

Claxton tips hand as he prepares to pop question



MUSIC CITY — Dalton Claxton of Clarksville took his Austin Peay State University college sweetheart, Brianne Wilder of Obion, to the Music City of Nashville for a Sound of Music Singalong at the Schermerhorn Symphony Center on July 17, 2022, as they prepared to move to St. Augustine, Fla., where she is now studying to be a physical therapist. Since they arrived

several hours before the event, they went on a walk in Cumberland Park, where they “happened” to run into their friend, Leanna, with whom he had booked a couple’s photoshoot. It was during the photoshoot that she was posed with her back to her boyfriend and when she turned around, he was on one knee with ring in hand. The couple plan to wed Dec. 30.

Brianne Wilder of Obion met Dalton Claxton of Clarksville while they were students at Austin Peay State University in 2018.

On July 17, 2022, he planned a trip to Nashville for a Sound of Music Singalong at the Schermerhorn Symphony Center. She said they arrived in Nashville a couple hours before the show started, so they took a walk in Cumberland Park to “take a picture down here because it’s pretty” as Dalton said.

After walking for quite a few minutes, they finally got to a spot where they met their friend, Leanna.

“He said that he booked us a couple’s photoshoot since we were about to move to St. Augustine, Fla., for me to attend PT school. At this point I had a hunch of what might happen,” Miss Wilder said, explaining as they were taking pictures, their friend posed them to where her back was to Claxton so he could get the ring out and get down on one knee.

“I turn around when she tells me to, and he asks the question! Apparently, I didn’t even say ‘yes.’ I just shook my head and kissed him.”

After tears shed and lots of behind-the-scenes stories revealed, they continued with the photoshoot.

Later, Miss Wilder found out Claxton had also informed her parents of his plans and they joined the couple in Clarksville that evening where their families surprised her with a dinner together to celebrate the occasion.

Miss Wilder is the daughter of Jenny Wilder of Obion and Brian Wilder of Troy. She is currently a student at the University of St. Augustine for Health Sciences studying to be a physical therapist.

Claxton is the son of John and Patti Claxton of Clarksville and is a software engineer with Heartland Payment Systems.

They plan to be married on Dec. 30.



How to build a wedding budget without breaking the bank

Wedding planning is a unique experience unlike any endeavor most couples will ever encounter. Much effort goes into planning a wedding, and that includes building a budget that ensures the big day will be fun without breaking the bank.

Most couples planning a wedding have never tied the knot before, so it can be difficult to determine a reasonable amount to spend. It’s easy to go overboard when planning a wedding, and couples may find their list of wants and, consequently, their expenses, growing as they get into the weeds of wedding planning. Though it might require some difficult decisions, couples can keep these tips in mind so they can build a wedding budget that won’t land them in debt after saying, “I do.”

- Determine funding. The days when a bride’s parents would finance the wedding entirely on their own are largely a thing of the past. According to a recent WeddingWire Newlywed Report, parents now pay for 52 percent of wedding expenses. As couples begin establishing a wedding budget, it’s imperative that they first determine who, if anyone, will be helping them finance the big day. Fifty-two percent of wed-



BRIDAL BUDGET — Couples can keep these tips in mind so they can build a wedding budget that won’t land them in debt after saying, “I do.”

ding expenses is a significant amount of money, but in that scenario, couples will still need to come up with roughly half of the money needed to fund their weddings. Couples without substantial savings may be forced to cut back in order to avoid beginning their life as a married couple in debt.

- Make a list of potential expenses. Location will be a significant factor when determining potential expenses. For example, a 2022 ValuePenguin analysis of data from The Wedding Report found that the average wedding in Massachusetts cost roughly \$30,500 in 2020, while couples tying the knot in Arkansas spent around \$12,500 on their weddings.

With such wild fluctuations, it’s important that couples get an accurate estimate of how much it may cost them to get married in a given city. Couples who met in a city and still live in a city but grew up in a suburb might save a considerable sum by getting married in

their hometowns. Compare and contrast prices in locales you’re considering, and then build your budget accordingly. This can help you avoid sticker shock and going over budget. Notable expenses to budget include the venue, attire (i.e., wedding dress and tuxedo rental), hairstyle and makeup, entertainment, photography and transportation, among others.

- Make a list of what’s most important. Most couples will have to compromise in order to avoid taking on debt to finance their weddings. An earnest discussion about what’s most important to each person can ensure you both get what you want. Each person can make a list of their priorities, ranking them from most important to least important. Once

lists are shared, couples can see where their priorities converge and where they diverge. Any items that rank low on each person’s list of priorities can be afforded less funding, while those that are high on each list can take up more of the budget, if necessary.

- Commit to a limit before spending a dime. Committing to a limit before spending a dime can help couples keep wedding costs more manageable. Once that number is defined, couples can then work within its parameters, which can make potentially difficult decisions a little easier by narrowing options at a time when options can seem endless.

A well-planned budget can be just what couples need to begin married life on strong financial footing.

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