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**Bulletin**

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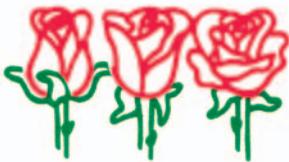
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Allison and Justin Tucker were married Oct. 8, 2016 at Josefina's Gate in Mesilla, New Mexico. The couple met on a ski trip with mutual friends and now live in Phoenix, Arizona. Justin proposed to Allison on top of a mountain as they both love hiking and being outdoors.

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# Define YOUR 'ESSENCE'

## LET YOUR VISION GUIDE YOUR WEDDING PLANS

**BY JENNIFER GRUGER**

We all have that girl in our lives (maybe it's you) who has been dreaming of the perfect wedding all her life. In her daydreams, the dress is sculpted to fit her curves and it flows just so. Flowers are everywhere and she is escorted down the aisle by the perfect person to the tune of the perfect song. Grooms have these dreams, too.

When the proposal happens, years of fantasy collide with reality, which includes everyone else's ideas, hopes and demands, and oh yeah — a budget.

Here are some tips on how to end the event with the satisfaction of knowing that you fulfilled the dream and stayed within your means.

### IT'S ALL ABOUT ESSENCE

The most important step to wedding planning happens before you truly start. Sit down with your spouse-to-be and pick just two or three things that you want your wedding to emote or communicate. This isn't a theme. It's about how you want your guests to feel, how you and your spouse want to feel both during and after, and just the overall "essence" of things. Then you'll be ready to go through the list of standard wedding planning requirements and circle the ones that serve those ideas best. The rest of the priorities will fall together from there.

### PICK A DATE

You probably can't really pick a date until you find a venue. If getting married on Valentine's Day is important to you, for example, you should be looking for venues no later than the February prior. If the venue is the more important component, you may have more flexibility, but you'll want to find out the best season for that location to get the best rates possible.

"Once the engagement has become official and the wedding date is set, please call us as soon as possible to check on date





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availability,” said Kenny Valenzuela, general manager with the Las Cruces Convention Center. “At the Las Cruces Convention Center, it is recommended to place an initial inquiry on the date one year in advance to allow for prime date selection.”

If your date is not more than a year away, venues and other vendors may still be able to accommodate the wedding, however, so shop around. A venue for ceremony and reception, as well as photography, should be booked as early as possible.

### THE INVITATION IS KEY

Realizing how important the invitation is early on is helpful. Your invitation selections, design and content will be based on the date, location, budget and that ever-important essence mentioned earlier. This is the first element that sets the tone, gets your guests where they need to be and kicks off the excitement for everyone.

“Save-the-date notices are only necessary if there is a great need to inform your guests in advance for a reason, such as travel or complex schedules, but should be sent six to eight months in advance,” said Roxanne Kidd, owner of Elegant Events and Invitations by Renee’s Bridal.

Invitations should be sent two to three months in advance, especially if no save-the-date card was

sent. In both cases, production time, gathering addressees, proofing and finalizing will take four to six weeks.

### FINAL WORDS OF ADVICE

According to magazine and online lifestyle publication, *Real Simple*, the average engagement period is 16 months. However, you can also have a beautiful, meaningful, memorable wedding without a lot of lead time. Some of the best stories come from those couples who had both limited time and limited funds.

Regardless of the timeline, a good checklist and a wedding planning binder are must-haves. The internet has countless resources, including apps for your phone to help you. There are thousands of resources online to help with budgeting, from organizing to finding ways to save money on unneeded costs.

Finally, in case this is a question for you, a wedding planner isn’t always needed. They are ideal for destination weddings or super-busy couples who have extra cash and no time. Unless you absolutely must, skip the expense, give yourself time, surround yourself with friends and resources, get a good checklist and just stay focused on the “essence” of the affair. You’ll be fine! ♥

## LOCAL VENDORS TO KICK OFF WEDDING PLANNING

### Announce your engagement

- Las Cruces Bulletin

### Hire an event planner

- Las Cruces Event Planning
- I Do Weddings & Events
- Las Cruces Weddings

### Select a venue

- Las Cruces Convention Center
- NMSU Conference Services & Flavours by Sodexo
- Red Hawk Golf Course
- Oasis Special Events
- Grapevine Plaza

### Get picture perfect

- Plexus
- It Works
- Avon
- Mark Kay
- Club Fitness by Millennium
- Healing Source Chiropractic
- Rodan and Fields
- Smile Life Orthodontics

### Choose a photographer

- Laura's Photography
- Southwest Creative Company
- Taylor'd Photography
- Palamora Productions & Clickster Photobooth
- Skyline Photobooth & Red Carpet

### Shopping for wedding attire

- Renee's Bridal
- Dillard's
- Ella Blu
- Men's Wearhouse

### Book hair and make-up

- Simply Devine Salon
- Tamy & Co

### Book rooms for wedding night and guests

- TownePlace Suites by Marriot
- Fairfield Inn and Suites by Marriot

### Plan wedding décor

- Enchanted Occasions
- Cutting Edge Blooms
- LC Balloons & Parties

### Select a florist

- Barb's Flowerland

- Fiesta Flowers
- Floriography Flowers

### Book your caterer

- Santa Fe Grill
- Double Eagle
- Dickerson's Catering

### Choose your cake

- Deliciously Creative Cakes
- Let Them Eat Cake

### Book a DJ

- DJ Paul Flores
- M & M Entertainment
- Twilight Entertainment
- Las Cruces Party DJs

### Set up gift registry

- Bed Bath & Beyond
- Dinner 4 Two
- Scentsy

### Accessories and make-up

- Lipsense
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# WEDDING PLANNING TIMELINE

## Two years to 12 months before the wedding

- Set a date
- Determine budget and discuss
- Shop for and choose ceremony, reception locations
- Determine need for a planning professional

## Twelve to nine months before the wedding

- Select wedding attendants/officiant
- Determine wedding colors and themes
- Shop for and choose wedding dress and accessories
- Shop for and choose bridal party attire
- Determine guest list
- Choose professional photographer, videographer, disc jockey, caterer, musicians and florist

## Six to nine months before the wedding

- Select flowers for bouquets, centerpieces, altar displays, corsages, etc.
- Reserve wedding day transportation
- Make honeymoon travel accommodations
- Reserve accommodations for out-of-town guests
- Register for wedding gifts

## Four to six months before the wedding

- Select tuxedos for groom, groomsmen, fathers of bride and groom
- Select wedding cake

- Purchase rings
- Choose and order invitations, other printed materials
- Advise employers, schedule vacation time accordingly

## Two to four months before the wedding

- Select reception accessories
- Mail invitations two months in advance
- Purchase attendant gifts
- Write or select wedding vows and meet with officiant to review ceremony
- Make bar/beverage arrangements

## One month before the wedding

- Final fittings for all attire
- Confirm all reservations
- Make appointments for massages, hair, makeup and manicure/pedicure
- Obtain all legal documents, apply for marriage license

## One week before the wedding

- Confirm head count with catering hall
- Begin packing for wedding day and honeymoon

## Night before the wedding

- Rehearsal dinner
- Give out wedding attendant gifts
- Lay out wedding attire
- Get a good night's sleep

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# Crafted traditions

## RECENT WEDDING TRENDS MIX TRADITIONAL, PERSONAL STYLES

### BY CASSIE MCCLURE

Wedding trends in Las Cruces tend to veer toward the traditional and romantic options. From embracing a love of rose-gold in cakes and wedding bands, weddings locally are focused on creating a unique experience for friends and family — a customized ceremony that highlights the personal style of the couple.

### CUSTOMIZED CAKES

Stephanie Baumann, owner of Let Them Eat Cake, works with enthusiastic cake creators who are delighted with more than 450 flavor combinations with which to craft local masterpieces.

It's her 15 years of experience that help clients come to the most-fitting confection creation for their wedding. She's enjoyed watching the evolution

of what has become popular, and trends that have made their way back into her shop.

"I won't have a request for a chocolate fountain for a long time, and suddenly there's one," she said.

Lately, clients have been asking for a personal touch when it comes to their cakes. It's shown in the hand-painted brush strokes visible in the edible paint, or with the rustic and roughly frosted cakes detailed with metallics like silver and bronzes, platinum and rose gold.

Drizzle cakes are also a favorite request, with rivers of chocolate flowing off the sides of the cake, and perhaps set to catch the light with edible glitter. Cupcakes in various flavors, in lieu of cakes, are still a fun and popular trend, but Baumann said sometimes a larger cupcake is set off for the couple, or those with dietary restrictions. For someone in



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need of gluten-free or sugar alternatives, a cupcake (or several) can be set aside in its own domed glass cover with a note.

“The most fun (thing) is that people feel more free now to customize their cakes,” Baumann said. “Ordering a custom-made cake for their event creates a design that speaks to and of the couple joining their lives together.”

#### **A CUT ABOVE**

Gail Baquera of Baquera Jewelry has a favorite part of her job — hearing the love stories of the couples who shop together or hearing the plans of a young lover to ask for the commitment of marriage.

“I love young love,” Baquera said.

Regarding trends, she said she has seen a move away from the princess cut diamonds toward the

marquise, ovals and round cuts.

“People are in search of something different, a cut above,” she said.

Grooms are straying from classic gold bands, opting for alternative metals like tungsten, titanium and stainless steel. Baquera said there is more experimentation with color like rose-gold and copper.

Her husband, Timothy Baquera, has seen an uptick in custom designs, but fewer inscriptions into the rings.

Gail said she remains aware that the hunt for the perfect ring can be nerve wracking, so she asks questions to guide the customer in discovering their own style.

“I like to remind them what an exciting time it really is and educate them on all the parts of picking

**♥ Continued on page 10**

♥ **Continued from page 9**

just the right piece,” she said.

For information, visit [www.baquerajewelers.com](http://www.baquerajewelers.com) or call 575-652-4084.

**CLASSY BLOOMS**

Desarae Terrazas, wedding consultant at Barb’s Flowerland, 2001 E Lohman Ave #129, doesn’t hesitate when asked about what’s popular for flowers in Las Cruces.

“Blush and ivory,” she said. “It’s been a steady request of that for three years.”

Terrazas said that local brides and grooms go for a romantic and classy look, and look to the peony to fill that need.

“You can make them go with rustic or vintage looks,” Terrazas said.

She also mentioned that garden roses and hydrangeas are popular, as well as baby’s breath as an accent.

The real challenge comes when seasonal substitutes might be needed, but that garden roses do well because they last longer.

“But, we try to stay as close to the vision that the couple sees in their mind,” she said.

Six months out is a good time to start the conversation with your florist, but Terrazas said that even a month works in a pinch.

“No matter if they want a clean look, or something

fun and whimsical, we can get it perfect,” she said.

For a consultation, call 575-525-1850

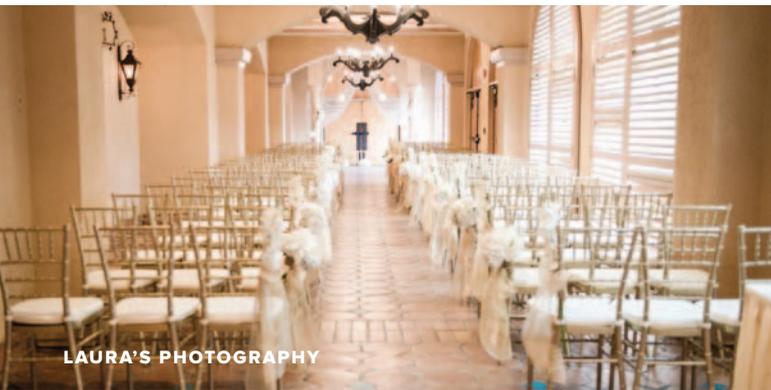
Another local option for flowers is Flowerama, 1300 El Paseo Road. For information, visit [www.floweramaoflascruces.com](http://www.floweramaoflascruces.com) or call 575-523-6400.

**VENUES SET THE TONE**

Venue choice has a big impact on the look and feel of a ceremony. Traditional ceremonies are often held in churches, either one the couple regularly attends or something a little different.

Outdoor ceremonies are a popular choice for many couples, and here in the Southwest, options abound. In Las Cruces, the Grapevine Event Center & Picacho Peak Brewery (3900 W. Picacho Ave., [www.picachopeakbrewery.com](http://www.picachopeakbrewery.com)), offers the whole shebang — indoor/outdoor weddings, catering, craft brews. Wineries and golf clubs can provide a romantic backdrop for weddings, such as Rio Grande Winery or Red Hawk Golf Club in Las Cruces. Local hotels, such as Hotel Encanto, Meson de Mesilla and Ramada Palms, offer full-service packages for weddings and receptions.

If you’re looking for a not-far-from-home destination wedding, we have an enchanted state with dramatic sunsets and quiet retreats, south to north. Check out Heart of the Desert Pistachios and Wines in Alamogordo and Sanctuary on the River in Ruidoso to get you started. ♥



LAURA'S PHOTOGRAPHY



LAURA'S PHOTOGRAPHY



LET THEM EAT CAKE



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# Something BORROWED, SOMETHING BLUE

WEDDINGS ARE STEEPED IN TRADITION, MYTHS

The superstition that it's bad luck for a bride and groom to **see each other before the wedding** dates to the old tradition of arranged marriages. If a husband saw his bride-to-be before the wedding ceremony — and didn't like what he saw — he'd have a chance to back out.

The **bridal veil**, too, is also related to arranged marriages, and prevented the groom from seeing his bride's face until the very last second — too late to run. The veil was also thought in many cultures to keep the bride safe from evil spirits.

Though it may not seem ideal, especially if your wedding is an outdoor one, but **rain on your wedding day** symbolizes cleansing or fertility in many cultures.

**Giving knives as gifts** is bad luck — a gifted knife is thought to "cut" the friendship between giver and recipient. One easy way around this many wedding guests have utilized is giving the cutlery with a penny attached, promptly removed and given back as "payment."

In medieval times, **carrying the bride across the threshold** was important to preserve her chastity. In many cultures throughout history, though, the symbolic crossing of the threshold was used to ward off malevolent spirits and ill fortune. In Western

Europe, couples avoided the bad luck brought on by a stumbling bride by having the husband carry her over the doorstep. In other cultures, spirit intrusion was a heavy concern, and since they usually entered through the soles of the feet, a bride was carried over the presence-heavy threshold of the home.

By **breaking a glass** at a wedding, a couple can get a glimpse at how many years of wedded bliss they'll have ahead of them. Each broken piece stands for another year happily married.

**Crying on your wedding day** may be a good omen — the tears shed by a bride on her wedding day are thought to symbolize the last she'll shed in her life, now that she's happily wed.

And as, if the bride didn't have enough on her mind, the day of her nuptials, she's also supposed to carry with her **something old, something new, something borrowed and something blue**. Why? Something old signifies a couple's desire to carry on the traditions of their forebears as they come together as a new family; something new indicates the couple is looking ahead to happiness, good fortune and wealth; something borrowed gives the bride's family and friends a chance to lend her a token of their love and warm wishes; and something blue symbolizes the bride's fidelity to her husband.



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FITTING  
*expectations*

A PROFESSIONAL CAN  
TAILOR YOUR EXPERIENCE  
IN SEARCH OF THE  
PERFECT GOWN

**BY CASSIE MCCLURE**

Roxanne Kidd, owner of Renee's Bridal Boutique, knows that the word "taffeta" brings back memories of loud and crinkly prom dresses that might have been worn in a different generation. But this generation's taffeta comes from across the pond and is poised to add a bit more class to bridal gowns.

"European taffeta is less noisy and a higher-end fabric," Kidd said.

It's the taffeta's sheen that is popular for gowns, along with satin and Mikado, a heavier blend of silks. Accents of lace and beading are still sought out to add unique details to the gowns, but choices trend toward simple silhouettes or dramatic ball gowns.

Kidd recommends a good six to eight months lead time for finding the perfect dress, because the actual creation of the dream dress may take four to five months. When the dress is ready at the store, a month's time before the wedding, the bride will come back in for the final fitting to make sure it fits as well as the bride expects.

For the initial dress hunt, Kidd said that the smaller the entourage the better — the mother and perhaps one close friend. Too many people become too many cooks in the kitchen, overwhelming the final decision-maker, the bride.

Kidd knows that there is one ingredient that is the best help to a bride making a very important decision: an open mind.

"They've seen so many options, on Pinterest and in 'Say Yes to the Dress,' they come in with a very set idea of what they love," Kidd said. "When it doesn't look the way they imagine, it can be not-a-very-happy experience."

"Sometimes the bride needs to think outside the box, even if they thought they would wear a full lace gown," she continued. "If they take a suggestion to try another option that they may have never considered, they might be surprised."

Renee's Bridal, 855 Spruce Ave., is open 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday through Friday and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday. Call 575-521-0872 for more information. ♥



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# Choose A GOWN FOR YOUR BODY TYPE



Bridal gowns come in many styles, materials, colors, lengths and prices. Below are some dress styles, and how they mesh with various body types. Professionals at bridal shops are experts at helping women find that perfect fit.

**A-LINE:** A fitted bodice that flares out to the hem creating an A shape. This flatters women who are larger and want to hide their tummy.

**BALL GOWN:** A fitted top and a full skirt. This is ideal for women who want an elegant look and may want to hide below-the-waist problem areas.

**BASQUE WAIST:** The waistline begins below the waist, forming a U or V shape. It's slenderizing and a good choice for brides with wide hips.

**DRAPED A-LINE:** Similar in design to the traditional A-Line, the draped version has layered folds along the skirt. It is not for women who are short or thick, but works well on thin or long-legged women.

**EMPIRE:** Cropped body, high waist, slightly flared

skirt; it's generally not a good choice for brides that are large-busted.

**FIT AND FLARE:** An hourglass style that highlights a trim waistline. It is good for women, tall and short, who have curves and want to show them off.

**MINI-SKIRT:** The hem is above the knee, and typically has a train either short or long. Good choice for showing off legs.

**PRINCESS:** A fitted top and a flared, vertically seamed skirt. This type is flattering for tall, slender women.

**SHIRTWAIST:** A woman's blouse or bodice styled like a tailored shirt, a blouse with buttons down the front.

**SLIP DRESS:** Also called sheath, this style features fabric that continues down the body from the shoulders to the ankles for a close-fitting look. This is a good choice for small or informal weddings, and it looks best on tall, trim women.

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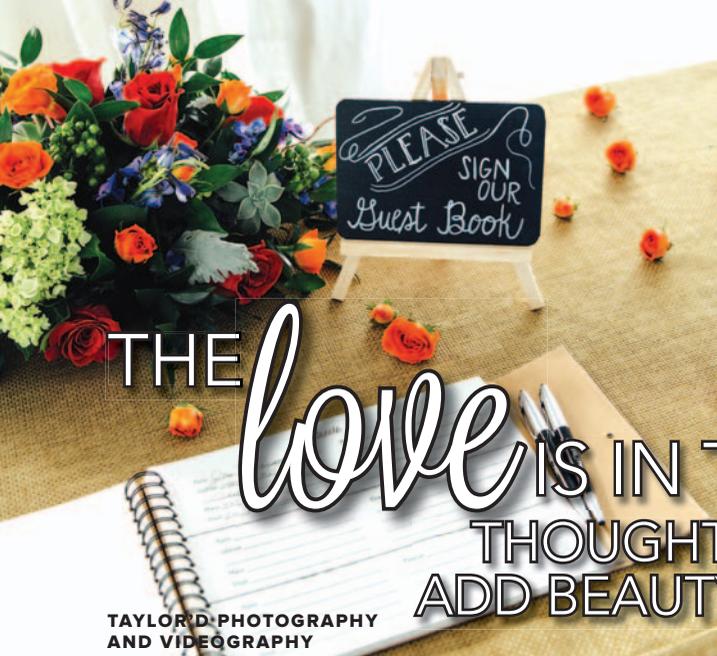
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# THE love IS IN THE DETAILS

## THOUGHTFUL GESTURES ADD BEAUTY TO A WEDDING

TAYLOR D. PHOTOGRAPHY AND VIDEOGRAPHY

### BY JENNIFER GRUGER

I attended a wedding last fall that struck me as one of the most authentic and thoughtful weddings I had ever experienced. It was an outdoor wedding in November, at a historical location with well-kept grounds and huge trees full of turning leaves and a light drizzle of rain. Approaching the seating area under the portico, we were offered a choice of hot cocoa or spiced cider to take to our seats. It was the perfect detail to set the tone.

There were other equally divine details like that, but first, let's talk about the secret behind the details themselves.

Newlywed Catherine Ayele said the ideas for the tiny details flowed naturally from the way the couple approached planning. Before tackling the overwhelming list of things normally done when planning a wedding, the couple made a list of things they wanted the wedding to emote — the “essence” of the experience. Then, they narrowed down the list by circling the ones that served those ideas best. As they went through the rest of the traditional steps they would ask “do we really need to do this? Does it serve the essence?”

Ayele thinks that this approach is only one reason why things worked so well.

“I believe it felt good to others because we worked on it together,” she said.

It was often a surprise to vendors that her fiancée, Mikael, was there at the planning table. Often, only the bride picks things out and makes decisions.

So, what was the essence they were after?

“Authentic, thoughtful and full of laughter” Catherine said. As a guest, I'd say they hit the mark.

Consider the following as you search for things that will make your wedding uniquely yours. These may not be right for you, but they may inspire you to find details that support the “essence” of your event.

- In cool weather, in addition to a warm beverage, make lap blankets available.

- Hang both rings from a piece of twine above a “Ring Warming” sign with the instructions in your own words to encourage guests to hold them thoughtfully for a moment.

- While photos and document signing occurs, provide wine or lavender margaritas via butler-service. Classy and thoughtful.

- Throughout the dinner, the bride and groom stop whatever they're doing and kiss when wine glasses are tapped with silver.

- Limit the toasts. Select in advance those whom you would like to do a formal toast and give them time to plan for their toasts. Coach your deejay to politely decline the offers for others to toast.

- In the printed program, include a list or a map of the locations from which your guests came. Include dates and locations of the couple's first meeting, dates, kiss or other endearing tales.

A simple Google or Pinterest search will provide hundreds of ideas for personal details, but there's only one unique you (and your future spouse), so use the ideas as a springboard for something all your own. ♥



COURTESY PHOTO



# A THOUSAND'S A *crowd*

LOCAL COUPLE WINS  
WEDDING PACKAGE,  
MARRIED AT LAST YEAR'S  
SHOWCASE

COURTESY PHOTO

## BY JACKYE MEINECKE

Garrett and Andrea Arnold will celebrate their first anniversary this month with a much smaller gathering than their wedding a year ago. The two were married at the Las Cruces Convention Center in front of about 50 family members and friends and more than 1,000 strangers. The strangers were participants in the Las Cruces Bridal & Special Events Showcase in January 2016, and the marriage ceremony was part of the event.

"We focused on each other," Andrea said about any shyness over getting married during the event in front of such a large crowd.

The two began dating in 2015 and after about six months, Garrett proposed to Andrea at Thanksgiving, Andrea said. Both were thinking it would take a year or more to save for and plan their wedding. Then in

January, Andrea, Garrett and their parents entered the wedding giveaway contest promoted by Magic 105, one of the event sponsors. Garrett won the wedding package valued at up to \$6,000.

"You don't say 'no' to that deal," Garrett said.

While winning the prize was exciting, they were given a little more than a week to get the family together, meet with planners and prepare for a wedding on Jan. 31 — an anniversary date they agreed was easy to remember.

"It was nerve wracking," Garrett said, but they both said getting married in such a short time frame was less stressful than it could have been, particularly at no expense.

While many women fantasize about their weddings and often spend years planning the event, Andrea was pleased to have support through the process.

“(Winning the package) was a good omen,” Andrea said. “I’d do it again. It was the perfect deal for us.”

Their fondest memory of the wedding was when they joined friends and family in the smaller reception after the public wedding.

“When we walked into the reception area and they announced us as husband and wife and our family cheered was the best moment,” Andrea said.

The DJ played their requested tunes, as they completed all the traditional dances and toasts.

Garrett said he was just glad he could walk back down the aisle and not trip on the stairs.

“It was an eventful day to say the least,” Garrett said.

Garrett farms with his father and Andrea works at a Cheers-type bar in Anthony. Their wedding, which made the front page of the local paper, had some characteristics of their lives and interests.

Andrea recalled Garrett arriving on a tractor to the wedding just as she arrived. After the wedding, they left the reception on the tractor for a short, but dramatic, drive down Union Avenue to Mesilla. There, they enjoyed some more time with close friends before retiring for a honeymoon stay at the Hilton Garden Inn.

“It was a good day, a memorable day,” Andrea said. “We got to enjoy the people we loved. We are very blessed.” ♥



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# GUIDE TO flower SYMBOLISM



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You might consider linking colored flowers to their historical romantic symbolism when choosing colors for your wedding.

- **RED:** Love's passion and desire, beauty and courage. Think red roses, carnations, tulips, red protea, peonies.
- **WHITE:** Often associated with modesty and elegance, humility and reverence, and pure beauty. Think white roses, gardenias, lilies, baby's breath, chrysanthemums.
- **LAVENDER:** Emblematic of femininity, refinement and grace. Think lavender roses, waxflower, statice (sea lavender), snapdragons, lavender matsumoto asters, lavender stock
- **BLUE:** Peace, calm, and serenity. Think blue hydrangea, delphinium, iris, larkspur, blue stock.
- **PINK:** Happiness, gentility and grace. Think pick rosebuds, long-stemmed roses, camellia,

carnations, alstroemeria, blushing lilies, tulips, pink stargazer lilies.

- **YELLOW:** Happiness, joyful new beginnings. Think yellow roses, daffodils, chrysanthemums, lilies, gerbera daisies, alstroemeria, cymbidium orchids, tulips.
- **PURPLE:** Royalty and dignity. Think purple alstroemeria, violets, purple carnations and tulips.
- **ORANGE:** Symbolizes passion and confidence. Think orange Asiatic lilies, gerbera daisies, carnations, bi-color orange roses, rust chrysanthemums, fiery lilies, birds of paradise.
- **GREEN:** Nature, optimism and renewal, and can complement every other bloom. Think green carnations, button spray chrysanthemums, green viburnum, cybidium orchids, and assorted greens.



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# HOW TO KEEP YOUR *big day* STRESS AT BAY



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• **HAVE SUPPORT:** Find someone to confide in when stress starts to build. A support person can help you sort through priorities and stay focused on the most important matters at hand.

• **TAKE A BREAK:** Sometimes, you must stop, step away, spend time doing anything other than wedding planning, and return refreshed when you're ready.

• **STAY CONNECTED:** Schedule time for non-wedding-planning quality time with your soon-to-be spouse, friends or family.

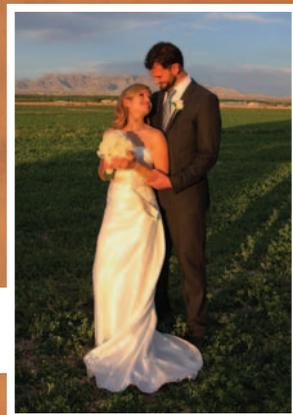
• **TAKE CARE OF YOUR BODY:** Drink water, exercise, meditate and eat well.

• **JOURNAL:** Write down your thoughts and feelings. It's an easy way to vent emotion and clear your head.

• **DON'T BE AFRAID TO DELEGATE:** Lean on friends and family to help with tasks. Chances are, they'll be delighted to participate.

• **PAMPER YOURSELF:** This tip takes "self-care" to the next level. Get a massage, facial or pedicure. Soak your feet while you watch a relaxing movie.

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# TREASURED *moments* PHOTOGRAPHY, VIDEOGRAPHY PACKAGES PRESERVE PRECIOUS MEMORIES

## BY ADAM PALOMINO

For Southwest couples gearing up to walk down the aisle, the method they choose to preserve the memories of their big day is just as crucial as the bride's dress. Now, more than ever before, there's a vast selection out there, affording couples an opportunity to craft their perfect mementos.

"Locally, couples are starting to see their friends' wedding videos on Facebook and Instagram, and that sparks an interest in having a highlight video from their wedding day as well," said Nathan Taylor, lead videographer of Taylor'd Photography and Videography.

"Taylor'd Photography is a family business, husband-and-wife photography and videography team. My wife is the lead photographer, and I am the lead videographer, and I use two of my brother-in-laws to second shoot video for me at weddings, who I trained personally. So, we do offer both photography and videography to our clients. And we give a discount for booking us for both. Ultimately, we are trying to help our couples tell the story of how and why they decided to start a family together."

For Laura Viramontes of Laura's photography, helping her couples means keeping the theme, location and color scheme in mind. She has couples answer a questionnaire at the initial meeting, so she can keep the details top of mind as she works the event.

When asked for his opinion on emerging trends, Isaac Palafox of Palamora Productions was quick to

propose, "a big trend is drones. Everyone is interested in aerial footage and higher quality."

Each studio was adamant about time being a key element to getting superior results, and all suggested couples book their photographer or videographer up to a year in advance.

Recounting a story of a couple that hesitated, Taylor said a couple ultimately lost out on their date when another couple booked it.

Viramontes recommends that couples "look for consistency and the professionalism of your photographer — look for referrals."

Taylor said couples should "watch videos from different videographers in town and determine which style they can relate to. The one that feels right to them is the one they should book for their wedding."

Taylor also stressed the importance of meeting several times before the wedding and forming a relationship with his couples.

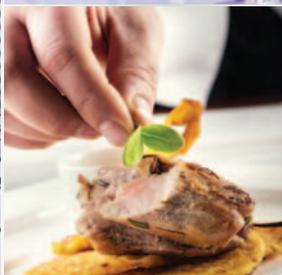
Cost is another factor to keep in mind.

"Pricing and packages are something we discuss with our clients when we initially meet them," said Taylor.

Prices offered by Viramontes range from \$1,800 to \$2,500. Palamora Productions offers packages starting at \$1,500 and up.

Learn more about Taylor'd Photography and videography at [www.taylorphoto.com](http://www.taylorphoto.com), Laura's Photography at [www.laurasphotographyllc.com](http://www.laurasphotographyllc.com), and Palamora Productions at [www.palamora.com](http://www.palamora.com). ♥

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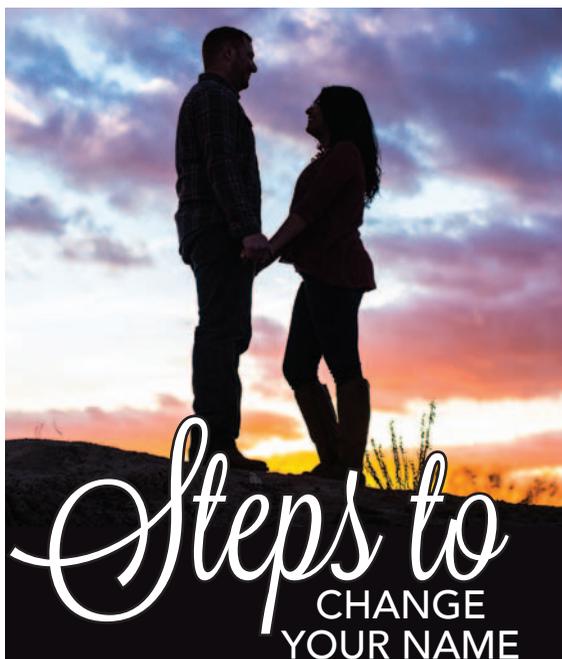
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# How to GET A MARRIAGE LICENSE

- Before your ceremony, go to the Doña Ana County Clerk's office, 845 N. Motel Blvd., or visit [donaanacounty.org/clerk/marriage](http://donaanacounty.org/clerk/marriage), to fill out a marriage application information form. The clerk's office is open 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday to Friday.
- You'll need Social Security numbers and photo identification for both parties. The fee is \$25 in cash. No cards, no checks, no exceptions.
- Both applicants must appear in person. If one party can't be there, the authorization to issue the license must be provided by a district judge.
- Once you have the license, you are cleared to perform the ceremony, have witnesses sign it and return it to the county clerk's office within 90 days of your wedding day.

**TAYLOR'D PHOTOGRAPHY  
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# Steps to CHANGE YOUR NAME

To change your name or not? Some do, some don't, some hyphenate. If you decide to change your name, there are some important steps to take. This list will get you started.

- Visit the US Social Security Administration office, 2141 Summit Court, to fill out an application to change your name. You'll need your marriage license, proof of identity and proof of citizenship. You should receive your card within 10 business days. Alternatively, visit [www.socialsecurity.gov/forms/ss-5.pdf](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/forms/ss-5.pdf), fill out the form, mail it along with the documents requested to prove your identity, and your new card will arrive, along with your documents.
- Next, go to the Department of Motor Vehicles for a new license. Bring your marriage license and your new Social Security card. The fee is \$18 for a four-year license and \$34 for an eight-year license.
- Store up some patience and take time to list all your personal accounts, from Netflix and PayPal to your bank accounts and cell phone providers. Follow each institution's procedure for changing a name. Often this includes mailing or faxing copies of your marriage certificate or other documents. At the bank, bring your driver's license and marriage license and get new debit cards and checks. Note: There may be fees associated with ordering new cards and checks.
- Remember to take time to update your will, power of attorney or advance directive with your new name and status.

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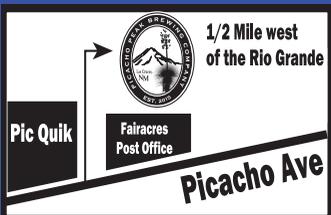


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# TIPS FOR *gifting* WEDDING ATTENDANTS

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Thanking the people closest to you for helping with your wedding is important. A gift is both a token of appreciation and remembrance of your special day.

- **PRICE:** Consider what you've asked them to spend when deciding what's appropriate to spend on a gift. Did your maid of honor buy a plane ticket and a bridesmaid gown? If so, \$75-\$150 for her gift alone would be about right. Include this cost in your budget at the outset, so you can treat your attendants right.
- **TIMING:** Bridesmaids gifts are typically given at the rehearsal dinner, but shop for them much

earlier so you are not stressed to find the perfect gift on deadline.

- **WHAT TO GIVE:** Consider personalizing gifts for each attendant instead of getting them all the same thing. The personal touch can make a difference. Aim for something useful and timeless, like personalized charm bracelets or a set of wine glasses that can be used for years to come.
- **HELPFUL TIP:** Use the "Would I want it?" test to decide if a gift is fitting. Would you like it? Would you use it? If the answer is yes, you're on the right track.

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## DON'T FORGET *thank you* NOTES

Hand-written thank-you notes are still the warmest way to show true appreciation for people who took time to attend your wedding and bring you a gift.

- It is worth the effort to assign someone – an attendant or relative – to identify gifts and make a list of who gave what. The bride and groom will be too busy with the wedding, so be sure to delegate.
- This is an easy task to forget. Schedule a reminder on your phone or planner to jog your memory post-honeymoon. Use your invitation list to get the addresses you'll need, then mail them.
- Personalize each note, acknowledging the specific gift and how you'll use it. Each gift contributes to a fresh start on the journey of marriage, and for that, you are grateful.

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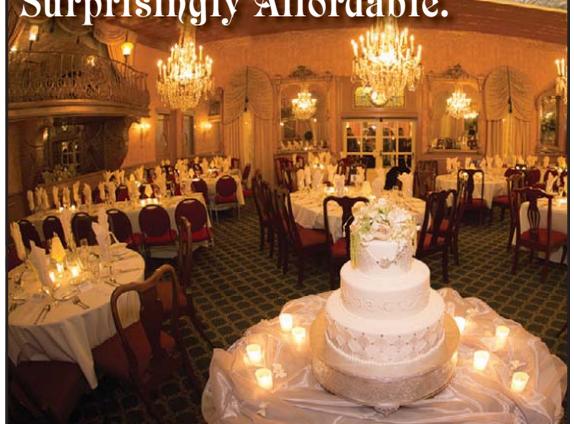
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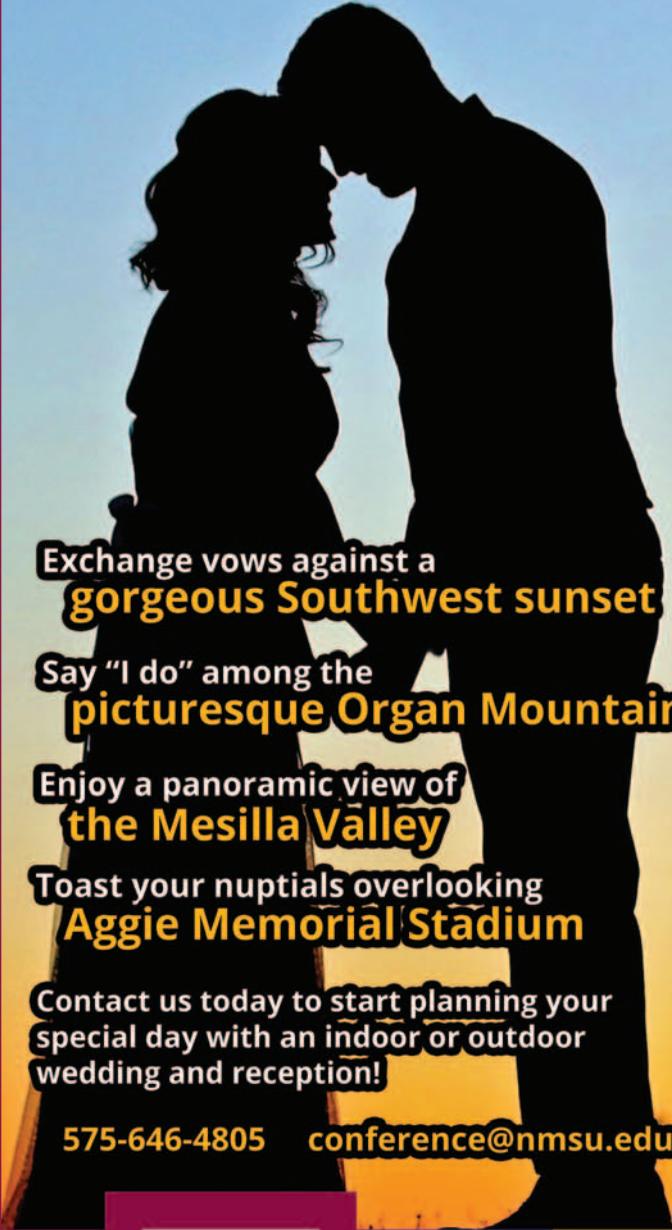
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