

Happily Ever After



Scott & Megan
September 24, 2016

By Kim Wegener
Family Living Editor

RURAL SHELBY -- The rain that fell and sometimes poured from the sky on September 24, 2016 did not put a damper on the perfect wedding day of Scott and Megan (Warner) Shannon. They took the rain in stride and enjoyed each and every moment of their special day.

"The only unwanted occurrence of the day was the rain, but the day went on. Instead of having the (reception) games on the large patio, they were moved under the awning which had less space," said Megan.

The couple exchanged marriage vows at the Willow Creek Glass

Chapel near Shelby.

"As we were wrapping up pictures, normally the wedding party stays back from the crowd but we were in the back of the chapel watching our guests come in. It was a different experience," said Megan.

Rain on proposal day

Megan is originally from Albion, NE while Scott grew up in rural Irwin. The couple met online in November 2014.

"We grin every time we are asked (how we met). Our first date was in Omaha as I was living in Fremont, NE at the time and he was living in Carroll."

"As Megan and I spent more time together it became clear she was the one. I got to see how she interacted with my friends and family and that we share many values and beliefs," said Scott.

They dated for more than a year before Scott asked Megan to be his wife on the last day of March in 2016. Scott was originally planning to propose on Megan's birthday. Rain figured into the proposal day also as Scott was able to leave work at FSC early that day.

"(The proposal) was originally supposed to be on her birthday, but I didn't get her ring in time so I decided to take her to downtown Omaha and propose at Heartland of America Park," said Scott.

"I had her open three gifts that included plaques that said 'Will you marry me?' The exact day was spur of the moment because we were busy at work doing spring field work so I waited until the first rain day we had."

Ceremony, reception both at Willow Creek

In selecting a wedding date, the couple had to work around harvest time plus they did not want to get married during a cold weather month. They also wanted their wedding to take place in 2016.

"We contacted Willow Creek (Glass Chapel) and September 24 was the only Saturday they had open so we booked it. We chose Willow Creek because everything was right there for the ceremony and reception and it's close to Harlan. We considered a church and separate reception

venue but decided Willow Creek would be easy for decorating and having everything in one location," said Megan.

To select the perfect attire, the bride went wedding gown shopping with her mom and sister. Megan's best friend lives a few states away so she was unable to take part in the gown selection trip. Megan knew exactly what she wanted for a dress, which made it very easy to pick out the right dress. She chose to accessorize with simple jewelry because her wedding dress was beaded around the neckline and back.

Approximately 100 guests attended the wedding ceremony and reception. Their wedding party consisted of family and close friends. Maids of honor were the bride's sister, Michelle Warner and her hometown best friend since elementary school, Lauren Bygland. The groom's sister, Erica Shannon Stueve, attended as bridesmaid.

Scott selected Dan Gradert as his best man while groomsmen were Adam Bierbaum and Brian Pfeiffer. All of the groom's attendants were college friends from Iowa State University. The groom's cousin, Jill Neumann, took photos of the couple's special day.

M&M's calm wedding day jitters

The bride and groom incorporated plum colors in their wedding day decorating scheme. Megan selected hydrangeas for the wedding flowers. She added that not a lot of decorations were needed in the chapel area.

"The chapel is uniquely beautiful with the large window design so I just added floral pieces and a large cross at the altar," said Megan.

Some family humor was also a wedding day highlight. After her father escorted her down the aisle, he gave her some candy to calm any wedding day nerves.

Megan said, "He (dad) gave me some M&M's®. I love M&M's® and it's my family's joke that we use M&M's® as "chill pills" when my parents are worrying about my sister and I," said Megan.

After the ceremony, Scott and Megan walked back down the aisle to the Queen song, "You're My Best Friend."



SCOTT AND MEGAN'S DAY -- Scott Shannon and Megan Warner dated for more than a year before they became engaged. They were married on September 24, 2016.

Signs were placed on Willow Creek Glass Chapel and Barn grounds to show guests where the wedding events were being held. (Photos contributed)



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Shannon from previous page

The Shannons' wedding reception was held at the Willow Creek Barn located near the glass chapel. Decorations for the reception venue were rustic.

"I kept with the rustic theme of the barn. My dad helped build some flower boxes and trays from weathered boards. My grandma had several lanterns. I added plum hydrangeas and greenery for color," said Megan.

"For behind the head (wedding party) table, I just had to find a windmill. We found one locally and cut it in half to use as a focal point."

The reception featured music and yard games although the rainy weather might have kept some guests from participating in yard games. They both love ice cream so in addition to cake there was ice cream and a variety of toppings for the guests.

"Scott and I are not the dancing type although we still had a DJ. We also had yard games such as giant Jenga® and corn hole set up on the patio. If the weather had cooperated better I think more people would have enjoyed them," said Megan.

The rehearsal dinner, hosted by the groom's parents, was held at the Potter House Bed and Breakfast in Harlan the evening before the wedding day.

Planned wedding day in six months

Both the Shannons say their advice to future brides and grooms is to keep things simple.

"Keep it simple. A bride can always think of more ideas for a wedding, but then it takes up too much space after the wedding. Once I arrived at Willow Creek I immediately went to the bridal cottage. I wrote notes for my aunt to put all items in place. The day goes by extremely fast, especially the reception. Also, it's good to start talking to guests once you arrive at the reception because some guests will leave early," said Megan.

"Help out wherever you can, there's lots of small details that need attention leading up to the day. It can help take stress off your fiancée if you can take care of a few of them. Also get use to going to Hobby Lobby a lot," said Scott.

Megan says more time between the proposal and wedding date may have helped her be more organized but everything fell into place for their special day.

"The most stressful parts were finding a location in such a short amount of time and picking bridesmaids' dresses. Once those were done it was just a matter of deciding, selecting, or buying everything else. Since the engagement to the wedding was less than six months I did not have extra time to make decisions. I could have been more organized if I had more time," concluded Megan.

Newlyweds at home in rural Irwin

Parents of the couple are Brad and Lori Warner, Albion, NE; and Rod and Noreen Shannon, Irwin. The newlyweds are living in the home where Scott was raised in rural Irwin. Because the wedding date was so close to harvest season, the couple planned a belated honeymoon in Negril, Jamaica.



Photos top to bottom -- Megan Warner's father, Brad Warner, presented M&M's to his daughter to calm her nerves; Lori Warner helps daughter, Megan, get ready for the wedding; and Scott and Megan with Scott's parents, Rod and Noreen Shannon.

Photo at left -- The newlyweds pose at the reception. (All photos contributed)

Megan is employed at (NVREC). Scott is employed at Nishnabotna Valley Rural Electric Cooperative farms.



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