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Kentucky Derby — complete with the chapeaus. Suffice to say a good time was had by all.

There were other celebrations as well — a shower with Corie's Nancy Hanks friends and a bachelorette weekend in Nashville.

The big day

Everything was in place. Gifts had been given to the wedding party — from Corie to the women it was matching pajamas and gold flip flops, a necklace (but not to wear at the wedding), pearl earrings, and in the preceding months she showered these chosen friends and family with little gifts to show her appreciation and love. From Ryan to the men it was American flag socks (which they did wear for the ceremony) to match their navy tuxedos, engraved Yeti cups and several other novel gifts.

Ryan was also the recipient of a special gift. Corie's father, Gil Eckerle, gifted him with an engraved torch including their names, wedding date, Maddy's name and a blank space, passing the torch quite literally from father to son-in-law.

The rehearsal was held on the property the night before, with a relaxed dinner of pizza and salads following at the pool house.



Mothers of the groom and bride: On the left, Powell Riddle and on the right, Nancy Eckerle.



Top: Ryan, Corie and Madilyn Schwartz as they officially become a family. Corie and Ryan with their daughter, Maddy, Corie's brothers, sister-in-law, nephew and parents, Gil and Nancy Eckerle of Jasper.

Accommodations were available for the bridal party on The Legend grounds, and the Hicks also own the Comfort Suites in French Lick where Corie and Ryan reserved a room block for guests. The hotel shuttle transported them back and forth so no one need worry about the drive.

D-Day dawned under a bright almost-summer sun. Just in case, they had rented a tent, plus a bounce house for the younger guests, all of which were set up and ready.

Gil thought there should be some sort of special entrance so he refinished the doors from Corie's grandparents' home to serve as the official entry.

Before guests stepped through the doors, they were given a pen and tag to write a message for the couple, along with a bottle of water. The tags were affixed to helium balloons released after the ceremony.

In a unique twist on tradition, Madilyn walked her father down the aisle, then she went back around and came down the aisle again as flower girl.

The ceremony itself was positively



Instead of a tradition cake the couple opted for cakeballs from the Mad Batter and mini-cheesecakes with assorted toppings.

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