



CONI & FRANC

Voted 2023 Best of Morgantown & Voted Best of West Virginia 2022

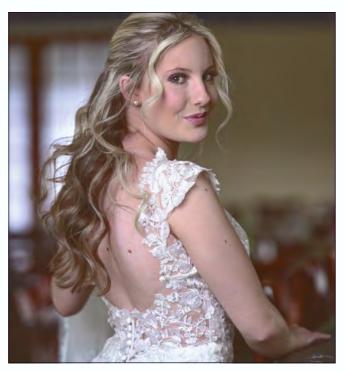








www.coniandfranc.net



William Wotring/The Dominion Post

ON THE COVER: Grace Marsh models a lace gown by Christina Wu, Style 19300, available at Lavish Boutique, during a photo shoot at Alpine Lake Resort.

Lavish makes clients feel their best

BY KAITLYN EICHELBERGER

Keichelberger@DominionPost.com

Chic. Playful. Personalized.
Lavish Prom & Bridal Boutique's bright environment and expert staff empower couples in their journey to fulfill their wedding vision — and have fun while doing so.

Originally located in the Morgantown Mall and under the ownership of Charlotte Michael, Lavish has been styling customers for special events since 2009.

In 2014, Michael offered ownership to Helen Squires, who was the manager of a local restaurant at the time. Squires has said she never intended to own a formalwear store, but readily agreed and hasn't looked back since.

Squires moved the boutique to its new location — 1064 Suncrest Towne Centre Drive — in 2019, expanding the business and offering a wider range of products. Since the move, and

overcoming the challenges every small business faced during the pandemic, Squires said Lavish is continuing to grow and flourish in this new era of the business.

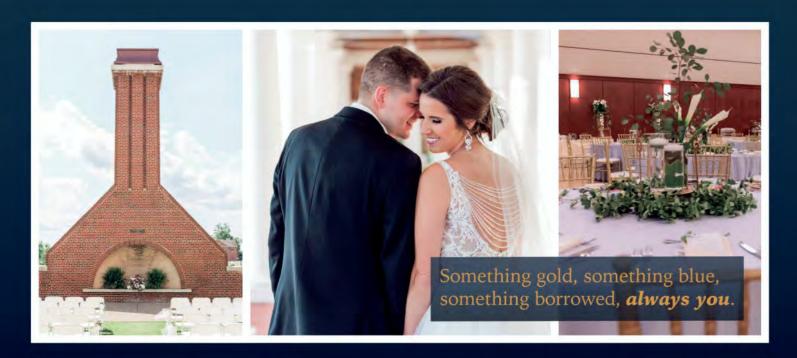
"We just see this as a new chapter," said Squires. "We're all adapting and trying to do better and better every day."

The 2019 relocation allowed the store to expand its bridal options, with labels like Christina Wu and Moonlight, as well as Martin Thornburg, which Squires described as modern, elegant and dreamy.

Bridal appointments last two hours and two to four guests are welcome to attend. Squires said their bridal sessions aren't just about finding a dress, but also having fun and ensuring the customer feels her very best.

"It's about [the customer] finding their dream dress, and we are providing our best knowledge and service to

SEE LAVISH, F-10





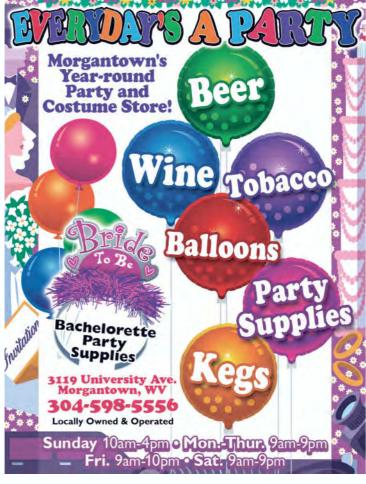
Customize your wedding package, choose your indoor and outdoor spaces and turn your dream day into reality.

Contact us now to start planning your special day. Now booking for 2023 and 2024.

304-293-1038 • skyler.rudy@mail.wvu.edu • ericksonalumnicenter.com













Visit Store for Complete Details





21 W. Main Street Downtown Uniontown 724-438-3935 www.ptaks.com

Wedding Vendor Directory









Honeymoon Packages

Book now!

Call or text 304-223-8500

Uksus on Passbook! f

Apple Vacations • Disney Vacations Globus/Cosmos

GOURMET BROWNIES MADE FROM SCRATCH. EVERYDAY.

We love working with couples and wedding planners to customize their order to fit their plans.

2 Varieties • Pick-up or Delivery Nationwide Shipping

www.yesbrownies.com







MATHESS CATERING CO.

Now booking weddings and bridal showers for 2023!

TylerMathess@gmail.com



FLOUR & FEED EVENTS

Email:

flourandfeedevents@gmail.com for Bookings!

156 Clay Street Morgantown, WV 26501



Your home is the heart of what we do!

Bridgeport, WV 26330

304-848-9960

Fallen in love with a house? Head over heels for a home plan? Take the plunge and complete a mortgage pre-qualification or apply for a mortgage loan online with

First Greene Mortgage. Then save the date for move-in day or groundbreaking! Visit with a Loan Officer, or apply anytime online!

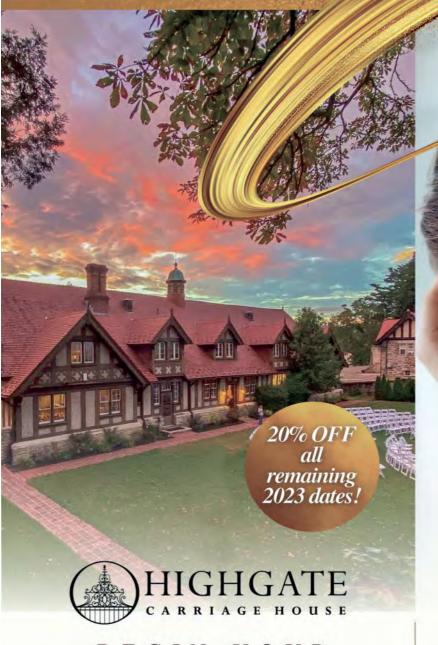
Check out our NEW website! -> www.fgm.bank







2600 Middletown Commons Ste. 241 • Fairmont, WV • 304.518.9485



BEGIN YOUR
HAPPILY EVER
AFTER





830 Walnut Ave. | Fairmont, WV | 26554

P: 304-333-2552



Bridal Hair · Makeup · Nails · Massage

Spa Parties · Spray Tanning

Body Contouring · Weight Loss

WHERE YOUR
HAPPILY EVER
AFTER IS OUR
PASSION

Morgantown 401 Boyers Ave. 304-296-1325

1013 Fairmont, Ave. 304-333-0281

Clarksburg 482 Emily Dr. 304-326-2204

Canonsburg 604 W. McMurray Rd. 412-763-1600

Fairmont

LAVISH

FROM PAGE F-4

them," said Squires. "We are also focusing on the process. Without enjoying the process, the goal will just be stressful. We're hyping them up, getting excited, making sure the process is enjoyable."

Lavish offers one bridal appointment at a time, providing each client with the full attention and care of their staff.

"We're not just selling, but bonding, making friends and being a part of their journey," said Squires. "We want to make sure you find your dream dress, because it's about completing your dream wedding, it's about that big picture."

Some of the bridal gowns on Lavish's website feature floral embellishments, sleek silhouettes, or off-the-shoulder styles — all of which are predicted to be trends in 2023 weddings.

Bridesmaid and mother of

the bride's dresses can also be purchased at the boutique.

For men's formalwear, Lavish offers high-quality tuxedo rentals through Jim's Formal Wear, with in-store measurements and consultations to find the perfect fit and style.

"Jim's Formal Wear is amazing; they always keep updating their merchandise with different styles. Because everyone will have a different vision, it will always fit to your plan," said Squires.

Beyond weddings, Lavish also offers a range of couture and evening gowns, as well as formal and semi-formal styles for prom, homecoming and any other special occasions.

The boutique is open from 2-7 p.m. Monday through Thursday and noon-6 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays. Through May 7, the store is also open from Noon-4 p.m. Sundays. Bridal sessions are by appointment only. For scheduling, call 304-241-1863.

Alpine Lake Resort presents weddings with breathtaking views

BY KAITLYN EICHELBERGER

Keichelberger@DominionPost.com

Sunsets over the lake, beautiful West Virginia mountains and sprawling forests are just a few sights to look forward to at Alpine Lake Resort.

Alpine Lake Resort, in Terra Alta, started as a "Mountaintop Vacationland" in the 1960s, though the property had previously been a hunting and fishing club.

Morgantown industrialist J.W. Ruby purchased the development in 1971, renamed it Alpine Lake and started expansion into what can be seen today.

With nearly 2,000 acres of wooded land and a 150-acre lake, Alpine Lake Resort contains multiple dining options, a 35-room hotel, the Alpine Lake Golf Club, vacation rental cabins, 15+ miles of hiking trails and more.

Alongside these facilities and activities, the resort has been hosting weddings for about 40 years. Multiple venue options are ready for your special day, each one with unique views and amenities to spend your wedding in the natural beauty of the Mountain State.

"From [Alpine Lake Resort's] breathtaking views to its serene lakeside landscape, it's hard for any venue to compete with its majesty," said Marketing and Events Coordinator Mary Hibbs.

At the ski slope, you can host your ceremony in the gazebo or overlooking the

SEE ALPINE, F-13









A complete, all-inclusive destination that is guaranteed to offer peace of mind when planning your special day.





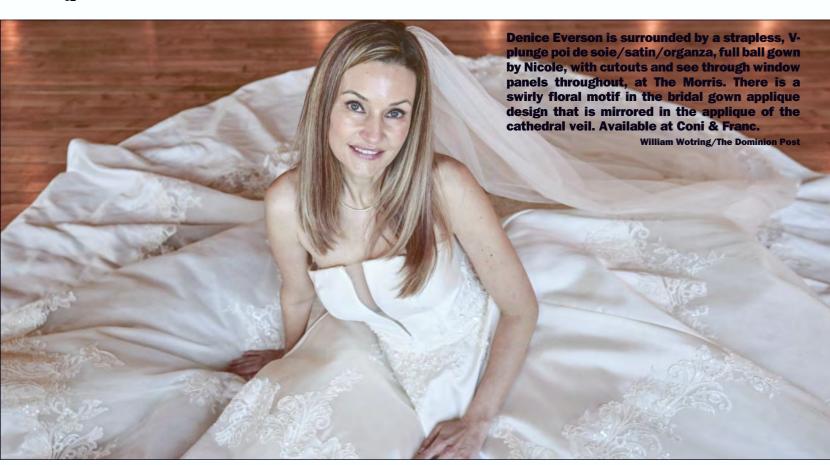




INDOOR & OUTDOOR CEREMONY LOCATIONS | CATERING | LODGING | 18-HOLE GOLF COURSE PRIVATE BEACH | 15+ MILES OF HIKING & BIKING TRAILS | CABIN RENTALS

Already have a venue picked out? Consider us for your bachelor or bachelorette party, bridal shower, rehearsal dinner, honeymoon, etc. We have the perfect accommodations and amenities for you and your guests.

If you want to go big or keep it low-key, we can make your dreams into a reality.









Situated on 190+ acres of picturesque farm land, Bailey Barns Venue - a luxury focused, secluded property that has recently been renovated to accommodate a variety of intimate events.

Call today to set up a tour and book your special event or wedding!

120 Grant Street, Fairview, WV 26570 • (304) 216-8893 baileybarns@outlook.com • baileybarnsvenue.com

ALPINE

FROM PAGE F-10

lake, both of which provide a remarkable view.

"The picturesque view of the lake is not one that you or your guests will soon forget, and is sure to give your wedding (and the pictures) a wow factor that can't be duplicated anywhere else," said Hibbs.

The lakeside gazebo and boathouse are also great choices if you're hoping to exchange vows overlooking the resort's namesake, and the boathouse can be used as a location for your rehearsal dinner the night before or a reception after the ceremony.

The last venue is the Evergreen Room, a dining room large enough for 200 guests, all of whom can appreciate the lakefront view from the room's deck.

"The sunsets are some of the most beautiful you will ever see, and it can be seen from any of the windows or the deck," said Hibbs.

Hibbs said couples can expect assistance with everything from food to linens, with skilled staff prepared to support you throughout the process. Alpine Lake Resort also offers a wide variety of catering packages, including specialty food bars.

"I will be with the couple from the start of planning until they say their 'I do's," said Hibbs. "You will always have the assurance that someone is there to answer any questions you may have and help you solve any problems that may arise along the way."

Beyond weddings, a range of events are hosted at Alpine Lake Resort. Birthday or holiday parties, reunions or retreats, corporate meetings or banquets — the possibilities are endless, especially with the resort's year-round facilities.

For more information, visit the resort's website at AlpineLake.com or call 304-789-2481.



Uniontown Country Club

YOUR WEDDING, YOUR WAY

VENUE AMENTITIES:

BALLROOM WITH ACCOMMODATIONS FOR 225 GUESTS
 TAILOR MADE WEDDING PACKAGES
 PANORAMIC VIEW OF THE MOUNTAINS & 18 HOLE GOLF COURSE
 BRIDAL SUITE & CIGAR BAR FOR BRIDAL PARTY
 1908 RESTAURANT & PATIO
 10% OFF REHEARSAL DINNER & BRIDAL SHOWER

· FULL SERVICE STAFF & EVENT COORDINATOR ON SITE



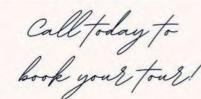












25 Bailey Lane, Uniontown, PA 15401 724.550.4258 | www.uniontowncountryclub.com



f 2 www.Gallowaysflorist.com





Coni & Franc provides personalized experience, expert guidance

BY KAITLYN EICHELBERGER

Keichelberger@DominionPost.com

Located in Downtown Morgantown, Coni & Franc has provided high-quality formalwear and more since 1982.

With a wide range of sizes, price ranges and styles, Coni & Franc strives to consider its clients' interests and help each customer find the perfect fit.

The store carries a variety of labels, including Jasmine Bridal, Calla Blanche, Moonlight Bridal, Nicole Bakti and Curetê. They are proud to support many small designers and artisans across the country by representing their work at Coni & Franc.

Supporting small businesses is important to co-owners Connie and Frank Merandi, both of whom come from small business backgrounds.

"We worked in our families' small businesses, and

the same care that our grandparents and parents gave their clients and employees is the same care that we incorporate and use in our business. This is handed down through generations and that's why small business is in our blood," said Connie Merandi.

The couple started their business together in 1982, and married six months later. Alongside their small business backgrounds, Connie has a bachelor's degree in fashion merchandising and design, while Frank has a bachelor's degree in marketing and business. With expert owners and skilled staff, Coni & Franc has provided professional assistance to every customer who enters the store.

Merandi said they aim to help customers bring out their personal beauty and ensure their dress perfectly coordinates with the rest of their wedding.

"I get information like, have you selected a venue? What time of day is the wedding? Are we looking for formal or informal? Have you tried on dresses yet? And if you did, what did you like and what didn't you like?" said Merandi.

She encourages the client to select a few options they're drawn to, and will also make recommendations based on what she thinks will fit the customer's vision.

If a dress is nearly perfect, alterations and customizations by skilled seamstresses will help make it just right.

"We can take the body of a dress and adjust it for the preferences of the bride, and then continue to enhance it with appliques and crystals and detail, and whatever else she desires," said Merandi.

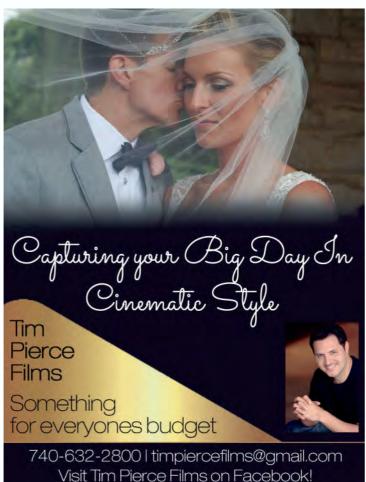
Alongside the bride's wed-

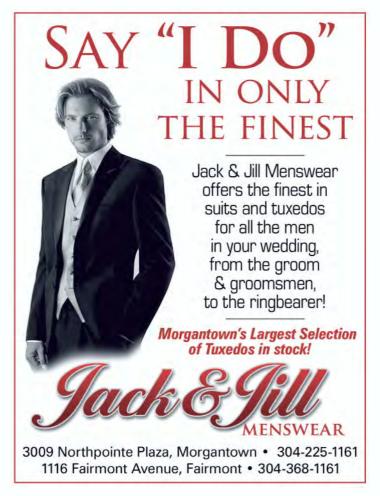
ding dress, Coni & Franc can also dress bridesmaids, the mother of the bride and flower girls. Although Coni & Franc does not carry formal menswear, they can refer customers to other clothing retailers.

Merandi said they've even dressed the same families for multiple generations, with customers bringing their daughters in to shop; other customers have returned for multiple occasions, first purchasing a wedding dress, then a mother of the bride's dress years later.

The store celebrated its 40th anniversary last year.

Coni & Franc is open 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday through Friday 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday and by appointment only on Sundays. To schedule an appointment, visit coniand-franc.net/book-online or call 304-296-9466.











8-10 Months Before:

· Meet with your esthetician to design your personalized skincare regimen

6-8 Months Before:

- Begin Diolaze Laser Hair Removal
- · Begin Microneedling and/or Chemical Peels

3-4 Months Before:

- · Start receiving facials regularly to restore your skin
- Begin any waxing

Customized Facials

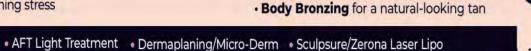
• Try a relaxing massage to relieve any wedding-planning stress

10-14 Days Before:

- Brow Tint & Lamination
- · Lash Lift & Tint

2-4 Days Before:

- Dermaplaning with Oxygenating Trio for an ultra-smooth complexion & long-lasting hydration
- Another relaxing massage to ease any tension · Body Bronzing for a natural-looking tan



- Hair Extensions
 - Full Body Waxing
- Keratin Straightening
 Manicure/Pedicure
 Air Brush Make-Up
 Advanced Skin Peels
 Microneedling
- - Massage/Body Treatments
 Lash Extensions/Microblading Eyebrows



Model Mia Brown in Style 15690 by Christina Wu, available at Lavish Boutique. Photographed at Alpine Lake Resort.

Photos by William Wotring/ The Dominion Post



Maleehah Saab wears Essense of Australia D3372, with sparkling details from head-to-toe, delicate wide-set spaghetti straps and three-dimensional floral details layer over the embroidered lace patterns, available at The Vow. Photographed at Highgate Carriage House.



Jamie Phillips strikes a pose at The Morris, modeling a deep plunge sheer decorated, V-front and back A-line gown by Calla Blanche. She is wearing a freshwater pearl and crystal branch hair comb by Symphony Bridal and jewelry by Sassy South, all available at Coni & Franc.

4371 Route 30, Latrobe, PA 15650 • 724-539-1009 • www.WINDSWEPT.com

From Concept to Completion,

Windswept Entertainment & Event Rentals is best in class for all of your rental needs.



- Tents •
- Tables •
- Chairs •
- Linens •
- Glassware •
- Dishware •
- Flatware •
- Lighting •
- Dance Floors •
- Heating/Cooling •
- Restroom Trailers
 - Entertainment
 - AND MORE! •

The Morris in Clarksburg offers history, modern convenience

BY EVA MURPHY

Newsroom@DominionPost.com

Angela Leipold has always had a panache for combining history with special events.

She spent many years coordinating special events for the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C., and also owns Allora Vintage, an online store that stocks housewares, furniture and architectural salvage.

In June 2022, she opened an event venue in an old grocery warehouse in the Glen Elk Historic District of Clarksburg.

Leipold's family has owned the Morris Grocery building since the 1980s, and during visits in decades past, Leipold fell in love with the vintage property.

In 2021, she began working towards offering the space as a venue for events. Numerous renovations were needed for the 1906 building, including adding a bridal suite, bathrooms, catering prep space and new mechanicals for the 1955 Otis freight elevator.

"We had to do some creative thinking to keep the historical integrity of the building while bringing modern conveniences that people expect."

The exterior also needed attention. Handicap access ramps were added and the 120-year-old brickwork was repointed.

Leipold's professional background ensured the work was completed in record time. However, special care was still taken to protect the historic architectural elements of the building.

The first wedding at the venue was held in June 2022.

"When you enter the space, you are greeted by the original architecture," said Leipold, noting that the hemlock beams, maple floors and exposed brick are all highlighted by abundant natural light from the numerous tall windows.

Guests enter the first-floor reception area, which is embellished with industrial and vintage details. The refurbished freight elevator goes up to the main event space on the third floor. At 10,000 square feet, it is one of the largest indoor event spaces in north-central West Virginia.

Leipold recommends couples visit the site in person.

"Photos don't do it justice. You can't really grasp the scope and scale of it," she said.

When taking a couple on a tour, Leipold discusses amenities and assesses the vision for the event. Professional event planning services are available.

There is a catering prep space at the Morris, but not a full kitchen so there isn't any cooking on site. The venue works with caterers who have the appropriate certifications and insurance.

The Morris can accommodate events of all sizes, from more intimate events to the "Full Morris" package that includes 200-350 guests. Packages provide basics like tables, chairs and white linens. There are also some unique perks such as custom floor plans with 3D rendering, custom lighting packages and access to a catalog of vintage furniture and decor for use during the event. Package price is dependent on the number of guests and time needed to set up.

"I am hoping that The Morris becomes known for its diversity of events," said Leipold, pointing out that in less than a year of being in business, it has hosted corpo-

SEE MORRIS. F-20





MORRIS

FROM PAGE F-19

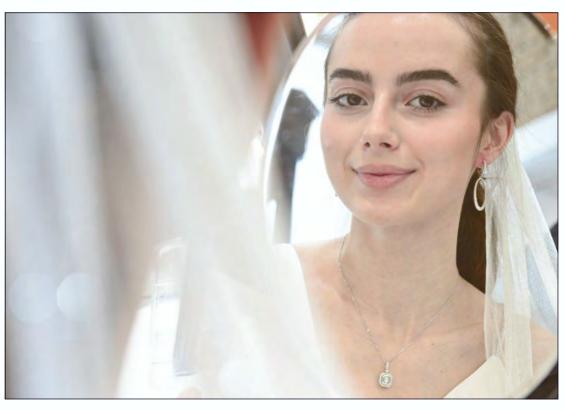
rate holiday parties, fashion shows and fundraising events to give back to the community.

"Weddings are very important to us," she said. "It is a good way to start a relationship with a family when it is first forming." Leipold wants The Morris to continue to host events for families as they grow and change after a wedding, including baby showers, birthday parties and graduations.

Leipold is dedicated to providing quality service to couples.

"Many venues want to have weddings every weekend, and that's a great goal to have," she said. "But I would rather be in a position to give those that choose The Morris for their event the attention that they deserve and need."

For more information about The Morris, call 571-330-6462 or visit the-morris.com/



William Wotring/The Dominion Post photos

These drop hoop diamond earrings and emerald cut diamond halo pendant worn by Norah Chase are available at Allison's Fine Jewelry.







Full Service or Drop-off



Say-Boys Catering Menu

Choice of Entrees, Sides, Salad with Ranch & Italian, Italian Bread & Butter, Dessert, Drinks, All Cutlery Entrées: n • Stuffed Pork Chops

- Broasted Chicken
- Baked Steak
 Rigatoni with Meatballs
 Meat Lasagna
- Vegetable Lasagna

- Green Beans
 Peas Corn
 Mixed Veggles
 Whipped Potatoes
 Baked Potatoes

 Roasted Redskin Potatoes Macaroni & Cheese
 Cole Slaw • Applesauce
 Pasta Salad

 Cabbage Rolls
 Grilled Chicken Breast
 Meatloaf Baked Chicken

- Potato Salad
 - Macaroni Salad

Special Entrées Up charge based off market price

- Choice Angus Ribeye
- Choice Angus Tenderloin Filet Crab-Stuffed Flounder
- Broiled Cod
- Seafood Sampler-Mussels, Shrimp, Scallops, Clams, Cod

Say-Boys offers a wide variety of menu options to satisfy everyone's taste.
We offer a catering staff that has over 25 years of experience. Say-Boys is also partnered with the conference center at the Fairmont Knights of Columbus. They offer a facility that can accommodate 350 people, along with a dance floor and bar area. We are ready to make your next event one you will remember for years to come.



Quality Food at a Good Value!

1228 Country Club Road #10 Fairmont, WV

sayboysrestaurant.com **304-366-7252**

The Vow Boutique: Appointment-only for a more personal touch

BY EVA MURPHY

Newsroom@DominionPost.com

Kristen Froedelius didn't start The Vow Boutique on a whim, but when it happened, it happened all at once.

As a child, she designed and sewed bridal gowns for her dog.

Later, she graduated from Fairmont State University with a degree in fashion merchandising and went on to work in the fashion industry in New York.

"Then I moved home to West Virginia, but still had my heart set on working in the wedding industry," Frodelius said.

After receiving encouragement from her mother, who had professional experience supporting business endeavors, Frodelius decided to make her long-time dream come true.

The Vow Boutique opened at 4 Suburban Court almost 10

vears ago

"We love the intimacy of the small space," Frodelius said. "It's not overwhelming. We are by appointment-only, and we have only one bridal party at a time. We can provide a more personal experience rather than having the chaos of 15 brides coming in at the same time."

Appointments must be made two or more weeks in advance by phone, email, or reaching out through social media. Brides can be attended by up to four guests and are welcome to bring white or sparkling wines to enjoy during the appointment.

When it comes to selecting gowns to try on, Frodelius wants brides to choose dresses that appeal to their unique sense of style and match the aesthetic of the event. However, she noted, there can be benefits to clients being willing to step outside their comfort zone.

"There have been times when we've picked out a dress for a bride to try on, and she looks at us like we're insane," she said, "But it ends up being 'the one.'

While the shop has off-therack options for those on shorter timelines, special order gowns can take up to six months to arrive. Any necessary alterations are done in-house and can take up to eight weeks. The Vow steams and bags the dress before it is picked up about a week before the wedding.

"We make sure that everything is perfect before it goes home with a bride," Frodelius said.

The Vow dresses around 300 weddings per year, and Frodelius has found that autumn has become a more popular time for weddings in recent years.

"Fall is so beautiful in our state. People are really loving that," she said.

She has also dressed brides for out-of-state weddings, including some on the West Coast and the Caribbean.

Customizable jewelry, accessories and dresses for bridesmaids and flower girls are also supplied by The Vow.

For those on a budget, Frodelius offers samples of name-brand gowns at discounted prices on the website thevowlet.com

Frodelius believes that, despite the rise of internet retail, people still want to connect in real life when it comes to weddings.

"Society ebbs and flows, but there's still a lot of happiness around the traditions of wedding dresses," she said. "People still want that experience of going and finding a wedding dress with everyone they love."











A SYMBOL OF UNBLEMISHED PERFECTION. IT IS THE OLDEST KNOWN GEM, AND FOR CENTURIES, THE MOST VALUABLE. PEARLS HAVE BEEN CONSIDERED IDEAL WEDDING GIFTS BECAUSE THEY SYMBOLIZE PURITY AND INNOCENCE. THE ANCIENT GREEKS ALSO BELIEVED THAT PEARLS SHOULD BE PART OF THE WEDDING EXPERIENCE. THEY CONSIDERED PEARLS TO BE THE "WEDDING GEM" BECAUSE THEY BELIEVE THAT PEARLS WOULD HELP ENSURE MARITAL BLISS AND PREVENT NEWLYWED BRIDES FROM CRYING.

FROM QUEEN ELIZABETH I TO THE LATE QUEEN ELIZABETH II, THE TRADITION OF WEARING PEARLS ON THE WEDDING DAY HAS CONTINUED. TODAY, THE TRADITION OF BESTOWING PEARLS UPON THE BRIDE CONTINUES. OFTEN THE FATHER OF THE BRIDE OR THE GROOM GIVES THE GIFTS OF PEARLS. MANY BRIDES GIVE THEIR BRIDESMAIDS PEARL NECKLACES, BRACELETS. OR EARRINGS TO BE WORN ON THE DAY OF THE WEDDING.



LINDA HALL Freshwater Pearls

304.296.6819 LINDAHALL@COMCAST.NET EARRINGS, NECKLACES, & BRACELETS. PEARLS OF ALL SHAPES, SIZES, COLORS, & LENGTHS













Highgate Carriage House gives fairytale charm for special day

BY EVA MURPHY

Newsroom@DominionPost.com

Engaged couples seeking a wedding venue that offers historical elegance with a dash of fairytale charm need look no further than Highgate Carriage house in Fairmont.

"We are unique in the area," said Highgate events coordinator Tyler Kovar. "It's a different world when you walk through our gates. It's like going back in time."

The High Gate estate was built in the 1910s for industrialist James Edwin Watson, founder of the Consolidation Coal Co. The main house and carriage house were designed by architect Horace Trumbauer, whose services were highly sought after at the time for such projects as the Biltmore estate, the Philadelphia Museum of Art and Harvard University's library.

High Gate is an example of

the Tudor revival style, featuring half-timbering, claytile roofs, stucco wall cladding and copper accents that evoke English country estates of a bygone era. Watson lived on the estate until his death in 1926. The buildings have housed several businesses since then and were added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1982.

In 1988, a corporation attempted to purchase the carriage house property.

"They were going to knock it down and build a Hardee's here," said Kovar. "Fairmont got together and saved it. They formed a foundation that was able to save the carriage house."

Highgate Carriage House is now owned by Cheri Satterfield, a local entrepreneur at the helm of numerous local businesses, including Tuscan Sun Spa. At one point, Satterfield used the space as administrative offices for business endeavors but saw the nostalgically attractive location's potential as a wedding venue.

Arriving guests pass through a wrought-iron gate and cross a cobblestone courtvard before entering the Carriage House. Inside there is a foyer, a dining area, a ballroom and a bar area with a fireplace. There is a subtle horse motif in the decor that calls back to the space's historical use as a stable. However, Kovar believes that Highgate is a blank slate that can be altered to suit any couple's tastes.

The interior of the carriage house can comfortably hold events for 120-150 people. Seasonally, a high-top tent in the garden can be used to accommodate up to 300 guests. Highgate's grounds offer gardens, benches, a pond and a beautiful

stone wall and staircase that leads up to the tent area. The gardens are a popular spot for couples to take photographs, and the weathered stone wall in particular makes a unique, timeless backdrop.

Tables and chairs are provided, but guests typically procure linens through their caterer. Highgate is open to working with caterers of the couple's preference.

"We have a resource list to provide for people who aren't familiar with our local vendors," said Kovar.

In addition to weddings, the Highgate Carriage House also serves as a venue for business, social and community events such as craft markets and movie screenings.

The events coordinator can be reached at 304-333-2552 and Events@highgatecarriagehouse.com for information and event reservation availability.

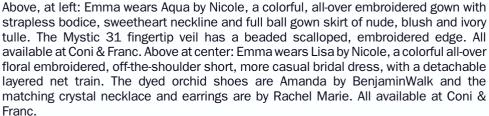


TEXT US TODAY! 412-851-6881
WWW.URBBRIDAL.COM
SIZES 0-36+
PRICE RANGE \$500-\$4,000











Farrah Ahmed wears style BL356 by Beloved by Casablanca, available at The Vow. This gown is the embodiment of elegance, swimming in beautifully detailed floral lace. The fit and flare silhouette features cap sleeves frame the plunging V neckline on this wedding dress and is mirrored by an illusion lace back.



Bella Oucire

"Beautiful Stitches" for your Special Occasion

Custom Gowns • Alterations • Accessories

By Appointment Only. Call or Text 304.692.4354

The fitting room is located at 17 Cleveland Avenue, Westover, inside The Mustard Couch.







Allison's Fine Jewelry brings the bling for your bridal plans

BY EVA MURPHY

Newsroom@DominionPost.com

For Allison Westfall, jewelry has always been a calling.

Twice, the industry has called out to her in the literal sense. While attending college she worked in a shop in a mall. One day, the assistant manager of a nearby jewelry store sought her out and asked her to apply for an open position.

"I loved the business from day one," Westfall said.

She progressed in her career for over a decade, then shifted tracks to work in banking.

"Jewelry was always my real passion. I still sold jewelry using the connections I had made early in my career, just not in a storefront."

In 2008, the industry came calling again. Westfall needed one of her own pieces of jewelry repaired, but didn't have the appropriate tools to do it herself. She made a trip to a local store and chatted with the associate about her experience in the business while she waited for the repair.

"After I left, the owner chased me to my car and asked if I was looking for a job. She had just lost her manager."

Though Westfall hadn't been seeking a new position, she decided to accept the offer. She managed that store, Jane V Jewelers on Van Voorhis Road, for eight years. Then the owner retired, and Westfall bought the business in 2016.

Allison's Fine Jewelry is a full-service jewelry store. The showroom presents a wide selection of engagement rings, wedding bands, anniversary rings and other jewelry.

"Each piece is hand-picked from jewelry companies I have worked with for almost 27 years," said Westfall. "The uniqueness of pieces sets us apart from a chain jewelry store."

She takes care to stock pieces for every taste and budget. Westfall also prioritizes offering pieces that are made in the U.S.

Many couples choose to use Allison's custom jewelry design services to create unique engagement and wedding rings. An Allison's associate will meet with the couple to assess their vision for the piece and review any desires for particular stones or materials before creating an image using Computer Aided Design. Pieces can be completed in 10-14 business days.

Westfall offers a 60% discount on wedding bands for those who purchase an engagement ring from her store, regardless if it was from the showroom or a custom design.

"We do not do high-pressure sales," she said. "We ask questions and try to get to know our guests. We want to build long-lasting relationships. Knowing they had a



A 1.25 ctw pearshaped diamond engagement ring with side baguette accent diamonds, diamond halo pendant and a 3 ctw diamond bangle bracelet, from Allison's Fine Jewelry.

William Wotring/ The Dominion Post

wonderful experience is what it is all about."

Westfall treasures interacting with her clients and seeing her pieces play a part in their lives.

"I like to watch relationships grow from dating to marriage, to having kids, and anniversaries," she said. "It truly is a joyful business."

Allison's Fine Jewelry is at 1137 Van Voorhis Road, Suite 11, and can be reached by phone at 304-599-8080. The store is open from 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday through Friday and 10 a.m.-3 p.m. on Saturdays.



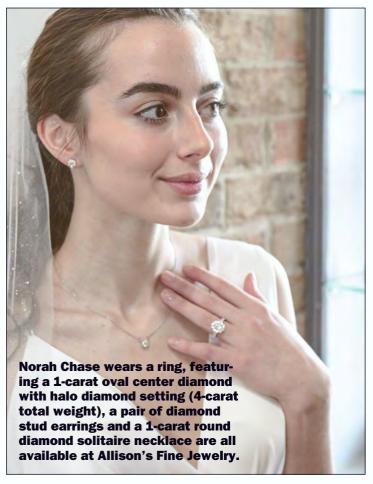




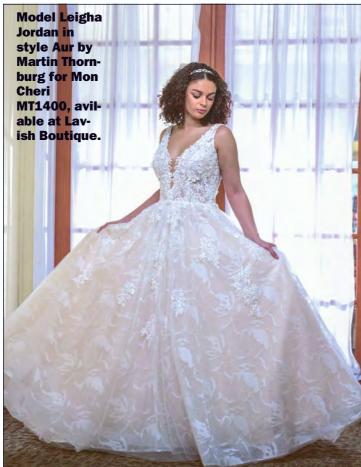














CONI & FRANC

Wolfed 2023 Best of Morgantown & Wolfed Best of West Virginia 2022







www.coniandfranc.net

