



Our Day...

2014
Summer

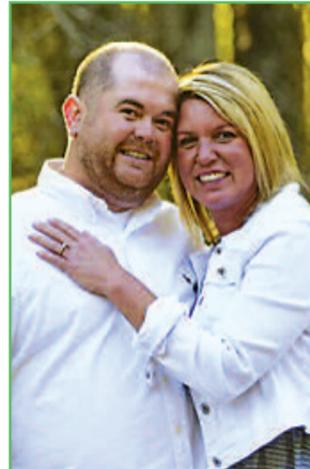
Bridal
Guide



Merritt and Boyd
July 10, 2014



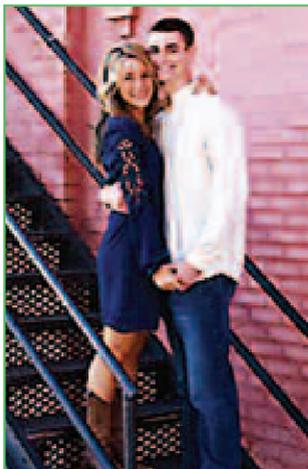
Mr. & Mrs. Andrew Ryan Goldberg
April 2013



Purvis and Davis
July 12, 2014



Mr. & Mrs. Bryce Abie Giddens
May 2013



Waldrop and Berl
August 9, 2014



Mr. & Mrs. William Tyrone Godley
November 2013



Malone and Stavish
August 24, 2014

MERCHANTS...

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 Coco's
 Cranford Jewelers
 Gin Creek And RoseMott Vineyards
 Griner Jewelry Company
 Kim's Fashions
 Lazarus Department Store
 Main Street Galleria
 Sid's Antiques & Gifts
 Southwest Georgia Community Action Council
 - The Event Center

Sundown Farms Plantation
 The Corner Cakery
 Thirty-One - Denise Sellars
 (Independent Consultant)
 Three Crazy Bakers
 Tropical Sun Tanning
 Turner's ladies fine clothier
 Vintage Cellar
 Wilson Jewelers

A Supplement of **The Moultrie Observer**

SUNDOWN FARMS PLANTATION



Sundown Farms Plantation, located 1/4 mile off Hwy. 319 South at 894 Mack Dekle Road, is a wonderful setting for any event or occasion, whether it is a wedding, reunion, or any type of party. The dining hall can seat over 100 people and the courtyard is a beautiful setting for an outdoor meal, reception, or wedding ceremony. The pond also makes a beautiful backdrop for a wedding ceremony. The professionally landscaped grounds and beautifully decorated facilities at Sundown Farms Plantation lend a touch of class and elegance to any occasion. The sleeping accommodations are also great for a wedding party or family and out of town guests who need a place to stay for your special occasion. Contact Benji Alderman at 229-891-4688 or at 229-985-0652 for more information or visit them on their website at www.sundownfarmsplantation.com

TROPICAL SUN TANNING



Tropical Sun Tanning, located at 201 10th Street, will help you look your best on your special day and for your bridal pictures. It offers the only automated Mystic Spray tan booth in town. In as little as three minutes, you can have a beautiful, natural-looking tan. They offer California Tan, Australian Gold, Designer Skin and Tanning — Look Good, Feel Great. The hours are Monday through Friday, from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m., Saturday, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Sunday, 1 to 5 p.m. You can contact them at 229-502-9992.

Here are tips for making seating arrangements

Metro Creative

One of the biggest decisions couples make regarding their wedding reception concerns where to seat their guests. Many a bride and groom has felt the crunch of compiling responses and then coming up with an acceptable seating arrangement for the reception.

Before you begin to make seating arrangements, you will need the entire list of people attending the event. Having a final headcount is essential. While you may want to do a seating chart early into the reception planning, it's best left until a few weeks before your wedding day, when

you know who will and will not be in attendance.

Next, know the number of tables you will be allotted in the party space. A catering hall may have a set number of seats that can fit at each table and can usually provide you with a map of the room or a blank seating chart. Many standard reception tables can comfortably seat between eight to 10 people. Squeezing in more people can make for an uncomfortable dining experience.

If you are a visual person, you may benefit from writing guests' names on small pieces of paper and physically moving them around your seating chart. Otherwise, write things

down as you plan.

When arranging the seating, figure out the head or bridal table. This is one of the easier tables to seat because it is traditionally filled with members of your bridal party and their respective spouses or dates. If your bridal party is especially large, consider flanking your own sweetheart table with two tables for the bridal party on either side.

After arranging the bridal table, focus on seating parents and close relatives of the bride and groom next. Many couples prefer to separate their families at the wedding, so the groom's family may sit on one side of the room and the bride's family will

sit on the other. This means there will be two parental tables. Consider seating grandparents or other close family members at these tables to ensure they have a place of prominence in the room. This usually means being close to the dance floor to have a good view of all of the festivities. If your parents are divorced or there are any other strained feelings among parents, you can further separate into another table for stepparents, to avoid any unpleasantness or confrontation.

Many wedding receptions are full of friends and even coworkers of parents whom the couple tying the knot does not even know.

You may need further clarification of their relationships and who gets along before seating them. In fact, ask a parent to take care of arranging their own friends so you will be certain the arrangements will be comfortable for everyone.

A friends' table is usually a mingling of friends or your own coworkers who are of similar ages. A friends' table can make guests who arrived solo feel more comfortable because they can converse with others who are like-minded.

Seating children can be tricky. You may be inclined to seat youngsters at their own table, which is fine if the children are mature

enough to handle sitting by themselves. But young children sitting apart from their parents may be nervous. Furthermore, the parents will continually have to get up and check on the kids. Very young children are best seated alongside their folks.

When arranging seating, you also must consider special needs' individuals who may have mobility issues. Such individuals should be seated near doors and restrooms so it's easier for them to get around once the reception hits full swing.

Try to accommodate special requests, like not seating the elderly too close to music speakers.

THE EVENT CENTER AT SWGA CAC



The Event Center at Southwest Georgia Community Action Council, Inc. is conveniently located at 910 First Avenue, SE, Moultrie, Georgia. With approximately 8,000 square feet of space, The Event Center is ideal for gatherings and celebrations of all kinds: weddings, receptions, reunions, banquets, luncheons, showers, special occasions and business meetings/conferences/webinars. Seating capacity is 400 with tables and chairs; 800 when set-up theatre style with chairs only. The center is decorated in neutral tones with beautiful lighting fixtures that complement the colors and theme chosen for any occasion. Rental fees include round and rectangular tables, chairs, and white linens for seating up to 200 people (items for additional seating and serving is available at additional costs); stage and podium; and audiovisual equipment, including sound system and three overhead projectors and screens that can be connected to your laptop or dvd player. The facility contains a caterer's kitchen with range, double ovens, large foodwarmer, refrigeration, and ice machine. In addition to social occasions, The Event Center is available for conferences, meetings, continuing education, seminars, webinars, and/or teleconferences. Call 229-985-3610 for more information and reservations for your next event.

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DENISE SELLARS BRIDAL



Thirty-One Gifts offers a variety of unique, beautiful, affordable, and personalized gifts for the bride and her entire bridal party (including the men)! There are so many options.... a zipper pouch or caddy to hold all the wedding day essentials, a beauty bag for that special jewelry and make up touch-ups, utility totes to carry all the accessories the bride needs for an amazing wedding day, a thermal to pack wedding day snacks and drinks (also doubles as a goody bag for 'reception goodies' packed for the honeymoon road), utility totes for the groom and his groomsmen to make sure they arrive in style with everything they need, cosmetic bags for the bridesmaids to make sure they have all their beauty essentials, and these are just a few of the amazing items that can be personalized to create functional and amazing keepsakes commemorating an amazing day! The Creative Expressions bridal line provides the opportunity for her to customize totes and zipper pouches displaying her wedding colors, names of the bridal party (including bride and groom), and wedding dates. Thirty-one Bridal Showers are a wonderful way to help the bride-to-be start her very own Thirty-one collection to organize her new home in style! Just book the date with me and I will work with the bride to create a wish list, you invite the guests and let them know they will do the shopping when they get to the party! And there is a bonus for the Bride — as her guests check off her wishlist, she earns hostess credits, so she can still choose items for free after the party is over! Call me today to make all her Thirty-one-derful dreams come true: Denise H. Sellars, Independent Thirty-one Consultant, 229-589-1790, shop online at: www.mythirtyone.com/denisesellars, or email me at denise.bell.sellars@gmail.com.

Here is why Jordan almonds are used as favors

Metro Creative

Jordan almonds are a popular wedding favor, particularly at events hosted by families of Italian, Greek and Middle Eastern descent. In their most classic form, these sugar-crusted confections are candied almonds, though peanuts, pistachios, chocolate, and even coffee beans have replaced the almonds in some modern reincarnations of the treat.

Also known as "dragees" or "Italian confetti," Jordan almonds date back to 1350, when they're mentioned in Giovanni Boccaccio's "Decameron," a collection of novellas. Ancient Romans used to celebrate momentous occasions, such as births and marriages, with this confetti. Until the start of the Renaissance, when sugarcane was introduced into European kitchens, Jordan almonds were made with honey. In lieu of almonds, sometimes dried fruits, aromatic seeds or cinnamon sticks were covered with a hard coating of sugar, and these delicacies were served at many important banquets.

According to the Food and Drug Administration, the name Jordan almond may have originated from the French word "jardin," which means garden. Others say Jordan almonds



resemble a variety of almond that grows along the Jordan River in Palestine. Nowadays, the term "Jordan almonds" is used to describe any and all candy-coated almonds.

In Greece, where Jordan almonds are known as "koufeta," tradition suggests that when a female guest places the packet of almonds under her pillow she will dream about the man she will marry.

In Middle Eastern countries, Jordan almonds are considered an aphrodisiac.

Almonds are traditionally given in odd numbers, which are indivisible, symbolizing how the newlyweds will share everything equally and remain undivided, and Jordan almonds are often given five at a time.

Each almond represents a quality guests wish for

the couple getting married: health, fertility, wealth, longevity, and happiness. The combination of bitter almonds and sweet sugar are representations of a couple's life together, with the hopes that the newlywed's experiences will be more sweet than bitter.

Jordan almonds are usually packaged in a small bag or piece of fabric, though some couples tuck them inside a small, decorative box.

Couples thinking about using almonds may include the following poem:

"Five sugared almonds for each guest to eat,

To remind us that life is both bitter and sweet.

Five wishes for the new husband and wife — Health, wealth, happiness, children, and a long life!"

The Moultrie Observer

Engagement Information Form

Please fill out this form and return to The Observer. Engagement information should come from the family and must have a signature and a telephone number. **Information on engagements cannot be taken over the phone.** Please type or print plainly. Polaroid pictures are not satisfactory for newspaper reproduction. A poor quality photograph will not be accepted. Photos via email are acceptable and can be emailed to adella.ladson@gaffnews.com. Information given will be edited at the discretion of the Home Style Editor and only the information requested on this form will be used. A proof will then be sent to the email address or fax number that is provided by the customer. **Announcements will not be published without the customer "okaying" the proof.** Proofs must be received back by **noon on the Friday** before the Sunday it is to be set-up to run in. There will be a \$30 charge for Engagements printed in the printed edition. Announcements will be uploaded to our Celebrations.

Email address or Fax number _____

Will there be an engagement picture for the newspaper? Yes or No

BRIDE-ELECT'S full name _____

Address _____

Parents full name _____

Address _____

FUTURE GROOM'S full name _____

Address _____

Parents full name _____

Address _____

DATE AND LOCATION of Wedding _____

BRIDE-ELECT

Grandparent's Name _____

City and State _____

Grandparent's Name _____

City and State _____

High School _____

Location _____

Year Graduated _____

College _____

Location _____

Degree and Year Graduated _____

College _____

Location _____

Degree and Year Graduated _____

Honors and Organizations _____

Present Occupation _____

Location _____

FUTURE GROOM

Grandparent's Name _____

City and State _____

Grandparent's Name _____

City and State _____

High School _____

Location _____

Year Graduated _____

College _____

Location _____

Degree and Year Graduated _____

College _____

Location _____

Degree and Year Graduated _____

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Location _____

Signature _____ Phone Number _____

The \$30 fee must be paid before the Announcement can be published

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CARRIAGE CLEANERS



Carriage Cleaners is located at 323 First Street S.E. in Moultrie. It is owned by Mark and Mandy Galphin and has been serving Moultrie and Colquitt County for more than 40 years. Let Carriage Cleaners preserve your wedding gown for you. They will clean and box your gown right at their location, using the most updated technology. Also visit Carriage Cleaners for all your other dry cleaning needs. For more information, call 229-985-2852.

Did you know...

It's well known that weddings can be expensive. But just how much money defines expensive? Although couples ultimately control how much they spend on their wedding, the average cost of the main ingredients to a wedding indicate that many couples prefer to splurge for their special day.

- Wedding: \$26,951
- Dress: \$1,124
- Music: \$3,109
- Photographer:\$2,307
- Florist: \$1,971
- Invitations: \$367
- Videographer:\$1,518
- Reception:\$13,106
- Cake: \$591
- Transportation:\$658

LAZARUS

Lazarus Department Store is a family-owned and operated clothing store, located at 101 First Street S.E. in downtown Moultrie. Originally established by Mendel Lazarus in 1947, it is now operated by his son, Steve. Lazarus has provided South Georgia with exceptional clothing such as North Face, Columbia, Under Armor, Drake, Polo, Salt Life, Southern Marsh, Southern Tide, Costa and Nike, plus excellent customer service for more than 60 years. They offer missy and junior wear and boy's and men's wear. Lazarus also has more choices of tuxedos than anyone else in Moultrie. See their extensive line of men's suits and tuxes for your next wedding, social event or even school dance. Lines include Jim's, Calvin Klein and Ralph Lauren. The store has a large selection of footwear. Contact Steve at 985-1006. The hours are Monday through Saturday, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.



COCO'S



CoCo's, historical downtown Moultrie is the best place to shop for your wedding event. Whether you are going to a shower, party, wedding, or honeymoon, we've got what you need. Located at 125 South Main Street in the Grand Theatre, CoCo's offers clothing, denim, shoes, jewelry, accessories and gifts. Some of the best selling lines include Lilly Pulitzer, Karlie, Ivy Jane, Jade, Judith March and many more. Our stylists are ready to help you find the perfect outfit. Shop in store Monday through Friday 10 am to 6 pm or Saturday 10 am to 5 pm. Check us out on Facebook, Instagram, or online. www.cocosonmain.com.

Dress for wedding day comfort

Metro Creative

Wedding attire is known more for style than comfort. Formal wear, high heels and the various trappings of wedding day wardrobes do not always equate to a day of comfort. While dressing up will never be the same as slipping into a well-worn pair of jeans, there are ways for brides, grooms and guests to be comfortable on the big day.

- Dress for the weather. It's tempting to put appearances before comfort. However, wearing clothing without regard for the weather is a surefire way to be uncomfortable all day long. Choose lightweight fabrics for warm weather occasions, and heavier fabrics when attending a winter wedding. Wraps, short jackets, mufflers, and decorative scarves allow women to cover up if there's a chill from the weather or if air conditioning is set too cold.
- Invest in alterations. Few people can wear clothing, especially formal attire, right off the rack. The services of a good tailor can prove invaluable. Shortened hemlines or tightened sleeves can make dresses fit better. Shapewear or support components may be added to the wedding gown so that extra undergarment layers can be avoided. The less you have to fuss with clothing, the more comfortable you will be. Try on your outfit without alterations and point out the areas that are bothersome. Is a bodice slipping down? Is the tuxedo jacket a little too snug? Speak with the tailor about what can be done to remedy the situation.
- Choose the right size. Formal wear is frequently governed by a different set of sizes from everyday attire. Formal items are cut smaller and more in line with high fashion couture sizing. Expect to have to go up in size with regard to formal gowns. Instead of concerning yourself with the size on the tag, focus

to uncomfortable shoes all in the name of fashion. The fastest way to an unenjoyable time is having to sit out a wedding because your shoes are causing excruciating pain. New shoes sometimes need a period of breaking in, so wear them around the house to determine if they're comfortable enough to wear for several hours at a time. Women should opt for the lowest heel possible to avoid pressure on the balls and arches of their feet. Floor-length wedding gowns usually cover a bride's feet, so she has more leeway with finding an attractive, yet comfortable shoe. Outdoor weddings tend to be more casual than indoor affairs, and guests may be perfectly comfortable wearing sandals.

- Brides can go minimalist. Wedding dresses range from ethereal sheaths to layered princess gowns. The more fabric, tulle, boning and crinoline in the gown, the heavier it will be. Heavy gowns can make it difficult to move around, particularly when dancing or visiting the restroom. Unless you have your heart set on a full Cinderella look, scale back on your gown.
- Eat and choose healthy foods. Don't skip meals the day of the wedding. Choose low-sodium, low-sugar foods that provide sustained energy without sitting heavily in your stomach or causing fluid retention. In addition, be sure to drink plenty of water. Dehydration and hunger pangs can ruin a wedding by causing fatigue, headaches and even fainting.



done to remedy the situation.

- Focus on footwear. Guests' eyes likely won't be on your feet. Still, many people subject themselves

to uncomfortable shoes all in the name of fashion. The fastest way to an unenjoyable time is having to sit out a wedding because your shoes are causing excruciating pain. New shoes sometimes need a period of breaking in, so wear them around the house to determine if they're comfortable enough to wear for several hours at a time. Women should opt for the lowest heel possible to avoid pressure on the balls and arches of their feet. Floor-length wedding gowns usually cover a bride's feet, so she has more leeway with finding an attractive, yet comfortable shoe. Outdoor weddings tend to be more casual than indoor affairs, and guests may be perfectly comfortable wearing sandals.

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GRINER JEWELRY CO.



Darrell Griner a Moultrie native, began his career in the jewelry business at the age of 15 while working for two local jewelers. He quickly realized his dream of becoming a jeweler himself and his goal was to open a successful, thriving jewelry store of his own. In 1979, at the age of 25, with his wife, Yvonne, his dream became a reality. Griner, the owner and founder of Griner Jewelry Co., has a passion for creating beautiful and unique jewelry that excites his customers with each piece created. He plans to continue this success with his dedicated staff for many years to come. He serves the general public and the jewelry trade in purchasing loose and mounted diamonds, gold and watches at the highest quality and lowest competitive price possible. They are then able to offer these benefits to their customers. Family-owned Griner Jewelry Co. is not after the one-time purchase from a customer but wants to take care of the needs of the customer today, tomorrow and in the future. The business is a member of The Independent Jeweler Organization, which offers exclusive buying opportunities, allowing them to bring the top fashions and best prices to their clients. It allows them to buy directly from the cutters from their offices in Antwerp, Belgium, the diamond capitol of the world. Griner will even make the trip overseas to act as your broker and hand-select your diamond from the inventory. Why purchase from a IJO master jeweler? Confidence, trust, integrity, honesty and experience. Griner Jewelry Co. offers appraisals, a custom diamond selection, jewelry restyling, jewelry repair, watch repair, pearl and bead restringing, bridal registry/wish lists, engraving, custom design and gift-wrapping. They also offer lay-away, financing, gift certificates and diamond inspections. They have Natalie K, PANDORA, LEVIAN, PARADE, The Passion Cut, La Fonn, Belle Etoile, Imperial Pearl, Bulova, Citizen and Seiko. Griner Jewelry Co. is located at 30 1st Ave. S.E. Their hours are Tuesday through Friday, from 9:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. and on Saturday, from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Contact Darrell, Yvonne and staff at 229-985-3700 or at grinerjewelry@aol.com.

THE CORNER CAKERY



The Corner Cakery is located at 134 First St. S.E. in downtown Moultrie. Owner Cindy Johnson is currently taking orders for wedding cakes, grooms cakes, birthdays, anniversaries, baby showers, and special occasions. She also offers an extensive line of cookies, cupcakes, cinnamon rolls, petit fours, cake balls, brownies and even hand-dipped ice cream. The hours are Tuesday-Friday, from 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., and on Saturday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Contact Corner Cakery at 229-668-2253.

Here are some organizational tips

Metro Creative

Couples planning a wedding quickly realize just how challenging a task that planning can be. From paring down the guest list to arranging the music to choosing a menu for the reception, couples must make several decisions when planning their big days.

Staying organized when planning a wedding is no small task, as the planning can be spread out over several months or even more than a year, making it difficult to keep track of what's has and hasn't been done.

The following are a few organization tips that should help couples keep on track when planning a wedding.

- Write things down. Whether you write things down the old-fashioned way in a notebook or jot down notes in a tablet, write down your plans as you go.

- Write down important phone numbers, vendor information and all the other details you'll want instant access to. It's important that such notes are taken in something that's portable, allowing you to jot down notes immediately as opposed to forcing you to remember until you arrive home.

- Create a to-do list. A to-do list is another great way to stay organized when planning your wedding.

- As you make certain decisions, simply strike those tasks from the list.

This way you will know which tasks you've polished off and which ones you still need to work on.

- Create a wedding calendar.

- Keep a calendar devoted specifically to the wedding. Include appointments with vendors and information regarding payment schedules and other deadlines on this calendar. If you set any deadlines for yourself, such as when you prefer to choose a band for the reception, jot these deadlines down on the wedding calendar as well.

- Take a digital camera along when shopping for your wedding.

- Many couples want to explore their options before making any deci-

sions with regard to attire, floral bouquets and other aspects of the wedding. But it can be difficult to remember all of the things you might have seen throughout the process. Bring a digital camera along when shopping so you won't have to rely strictly on memory when making your final decisions. As you take pictures, upload them to your

computer so when the time comes to make a decision, those photos are easily accessible.

- Delegate certain tasks. Even couples that consider themselves taskmasters can benefit from delegating some tasks when planning a wedding.

- This can save you some time and make it easier to

keep track of everything. When delegating, ask friends or family to handle those tasks that don't require a personal touch. For example, ask a best man or maid of honor to arrange for guest transportation to and from the airport.

It's not too much responsibility, but it's one less thing for busy couples to worry about.

SID'S ANTIQUES AND GIFTS



Located at 112-114 First Street S.E., in downtown Moultrie, Sid's Antiques & Gifts offers that perfect bridal or shower gift for that special occasion. From walnut, mahogany, oak, pine, pewter, china, crystal, linens, wool rugs, stained glass, trunks, chairs, dressers, prints, mirrors, lamps, shelves, chests, buffets, sterling silver, and more. Also the store has jewelry including rings, bracelets, pearls, earrings and pendants in 10K, 14K, 18K, and platinum. They also offer children's vintage clothing and a bridal registry. Stop by to see Sid, Janet, Dianne or Ryan or call them at 229-985-8300.



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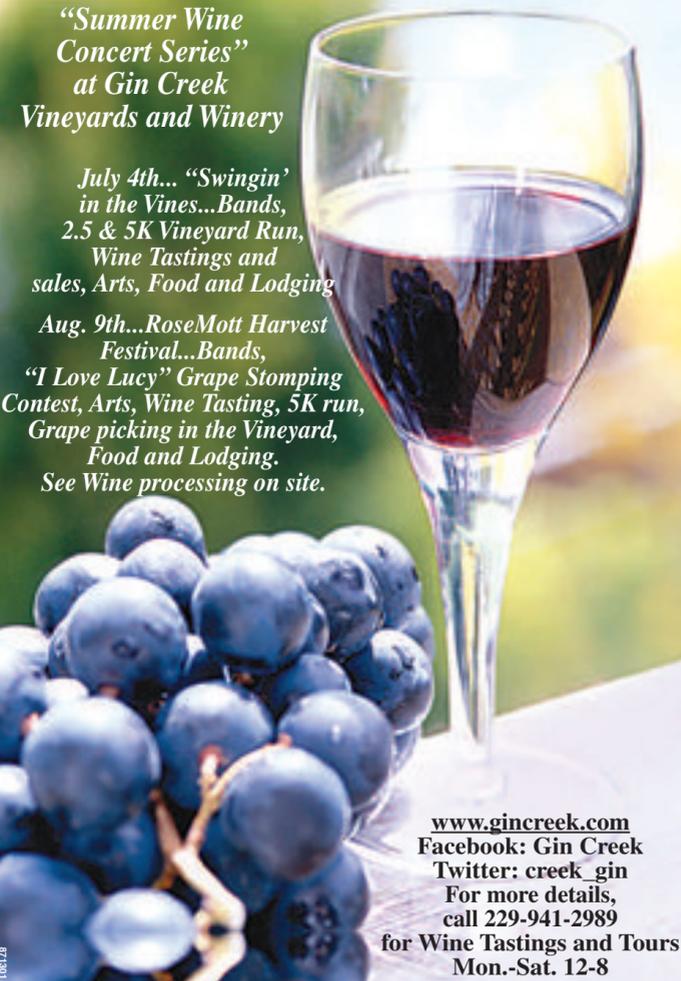
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THREE CRAZY BAKERS



Established in 1998, and located at 102 South Main Street and First Avenue in downtown Moultrie, Three Crazy Bakers serve a large variety of breakfast goodies and coffee. Lunch is offered Monday-Saturday, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. The lunch menu has many choices and changes with weekly specials. They also have a casserole menu that includes chicken tetrazzini, lasagne, taco casserole, King Ranch, chicken Florentine, shepherd's pie, chicken and broccoli with rice and whole quiche. Orders by 2 p.m., will be ready by 5 p.m. Three Crazy Bakers will cater breakfast, lunch or dinner for business or social events including showers, bridal luncheons, rehearsal dinners and parties. Call a day ahead and they will organize it for you. Call 985-8809 to order. The hours are Monday-Wednesday, 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Thursday-Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Saturday, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.; and Sunday, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Contact Hart or Maggie Brown or visit the website at www.threecrazybakers.com.

Writing your wedding vows

Metro Creative

A wedding is a once-in-a-lifetime event for many couples, so brides and grooms wish for the event to be momentous and memorable. As such, couples are increasingly integrating personal nuances into their ceremonies and receptions to tailor weddings to their unique visions.

The desire to include personalized wedding vows continues to be a popular trend.

If you are considering personalized wedding vows, first realize that it may not be a simple task. That's because you want the message conveyed to be dear to your heart, and that can be challenging when faced with the pressures and planning of the rest of the wedding.

That isn't to say that writing your own vows is impossible. Here are some guidelines for personalizing your ceremony with your own sentiments.

- Schedule time for writing. Amid the bustle of dress fittings and interviews with photographers, it can be easy to put off the important task of writing vows for another

day. But as any great writer can attest, it takes writing — and rewriting — to achieve a finished product you can be proud of. Give the task of writing your vows your undivided attention.

- Mark it in on your calendar or set a reminder on your computer just as you would any other appointment.

- Be aware of ceremony guidelines. It is best to check with your officiant and confirm that personalized wedding vows are allowed. During civil ceremonies it's often acceptable to customize vows as you see fit.

However, during religious ceremonies there may be lines of scripture that need to be read or certain passages required. Before you spend hours working on the task, be sure that it is allowed and that your spouse and you are on the same page.

- Jot down your feelings. Answer some questions about what marriage means to you and how you feel about your spouse. Try to avoid trite sayings and think from your heart and personal experiences. Think about what is the

most important thing you want to promise to your future partner. These notes can serve as the starting points for the actual vows.

- Read inspirational writings. Perhaps there is an author or a poet who inspires you? You can quote certain writers in your vows or let the tone of their works help shape the words of your vows.

There also are suggested wedding readings and other quotes about marriage readily available at the library or with a quick search online.

- Decide on a tone. Although the day is based on love and affection, you may not feel comfortable spouting words of adoration in front of friends and family. Feel free to tap into your unique personality. Humor can be used if it aligns with the way you normally express your affections. Be sure to weave this tone into more traditional passages to create a cohesive expression of your feelings.

Writing your own vows can be a way to include personal expressions of love into a couple's wedding day.

KIM'S FASHIONS

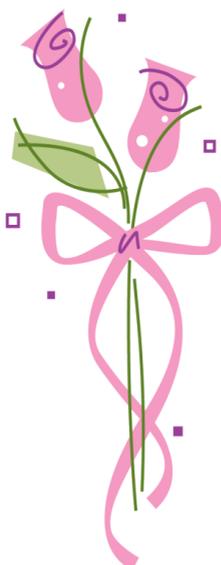


Kim's Fashions, located in downtown Moultrie at 8 South Main Street, on the square, is owned by Kim Byrd. They offer bridal wear, prom apparel or special occasion dresses. Also, ladies formals, little girl formals, tuxedos (men and boys), shoes beauty supplies, wedding accessories, hair jewelry, purses and also evening bags. The hours are Monday-Saturday, from 9:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Call 985-0939 today.

Wedding invitations tip sheet...

Wedding invitations often provide guests with a first glimpse of a wedding's style. Invitations also may serve as the means by which distant friends and relatives find out about a couple's pending nuptials if a formal announcement was not made. Couples should keep certain things in mind as they begin to design their wedding invitations:

- Have a good idea of your potential guest list.
- Decide on the formality of the wedding.
- Choose a legible font and text color.
- Keep the invitations simple.
- Handwrite the envelopes.
- Make it easy for the guests to respond.
- Always order extra.



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Turner's, located in downtown Moultrie at 104 South Main Street, by the Square, is locally owned and operated by new owner Beth Stripling and her daughters, Lauren and Anna Stripling. It carries a special selection of fine dresses and outfits for a luncheon, engagement party, shower, or rehearsal dinner. It also has a fresh collection of elegant short and full length dresses for mother-of-the-bride, mother-of-the-groom, or even bridesmaids. Let them help you complete your look with any of the exclusive jewelry we carry in any price range. For more than 63 years, Turner's has specialized in exceptional service and distinctive looks that will make finding the perfect outfit for your special occasion effortless.

Wedding expert says...

Having an idea of what you want can help anyone get a better deal, whether one is shopping for a new sofa or an engagement ring.

The 4 Cs is a good place for engagement ring shoppers to get started. Various attributes affect the value, quality and beauty of a diamond. The 4 Cs stand for cut, color, clarity, and carat weight. The cut refers to the shape of the stone as well as the skill involved in achieving the shape of the facets so that it reflects the light brilliantly. The color is designated by the International Gemological Institute. The grading color in a diamond determines how closely a diamond's color approaches colorlessness. The diamond will be assigned a letter grade. The lower the letter in the alphabet, the whiter the stone. Clarity refers to the amount, size, type, and location of internal flaws in a diamond, also known as inclusions. The cost of the diamond increases when there are fewer inclusions in the stone. Finally, the carat weight is the size and weight of the stone. The larger the stone, the more pricey it can be.

Which dinner service is right for your wedding?

Metro Creative

Weddings are typically the culmination of months of careful planning. After a couple has officially tied the knot, a celebration typically follows. Although music and mingling are integral to a wedding reception, the meal is often the central component of the party.

Couples have options when choosing dinner service for their weddings, and some need not serve dinner at all. An early wedding may consist of a brunch or some passed appetizers, while some couples opt for a cocktail party in lieu of a dinner party. Still, some weddings feature only desserts.

But guests attending more traditional weddings expect to dine at the receptions that follow such affairs. Buffet service and a sit-down dinner are the most popular choices for wedding meals, and each has its advantages and disadvantages. Choosing the dinner service that works best for your wedding may involve a careful comparison of the various offerings and keeping your budget and guests' comfort in mind.

•Sit-down dinner
A sit-down dinner consists of several courses of plated food served by a waitstaff. Guests never have to leave their seats, and sit-down service is usually in line with a formal reception. Some food offerings at sit-down dinners tend to be fancy and presented in a manner that is appealing both to the eye and the palate.

There are several advantages to sit-down meals. Guests can focus entirely on enjoying themselves and conversing with



fellow guests rather than getting up to seek out food, and those with mobility issues do not have to worry about maneuvering to a buffet station or trying to balance food. Guests get top-notch treatment and will have a waitstaff on call to fill their every need, which can make an affair more memorable for all in attendance.

But sit-down dinners are typically more expensive as well. Guests are generally given several choices for the main course, and that could mean ordering extra food and preparing it to be ready for guests' selections. Serving meals may take longer, and sometimes meals may not arrive hot to the table. Guests may be limited to certain food choices, and portion sizes may not be what guests were hoping for. Sitting idle for a while can affect the mood of the reception and lead to boredom.

•Buffet service
A buffet-style dinner is served from a long dais table that holds several chafing dishes full of food. Wedding guests will rise from their seats and make their way to the buffet stations, where they'll be able to serve themselves or be served by staff manning the stations.

Buffets present an array of foods that cater to the various dietary needs of guests. Those at the reception can sample several different foods rather than be restricted to one main course. Guests can limit portion sizes or sometimes return for second helpings. Buffets are generally less formal and allow guests to mingle more readily.

But buffet-style meals may produce long lines as guests pick and choose their meals. While experienced catering managers and reception site staff should have plans in place to create a free-flow of guests to the buffet stations, there will be a first and a last table called to eat, and guests on the tail end of the service may be stuck with whatever is left over if food is not adequately restocked. In an effort to accommodate everyone, extra food may be cooked for buffet-style dinners, which can be costly and wasteful. In addition, guests are asked to do more work, as they need to get up and retrieve their own food.

A catering company or the banquet manager at a reception site can work with couples as they decide if a buffet or sit-down dinner is the best option for their wedding receptions.



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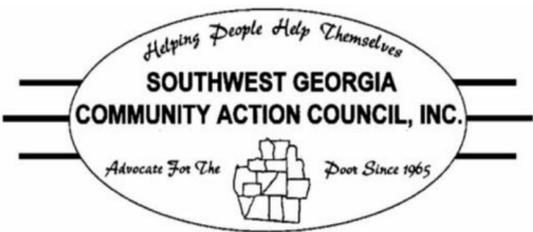
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CRANFORD JEWELERS



Cranford Jewelry Store has been the premier destination in Colquitt County for fine jewelry and China purchases since 1933 and is located at 108 South Main Street in Historic Downtown Moultrie. Cranford's is owned by Jack and Mary Ann Smith. They, along with their dedicated staff, offer hands-on, personal customer service. From the engagement ring to invitations, wedding jewelry, China, crystal, flatware and more, Cranford Jewelers can manage all of your registries in one place. The hours are Monday-Friday, from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., and on Saturday, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

VINTAGE CELLAR AT 118



Vintage Cellar is the new store on the block at 118 South Main Street. They have searched all over to bring Moultrie old and new gifts for all occasions and 'one-of-a-kind' and unique gifts. They also offer bridal registry services. The hours are Monday-Friday, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., and on Saturday, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Visit them on Facebook.

Your Engagement

Here are some important things to know about submitting your engagement announcement to The Moultrie Observer:

There will be a \$30 charge for Engagements printed in the printed edition.

Engagements are handled on a first come, first serve basis. Please bring engagement announcements well in advance of your wedding date.

A couple may choose to announce their engagement as soon as they get engaged, as this is a separate occasion from the wedding. It is not absolutely necessary to have the date of the upcoming wedding set to announce your engagement.

We will not run engagement announcements after the wedding has taken place.

Engagement information should come from the family and must have a signature and a telephone number. Information on engagements will not be taken over the phone.

Information given will be edited at the discretion of the Home Style Editor and only the information requested on the engagement information form will be used. This form can be picked up at the front desk of The Observer office or emailed or faxed to you by the Home Style Editor.

A poor quality photograph will not be accepted. Photos should be in a portrait format where the couple's heads are close



THIS IS THE SIZE AND PROPORTION THAT YOUR PICTURE WILL RUN.

together. Photos can be brought in with the engagement form or sent via email to adelia.ladson@gafnews.com.

A proof will be sent to the email address or fax number that is provided by you. Announcements will not be published without you "okaying" the proof. The proof must be received back by noon on the Friday before the Sunday edition it is to be run in.

It must be completely ready to publish. This means, if you have changes to be made, the proof should be sent back well in advance of Friday's deadline.

Announcements will be uploaded to our Celebrations website and can be accessed at www.moultrieobserver.com by clicking on the Celebrations tab on the left.

Wedding dates to avoid

Some couples are excited by the prospect of hosting their weddings during holiday weekends. But holiday weekends might not be embraced by potential guests. In terms of obstacles for couples, reception sites and vendors may charge higher fees to book a holiday weekend wedding, or they may be full on the dates you request. Looking ahead to 2015, here are the prominent holidays and when they occur, so you can plan accordingly.

- Easter: Weekend of April 4
- Mother's Day: Weekend of May 9
- Memorial Day: Weekend of May 23
- Father's Day: Weekend of June 20
- Independence Day: Saturday, July 4
- Labor Day: Weekend of September 5
- Columbus Day: Weekend of October 10
- Halloween: Saturday, October 31
- Veterans Day: Wednesday, November 11
- Thanksgiving: Thursday, November 26
- Christmas: Friday, December 25

Quirky numerical dates tend to attract a lot of people who want a memorable date. July 7, 2007 was quite a popular date because it was "777," or lucky 7s. In 2015, you may want to avoid 12/14/15.

Wedding Item	Budgeted Amount	Amount Spent
Accessories		
Beverages		
Bouquets		
Boutonnieres		
Cake		
Ceremony Fees		
Ceremony Musicians		
Corsages		
Favors		
Floral Arrangements		
Food and Service		
Gown and Alterations		
Groom's Accessories		
Groom's Tuxedo or Suit		
Headpiece and Veil		
Honeymoon		
Invitations		
Lighting		
Makeup and Hair		
Miscellaneous Fees		
Photography		
Reception Decorations		
Reception Musicians		
Ring Pillow		
Stationery		
Transportation		
Venues and Rentals		
Videographer		
Wedding Rings		

Wedding survey says...

Destination weddings have grown in popularity for a variety of reasons, not the least of which is the appeal of getting married in an exotic or unique locale. In addition, 65 percent of survey respondents said they chose a destination wedding because they wanted a more intimate affair with fewer guests.

According to a survey of wedding trends conducted by Weddingbells, an online resource for Canadian brides, the average Canadian bride in 2011 spent just under \$1,800 on her wedding gown, while the average American bride spends roughly \$1,100 on her gown.

According to a recent survey from Brides magazine, one in three brides plan to get into bed on the wedding night and ... sleep.

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How to find the right banquet hall for your big day

Metro Creative

Planning a wedding is no small feat, as couples are faced with many decisions seemingly from the moment they get engaged right up until they walk down the aisle as man and wife.

One of the biggest decisions a couple will make is where to host the reception.

Couples must consider a variety of factors when looking for the right banquet hall to host their reception. The wedding is a celebration, and the banquet hall is where the couple and their guests will let their hair down and hopefully enjoy a festive and memorable night. Because the reception is typically the most lengthy portion of a couple's wedding day, it's important to find a place where everyone can be comfortable and enjoy themselves.

The following are a few tips for couples looking to

find the ideal banquet hall to host their wedding reception.

•Ask around. Word-of-mouth is a great way to find the right banquet hall.

•Consider the size of the facility. Some couples prefer an intimate affair with relatively few guests, while others will desire a large wedding party with lots of guests.

•Don't downplay decor. A banquet hall with an attractive decor is not only aesthetically appealing but can appeal to a couple's finances as well.

•Prioritize privacy. Few couples would be open to strangers having easy access to their wedding reception.

The banquet hall is where couples can expect to spend most of their time on their wedding day, so couples should exercise their due diligence to ensure they find an inviting and festive facility.

Centerpiece options abound for couples tying the knot

Metro Creative

Weddings may be characterized as a dozen little details coming together to form one big celebration.

Key elements of the big day often must be planned well in advance, and timing is usually of the essence to ensure the day goes off without a hitch.

Reception centerpieces are one of those seemingly minor, yet important details couples have to consider.

The reception is a memorable night for the couple, and creating a magical experience involves setting the scene, which includes decorating guests' tables with centerpieces that cap-

ture the theme of the wedding.

Many different styles of centerpieces can be considered.

Couples frequently opt for floral centerpieces because of the versatility of flowers and the myriad color combinations that are available.

But couples should not limit themselves to a floral centerpiece.

In fact, couples can explore a variety of centerpiece options before choosing the one for them.

•Candles: Inexpensive and beautiful, candles impart a subtle glow to a space.

Candles of varying heights will cast light on

the table and make the reception room look and feel more intimate. Place candles on a mirror or silver cake serving platter so that the light of the flames will reflect and disperse even more.

•Fruit: Pieces of fruit, such as lemons, limes, apples, and oranges, can be used as a cost-friendly centerpiece.

Whether placed in a basket or clear vase, the colors of fresh fruit can be vibrant and eye-catching. Afterward, the fruit can be brought home and eaten to limit waste.

•Beads and baubles: Filling a vase or low-profile glass bowl with beads, shells, rocks, or crystals is

an easy way to dress up a table.

Consider pairing these decorative beads with candles to have a visually appealing design.

•Edible ideas: Centerpieces that double as favors cut down on the expense and amount of work that goes into idea creation.

A basket with tulle-wrapped Jordan almonds or decorative boxes of cookies stacked in the center of the table will look attractive and then can be taken home by guests.

Even a tall vase filled with candy-covered chocolates can be attractive, and then guests can fill up their own little bags of sweet treats.

•Themed objects: Birdhouses, watering cans, teapots, a small birdcage, or other items that fit with the theme of a wedding can work well as centerpieces.

A carved pumpkin or gourd fits in with a fall-themed wedding, while a sand pail may complete the look of a summer-inspired wedding.

•Balloons: Don't underestimate the power of a billowing bouquet of balloons in the center of a table.

Relatively low-priced when compared to flowers, balloons are easy to set up and will quickly fill a space.

•Wildflowers: Rather

than centerpieces full of exotic flowers, do-it-yourself couples can place whimsical bunches of wildflowers and fresh herbs into vases on each table.



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Find a gown they all will absolutely love

Metro Creative

Close friends and family members are an important component of a couple's wedding day. Individuals who are especially close to the bride and groom are often asked to become members of the wedding party, which means a bride-to-be will be asking one or more women to play an integral role in the celebration. To set these ladies apart from other guests at the wedding, they are often asked to wear coordinating bridesmaid gowns. Selecting a style and color that is fitting to the unique people of the bridal party can be challenging, but it's not impossible.

As if choosing your maid of honor wasn't tricky enough, you now must make a host of other decisions as well, all while playing stylist to the wedding party. Fashion sense is as unique as a fingerprint, and it is unlikely the bridesmaids will be able to agree on every aspect of the gowns they will be asked to wear. However, there are ways to narrow down the choices and be as accommodating as possible to their needs.

Size matters
The body shapes and sizes of the women in your bridal party will be different, and this should be kept in mind when selecting a gown style and cut. There are certain dress shapes that are universally flattering, such as A-line. Try to avoid gowns that are extremely form-fitting, as only a few of the bridesmaids may be able to pull off this look successfully. The remainder could be left feeling self-conscious and uncomfortable. Plus, form-fitting clothing will be restrictive and can be difficult to move around in — particularly considering

the gown will be worn for an entire day.

Flattering Color
As a bride you may have a colorscape in your mind for the wedding. But what looks good in table linens and flowers is not always the right choice for clothing. Take the skin tones and hair colors of your bridesmaids into consideration before choosing a dress. Green- and yellow-hued dresses may not look nice on women with olive skin tones, while very pale colors may wash out women with fair skin. Those with dark skin may need a brighter-colored dress.

Price Tag
It is an honor to be asked to be part of a bridal party, but that honor can be very expensive. The bridesmaids are expected to pay for their wardrobe, hair styling, and makeup, as well as parties and gifts for the happy couple. As a courtesy to the women who already will be investing a considerable amount to be a part of your wedding, make every effort to select a gown that is affordable. There are plenty of retailers offering stylish options that may not be as expensive as some specialty stores.

Once you've decided on the basic elements, consider the following suggestions to find a gown that the bridal party will enjoy.

- Take one or two bridesmaids shopping with you.
- Think about choosing separates.
- Choose one color and then let the bridesmaids choose the style they like the best for themselves.
- Go with a tea-length gown.
- Purchase the bridesmaid gowns at the same store where you will be purchasing your wedding gown.

GIN CREEK AND ROSEMOTT VINEYARDS



"An experience of a lifetime." Located about 15 minutes from Moultrie, right off Georgia Hwy. 37 West on 251 DeMott Road in Hartsfield, Gin Creek and RoseMott Vineyards was recently voted top ceremony and reception venue by more than 200,000 wedding professionals and engaged couples in the United States and Canada. They are now recognized as part of the top five percent of wedding professionals in the Wedding Wire community. It is a private gated property featuring the only full-service wedding destination in Georgia, specializing in fairy-tale weddings. Since 2003, it has been the first 'outdoor wedding destination in the South' of its kind. Gin Creek offers two areas, DeMott Lake and RoseMott Vineyards, with accommodations in both areas. DeMott Lake has accommodations in several structures including the 1836 Presley Log Cabin, the McNeal House, Dee's Lakehouse and five historical row cottages. Also located at DeMott Lake, is the Galleria, which is a 3,000-square foot space, with an 1,100 square foot, split-level deck overlooking Gin Creek. It has a full kitchen facility that accommodates large crowds. The Gazebo is a magnificent two-story structure that overlooks DeMott Lake and the Pergola, which is the most popular wedding ceremony site, is surrounded by massive weeping willows. The newest destination, RoseMott Vineyards, features 53 acres of rolling hills which has rows of grapes and Italian cypress trees. Sitting on a five-acre pond is a stone-arched Tuscan pergola with seating for 640. Wine and dine with guests sitting at your reception in an elegant 7,200 square foot 'triple twin peak tent' with seating for 860. Recently, RoseMott Vineyards has added accommodations including The Olive House, which has four bedrooms, baths, a kitchen with dining area and a large dressing area with a sitting room. A bride and her attendants can enjoy a view of the vineyard and the pond in the valley. Gin Creek and RoseMott Vineyards will host weddings, getaways, and events right here in your own backyard in Colquitt County. They offer Winery Weddings, which include a rustic barn ceremony site, a reception in the winery or under the 400-year-old Live Oak tree and tables, chairs and cloths and set-up. They also offer Tuscany Weddings on the pond at the vineyard; and Old South Plantation Weddings on the lake, completely staffed. New for Gin Creek and RoseMott Vineyards is the Summer Wine Concert Series. On July 4, 'Swingin' in the Vines' will be held with bands, 2.5 and 5K vineyard runs, wine tastings, arts, food and lodging. On Aug. 9, the RoseMott Harvest Festival will be held with bands, an 'I Love Lucy' grape stomping contest, arts, wine tasting, a 5K run, grape-picking in the vineyard, food and lodging. See wine processing on the site. Wine tastings and tours are held Monday-Saturday, from noon to 8 p.m. Contact Richie at 941-2989 or Doug at 873-3005, seven days a week, or email them at info@gincreek.com or visit the website www.gincreek.com.

Wedding expert says...

Brides and grooms have a few options when it comes to the music played at their ceremony and reception. Live musicians or deejays are often the entertainment of choice. When hiring the entertainment, there are some important things to keep in mind. The music of the wedding will set the tone for the event and keep guests entertained during key moments of the day. It's essential to listen to musicians or deejays before hiring anyone to ensure what they're offering will fit in with the wedding. Provide the musical entertainment with some information to further help the wedding go off without a hitch. This may include but not be limited to names of all wedding party participants so they can be properly introduced; name of the married couple, including pronunciation of the last name, if necessary; title of the couple's song; and any music that is off-limits.

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Creating a wedding registry

- Register with multiple merchants. Couples can help guests out by registering with multiple merchants. Doing so gives guests more options and increases the likelihood that guests can find the store.
- Don't assume all guests are tech-savvy. While the Web has made setting up and accessing a registry easier for couples and guests alike, it's safe to assume your guest list will include one or two hold-outs who have never before shopped online. Because of that, couples should still register with a brick-and-mortar store instead of only registering online.
- Read the fine print. Some online retailers are kinder than others. When establishing an online registry, examine the retailer's policy thoroughly to be sure it does not include substantial service charges or exorbitant shipping fees.
- Vary the options within the registry. When adding items to the registry, be sure to include items that everyone can afford. Especially nowadays, when many weddings host guests from far and wide, it's ideal to include lots of affordable items.
- As for high-end items, keep those to a minimum. But it is important to include at least a few expensive items, as some guests might pool their resources and buy these gifts, saving you money while giving them the satisfaction that you got something you might not have been able to afford after paying for the wedding.
- Set up a honeymoon registry. Many of today's couples live together before they get married, and as a result, they might not need some of the more common household items like cookware, linens or home furnishings. Guests can donate money or pay for certain activities the couple can enjoy while getting away from it all.

WILSON JEWELERS



Wilson Jewelers, located at 3 First St. S.E. in downtown Moultrie, has been serving Moultrie and the surrounding community for over 50 years. It has been open since 1959. Now is the perfect time to select that special ring, wedding band, attendant's gifts, gifts exchanged by the bride and groom, and a gift registry. Let Wilson's make that anniversary special, too. Don't forget diamond bands, earrings and pendants. Genuine gemstones and diamond jewelry combine to bring an array of colors to brighten the day. Wilson Jewelers will buy old gold, silver, platinum, and coins. For more information, call 229-985-3753 or visit them on their website at www.wilsondiamondgallery.com.

Edible wedding favors make a fine choice

Metro Creative

A token of appreciation for guests is requisite at wedding receptions. Wedding favors enable attendees to walk away from the event with a memento and also a small thank you for their participation and celebration of this momentous event. Brides- and grooms-to-be have different ideas when it comes to wedding favors. Guests have their own opinions, too. As customs and trends change, so do the options in wedding favors. In the past, wedding favors were not much different from the items offered today, and not every guest was privy to a take-

home trinket. In the 16th century, wedding favors were a sign of extravagance and showed off the family's wealth to the guests. Only rich and prominent people during those times could afford and provide sophisticated gifts to their guests. Some favors symbolized luck, and sharing them with guests ensured good luck to all as well. Almonds were common favors because they symbolized fertility, health, happiness, wealth, and longevity. Bonbonnières were once a popular wedding favor. A bonbonniere is a small, decorative box made of porcelain, crystal or gold. It is embellished with colorful

and precious gems. Inside the box houses a sweet delicacy, often called a bonbon. In modern times, many couples are returning to the tradition of giving bonbonnières or other edible favors as their wedding celebration thank-yous. Edible favors are often economical and guests tend to appreciate them. After all, guests have to find a nook in their homes in which to house an engraved ice cream scooper or yet another small statuette. Edible gifts can be as varied as a person desires. Candy-coated almonds are still popular, but many couples have expanded their choices and have created new trends in favors. For

those couples seeking a unique edible favor for the wedding, here are some suggestions. •Cake or brownie pops: Food on a stick has long been a favorite of many, but the concept has been taken to new heights with the creation of cake pops. These are small balls of cake or brownie that are made from cake crumbs and frosting. The balls are covered in candy melts or chocolate and served on a stick. Chocolate artists can transform ordinary cake pops into works of art with intricate piping designs on the hard, outer shell. •Cookies: Pastry arts continue to be popular favors for any occasion.

Many bakeries offer intricately designed and decorated cookies that can pertain to any theme. Think about a wedding couple or a set of rings as the cookie of choice for a wedding favor. Most cookies last 2 to 3 weeks, so they can be purchased in advance. •Petit fours: These bite-sized pastries lend themselves well to wedding favors. They can easily be paired and put in small boxes as take-home treats. Some bakeries create petit fours on demand. If not, petit fours can be purchased through online vendors. •Chocolate: Gourmet chocolate remains a popular edible favor. Choose

among truffles, caramels, chocolate-covered pretzels, or any favorite treat. Depending on the chocolatier, favors may come pre-boxed and wrapped. •Seasonal treats: If a wedding coincides with a particular season or holiday, favors can be coordinated as well. Think caramel-covered apples for fall parties, chocolate bunnies for spring events, spiced cake bars for the winter holidays or lemon tarts for summer weddings. Wedding favors have been a part of wedding ceremonies for centuries. Edible gifts are thoughtful and flavorful mementos of the wedding day.

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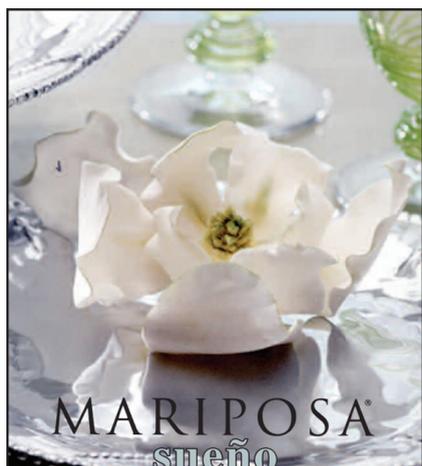
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