

A woman with dark hair, wearing a white lace wedding dress, is lying on a dark, textured surface. She is looking towards the camera with a slight smile. The dress has intricate lace detailing and a full skirt. The background is a dark, mottled grey with a subtle pattern.

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On the cover

Brennah Groves wears a Sherri Hill ballgown featuring ivory off-shoulder bodice with illusion neckline, fitted waist and full skirt in all-over shimmer lace, available at Oliverio's Bridal, Prom and Pageant Boutique.

William
Wotring/The
Dominion Post

Oliverio's continues legacy of expert care, satisfied clients

BY KAITLYN EICHELBERGER

Keichelberger@DominionPost.com

Oliverio's Bridal, Prom and Pageant Boutique has been helping brides find their dream wedding dresses for over 30 years, with humble beginnings in a small boutique offering just 12 dresses, to their current ever-expanding location with hundreds of gowns for brides to consider.

"With a strong passion and retail background in the fashion industry, we quickly realized the need for this business in our community, which gave us the easy decision to move to the new location we have now been in for 30 years at Eastpointe Plaza," said owner Angela Oliverio Patsy.

The formalwear shop is at 118 Emily Drive, Clarksburg.

As a full-service bridal boutique, Oliverio's offers gowns, veils, shoes, jewelry and has added a makeup line catered to pageant clients but would be great for any event.

For grooms, Oliverio's carries a selection of tuxedos from Jim's Formalwear.

The boutique's dress selection is constantly receiving updates with brand new designs and designers.

"Years of experience and knowledge of the industry that is constantly changing with the times keeps us on our toes every day," said Patsy.

Those years of experience provide Oliverio's staff with skills to provide expert guid-

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Must use on 2024 weddings

Alpine Lake hosts weddings among the mountains

BY JENIFFER GRAHAM

DPNNews@DominionPost.com

Alpine Lake Resort in Terra Alta is a popular destination for weddings and engagements due to its picturesque setting, the range of amenities it offers and its affordability.

"Over the years we have served a number of couples — we love to help them plan such an important time in their lives. Many couples return over the years for a visit, and we are always excited to see them come back and see us. We are not just another wedding destination — we remember you and welcome you back, like family. Some couples even come back to look for a residence here because they have fallen in love with Alpine Lake," said Mary Hibbs, marketing and events coordinator.

She said there are many

features Alpine Lake Resort has to offer those planning an event or wedding.

Alpine Lake Resort is known for its beautiful setting in the Appalachian Mountains. The scenic views, especially around the lake, can provide a romantic backdrop for engagements and weddings.

Alpine Lake has multiple venue options for ceremonies and receptions. This includes outdoor spaces with lake or mountain views, as well as indoor facilities for more intimate gatherings.

Alpine Lake offers on-site accommodations, allowing guests to stay overnight or for the weekend. This can be convenient for both the couple and their guests. It also offers the ability for the couple to stay for a honeymoon or return for a stay every year on their anniversary.

Alpine Lake provides

catering services. The staff can cater for small groups, such as a rehearsal dinner, to large scale events, like wedding receptions. There is an on-site restaurant where you can grab lunch or dinner during your visit as well.

The resort offers event planning coordination. With a coordinator on staff, they can assist with the logistics of the event. This can include helping with decorations, timelines and other details.

Depending on the season, Alpine Lake may offer recreational activities such as golfing, boating, biking, hiking and cross-country skiing.

The scenic beauty of the location can provide many opportunities for wedding photography.

Hibbs said many couples take advantage of the view with photos of the sunsets for engagements and wedding

photographs. She said there are not very many places that can offer the same views.

Wedding packages are customizable to allow couples to reflect their personal style and preferences. This may include specific decor, themes or entertainment options.

"If you are recently engaged or are planning a wedding, we'd love to show you just what Alpine Lake can offer," Hibbs said.

More information is at alpinelake.com/weddings or by calling 304-789-2481 Ext. 164, for the events manager.

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The Vow offers unforgettable bridal shopping experiences

BY KAITLYN EICHELBERGER
Keichelberger@DominionPost.com

In the past decade of The Vow Boutique's operations, the bridal boutique's customers have fulfilled the wedding of their dreams thanks to the shop's personalized and expert approach to the bridal shopping experience.

The Vow owner Kristen Frodelius had dreamed of opening a bridal shop since childhood, filling notebooks with wedding dress designs and bringing her ideas to life with scrap fabric.

This couldn't have been possible without Frodelius' first ever bride, however — her childhood dog, the model for Frodelius' first creations.

Following an education in fashion design and merchandising, Frodelius worked in

the fashion industry in New York City before returning home and opening The Vow, bringing her childhood dream to fruition.

During the pandemic, The Vow adopted appointment-only hours at its location off Chestnut Ridge Road, 4 Suburban Court, Morgantown.

That appointment-only strategy has continued, as they quickly discovered it allowed for a more flexible, personal experience for each bride.

"You and your group come in and it's completely private to you; you're the only bride in there at that point in time," said Frodelius. "You are the focus."

Clients complete a questionnaire about their wedding, allowing Frodelius and her store manager to welcome

SEE VOW, 31



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Highgate Carriage House, Tuscan Sun Spa provide glamour

BY KAITLYN EICHELBERGER

Keichelberger@DominionPost.com

The historic Highgate Carriage House ensures your wedding is fit for royalty with the venue's fairytale charm, while Tuscan Sun Spa and Salon helps you look and feel stylish and elegant on your special day.

The Highgate Carriage House estate was constructed in the 1910s. The historic charm of the venue's architecture is clear from the moment you step through the estate's namesake, a regal wrought-iron gate, and cross the cobblestone courtyard.

Highgate reflects the Tudor revival architectural style, with half-timbering, clay-tile roofs, stucco wall cladding and copper accents, echoing medieval homes and English country cottages. Through the doors of the car-

riage house, guests are greeted with a foyer, a dining area, a ballroom and bar area and lounge with a fireplace.

To recognize the significance of the estate's architecture and history, Highgate was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1982.

"It's a different world when you walk inside the gates," said Highgate events coordinator Tyler Kovar. "It's almost like something out of a fairytale."

Despite the venue's unique whimsical appearance, the interior and outdoor tent space are malleable to suit each couple's taste, with staff available to provide guidance and resources as the couple plans their special day.

"We keep it open to however someone would like to interpret their reception,"

said Kovar. "People can bring their vision to those spaces, but then you also have the beautiful garden and the history on the outside."

Highgate is owned by Cheri Saterfield, local entrepreneur and owner of Tuscan Sun Spa and Salon. Whether you're looking for a bridal makeover or a relaxing spa retreat before your big day, Tuscan provides a range of bridal services.

The salon even offers a "Pre-wedding Beauty Checklist" detailing the ways Tuscan can support a bride in every step of her wedding preparation, from achieving wellness goals to laser hair removal to facial treatments to wedding day glamour.

"Tuscan really offers a lot of different things for weddings," said Kovar. "You can take your bridesmaids there

and do a mani-pedi day, get massages. Any way to relax before the wedding is always nice."

Tuscan has three locations in West Virginia: Morgantown, Fairmont and Clarksburg. They are open 8 a.m.-9 p.m. Monday-Saturday and 10 a.m.-6 p.m. on Sunday.

For information about Highgate Carriage House, 830 Walnut Ave., Fairmont, call 304-333-2552.

For Tuscan Sun Spa appointments, call 304-296-1325.

Visit HighgateCarriageHouse.com or TuscanSpaAndSalon.com for more information.

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Hailey Geiger wears a V-plunge slim crepe Moonlight gown with Hey Gorgeous white twill jacket with inlaid multi-colored floral back, both available at Coni & Franc.

**William Wotring/
The Dominion Post**

Coni & Franc: a local wedding staple for 40-plus years

BY ALISE CHAFFINS

DPNews@DominionPost.com

Coni & Franc has been on High Street offering bridal gowns, in addition to evening wear, prom dresses and accessories, for more than 40 years.

Co-owner of the business with her husband Frank, Connie Merandi emphasizes the personal service that is offered to their clients.

"We find out all about their event. What will the rehearsal dinner be like? What will the shower be like? So we dress them for all of those special events as well as the wedding day," she said.

Dressing the extended family — not just the wedding party — is something they also pride themselves on.

Merandi knows a wedding

is a big expense and she and her staff will work with the couple to make sure they have everything they need in a budget that works for them.

"We have dresses that start at \$500 and go to \$5,000. Every bride has her concept, and when you put them in dresses that they're interested in, but also share styles that they thought may not work for them, it opens up so many possibilities."

One of the things that Merandi is proud of is the large assortment of sizes available at their boutique.

"We have dresses from a size 2/4 and go up to a size 28 hanging in the store. So each bride can try on something in her size. It may not be the dress that she wants or that she will

SEE CONI, 31



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The Silo in Granville ‘a hidden gem’ of a venue

BY EVA MURPHY

DPNews@DominionPost.com

Nestled in Granville, just a mile from I-79 and directly across the river from the WVU Coliseum, is a distinctive special event venue called The Silo in the Square.

Launched in spring 2023 by Nikki Bowman Mills, a prominent figure in the West Virginia media landscape, The Silo is poised to become a sought-after location for couples seeking an intimate, eclectic and affordable wedding experience.

The Silo is part of New South Square, a warehouse redevelopment project undertaken by Nikki Bowman Mills and her husband, Michael Mills. In addition to The Silo, the complex houses numerous businesses — Appalachian Mercantile and This and That Bakery among

them. All of the warehouses connect to form a square.

Bowman Mills said that when she saw the buildings for the first time before the development project started, she knew that a section of the property had potential as an event venue. Bowman Mills, also the owner of New South Media, which publishes numerous magazines, including West Virginia Wedding, embarked on a journey to create a venue to share with the community.

The addition of a grain silo, which serves to unite two warehouses into a cohesive space, gave the venue its name. The silo opens onto an outdoor courtyard with a dance floor and stage area. Adjacent are the indoor spaces known as The Chapel, where ceremonies are held, and The Barn,

which serves as a reception hall. The layout allows for seamless transitions during special events. Optimized for events with 75 people and under, The Silo intentionally caters to a more intimate gathering.

The Silo features a picture-perfect mix of rustic and industrial design features. Bowman Mills noted that it is a blank slate that allows couples to personalize their weddings. Couples can choose from a spectrum of event packages, with pricing dependent on how many of the spaces will be used and how long the event will run.

“We wanted to provide something that wasn’t necessarily a competitor for other venues in the area but rather a unique, affordable option,” said Bowman Mills.

The venue also offers add-

ons such as furniture rental, decor and planning services.

The Silo has a dedicated event manager, Alyssa Bayne, who works to provide a low-stress experience for couples. Those considering The Silo as a venue for a special event can visit thesilointhesquare.com and fill out an online inquiry form. Bayne then contacts the couple to set up a tour and answer any questions. Tours are by appointment only and strongly recommended prior to booking.

Bowman Mills emphasizes the convenience of The Silo’s location — on Main Street in Granville, it is easily accessible from I-79 and within a short distance of the hotels and other amenities on University Town Centre Drive. “It’s a hidden gem,” she said, “but it’s not overexposed, either.”

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Model Gwendolyn Bienek-Cate shows off Christina Wu private collection style 15489 for Lavish Boutique, featuring form-fitted lace with two-tier train and backless with cap sleeve support.

William Wotring/The Dominion Post

Lavish offers access to designer gowns with flexible payments

BY ALISE CHAFFINS

DPNews@DominionPost.com

Lavish is synonymous with luxurious, and that is what Helen Squire wants people to think of when they come into Lavish Bridal & Prom Boutique.

Whether it is a bride looking for the perfect wedding gown or a high schooler looking for something special to wear to homecoming or prom, there are designer dresses for every formal occasion.

Lavish has been open since August 2009 and has been dressing Morgantown residents in formalwear ever since.

"Who doesn't like pretty things?" Squire said when asked why she got into this business. "Some people didn't have the opportunity to wear

these types of gowns for their prom. I am one of those people who didn't get to wear this type of gown, and I wish I had that opportunity."

Allowing people to have access to designer labels no matter where they live is important to Squire.

For those looking for a wedding gown, an appointment is necessary. You can call the store to set up a two-hour appointment and bring two to four guests to help you choose your perfect dress.

Once you have selected a dress, brides can either pay for it upfront or work with Lavish to make payments for up to six months. This flexible payment plan allows brides to get precisely what they want.

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Flour and Feed becoming known for its weddings

BY CAVAN TARLEY

CTarley@DominionPost.com

Looking for a wedding reception venue in Morgantown?

Flour and Feed might just be the destination.

Flour and Feed opened for business on Jan. 22, 2023. With new ownership and a new name (the business was originally named Morgantown Flour and Feed), Flour and Feed has seen success in the Morgantown area.

In the past year, weddings have become a big financial draw for the business. The space has a great layout for

this type of event.

"We're starting to become known for the weddings that we do," said Tyler Mathess, owner and head chef at Flour and Feed.

Located in the Wharf District, Flour and Feed has an ideal location with outdoor seating or mingling space overlooking the Monongahela River.

"We use the space as a wedding venue," Mathess said. "We also supply catering. We have a full-stock bar. We have a list of preferred vendors that we usually refer our clients to for DJs."

The atmosphere inside Flour and Feed is something that Mathess views as distinctive from other wedding venues. With the high ceilings and exposed brick, he said, it grabs the attention of people who have just discovered the brand.

"The atmosphere is a big selling point, because it has that rustic, industrial feel to it," he said.

What sold Mathess on taking over ownership of Flour and Feed when the opportunity arose was the simplistic space inside the building.

"I love the space and our clients love it, too, because it

requires minimal decor," said Mathess. "They might get some flowers or something minimal. Nothing crazy."

Flour and Feed has a capacity of 75-80 people, serving as a more intimate venue. Events can be formal or informal.

"The people that reach out to us to book events are usually looking for something smaller and more intimate than your event hall," Mathess said.

For any questions regarding wedding reception/event information, contact Flour and Feed via phone 304-241-4688 or email flourandfeedllc@gmail.com.

Bella Cucire excels at tailoring special occasion, wedding wear

BY EVA MURPHY

DPNews@DominionPost.com

Venus Elaine Warnick has transformed her passion for sewing into a thriving busi-

ness known as Bella Cucire.

Specializing in the fabrication and alteration of special occasion wear, Bella Cucire has become a go-to des-

tination for brides and anyone needing exquisitely fitted garments for significant events.

The name Bella Cucire, meaning "beautiful stitches" in Italian, reflects Warnick's commitment to craftsmanship.

Warnick's journey into the sewing world began in her childhood, guided by a simple request from her mother to clothe her doll. From those humble beginnings with a pair of blunt scissors and a needle, Warnick's skills evolved over the years.

She tailored her own clothes throughout high school and eventually branched into various aspects of sewing, including drapery and upholstery.

However, it was in 2008 that she found her true calling —

special occasion wear. She shared that she takes joy in helping brides achieve their perfect look.

"They chose the dress because they love it, but it's not quite right," Warnick said. "And then, it is."

After working for various establishments in the Morgantown area, Warnick eventually established Bella Cucire in 2008. The catalyst for this decision was the need for a flexible schedule to support her significant other during cancer treatments.

Bella Cucire caters to brides and extends its services to the entire bridal party, mothers, bridesmaids, flower girls and attendees of special events. Warnick also fabricates cus-

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Reagan Moore wears Drew by Maggie Sottero for Oliverio's, a celestial-inspired beaded illusion corset wedding dress with satin lining.
 William Wotring/
 The Dominion Post

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Essense of Australia, style D3837 features beaded lace over glittering tulle in a soft and flattering fit-and-flare silhouette. Spaghetti straps meet a soft V-neckline accentuated with lace embellishments as sheer side cutouts and a low back detail. Modeled by Sabrina Drainer for The Vow. William Wotring/The Dominion Post



Reagan Bennett in Calla Blanche sweetheart neckline with 3D floral motif on its A-line skirt with train, available at Coni & Franc.

William Wotring/The Dominion Post

Haley Knight wears a Sherri Hill dress with 3D flower appliques and pearl details on a gown with a corset top and ballgown skirt, available at Oliverio's. This gown has detachable puff sleeves, which can give the bride two looks.

William Wotring/The Dominion Post



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Miah Brown models a Christina Wu Private collection for Lavish Boutique. Detachable sleeves create an off-the-shoulder look. Romantic pastels and colored lace appliques make it ideal for a garden or spring/summer wedding.
William Wotring/The Dominion Post



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Ava Hinkle (right) wears a Christina Wu black sequin knee length dress with A-line fit while Haley Knight coordinates in a strapless sequin floor-length gown with sweetheart neckline, also by Christina Wu, ideal for a black-tie wedding. Both available at Oliverio's.

William Wotring/
The Dominion Post



Allure A1105 is worn by Maleehah Saab for The Vow. This is a Mikado illusion sleeve ballgown that features a Chantilly lace bodice with a beautiful keyhole back and pockets.

William Wotring/
The Dominion Post



Alicia Dalton-Tingler wears a Sherri Hill design for Oliverio's, featuring mermaid skirt, sweetheart neckline and glitter tulle train. It comes with detachable sleeves and bows.

William Wotring/
The Dominion Post



Kendalyn Stutler wears Allure A1200, a metallic brocade bridal ballgown from The Vow. This gown has a ruched bodice, high slit and pockets.

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The Vow's newest collection is Beloved by Casablanca. Maleehah Saab wears the gown Honey, a fit-and-flare with lace flutter sleeves.

William Wotring/The Dominion Post

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From left to center, for Coni & Franc: Lauren Hogan in a Colors beaded swag gown; Hailey Geiger in a Colors pale blue ostrich feather gown; Olivia Staud in an R2G blue feather gown with sheer skirt; and Dalaney Hill in Tarik Ediz silk charmeuse.

Third from right to end: Norah Chase in Stella fuchsia ostrich feathers; Kathy Farmiere in a Jovani periwinkle, off-shoulder dress; Reagan Bennett in a Tarik Ediz emerald green one-shoulder gown.

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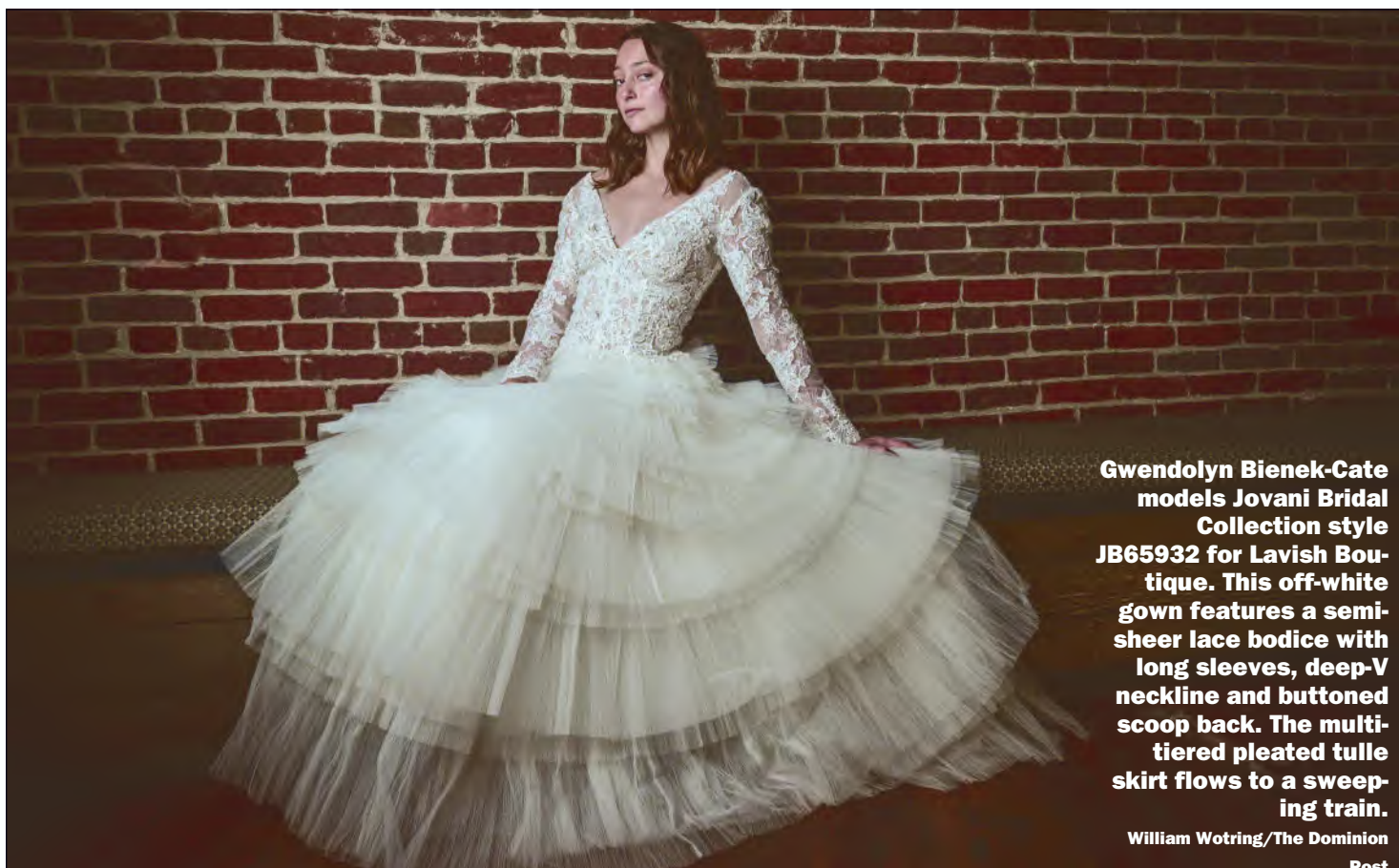
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Gwendolyn Bienek-Cate models Jovani Bridal Collection style JB65932 for Lavish Boutique. This off-white gown features a semi-sheer lace bodice with long sleeves, deep-V neckline and buttoned scoop back. The multi-tiered pleated tulle skirt flows to a sweeping train.

William Wotring/The Dominion Post



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Alicia Dalton-Tingler wears a Maggie Sottero spaghetti strap, stretch crepe gown with low back and floral applique lace trim at the sides and back, available at Oliverio's.

William Wotring/The Dominion Post


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HANNAH HICKS
photography

Your Caribbean Travel Agency has the honeymoon covered

BY PAM QUEEN

PQueen@DominionPost.com

Christy Conley knows most people — including her clients — are going to do some google searches when thinking about their next vacation.

She also knows she can get them set up with a better trip if they give her a chance.

Conley is owner and travel advisor of Your Caribbean Inspiration Travel Agency.

She said most couples planning their weddings have already planned their honeymoons, but she suggests going to a travel advisor as soon as the bride starts trying on dresses and picking out flowers.

"We encourage people to plan their honeymoon alongside the wedding, because if you can price out six to eight months prior, you get the best

pricing and availability," Conley said. "That's really true for any trip."

The top three destinations Conley books are Jamaica, St. Lucia and Turks and Caicos.

"The challenge with U.S. trips is they aren't all-inclusive," Conley said. "A lot of people are looking for the all-inclusive. They want to hop on a plane, get off the plane and enjoy their vacation. They don't really want to figure out money for food and drinks."

Though she will help people book vacations to U.S. destinations and other countries, her specialty is the Caribbean, including cruises.

She finds people like to look online to see what is out there and then go to her for help with booking a trip.

"I find I get a lot of people who have never been out of

the country and need that extra assistance," she said. "I make sure they get their passports and understand the whole process."

Conley knows many people book their own trips and understands they are looking for the best prices.

"I always say to err on the side of caution," she said. "If you are booking online on your own, make sure you read the reviews and book with a reputable company."

"When you are booking through an agent, you are booking with someone you are building a relationship with and building trust. If there is a problem, you are calling me and not some random call center."

Besides booking all-inclusive resorts, Conley also enjoys working with clients to find a cruise that will meet

their needs. She also works with them on destination weddings, which, she said, are often less expensive than one might expect.

Because people have turned to the internet, even after talking with a travel advisor, Conley said many agencies now charge a planning or designing fee. Since agencies are traditionally paid by destinations, suppliers and affiliates, they lose money when they spend as much as five hours on a client's itinerary only to have the person book online.

"I encourage people to look online, but also request people be respectful of us so we can keep our profession going."

Find more information at yourcaribbeaninspiration.com. Talk to a travel advisor at 304-377-7985.

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Dalaney Hill wears a Jasmine matte Italian silk satin, square-neck ballgown with large bow at back waist. Her cathedral-length veil by Mystic 31 is adorned with 3D pink double blossoms. All available at Coni & Franc.

William Wotring/The Dominion Post



White's Fine Jewelry makes bridal party shine

BY JENIFFER GRAHAM

DPNews@DominionPost.com

Whether you're looking for an engagement ring, wedding ring or gifts for the wedding party, you can find everything you need at White's Fine Jewelry.

Jann Stewart, owner of White's Fine Jewelry, said she became owner of the store in 2015 after being a nurse for 20 years.

"We have a large bridal selection, ranging from the classic solitaire to elaborate diamond semi mounts," Stewart said. "We offer natural-mined diamonds as well as lab-grown diamonds. We also have traditional gold bands, bands with diamonds and gem stones as alternative metal bands."

She said lab-grown diamonds are popular because they allow the customer to choose a larger stone at a lower price. However, Stewart said, natural diamonds also are still in high



Ron Rittenhouse photo

Lab-grown diamonds at White's Fine Jewelry.

demand.

"The solitaire engagement ring is still the most popular type of setting with round, brilliant and oval being the most popular shapes," Stewart said. "We do offer custom work. We have designers that will work with our customers to create one-of-a-kind pieces."

She said beautiful wedding gifts or tokens to remember such a special occasion can also be found for members of the wedding party.

"Pandora and Kendra Scott offer beautiful, inexpensive pieces with the

SEE WHITE'S, 31

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OLIVERIO'S

FROM PAGE 4

ance to clients, from finding your dream dress to helping select the best fit to require minimal alterations. This personal touch is part of what makes bridal shopping at Oliverio's special for each and every client.

"For us, it's not about a dollar amount. We truly care about our customers and their special day," said Patsy.

The boutique aims to provide brides and their families with a fun and relaxing shop-

ping experience.

In 2023, the Oliverio's fitting rooms were expanded and remodeled. The prom and bridal areas were also separated, creating a unique atmosphere for each area and each category of shopper.

The boutique's newest featured collections are JH Couture and Sherri Hill Bridal.

Although bridal appointments are not required, calling ahead can ensure a consultant is available and prevent waiting. Visit OliveriosBridal.com or call 304-623-6006 for more information.

VOW

FROM PAGE 8

each appointment and be ready to offer expert guidance toward that perfect dress.

The freedom to see a wide variety of dress options in-person with an expert at your side can provide a vastly different experience than an option like online shopping, and Frodelius highlights the importance of offering quality that clients can see and feel.

"Quality really does matter, and so does getting that attention to detail and that connection. Your wedding is such an emotional event, so

buying your dress should be an emotional event, too," said Frodelius. "Go have fun with your favorite people and have fun and try on dresses and laugh and cry. Just really make a memory of it."

The Vow also offers Diamond Bridal Parties for an even more special bridal shopping experience. The parties include a range of bridal and bridesmaid options with snacks, champagne and hors d'oeuvres.

For more information or to schedule an appointment, visit The Vow's website at TheVowBoutique.com, call 304-291-7333 or email management at TheVowWV@gmail.com.

CONI

FROM PAGE 11

special order, but she will get that satisfaction of being able to put on things that fit."

She also noted they try to choose unique items and can expand the ideas of what is possible for a bride.

"We have dresses with color. We have dresses with florals. We have a piece that is

a romper that can have a skirt overlaid it, so you can have this gorgeous wedding dress, but when she's ready to party, she can take off the skirt, and she's got this fabulous, exquisite after-party outfit."

Coni & Franc, 422 High St. in Morgantown, is open 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday-Friday and 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturdays. The shop is online at coniandfranc.net. For appointments or information, call 304-296-9466.

WHITE'S

FROM PAGE 30

options appropriate for the entire party. We carry Citizen watches, which make a lovely gift. We also carry a variety of classic diamond and pearl jew-

elry, which make the perfect keepsake."

Find White's Fine Jewelry at 2600 Middletown Commons, Suite 141, at the Middletown Commons in White Hall. Call 304-366-7999, or go to whitesfinejewelry.com

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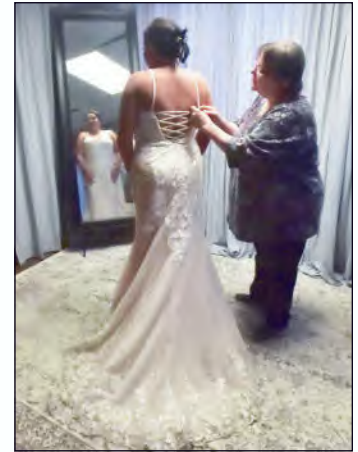
FROM PAGE 14

tom accessories like veils and handbags.

While she does most of her sewing in her home studio, Warnick maintains a space for fittings at 17 Cleveland Ave. in Westover. Consultations, which are free, allow Warnick to ascertain the scope of the work and discuss different options and price levels. Bella Cucire operates by appointment only, ensuring each client's personalized and stress-free experience.

Those seeking alteration or fabrication services can make an appointment by calling or texting 304-692-4354 and leaving a voicemail or text with their name, contact information, garment type and wear date. Warnick also accepts messages through Bella Cucire's Facebook page (facebook.com/BellaCucire).

"The wear date is very important," said Warnick. "That allows me to look at my schedule and see how I can best accommodate you."



Ron Rittenhouse/The Dominion Post

Venus Elaine Warnick, owner of Bella Cucire, adjusts Maleah King's wedding dress during a fitting.

After a long career in the field, she has many valuable recommendations to ensure a smooth process, including scheduling alterations as soon as possible before the big day, being aware of the budget required to alter or fabricate formalwear, and wearing the actual shoes and foundation garments for the event to fittings.

LAVISH

FROM PAGE 13

stress who can do alterations on whatever gown is chosen. She works out of her own studio, and once a dress is chosen, it can be altered to fit you perfectly. Alterations are not included in the price of the gown.

Prices for bridal gowns range between \$1,500-3,000.

Squire was proud that even with inflation, the price of gowns hadn't changed much over the past few years, allowing brides to find beautiful gowns without being hurt by increasing costs.

Lavish Bridal and Prom Boutique is located at the Suncret Towne Centre. Appointments can be scheduled by calling 304-241-1863.

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