

Bridal

SHOWCASE

2026

COMPLIMENTARY ISSUE

Your
BEST DAY
BEGINS
HERE

Ideas, Inspiration
& Experts for an
Unforgettable
Wedding

Made for
BRIDES

INSPIRATION. STYLE. PLANNING.
EVERYTHING YOU NEED.

THE BELTON  JOURNAL

Wedding Photographer, Cerria Maryann Photography



Cerria Chadwick

By Michele Weisman
The Belton Journal

Self-taught wedding photographer Cerria Chadwick brings her love for photography and professionalism to a couple's most important day. Their wedding day.

Cerria Maryann Photography captures engagements, weddings, and elopements.

Chadwick said, "I am type-A. I think like a planner but work behind the scenes for the bride."

Chadwick cautions that it's never too early to start planning. She says to research and decide what editorial stylized (storytelling style) photos you want for your wedding. She believes once a bride knows the desired style, she can look for the photographer that best captures it.

Brides often voice that they feel awkward having their photo taken. Chadwick assures them it is the photographer's job to "make you look your best and position you in comfortable poses."

"Planning a wedding is stressful enough, and I have that process outlined for my clients upfront. That way, they can focus on their next steps instead of chasing me down for info or what to do after booking,"

said Chadwick.

Her clients tell her they appreciate her flexibility, organization, patience, and being super sweet. Chadwick said she wants to meet each bride right where they are.

"No question in weddings is a dumb question. We, as professionals, are here to help and guide you from the point you reach out to after the aisle."

Her best advice for brides is to start early and book the venue, photographer, and planner first. Brides have contacted her a month before their wedding and as far in advance as a year and a half out.

Chadwick said, "Because all three of us book out pretty far in advance, lock in the dates."

Her clients come first. If they prefer text over email, she'll do it. If



they need help to find a vendor, she has a referral vendor list pairing them up with professionals.

“I love my local people and local businesses. I know our community and how we operate,” said Chadwick.

She covers Central and North Bell County from Dallas to Austin and College Station. She hopes to work destination weddings in Europe one day.

“Wherever love takes me, hopefully Paris,” she added.

Raised in a military family, Chadwick took photos of everything with her point and shoot camera. Her father, being stationed at Fort Hood, brought her to Texas in 2004. With an MA in accounting, she worked a corporate job prior to opening her business.

“I picked photography back up five years ago, and I started the business four years ago. I really taught myself the ins and outs.”

Over a decade ago, Chadwick was a client at Hope Pregnancy Center. She now gives back through her nonprofit, Framing Grace, providing maternity sessions to the women at the center. Framing Grace, a nonprofit since Oct 2025, provides portraits at fundraising events for nonprofits they have partnered with, such as CASA of Bell and Coryell Counties, Hope Pregnancy Center, Feed My Sheep, and RISE, a prison ministry for women.

Cerria Maryann Photography offers engagement, wedding, senior

Surprising But True

Data from Zola and The Knot says the average wedding guest list typically ranges from 100 to 150 guests. But recently that number has hovered between 105 and 117 guests. The number of people who will be invited to a wedding will vary based on budget, location and wedding type. Anything between 75 and 150 guests is considered standard. Today's Bride says numbers are similar in Canada, with the average size of a Canadian wedding guest list coming in at around 135 people.



portrait, college and high school graduate, family, and maternity photos.

You can find out more on Facebook at Cerria Maryann Photography, Instagram at cerriamaryannphotography, or her website: cerriamaryannphoto.com. For Cerria's nonprofit, go to the website framinggrace.mypixieset.com.

FLOWER Shop

Blooming Belles

Fall Designer Choice

\$85

Tiffany Martin
Owner

NATURAL BEAUTY OF THE SEASON

SCAN ME!

Monday - Friday 9 AM - 5 PM
Saturday 10 AM - 2 PM

Blooming Belles

(254) 831-5002

304 East 6th Ave Ste. 316 Belton, TX 76513

254.831.5002 www.BloomingBellesFlowers.com @BloomingBelles info@bloomingbellesflowers.com

How couples can honor their parents during wedding celebrations

Weddings are milestone moments for couples and their families. Weddings symbolize starting a new life as a couple, but also mark a great time to honor familial roots and traditions. Many couples aspire to honor certain family members in their weddings, and especially their parents.

The following are various ways couples can honor their parents and incorporate them into their wedding day.

- **Processional walk:** The processional walk is a tradition in which the father of the bride walks her down the aisle. However, many couples now opt to modify this tradition to have both parents or even a step-parent or another special parental figure walk the bride down the aisle. This helps recognize the many people who may have contributed to the bride's upbringing.

- **Rose ceremony:** Couples can hand a single rose to their mothers and grandmothers during a moment in the ceremony. This emotional gesture showcases love in front of all the guests, helping these

special women feel recognized.

- **Vow exchange:** Officiants may include a special "parents' vow" in the ceremony where parents can stand and support the couple in their new marriage. In a religious ceremony, parents may be able to symbolically renew their vows as they support their children.

- **Wearable history:** Honoring parents may come down to wearing a special memento during the celebration. A bride can choose to wear her mother's wedding gown, or to sew a piece of it into her own dress. Dad's favorite blue shirt can be worn or sewn into the lining of a gown or suit. Veils, shoes, jewelry, watches, and other heirlooms also can connect the couple to the family and the generations who came before.

- **Special speeches:** Although it's customary for the maid of honor and best man to speak at the wedding reception, couples can honor their parents by asking them to offer some words of advice and support.

Preserve Your Wedding Flowers

Turn your special day into a timeless keepsake with our custom floral preservation.



Custom Designs



Premium Preservation



Cherished Forever



CREATIVE INNOVATIONS
wedding floral designs

Creative Innovations Salado | Ginny Swalley | 254-760-2620



• A legacy table: Showcasing a visual family tree of sorts at the reception through framed wedding photos of the couple's parents and grandparents is a great conversation starter and a touching tribute.

• Musical tributes: The "first" dances are traditional options to put the spotlight on parents, but having the band or DJ play parents' own wedding songs can be a wonderful and heartfelt surprise. If any other songs are particularly meaning-

ful to parents, those can be included in the ones played during the ceremony or reception.

• Handwritten note: Couples can write a short and meaningful letter to their parents, which can be opened the day after when parents may not be as pre-occupied or emotional as they are on the day of the ceremony.

Couples can be as creative or traditional as they would like when it comes to honoring their parents during a wedding celebration.

The unique benefits of different wedding venues

After a wedding date is set, choosing a venue often is the next major decision couples must make in a long list of tasks leading up to the big day. A venue helps to dictate the tone, formality, energy, and aesthetic of a wedding day. Whether couples envision something upscale and formal or outdoorsy and casual, each venue offers distinct advantages.

Reviewing different venue types and their benefits can help couples find the best establishment for them.

Indoor venues

Indoor reception venues, which can run the gamut from grand ballrooms to modern art galleries to classy hotels, tend to be the gold standard for couples who want to embrace tradition. Arguably the biggest perk of an indoor venue is peace of mind that the weather will not affect the event. Climate-controlled spaces will keep guests comfortable and happy. Indoor spaces also are designed for sound and adequate lighting, with polished reception centers often having lighting and sound systems built in to the room. Indoor venues also come with key features that make hosting weddings more seamless, such as high-end kitchens, adequate restrooms and dedicated wedding suites.

Outdoor venues

Couples who prefer a romantic and organic feel to the wedding may opt for outdoor venues. Botanical gardens, vineyards, beaches, and parks provide natural backdrops that cannot be replicated in an indoor space. Individuals can save money on decor and possibly some floral arrangements when they let nature do the heavy lifting in terms of decorative aspects. Outdoor settings also can be less restrictive, en-



FLOWER

Shop

Blooming Belles

Fall
Designer
Choice

\$85

Tiffany Martin
Owner

NATURAL BEAUTY
OF THE SEASON

SCAN ME!

Monday - Friday 9 AM - 5 PM

Saturday 10 AM - 2 PM

Blooming Belles

(254) 831-5002

304 East 6th Ave Ste. 316 Belton, TX 76513

WE
Deliver!

254.831.5002
www.BloomingBellesFlowers.com
@BloomingBelles
info@bloomingbellesflowers.com



SOMETHING
Blue...
 And A
 PERFECT
Smile
 Too
 Say YES to the *smile*
 before you say I DO.

**BRACES & CLEAR ALIGNERS
 FOR A BEAUTIFUL,
 CONFIDENT YOU**

At SATW Orthodontics, we offer complimentary orthodontic consultations that include:

- Full smile evaluation
- Digital X-rays
- Smile photos
- Customized treatment plan
- Review of insurance benefits and payment options.



SATW
 ORTHODONTICS
*Book your free
 consultation today!*



Love your smile Celebrate your moment

254-773-8028
 209 Hilliard Rd,
 Temple, TX 76502
www.smileattheworld.com

abling guests to spread out. Plus, couples can incorporate interesting additions like fireworks or lawn games into the festivities at outdoor venues.

Rural venues

Rural retreats offer a getaway experience for couples and their guests. Spots like mountain retreats, estates and farmhouses encourage everyone to disconnect and focus fully on the wedding and union between the couple. Rural spots tend to be relaxed, quiet and secluded. Combining a rural barn reception with an outdoor ceremony can create a cozy and intimate vibe.

Urban venues

Some couples thrive in the excitement of city living and want their weddings to reflect the same energy. Urban spots tend to be close to major airports and public transportation, making it easier for guests to attend. With an abundance of hotels nearby, guests traveling from far away will have options for their overnight stays, too. City venues include rooftops, lofts, bars, or boutique hotels, each of which can feel modern and fast-paced. Also, an added benefit to urban venues is that being so close to the action facilitates after-party planning. Once the reception ends, guests can easily transition to late-night eateries or bars for more fun.

Wedding venues are numerous and diverse, giving couples plenty of options to design receptions that fit their personalities.



**ENGAGEMENTS
 & WEDDINGS**

Serving Central and North Texas

www.cerriamaryannphoto.com
 254-535-3574
 Text or Call

Big Gun BBQ caters to wedding needs

By Michele Weisman
The Belton Journal

Big Gun BBQ's Facebook page says "Mouth watering BBQ," and that might just say it all. Sam Vaca has won several grand champions and reserve grand champions for his catering, and more recently, his food truck, which now allows the public to enjoy his award-winning BBQ. He has even qualified for the American Royal World Series of Barbecue five times.

On the menu are brisket, turkey breast, ribs, and more. Vaca says some of his customers' favorites are the chopped beef sandwich, his brisket mac and cheese bowls, brisket, and ribs.

Vaca says, "Give me a try. See if I can impress you on everything."

Most brides and grooms who hire Big Gun BBQ ask them to cater, set up, and serve at their wedding, but some have their own servers. Vaca is starting to see brides ask for the trailer at the wedding venue.

For large weddings, 250 or more, Vaca says to request his catering "at least a good month ahead of time."

Also requested for engagement dinners, Vaca said these are usually around 50 people and so he needs less notice.

Vaca currently serves Killeen, Copperas Cove, Academy, Salado, Temple, and Belton.

Vaca says, "With this new state inspection coming in, I'll probably start traveling."

Using Wayne Orange's premises to prepare Big Gun BBQ's menu items, Vaca appreciates the opportunity.

"They won't let you just do it anywhere. Wayne Orange has been the best person to me in the world. Orange has the best quality meats. You couldn't find a better person right there," says Vaca.

In 1996, a friend asked Vaca to enter a barbecue competition.

"I said, you know, why not? We got nothing else to do. We borrowed a barbecue pit, and went down to Lampasas Spring Ho and cooked it. I've been hooked ever since," Vaca says.

That competition led to more competitions, which led to catering, and then in 2021 he added a food trailer.

Preparing food for events, Vaca is up all night and so gives some advice.

"I really try not to stress. Why get yourself all worked up about everything? You have to have a love for it. If you don't have the love for it, you're not going to do it well," says Vaca.

For your wedding catering needs, message Sam Vaca on his

Facebook page, BIG GUN BBQ, or his personal Facebook page, Sam Vaca (Big Gun).

Food truck state inspections for Texas, starting July 1, should make it so Big Gun BBQ can cater and serve with his trailer anywhere in Texas. Currently in Texas, Big Gun BBQ can only serve in cities in which they have a permit.





HARRIS CENTER

- Since 1936 -

Where history becomes
part of your story



Bridal showers ♦ Full ceremonies ♦ Receptions

254-933-5860
www.harrisevents.org

401 N. Alexander St.
Belton, Texas 76513

Tours available Mon-Fri, 8am-5pm