

Spring Bridal 2026

3 tips to create a reasonable wedding budget

Weddings are momentous occasions in the lives of couples. Recently engaged couples likely know that weddings can be expensive. The experts at the online wedding resource Zola estimated that couples would spend around \$36,000 on their weddings in 2025. If that figure produces some sticker shock, couples can rest easy in the knowledge that such estimates reflect a host of variables, not all of which are applicable to each wedding. It also can calm couples' nerves to develop a budget as the first step in wedding planning. Once a budget is worked out, couples can then use that to guide their decisions.

The need to budget for a wedding may seem obvious, but couples, particularly those tying the knot for the first time, might not know where to begin. Couples facing such a situation can consider these three budget-building tips for their wedding.

1. Identify where funds are coming from. Parents of the bride were once the traditional sources of wedding funds, but that's less common than it used to be. According to The Knot Real Weddings Study, the average age of marriage in 2024 was 32 years. That means many couples are now on relatively firm financial footing by the time they get married, prompting some to pay for the entire affair themselves. Couples looking to establish a wedding budget can first identify who's helping to fund it. If couples are going it alone, then this is a simple step in the process. If parents and other relatives offer to pitch in, couples can count such offers toward the total amount of money they have to fund the big day.

2. Consider working with a financial planner. Another strategy to building a budget is to work with a professional to determine how much you can afford. Many couples now live together prior to getting engaged, and Zola notes that more than half (53 percent) even shop for rings together. Advanced wedding planning can be a wise move, particularly for couples footing the bill on their own or with minimal assistance from family members. A financial planner can help couples determine what they can afford and offer tips to grow their existing wealth with an eye on paying for their wedding.

3. Identify your priorities. The Knot reports that venue and rentals accounted for slightly more than one-quarter (27 percent) of couples' wedding budgets in 2025. While venues and rentals are typically the biggest expense when planning a wedding, couples building a budget should identify their biggest priority. Some might want a stunning venue, while others might feel a backyard ceremony is perfect for them. Identifying your biggest priorities and then devoting enough funds to those areas can guide the budget-building process.

Weddings can be expensive. Budgeting can help couples get the wedding they want without breaking the bank. BR261473

Shadday, Miller say 'I Do'



Haley Shadday, daughter of Jeremy and Tracy Shadday, and Dalton Miller, son of David and Andrea Miller, were married November 1, 2025 at Hunny Creek Haven in Waldron. Haley is from Versailles and is a graduate of South Ripley High School. Dalton is from Rushville where the couple currently reside.

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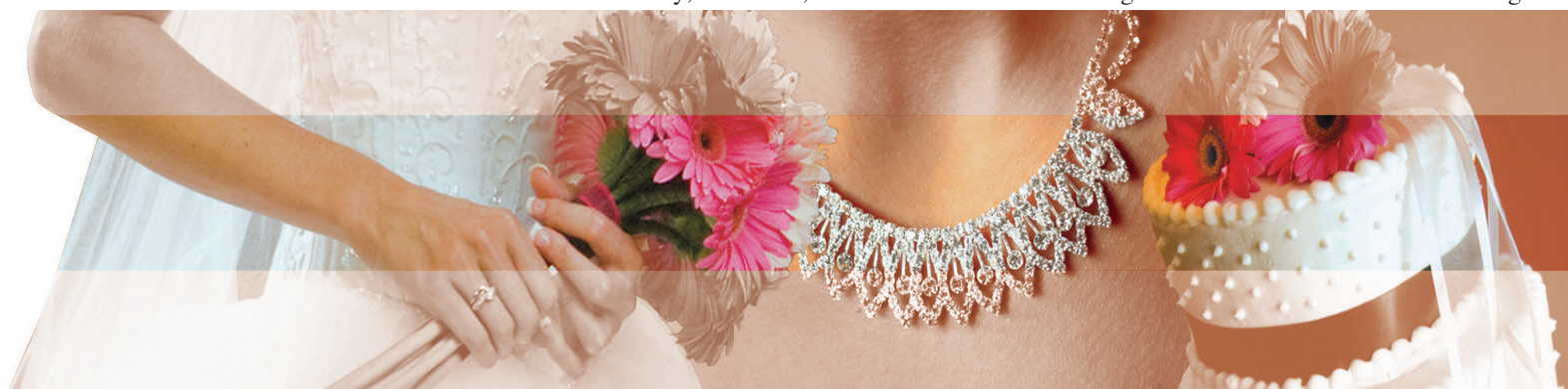
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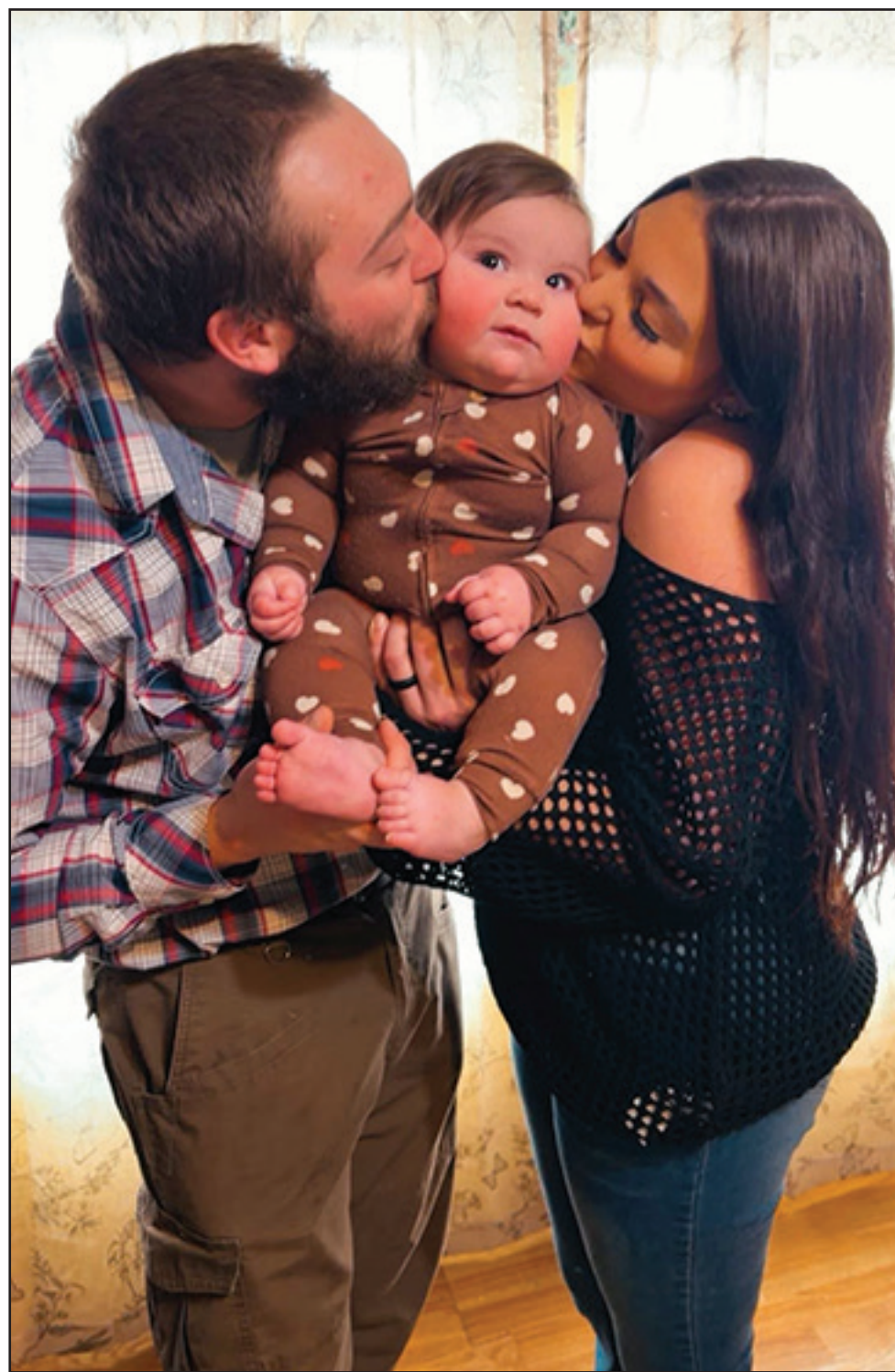
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And they lived happily ever after!

**Swinney, Grossman
announce engagement**

**Houston, Grossman
plan fall wedding**



Autumn Swinney and Troy Grossman announce their engagement. Tony proposed to Autumn on New Year's Eve as the ball dropped. They have a September 16, 2028 wedding planned. Troy is a 2022 graduate of South Ripley High School and the son of Kristie and Travis Grossman. Autumn is a graduate of Jac-Cen-Del High School and the daughter of Amber Seaver and Keith Swinney.

Chelsie Houston is the daughter of Karie and Jeremy Houston and a 2021 graduate of South Ripley High School. Boyd is the son of Kristie and Travis Grossman and a 2021 graduate of South Ripley High School. Boyd proposed to Chelsie in December 2024. They have a September 26, 2026 wedding planned.

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