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Down Home

FREE
MAGAZINE
VOL. 1 / ISSUE 4 / MARCH-APRIL 2009

Choosing a Dress

Silk Expressions
Patricia Mudd, event planner

A Cozy Little Wedding for Few
Wedding Bells Chapel

Weddings
eco-chic & DIY

Kids & Receptions

Need Some Advice?
Local Residents Share Their
Take on Marriage

LOVE NOTES

BRIDAL ♦ ISSUE



photo by Bender's Photography

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Arts Council of
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Art from the Crystal
Coast

featuring the Carolina Artists
Studio of Morehead City
Opening reception Thursday,
March 26 from 5:00 until
7:00pm.
March 26 - April 30
Lower level gallery

Paintings from Jeffery Boyette
April 1- May 29
Reception Friday, May 15 from
5:00 until 8:00pm
T.A. Loving Gallery, upper level

30th Annual National Juried
Arts Exhibition
Opening reception Friday, May
15 from 5:00 until 8:00pm.
Exhibit dates: May 15 through
June 26.
Lower level gallery

Blueberry Pruning Workshop
February 27th, 2009 @ 9:30
AM - 12:00 PM
Goldsboro, NC
Wayne Center

This free workshop featuring
Bill Cline, Research & Extension
Specialist, NC State University
consists of a short classroom
presentation and then partici-
pants will travel to CEFS Small
Farms Unit for a pruning dem-
onstration. Directions to CEFS
will be provided at the begin-
ning of the workshop. Partici-
pants are encouraged to bring
hand pruners and dress

community

appropriately for outdoor demonstrations. Please call Diane Lynch
at (919) 731-1525 to register. Deadline for registration is February
25, 2009.

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*Wedding, Event, Party Planning
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373 Sanderson Road
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919-222-9947
Patricia Mudd, Owner
trish@specialoccasions4you.com
see page 6 for feature story

Join us for the
**23rd Annual
NC Pickle Festival!**
April 24-25, 2009



Eat some pickles!
See the antique cars!
Have fun!
Pack some pickles!
Get your face painted!
Eat some pickles!
Pet some animals!

Did we say eat some pickles?

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2009 Member of WC Chamber

Down Home MAGAZINE




If you are
getting this
issue because
it is the Bridal
Issue, con-
gratulations
on your recent
engagement
and upcoming
wedding.

There is nothing I love to do
more than to help, so I have
been all over Wayne County in
search for anything and every-
thing a bride and groom would
need to plan their "big day".
And you know what I found?
I found that you don't have to
go out of town to put your "big
day" together.

Need a ring, invitations, an
event planner, a gown, a tuxe-
do, a reception hall, a wedding
cake, limo, a carriage, a small
wedding chapel...well, look no

Down Home **On the
Cover:**
Kathi Cole
Jarrell
Photograph
by Nelda
Sharkey of
Sharkey's
Photography. Read inside to
meet the artist and see more of
her photography and art.



further than your own community.

Down Home Magazine wants to
give you a head start at finding
talented, unique and dedicated
businesses, close to home, that
want to help you with your wed-
ding. Along with tips to help you
make some of the decisions a
bride a groom might have to
make regarding their big day
and marriage in general.

♥ Cindi

contributors

Sharkey's Photography
Studio East Photography
Bender's Photography
Dana Southerland
Patricia Mudd
Nina Taylor
Daniel Weeks
Laura Mooring
Robin Mooring
Hope Holden
Ruby Thorton
Joanne Honn
Donald Corbett
Brandy Hardison

THANK
YOU!
THANK
YOU!



Nina Taylor, wedding consultant, opened an intimate and affordable wedding chapel in August of last year near Walnut Creek at the Village Green. The old, two-story building has been completely renovated to house two beautiful chapels, a reception area, luxurious dressing areas for the bride and groom as well as a travel agency. A limousine service is also offered by Nina's husband, Don Tee Taylor. With six affordable packages to choose from, any couple has the wedding of their dreams at hand.



Wedding Bells packages can be customized to fit your wishes and your budget. Ceremonies are scheduled by date availability. Want a midnight ceremony or a Saturday afternoon? How about a Lake side wedding? Nina and her staff are there to help you make it happen.

Everything from flowers for your ceremony to the cake at the reception, Wedding Bells has your day covered.

The large chapel lends itself to decora-

Schools Use the "Power of Cable" to Boost Education - Wayne County Schools on WCEA TV

On February 18, at 11:00 AM, Channel 18 became "officially" available to Wayne County residence. Students and parents who have Time Warner Cable will be able to watch Goldsboro/Wayne County's first ever Education Access Channel. The channel is still coming together, but you can find educational programming for your children and obtain information regarding various school events and announcements on WCEA TV.

"This is an exciting opportunity for our local schools, our students and their families, as well as the community at large," states Dr. Steven Taylor, WCPS Superintendent. "The Wayne County Education Alliance Channel, or WCEA Channel, is an innovative way for the school district to offer programming geared towards helping boost academic achievement for students."

The education access channel was made available to Wayne County Public Schools by the City of Goldsboro through its franchise agreement with Time Warner Cable. The WCEA Channel will air on Time Warner Cable's Channel 18, across Goldsboro/Wayne County.

"We are very grateful for the City of Goldsboro's support. Besides just running educational video programs, we also look forward to using educational slides as a tool to keep the community informed about educational events and happenings across our school district," adds Dr. Taylor.

As part of the **Wayne School of Engineering** core requirements, the school will only take rising freshmen who are ready to complete their high school career immersed in science, technology, engineering, and math.

Students have the opportunity to graduate with a 2-year associate's degree or complete a college transfer program which will allow them to transfer as a junior to a four year university. Initially started through a grant funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

Since there are a limited number of seats available at both schools, parents wanting to enroll their child are encouraged to register as soon as possible. Parents who would like more informa-

Traditional School Dates 2 Remember



March 5, 2009
Bus Driver Orientation

March 11, 2009
Early Dismissal

On January 22 and February 4, inclement weather resulted in closure for the Wayne County Public Schools district. To makeup both snow days, students will now attend school on Friday, March 27 and Wednesday, June 10. Both calendar days were originally scheduled as work days for teachers.

Tuesday, June 9, which was originally scheduled to be the last day of the school year, will now be a regular school day. The makeup day on Wednesday, June 10, will be the final day of school for students, as well as be an early release day.

March 25, 2009
NC Symphony for 5th graders
Mount Olive College

Kindergarten Registration will be held on Friday, April 24th for the 2009-2010 school year.

tion about the high school or how to enroll a student can contact Lee Johnson at 919-735-5151 ext 733 or Gary Hales at 919-734-0070.

Applications are now being accepted for the Wayne Count School of Engineering through March 30, 2009.

THE MONTH YOU MARRY

January
 Marry when the year is new, he'll be loving, kind and true.

February
 When February birds do mate, you wed nor dread your fate.

March
 If you wed when March winds blow, joy and sorrow both you'll know.

April
 Marry in April if you can, joy for maiden and for man.

May
 Marry in the month of May, you will romance the day.

June
 Marry when June roses grow and over land and sea you'll go.

July
 Those who in July do wed must labor for their daily bread.

August
 Whoever wed in August be, many a change is sure to see.

September
 Marry in September's shine so that your life is rich and fine.

October
 If in October you do marry, love will come but riches tarry.

November
 If you wed in bleak November, only joys will come, remember!

December
 When December's snows fall fast, marry and your love will last.




Images by Nelda

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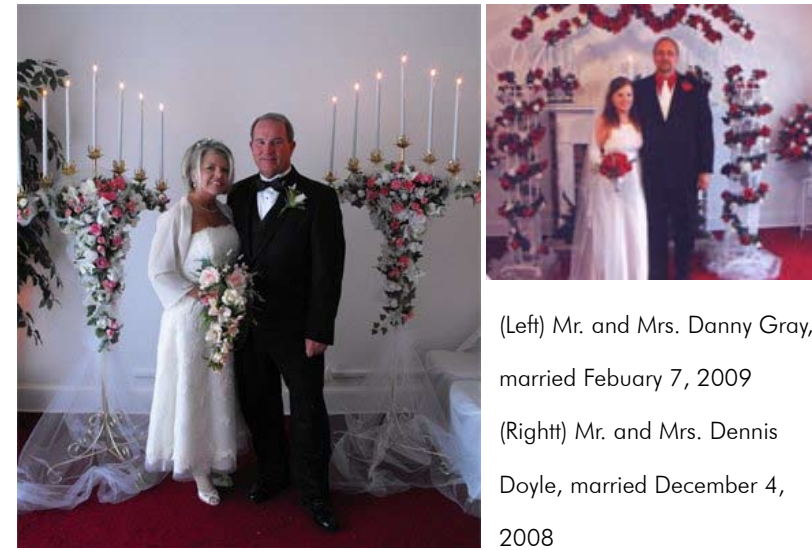
When planning your ceremony and reception at a hotel, ask to speak to a manager who is in charge of these services. A manager should be in a position to offer the best rates for the hotel's services. Ask the manager to throw in extras. Use hotel house linens instead of renting others. Hotels and catering halls have their own "props" and centerpieces that they are happy to loan. Always ask for at least 10% off stated rates.



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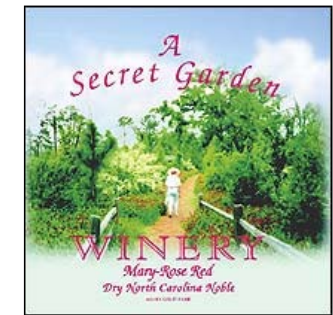
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(Left) Mr. and Mrs. Danny Gray, married February 7, 2009
 (Right) Mr. and Mrs. Dennis Doyle, married December 4, 2008

tions in the colors of your choice with bouquets and boutonnieres to coordinate and can seat up to 75 guests. Both the large and small chapels are ready at a moments notice and are specially decorated with a wedding arch and flowers.

If you would like to see what Wedding Bells has to offer, visit them during their open house any Sunday from 2pm to 6pm. Or, you can contact Nina Taylor or her staff at 919-778-2148 to schedule a free, private consultation. Book your wedding this March and save \$100.



A Secret Garden

A Secret Garden Winery is the culmination of the efforts of Linda and Gerald Hall who have been hand crafting wines the traditional way for 10 years.

In the spring of 2002, the Hall's planted both Carlos and Noble grape vines in hopes of turning a family hobby into a rewarding business. All A Secret Garden Wines are made without chemicals and preservatives, a feature which the Hall's are very proud of. They are now in the process of having their operation certified organic.

Today, A Secret Garden is a definitely more than a hobby for this family and not quite a secret anymore.

Down Home Magazine did not have the opportunity to do an in-depth interview at the Winery. Please look for this info in an upcoming issue.



Silk Expressions

With Wedding Planner Patricia "Trish" Mudd
by Cindi Pate

Business in the
Spotlight

Do You Need A Wedding Planner?

Take this simple quiz to determine if you should consider hiring a wedding consultant:

1. Do you have unlimited time to work on the wedding of your dreams?
2. Do you have personal knowledge of the reputations of the service providers you are choosing?
3. Do you know what to look for in a contract between yourself and a service provider?
4. Do you know the resources

available to you to help you with your plans?

5. Do you know what to do if you ordered the wedding dress or maids dresses and there is a problem?
6. Do you know all the proper etiquette involved in a wedding?
7. Do you know how to plan a wedding budget?

If you answered "no" to at least 4 of these questions you could probably make your life easier by hiring a wedding consultant. The terms 'planner', 'consultant' and 'coor-

dinator' mean pretty nearly the same thing....in Wayne County, the term means Silk Expressions.

Voted Wedding Wire's 2009 Bride's Choice Award, Silk Expressions with Patricia Mudd, has more than 10 years experience planning the perfect wedding day...your fairy tale day.

From a cost perspective, hiring a planner may be much more reasonable than you may imagine. With services ranging from working side by side from engagement thru the reception to only assisting with a few vendors to being that extra set



Five years ago Nelda Sharkey was a science teacher at Eastern Wayne High School. After retiring, she picked up a Nikon 35 milimeter (film) camera and went to a friends' wedding. It was there that she realized she was in love with the art of photography.

After a couple of years of shooting weddings as a favor to family and friends, Nelda began contemplating opening a studio here in Wayne

County.

In October of 2006, she decided to jump in whole-heartedly and opened Nelda Sharkey's Photography at 104 North John Street in downtown Goldsboro.

Nelda believes that being a photographer allows her to express her artistic ability in print. She is recognized for her one-of-a-kind artistic approach to portrait and landscape photography as well

as her photography and design of posters, brochures and pamphlets.

Sharkey's Photography was awarded the Best in Wayne County at the 29th Annual Juried Art Show and her work is currently on display at Plum Tree Gardens Gallery. Her work is also featured on the cover of the Wayne County Chamber of Commerce 2009 edition of "Visions" magazine.

When asked about wedding photography, Nelda suggests brides to consider a budget, realize the photographer's style and to know what package she really wants. Once portraits and/or photographs are taken, they can be viewed online at sharkeysphoto.com.

For more information on Nelda Sharkey's art on display at Plum Tree Gardens, or to make an appointment for a photo session, call at 736-3296.



as a manner of speaking:

After the Wedding -Thank You Notes

There is no way around it. After the wedding cake has been eaten, after the honeymoon is over, there is still one more wedding-related matter to attend to. It's time for the newlyweds to send out their thank you cards. Most couples like to procrastinate when it comes to showing their gratitude, but all the experts agree, this is one area where etiquette must not be breached.

A thank you note must never be preprinted or typed. A personalized, handwritten note is expected. Many printers offer blank note cards printed in the same design as the wedding invitation specifically for this purpose. Photographers also offer blank thank you notes that come with a picture of the happy couple. The same rule applies to the envelope, it should be hand written, showing your guests they were each special enough for you to take this extra step.

And, if you think it's been too long since your wedding day...it's hasn't - send that thank you note today!

Sharkey's Photography

nelda ❖ sharkey
LOCAL ARTIST by Cindi Pate



A beautiful ride in a horse drawn carriage - Jerry and Christy Hamilton marry at Hinnant Family



Vineyard: Nelda shows her work at the "meet the artist" series of Plum Tree Gardens Gallery; Nelda, known for using local landmarks, takes Mrs. Kathi Cole Jarrel's wedding portraits both



on location and in studio; award winning photography on display at Gallery



of hands on that special day, the packages are all based on what you need.

Silk Expressions has a wedding package for every budget and has worked with budgets from around \$275 to \$50,000. (Remember, personalized packages can be put together) But, no matter your budget, Patricia and her staff will make your dreams a reality - sticking to her personal policy to NEVER go over budget.

This local business is unique in that Silk Expressions has some items available to you at no charge. Such as the ring bearer pillow, flower girl basket or feather pin for the guest registry. Patricia also gives a special gift to the bride and groom that they can use at their wedding reception... something to say "Thank You" for choosing Silk Expressions.

Patricia spends, on average, 250 hours on planning and organizing anything that a bride needs to get done before and on the wedding day. She and her staff are there, personally, to see you through to the end. Even going to your honeymoon

Getting the Perfect Ring

You've already made the biggest decision: You're going to propose. Now you need to find THE ring.

There are many ways to go about it, and some universal advice that should be heeded either way. Which-ever your approach, we'll put you on track to presenting the perfect ring.



Know What She Likes

Of course it matters what you think; the ring is a symbol of your love, after all. But keep in mind that she'll wear this ring every day for the rest of her life. When making your choice, you don't have to wing it. There are lots of approaches you can take to finding out what she likes, with or without her help.

Ask Around

Get an idea of what she'll love by taking notice of the rings she already owns. Are they heavy on

detail or delicate? Does she favor silver or gold? If she has a friend/sister/mother you're sure can keep a secret, ask her if she knows what your girl wants. You should also be alert for hints your beloved may drop. Saying, "I LOVE so-and-so's princess-cut solitaire set in white gold" every day.

"What-About-My-Great-Grand-mother's-Ring?"

You have a family heirloom, so it's all decided, right? Maybe. Don't let an heirloom make you feel trapped, like you have no choices. You can present her with the ring

at the proposal as a "placeholder," saying it's to wear until you find the perfect ring together. You can also replace the stone with another, have the original stone reset, or melt down the metal and have the setting redesigned into a style she loves.

Do Your Homework Before You Buy

You wouldn't walk blindly into a dealership and buy the first car you found. A diamond ring is a major investment, so there's a lot to consider before you buy.

location, if need be, to make sure everything is ready for your arrival.

If or when you decide that you need a wedding planner, call Patricia "Trish" Mudd at 919-222-9947, 373 Sanderson Road, Seven Springs, North Carolina. This local diva can't wait to sit down, talk, and put together a plan that best suits

your needs. Consultations are FREE. Bottom line, Silk Expressions wants you to have the wedding of your dreams (stress free!) and is here to help you in any way possible.





NEWLYWEDS: Anyone who cares about you are going to offer you a few words of advice about marriage, money and love... All I can say is to listen. But, you are the only person who can know what is right for you and your new partner. Newlyweds should be careful not to put too much stock into any advice they are given. Advice is meant to be a helpful suggestion, not comprise a how-to manual for their entire married lives. What works for one couple may not work for another. Take your own relationship into consideration when using advice. Here are a few words of wisdom from just a few local Wayne County couples in various levels of marriage.

just a little {advice}



Our names are Kenan and Laura Mooring. We have been married for 5 Years. We have a beautiful baby boy who is 16 months old. I am Mexican and my husband is American, which at times can make a relationship challenging because of not only a language barrier but also a difference in culture. But we have not allowed these obstacles to keep our love from growing stronger.

Sharing a life together requires a lot of patience, and we get that patience from having a direct connection with God thru Jesus Christ. Jesus being in ones life brings stability to not only your personal life but to your relationship as well. When there is a problem, He is the greatest counselor you can have. In time God has showed us that we really did not need to change one another but instead we needed to adjust to each other needs and to focus on our love for God and each other. I feel that knowing this has been a very important key for us as a couple. As long as we put God first in our lives and continue to learn to work together and compromise with one another, we will always have a happy marriage.



In marriage, it is not a 50/50 relationship. It requires that both of you give 100 %. The other thing that we have both learned is that you should not assume that you know what marriage is going to be like. You don't. Neither should one assume that they know how to be a good husband or a good wife. It takes practice and it requires work from both parties. Lastly and most importantly, a man and woman can only love each other like they should when they have both experienced the love of God. A true relationship with Jesus Christ keeps us both on our best behavior and makes us strive to be kinder to each other and to love each other more deeply. Daniel and Caitlyn Weeks, married Nov. 18 , 2006.



Jeffrey and Hope Holden Married: July 4, 2003

One of the most important things to look for in a marriage is friendship. Jeff is my best friend and someone who I can tell everything to. We can laugh together easily and I just genuinely enjoy his company. Of course we argue, it is only natural but it is how you handle the argument and makeup that can make all the difference. You have to be willing to give just as much as you get.

And always remember to fight naked!!!

Tax Checklist If You Are Getting Married By Richard Chapo

It may not be high on the list of wedding planning activities, but there are a few simple steps that can help keep tax issues from interrupting your newly wedded bliss. If you recently married, check out your new tax situation. You might save money or even prevent the problem of a missing refund check.

The first things to handle are changes of name and address. Later, as tax season approaches, consider whether or not you'll itemize deductions, which tax return form is right for you and what filing status you'll use.

No one should delay the cake cutting or honeymoon because of taxes. But here are some helpful hints for later:

Use Your Correct Name
You must provide correct names and identification numbers to claim personal exemptions on your tax return. If you changed your name upon marrying, let the Social Security Administration know and update your Social Security card so the number matches your new name. Use Form SS-5, Application for a Social Security Card.

Change of Address
If you or your spouse has a new address, notify the U.S. Postal Service so that it will be able to forward any tax refunds or IRS correspondence. The Postal Service will also pass your new



address on to IRS for updating. You may also notify to notify the IRS directly by filing Form 8822.

Refund Checks
Each year, the Postal Service returns thousands of tax refund checks as undeliverable, usually because the addressee has moved. Notifying both the Postal Service and the IRS of an address change in a timely manner can help ensure the proper delivery of any refund checks. To check the status of a tax refund, go to the IRS web site and use the "Where's My Refund?" service.

Changing Filing Status
Your marital status on December 31 determines whether you are considered married for that year. Married persons may file their federal income tax return either jointly or separately in any given year. Choosing the right filing status may save you money.

A joint return (Married Filing Jointly) allows spouses to combine their income and to deduct combined deductions and expenses on a single tax return. Both spouses must sign the return and both are held responsible for the contents.

With separate returns (Married

Filing Separately), each spouse signs, files and is responsible for his or her own tax return. Each is taxed on his or her own income, and can take only his or her individual deductions and credits. If one spouse itemizes deductions, the other must also.

Which filing status should you select? It depends entirely on your specific situation. You should consider sitting down with a tax professional to make a determination.

About the author: Richard A. Chapo is with BusinessTaxRecovery.com - providing information on taxes. printed with permission from Article Source: <http://www.Free-Articles-Zone.com>



Congratulations
Freddie Sutton
& Elizabeth Mooring
on your engagement
February 14th, 2009

RECIPES

Great Wedding Punch

2 liter Gingerale
2 liter Club Soda
1 bag frozen strawberry & 1/2 bag frozen raspberry blended.
1 can of frozen lemonade
1 can of frozen raspberry grape
1 quart of frozen sherbet! put sherbet in last and let melt



Gold Punch for Your Reception

1 48-oz can pineapple juice
1 three-ounce package instant lime gelatin
2 cups sugar
1 cup lemon juice
1 small bottle of almond extract.
serves 30

Mini Crab Cake

1/3 cup finely chopped red bell pepper
2 tablespoons finely chopped parsley
2 tablespoons finely chopped scallions
3 tablespoons mayonnaise

2 teaspoons lemon juice
2 teaspoons Dijon mustard
1 teaspoon Worcestershire sauce
1/2 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper
3/4 cup panko bread crumbs (available in the ethnic foods section of large supermarkets)

1 pound lump crabmeat, shell pieces removed
2 tablespoons vegetable oil, plus more as needed
Lemon wedges

1. Mix the bell pepper, parsley, scallions, mayonnaise, lemon juice, mustard, Worcestershire sauce, and black pepper in a large bowl. Add the bread crumbs and crabmeat, and toss gently to mix.



2. Divide the crab mixture into 12 equal portions (about 1/4 cup each) and shape each into a 1-inch-thick patty.

3. Heat the vegetable oil in a large skillet over medium-high heat. Add the crab cakes to the skillet and cook until they're golden on both sides, adding more oil as needed. Cook about 3 minutes per side. Serve warm with lemon wedges. Makes 12.

Mini Taco Tart

30 individual frozen mini phyllo shells, thawed
3/4 cup mayonnaise
6 tablespoons sour cream
1/4 cup buttermilk
1/2 (1 1/4 -ounce) packet taco seasoning mix (3 tablespoons)
1 tablespoon fresh lime juice

Toppings: grated carrot, shredded lettuce, minced cilantro, minced green bell pepper
1. Heat the oven to 375°. Place the phyllo shells on an ungreased baking sheet. Bake the shells until they turn light golden, about 10 minutes. Remove them from the oven and let them cool.



2. Meanwhile, in a small bowl, mix the mayonnaise, sour cream, buttermilk, seasoning mix, and lime juice. Spoon the mixture into the phyllo shells.

3. Top with the garnish of your choice. Arrange the tarts on a serving platter and keep them chilled until ready to serve. Makes 30



Tomato & Basil Finger Sandwiches

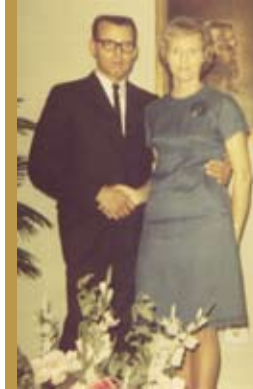
4 slices whole-wheat bread
8 teaspoons reduced-fat mayonnaise, divided
4 thick slices tomato
4 teaspoons sliced fresh basil
1/8 teaspoon salt
1/8 teaspoon freshly ground pepper

Recipe Directions
Cut bread into rounds slightly larger than your tomato—a biscuit cutter works well. Spread each slice with 2 teaspoons mayonnaise. Top with tomatoes, basil, salt and pepper.

George & Ruby Thornton,
Married: August 9, 1968

My advice for a good marriage is love, trust and a whole lot of patience. I can't tell you how many times I've had to hold my breath just to keep the peace, but that's what marriage is about. Both husband and wife must work equally to keep their differences at bay in order to live peacefully.

Neither one nor the other is boss, and couples should try to come to an agreement on things, not go on bickering and holding pent up anger.



If everyone would have respect for their spouse, the world would not be filled with abuse or divorce. Marriage is a wonderful thing, which has been proven to last forever (41 years in our case). And at the end of the day, I am so thankful I have someone to share my life with, even through all the problems the world has to offer.

(more advice on page 17)

LOVE NOTES

by Cindi Pate

"I have many gifts, or so I've been told. I'm referred to as being artistically inclined. I hope that's a compliment. I am a gifted man but any and all of my gifts are a gift from God.... Of all the gifts God has given me, the day he gave me YOU is truly my best gift.

...Woman, you are one good looking silver "fox" at the age of sixty nine...I love you"

This is a part of a beautiful love poem that Mr. Donald Corbett, a local writer and artist of Wayne County, wrote to his wife for Mother's Day 2004. Mr. Corbett loves to write and is not afraid to express his love in words. His writing style is somewhat complex and in-depth.

While many of us do not have this in-depth writing ability, when it comes to writing a love note to your spouse...simple writing can be intimate and meaningful.

Whether you are a newlywed, have been married for 10 years, or 25 years, a love note is a cherished sentiment.

When you hand-write a note or letter, you put yourself on the paper through your particular slant of script, the paper you've chosen, the color pen you've used. And, you've done something that a kiss or holding hands can't do...you've given your spouse something to hold on to and reflect on.



My husband still writes me love

notes - on a napkin, a scrap piece of paper or even on the back of an envelope he finds on the kitchen counter. He leaves them in plain site on the dining room table, bathroom counter, bedside table or in the drivers seat of my car.

But, regardless of where you leave or hide your love note for your spouse to find, writing the note and taking time to find a unique place for it says loudly that you are still very much in love with your spouse.

I hope at age sixty-nine I am still receiving love notes from my husband...hope you are too.

What Down Home Magazine is all About

Down Home Magazine is a bi-monthly publication. It is a free news and arts magazine that delivers passionate, creative and complete coverage of the community in which it is published.

- Its goal is to embody the character, the voice, and the spirit of its readers because their community is unique.
- Down Home Magazine is a versatile source that gives communities a place to read, write, and learn about themselves.
- Down Home Magazine balances hard news reporting with creative literary journalism.
- Through in-depth features, community discourse, extensive art and music coverage, games and cartoons, comprehensive event listings, and charitable causes, Down Home gives its readers defined and diverse sections in which to explore and embrace their neighborhood.
- Down Home Magazine strives to ignite youth involvement in the community with its innovative design and creative cultural content that will expose them to the history of the neighborhood and excite them to participate in its future.

We all call Wayne County home, even if it's just a short tour at Seymour Johnson Air Force Base. I would like to ask that you make it the best place to raise your children, buy your first home, to send you kids to school or to go out to dinner....in whatever order makes your comfortable.



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WEDDING TRADITIONS & FACTS

Average Age

In 2000, the average bride was 24 years old and the average groom was 28.

Bridesmaids Curse

Thrice a bridesmaid, never a bride is an old charm that can be broken by being a bridesmaid seven times.

Dressing Matters

The tradition of bridesmaids dressing the same as each other and in similar style to the bride comes from ancient days when it was believed that evil spirits have a more difficult time distinguishing which one is the bride and putting a hex on her.

Engagement Length

The average engagement period is 16 months, which is up from 11 months in 1990.

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The practice of giving or exchanging engagement rings began in 1477 when Roman Emperor, Maximilian I, gave Mary of Burgandy a diamond ring as an engagement present.

Formal or Casual

80% of brides plan formal weddings.

Internet Wedding Planning

8% of all Internet users are engaged to be married.

It's Popular to be Unlucky

According to English folklore, Saturday, the most popular American choice, is the unluckiest day to marry!

Oldest Bridal Tradition

The veil dates back to ancient Rome, when it was flame-yellow, always worn over the face, and called a flammeum.

Second Weddings

In almost half of U.S. weddings either the bride or groom has been married previously.

Bridals - Weddings - Families - Children
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2009 is a DiY year for Weddings. With the economy the way it is and with so many people in our area beings so naturally creative, DiY projects are as easy as choosing your maid of honor.

The **DIY** Wedding

(top left) These fabric boutonnieres can be a funky twist to your groomsmen attire. I found these examples as well as instructions on how to make them at <http://www.marthastewart-weddings.com>.

(right) Why not an outdoor wedding reception? It's as free and simple as your own back yard. A nice floral fabric is hung for a backdrop for guest to take photos and a chalk board is provided for well wishes from the guest for the newly married couple - what a nice and less expensive version of its video taped option. Using items that are available at large quantities from local craft stores or even local farm equipment stores can make the perfect shabby chic (which is all the craze) serving pieces. And, mason jars only cost around \$4 a dozen.

There are all sorts of free sources to explore your DiY options. Your local public library has computers that you can surf the net and books with step by step instructions. A great online source is <http://www.do-it-yourself-weddings.com/>.

As in anything you do, there are some things it is okay not to do on your own. Planning a wedding can be very stressful. With all the things a Bride has to accomplish and time lines that must be kept, recruit some help and start early. The last thing you want to be doing the day before your big day is making boutonnieres or hemming a skirt on your bridesmaids dresses.

THE Dress

by Cindi Pate

You've dreamed of this day your entire life. Many of your childhood days were filled with dressing Barbie so she could look her best as she walked down the aisle to meet Ken. Now, you are looking for your wedding dress.

Bridal expert, Dana Southerland of The Bridal Gallery in Goldsboro, NC, encourages a bride to start early. Special ordering and custom

gown work could take up to four months on average. Alterations may also need extra time.

Dana also suggests you limit the amount of people you bring along to help choose your gown. Too many opinions could be confusing. And, really, who's opinion really counts?

Lastly, Mrs. Southerland asks that you be willing to try on

a variety of dresses. Most brides sort through many pages of Bridal Magazines and forget they are not 6 foot 4 inch models.

The style of gown should match the style of wedding you are planning...formal, informal, destination - in a church, outside or in a small wedding chapel. These things should be taken into consideration when choosing a gown.

Gowns are priced at around \$150 and up, but an average cost is \$700. Again, the price will depend on the type of wedding you are having. The Bridal Gallery offers a wide variety of gowns from contemporary, traditional and everything in between. Special order and custom work is available.

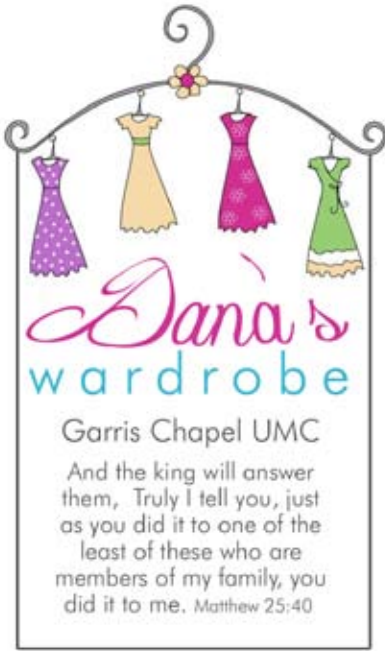
You don't have to go out of town to find the perfect Wedding Gown

The Bridal Gallery has been in business for sixty-seven years and has been owned and operated by Dana Southerland for the last five years. Dana has been in the bridal industry since 1997.

Wayne County Teen Scene

Local information that would be beneficial to your Teen!

by Cindi Pate



When there is need, there is also someone who realizes the need and will do something about it. Dana Southerland and many others associated with Dana's Wardrobe have realized a need.

When it comes to Junior and Senior prom, it can cost a small fortune to help your daughter live out her dream. Last year, Dana Southerland and Garris Chapel partnered to form Dana's Wardrobe - a Prom Project that helps girls who's families cannot afford to purchase a dress for prom due to economic reasons or a tragedy such as a house fire.

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Dana's Wardrobe acquired over 300 gowns in just its first year. Not used gowns, but brand new dresses from stores all across the country. Thirty-seven Wayne County girls went to prom last year in a beautiful new dresses from Dana's Wardrobe. And the organization hopes to help more families this year. Last year, the



project was new. Dana's Wardrobe hopes that more youth leaders step up and nominate the girls so that this year they can empty the racks and help make dreams come true.

With more than 400 new or gently used dresses in stock, Dana's Wardrobe is accepting applications from teachers, pastors, guidance counselors and other youth leaders for those girls that would meet the criteria to receive the donation.

Applications are screened and girls are chosen based on need.



Teen
Scene

Fittings are private and by appointment only. If you would like to nominate someone, please contact Christina Brown or Jerry Mitchell at Garris Chapel, 252-566-4344. Also call if you would like to donate gently used gowns for this non-profit project.

downhomemagazine@nc.rr.com

just a little {advice}



Jed & Joanne Honn, married October 18, 1997 - Love your spouse for who he or she is - Don't try to change them.

Edward & Robin Mooring, married February 14, 1981- My mom always told me to start out like you could hold out.



That's pretty good advice from a wife & mother of 7 children. My advice to my own daughter would be to marry the man of her dreams and pray for him and their life together daily.

Local Marriage Law Information

Marriage License Information, Laws, Requirements
In most circumstances you may apply for a marriage license at any NC county clerk office where you plan to be married. In Wayne County, you can go to the Wayne County Clerk of Court's Office.

Wayne County Clerk
Register Of Deeds
224 Walnut St
Goldsboro, NC 27533
919-731-1449

This document outlines the procedures you must follow to obtain your license.

Cost of License
What is the cost of a marriage license?

The marriage license fee is \$50.00 dollars. Accepted forms of payment are cash.



photo by Crown Photography

Residency Requirements
What are the residency requirements for North Carolina?

None. You do not have to be a previous or current resident of North Carolina to obtain a marriage license that is valid statewide.

Waiting Period
Is there a waiting period from the application date to the date the license is issued?
No, you will receive your license immediately.

Is there a waiting period from the date the license is issued to the date I am allowed to marry?
No, you can marry immediately after receiving your license.

Age Requirement
What is the minimum age a man or woman may marry?
You must be 18 years old or older to marry without parental consent. A birth certificate may be necessary to show proof of age.

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ec chic weddings

Simple ideas for an Environmentally Friendly, Socially Responsible, Affordable and Stylish Celebration from Down Home.

Wherever you celebrate, you can reduce the global effect and often save money by giving your wedding a local touch. Buy wine from a nearby vineyard. Get your wedding cake from a local bakery, and use seasonal flowers, not imports. Why eat food or drink wine that has traveled thousands of miles when you can choose local options that are just as good?

There are a variety of things that you can do to help have the economically sound, environmentally friendly green wedding that you are considering, including the way you shop for rings and enjoy your post wedding ceremony food and refreshments.

Buy antique rings or pawn shop rings; you often get a more unique product this way and you can save a lot of money in the process.

Anything you do to make your wedding a little more modest—from wearing a borrowed wedding dress to choosing recycled paper or a website

for your invitations—will lower its contribution to carbon emissions. Consider it your wedding gift to the planet.



There's just something irresistible about mini pickles. You can never eat enough of them and they are made right here in Wayne County. Talking about keeping it green.



While flowers have played a role in weddings for centuries, and we continue to carry on this tradition with flower bouquets. Give your guests the gift of flowers that will bloom year after year creating memories of your special day. Give seeds or a seedling tree as your wedding favor to your guests. Find information from a local nursery or from the Forestry Service.

If you are in the market for local wines, contact Linda Wall Hall at A Secret Garden Winery. All A Secret Garden Wines are made without chemicals and preservatives, a feature which the Hall's are very proud of.

Pickles in a Blanket

12 thin slices Genoa salami
1/3 cup whipped cream cheese
12 jarred mini dill pickles drained, plus more if needed.

1. Spread each salami slice with a thin layer of cream cheese to within 1/4 inch of the edges.
2. Place a mini dill pickle or two in the center of a salami slice. Roll up each salami slice, jelly-roll style.
3. Cut each roll into thirds, pierce each third with a toothpick, and arrange on a serving platter.

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Consider having your wedding any day but Saturday. Fridays are also popular wedding days but may cost a lot less than a Saturday event.

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Kids Coming to the Wedding? Make plans for them at the Reception.

Not all brides and grooms want to exclude children from their wedding. Many are happy to welcome children into their wedding both as members of the wedding party and as guests.

First of all, if children are invited to the wedding, take into consideration the ages of the children. Babies will have to stay with mom and/or dad, for a variety of reasons. So planning to have all the children in another room might not be feasible. But if the children are toddlers up to about age 12, you can provide a separate room for them with childcare

and a make a number of activities available to them. If the children will be in a separate room at the reception, you can provide a coloring table, perhaps a TV with an appropriate movie ready to roll, and some board games. That could probably be enough for the duration of the wedding reception. Be aware of a few things: there should be a ratio of at least 1 adult for every 5 children if the children are toddlers, or 1 adult to every 10 children if the kids are older. Don't expect the kids to take up the activities on their own, but rather tell the childcare provider to get the kids involved in the activities by doing them him or herself.

What if the children will be part of the reception festivities?

What activities can be geared specifically to children at the reception? There are plenty of things you can do, really. You can certainly plan a coloring table at the back of the reception hall or room. There, you can provide loads of paper, coloring books, markers and crayons. Paints are not recommended, for obvious reasons, and moms will thank you if you remember to supply the kids with washable markers and crayons only.

photo by Crown Photography



The art table can be more than just coloring, however. Buy a huge bag of pipe cleaners. Kids can amuse themselves for long periods of time, making animals, odd figures and the like.

Make sure you have at least 20 or more pipe cleaners for each child, however, as children can go through these quickly. Think about "clean" clay, the new products that don't stick to anything and don't leave a trace on furniture. With a few different colors, kids can create a variety of figures, faces or forms.

Many brides like to plan more formally for their small guests. There are several options if this is the route you want to take. One popular option is to have

paid entertainment on hand just for the children. This can take place in a separate room or toward the back of the reception room or hall if it's large and the guest list is big. You can hire a clown or a balloon artist. You can have someone braid the children's hair and provide temporary tattoos. If there is a separate room available, you can even hire a children's musician to come and

entertain the kids. The options are endless.

If no plans are made for the

children, but they arrive at the wedding expecting entertainment, you'll have to make some plans. One option is a "child only" dance, which allows only the children on the dance floor. This is not only cute to watch, and could be entertaining as well, but it will bring a smile to the face of every grandma and grandpa present.



photo by Studio East Photography



Kids are asked questions about marriage...and, OH! how they answered!!

How do you decide who to marry?

"You got to find somebody who likes the same stuff. Like if you like sports, she should like it that you like sports, and she should keep the chips and dip coming." Alan, age 10

"No person really decides before they grow up who they're going to marry. God decides it all way before, and you get to find out later who you're stuck with." Kirsten, age 10

What is the right age to get married?

"Twenty-three is the best age because you know the person FOREVER by then." Camille, age 10

"No age is good to get married at. You got to be a fool to get married." Freddie, age 6

How can a stranger tell if two people are married?

"Married people usually look happy to talk to other people." Eddie, age 6

"You might have to guess, based on whether they seem to be yelling at the same kids." Derrick, age 8

What do you think your Mom and Dad have in common?

"Both don't want no more kids." Lori, age 8

What do most people do on a date?

"Dates are for having fun, and people should use them to get to know each other. Even boys have something to say if you listen long enough." Lynnette, age 8