February 2023
A Special Supplement to the
PAYNESVILLE PRESS
EDEN VALLEY-WATKINS VOICE

LOCAL COUPLES
Couples from in and around the area share their wedding experiences

Wedding Planning Tips
Things you can do to make your special day stress free

Celebrate Weddings
How did you meet?
We met at Trinity Bible College in Ellen-dale, N.D. Both of us were freshmen. We had a few classes together, but our paths also crossed a lot because he was a football player, and I was a football cheerleader.

Who proposed and how?
Dan proposed the day he left for National Guard basic training.

How long were you engaged?
13 months

How large was your wedding?
Bridal party of three plus flower girl and ring bearer. About 100 people

What food was served?
Sandwiches, fruit and veggie trays, cake, and punch

What was the most memorable moment at your wedding?
A couple family members removed the whole wheel of our car, so we “escaped” in a friend’s car.

What was your most memorable wedding gift?
A couple really pretty serving dishes, and a set of 7 nesting plastic bowls that we still use today! One thing we did not get was a toaster.

What wedding gift do you use the most today?
Those bowls!

Who caught the bouquet and did they have to shove to get it?
Our niece who was about 10 years old at the time. No she didn’t have to shove.

Whose relatives, or friends, had the most fun at the reception?
The relatives who removed the wheel of our car!

Where did you go for a honeymoon?
All over! We drove through 10 states, spending some time in each but especially at Yellowstone and in Colorado.

What do you do to keep romance alive in your marriage?
Take turns planning date nights, take an interest in each other’s hobbies/interests, celebrate the little things, pray together and encourage each other’s faith, lean on each other’s strengths, and appreciate our differences.

If you could travel back in time to your wedding day, what advice for maintaining a happy marriage would you give yourselves?
Never lose faith; never give up. Your intimacy grows in hard times. Have a lot of grace for each other.
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1 MONTH
| ◼️ Apply for wedding license | ◼️ Review final RSVP list and contact anyone who has not responded |
| ◼️ Final gown fitting | ◼️ Deliver shot lists to photo and video professionals |
| ◼️ Talk to bridesmaids to make sure they have their dresses ready | ◼️ Bride: Pre-wedding haircut/color |
| ◼️ Make adjustments with vendors and confirm details | ◼️ Give final guest head count to reception hall/caterer |
| ◼️ Order wedding programs | ◼️ Confirm arrangements with all vendors |

1-2 WEEKS
| ◼️ Groom: Pick up formal wear | ◼️ Provide all wedding professionals emergency phone number/contact to call day of wedding |
| ◼️ Confirm groomsman’s attend fittings and pick up formal wear | ◼️ Pay final balances |
| ◼️ Confirm date, times and locations with car/limousine service | ◼️ Wedding rehearsal |

2-3 DAYS
| ◼️ Provide wedding professionals emergency phone number/contact to call day of wedding |
| ◼️ Groom: Pick up formal wear | ◼️ Bring ceremony accessories to site |
| ◼️ Confirm groomsman’s attend fittings and pick up formal wear | ◼️ Give marriage license to officiant |
| ◼️ Confirms date, times and locations with car/limousine service | ◼️ Present attendants gifts at the rehearsal dinner |
| ◼️ Groom: Pick up formal wear | ◼️ Go to bed early |

WEDDING DAY
| ◼️ Present parents and each other gifts | ◼️ Pay final balances |
| ◼️ Give wedding bands to best man and maid of honor to hold during the ceremony | ◼️ Wedding rehearsal |
| ◼️ Introduce reception site manager to your personal attendant for questions or problems during the reception | ◼️ Bring ceremony accessories to site |
| ◼️ Assign a family member to collect any gifts or cards brought to the ceremony or reception | ◼️ Give marriage license to officiant |

Notes:

| ◼️ Pay final balances | ◼️ Wedding rehearsal |
| ◼️ Give wedding bands to best man and maid of honor to hold during the ceremony | ◼️ Assign a family member to collect any gifts or cards brought to the ceremony or reception |

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**Did You Know?**

Many people mistakenly believe that all sparkling wines are champagne, so much so that the term champagne has become something of an umbrella term. However, true champagne is made in the Champagne region of France from a combination of chardonnay, pinot noir and pinot meunier grapes. It can only be made in the region’s traditional method, called Méthode Champenoise, and the taste will typically be nutty and toasty. Sparkling wines can be produced across the globe in various ways.

**OVERVIEW**

On-Site Ceremonies

2023 & 2024 Dates Available!
How did you meet?
John: When I was 10 or 11 years old, my brother and I would stay at my aunt's house in Pennock while my mom and dad went shopping in Willmar. Darlene and her sisters and friends played softball in the vacant lot across the alley and they invited us to play too.
Darlene: My first real memory of meeting John was when we moved to Kerkhoven (where he lived). We lived two houses apart from the time I was in seventh grade. We played neighborhood games: softball, kick the can. I babysat for his nieces and nephews. By the time I was in ninth grade, we were dating.

Who proposed and how?
John: I did. We had gone Christmas shopping and went to Cedar Inn for dinner. I was going to propose in the restaurant but chickened out so stopped in a pretty spot on Highway 9 because Darlene said, "When we get engaged, this would be a great spot."

Darlene: When we got to the motel in Glenwood, our trunk was frozen shut. It was 1:30 or 2 in the morning, so the little guy who checked us in needed our marriage license to prove to him that we were married.
Darlene: He went into the office and warmed some water in one of those little coffee pots and poured it over the trunk lock. We got the trunk opened, showed him our license, and he let us into a room. Times have changed!

How large was your wedding?
John: Couple hundred people?
Darlene: Maybe, I can't remember for sure.

What food was served?
Turkey, buns, salads, cake.

What was the most memorable moment at your wedding?
John: Our car was covered in shaving cream, so Darlene's cousin took it to the carwash. When we got to the motel in Glenwood, our trunk was frozen shut. It was 1:30 or 2 in the morning, so the little guy who checked us in needed our marriage license to prove to him that we were married.
Darlene: He went into the office and warmed some water in one of those little coffee pots and poured it over the trunk lock. We got the trunk opened, showed him our license, and he let us into a room. Times have changed!

What wedding gift do you use the most today?
John: My wedding ring.
Darlene: The electric frying pan we received from my dad's boss. I still fry donuts in it to this day.

Who caught the bouquet and did they have to shove to get it?
Darlene: I don't remember.

Whose relatives, or friends, had the most fun at the reception?
John: Darlene's.
Darlene: Mine.

Where did you go for a honeymoon?
John: Glenwood, Alexandria, St. Cloud, and Foley.
Darlene: Not very far. John was home on leave from the Air Force and had only 23 days before heading overseas, so we stayed pretty close to home. We celebrated Thanksgiving with his family, spent as much time as we could with his parents and my family, moved me to the cities to start a new job, then I watched him fly off for an 18-month stay in the Philippines. Our honeymoon really started when he returned, and we moved to Sacramento, Calif., for his next assignment.

What do you do to keep romance alive in your marriage?
Laugh a lot, talk a lot, share our feelings, argue, make up, always say "I love you."

If you could travel back in time to your wedding day, what advice for maintaining a happy marriage would you give yourselves?
John: Try to understand your spouse's point of view.
Darlene: Stay calm, enjoy the good times, carry on through the tough times, and believe in the Sacrament of Marriage.
How did you meet?
Susan and her dad frequented cross-country snowmobile races to cheer on their friends who were racing. Tim participated in the same series. After a couple years of watching him race, they were introduced through a mutual friend.

Who proposed and how?
After a Christmas party, we went out to the shop to check on Susan’s dad’s dog and play with her litter of puppies. When Susan got up from petting them, Tim was down on one knee. Simple and exactly perfect for us.

How long were you engaged? 1.5 years.

How large was your wedding?
Right around 400 people.

What food was served?
We had the most delicious stuffed chicken and roast beef from the Blue Heron and mini desserts from Cold Spring Bakery. We still have friends talking about how delicious everything was!

What was the most memorable moment?
We had friends and family from 18 states come to celebrate us. It was very special to have all of our favorite people in one place.

What was your most memorable gift?
A Speed Queen washing machine from Tim’s parents.

What wedding gift do you use the most?
Susan loves to cook, so probably our pots and pans, cutting boards, and knives. Really anything in the kitchen gets used fairly often.

Who caught the bouquet and did they have to shove to get it?
Tim’s good friend Jenna did. She didn’t shove, and she’s finally getting married this summer.

Whose relatives, or friends, had the most fun at the reception?
It was pretty equal. The DJ didn’t shut down until almost 2 a.m., and the dance floor still had a good number of people on it.

Where did you go for a honeymoon?
We went to Fort Lauderdale, Fla.

What do you do to keep romance alive in your marriage?
We try to plan little adventures whenever we can. Sometimes it might be a week-long getaway to South Dakota, and sometimes it could be a short day trip to the cities. Our goal is to try and fit in one-on-one time, no matter how crazy our schedules get.

If you could travel back in time to your wedding day, what advice for maintaining a happy marriage would you give yourselves?
Remember that the wedding is just one day of your marriage. It’s probably one of the most exciting days, but it’s still only one day in your lifetime together. Be just as excited for all the days after that day as well.

Did You Know?
December may not mark the peak of wedding season, but many couples tie the knot at the culmination of the holiday season. According to The Knot, a leading wedding industry resource and information site, New Year’s Eve weddings are popular. A poll from The Knot found that 7,250 weddings were scheduled for December 31, 2017. Flowing champagne, extra vacation days during the holidays and long weekends, as well as the merry atmosphere of the holiday season can make New Year’s Eve a great time to get hitched.
How did you meet?
We initially met through our kids. Our daughters were the same age and met and became best friends through an early childhood class.

Who proposed and how?
Luke proposed to me while on our first family vacation together in North Carolina. We left the kids at the VRBO watching a movie, and we took a walk down to the beach. It was high tide, and there was currently no beach to walk, so we sat on the dock that goes over the sandbags. The waves were massive, and the power behind them just escalated the moment even more. Luke asked me about my favorite part of the trip so far, and after we talked about that he said he wanted to create a new favorite. He got down in front of me on the steps and asked me to be his wife. I had no idea he was going to propose! I didn’t even notice that he didn’t have a ring until after I said yes and he told me there was one but that he wasn’t taking it out there because he was nervous and shaky and would probably drop it in the ocean!

How long were you engaged?
We got engaged in June 2020 and were married the following June.

How large was your wedding?
We had a small, intimate weekend wedding with around 75 people.

What food was served?
We had friends that made a big breakfast for everyone that morning, picnic foods for lunch and snacks, and a food truck that night for supper before the ceremony.

What was the most memorable moment at your wedding?
For me it was while we were getting ready. We had rented a large VRBO for the week, and the day of I thought I was going to want to be chill and alone, and instead I had the doors to our room wide open and my children and guests were in and out of the suite all day...all the littles got to see us getting ready and living in each moment of the day. It was the most amazing thing ever, and I highly recommend it.

For Luke it was during the ceremony. I had a few surprises that I never told him about, and one of them was having our daughter Addy sing his favorite song right after the unity ceremony. She was 11 at the time. It was amazing to have her do that. She had her dad and all the other big burly men at the wedding in puddles, the sweetest thing ever.

What was your most memorable wedding gift?
We asked guests not to bring gifts, but of course some did...and my most memorable was probably a dinner plate. It is bright red and says “You Are Special Today.” Now each day we have a birthday or something fun to celebrate we use that plate and the memories flow from every time we have used it.

What wedding gift do you use the most today?
Again, the memory plate.

Who caught the bouquet and did they have to shove to get it?
Her name was Brooke! We had a group full of littles all under 16, and they loved every second. They were pretty chill about it, and it was super cute to have them all there, and us moms remembering what it felt like when we were little and trying to catch a bouquet.

Whose relatives, or friends, had the most fun at the reception?
ALL! During the day we played volleyball and bean bags, swam, and went for boat rides and just hung out outside. Our ceremony was at sunset by the lake and right after we said our “I Do’s” the music started and the kiddos just broke out into a conga line. I think every single person in attendance joined in. We had a bonfire and fireworks, and the night wound down by 10 p.m. It was extremely memorable and something no one had ever experienced before.

Where did you go for a honeymoon?
We stayed at an all-inclusive adults-only resort in Riviera Maya, Mexico, for a week.

What do you do to keep romance alive in your marriage?
That’s easy – we love on each other every single day! But we also make sure we actually make personal time for each other every day and we make sure that time is love language time the way we need it. We also date regularly and know when to ask for time together.

If you could travel back in time to your wedding day, what advice for maintaining a happy marriage would you give yourselves?
We would tell ourselves to make sure to continue to make time for the important things and to put work down. Make sure to follow your vows and pray for your marriage every single day.

June 12, 2021

Luke & Amy Wilson
How did you meet?
Vienna owned a business called Crave Nutrition in Cold Spring; they met when Austin came in as a customer. They connected, worked on some projects together, and from there they were inseparable.

Who proposed and how?
Austin proposed. Vienna’s daughter, Madison, models for an agency in the cities, and the family had gotten all dressed up to do a nice dinner down in the cities. Beforehand Madison had a photo shoot, and they were waiting for her to finish. Madison had called while they were in the car waiting and said they needed to come and see the photo shoot set because it was unlike anything she had seen. Vienna thought this was odd because most photographers do not let parents on the set, but they all got out of the car to go see. Austin was walking and exploring the set ahead of Vienna, and when Vienna entered the room she found Austin on one knee of a complete staged proposal set. It was lined with flowers, candles, champagne, photos of them, and a photographer there to capture the entire moment. It was truly one for the record books as Vienna had no idea.

Place of Marriage:
Cozy Corners Campground

How large was your wedding? 360 people at the ceremony and dinner; 660 for the reception and dance.

What food was served?
Chris Denn catered the food, and there was a hog roast, green beans, buns, and cheesy potatoes. Nothing Bundt Cakes catered the wedding cake and individual cakes for guests. Maenatelli’s Pizza delivered 30 pizzas later in the evening for all the guests dancing!

Who caught the bouquet?
Valerie Callenius and it didn’t get too crazy with shoving.

Whose relatives, or friends, had the most fun at the reception?
Everyone had fun; our bill from Brinky’s proves it.

What was the most memorable moment at your wedding?
It is a tie between the exchange of our vows and the speech given by Madison (Vienna’s daughter, she was the Maid of Honor).

Where did you go for a honeymoon?
Bali, Indonesia. It was a once-in-a-lifetime experience.

What was your most memorable gift?
We received many gifts of signs – custom made with our last name and wedding date – and that was probably the most significant.

What wedding gift do you use the most today?
We were gifted an electric hot water kettle that we use every day at home.

What do you do to keep romance alive in your marriage?
We insist on still dating each other. Date nights and vacations just for us. We have the amazing opportunity of working every day together between our few businesses, so it’s even more important that we carve out time designated to keeping the spark alive.

If you could travel back in time to your wedding day, what advice for maintaining a happy marriage would you give yourselves?
Communication is everything, and always striving for personal growth will ensure a happy marriage.
How did you meet?
Bridget’s brother introduced us.

Who proposed and how? Micheal proposed the Fourth of July weekend. Micheal and our son came home from a trip and surprised me. Wyatt said, “Dad has a question for you,” and Micheal got down on one knee and proposed.

How long were you engaged?
1 year and 3 months.

Place of Marriage: Roadside Tavern

What food was served?
We had the Great Blue Heron cater in.

Who caught the bouquet?
Bridget’s cousin Kari…no shoving.

What was the most memorable moment at your wedding?
After being introduced as husband and wife, looking out at all our friends and family.

Whose relatives, or friends, had the most fun at the reception?
Bridget’s family.

Where did you go for a honeymoon?
Dominican Republic.

What wedding gift do you use the most today?
A blender or griddle.

What do you do to keep romance alive in your marriage?
Date nights whenever we get the chance.

If you could travel back in time to your wedding day, what advice for maintaining a happy marriage would you give yourselves?
Always be open and honest with each other; it’s the only way to work through everything together.