you start planning that special day. There will be vendors for photography, cakes, tux rentals, flowers, catering, DJ's, table decorations, and much more. On average, a wedding in 2007 will cost \$10-15,000 and is being paid for by the bride and groom themselves. Banks and insurance vendors may also be present to help you finance your wedding and the start of your life together. So "take the step before the aisle" and find ideas, vendors, and prices that will work for you and your husband or wife-to-be at the third annual *Weddings* bridal show.

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To help minimize the stress of planning a wedding, there are five tips to follow before you attend your first bridal show. First, it is important to know that vendors are going to want your name, number, address, and the date of your wedding, to add you to their mailing lists. To lessen the times of constantly writing out all your personal information, print out small address labels to just peel and stick to the vendors' information cards.

Secondly, after spending hours at a show, all the vendors tend to run together. Bring a camera and take pictures of the booths to help jog your memory when you get home and go through all your information again.

Third, just like a camera will help you remember, make sure you bring a pen and paper to write down any ideas. Jot down questions before hand that are important to have answered. Also, write down facts or ideas you think of as you browse through the show.

Be organized. Tip four is to make a three ring binder of your wedding information. Add tabs to each section, categorizing all the information you will be receiving; cakes, tuxes, photographers, caterers, and florists. This keeps the clutter down and allows for a simple toss/keep pile to be created with information you will and will not need.

Lastly, bring a trusted friend along with you to the show. This should be someone who will enjoy looking at things with you and give an honest opinion when needed. Always have an open mind and be ready to have fun. What a great way to bond with a friend and build memories of your wedding planning experience together!