

5th annual Bridal & Prom Expo set for February 17th

From staff reports

LEWISTOWN — Getting married? Going to the prom? Be sure to "save the date" of Sunday, February 17 (weather date, Feb. 24) to attend the Juniata Valley Bridal and Prom Expo for the latest wedding and prom ideas, as well as seeing up-to-the-minute merchandise and gifts, and learning about local services to meet every need on the big day.

The Sentinel is again partnering with the Lewistown Country Club to host the free event, which will

take place from 2 until 4:30 p.m. Both the upstairs banquet room and lower level McCurry room will house some 30 local vendors this year at the expanded event.

Statistics show that more couples get engaged between Christmas and Valentine's Day than any other time, so expo organizers decided to schedule the 5th annual event for February, a traditional season for bridal expos nationally. Many grooms-to-be may be able to attend since football season will be over in February.

New this year will be the addition of items suitable for prom. Also new will be the appearance of live models from Simply Elegant Bridal Shop in State College, who will wear wedding gowns, as well as bridesmaid, mother of the bride and prom gowns, and make a presentation about the latest fashions. Mini-makeovers will be performed by The Bon-Ton and Mary Kay Cosmetics independent consultant Maureen Henne. If interested in volunteering for a mini-makeover, please

email marketing@lewistowntownsentinel.com with contact info in order to be considered. Jessie Foster Ballroom Dance School is scheduled to perform a demonstration of dances popular with bridal couples.

The grand prize for one lucky bride-to-be will be \$500 off a bridal gown from Simply Elegant Gowns. Additional door prizes will include a Williamsburg, Virginia resort getaway, a Seven Springs Resort package, and various gift baskets and certificates from local busi-

nesses.

Local vendors will include photographers, limousines, disc jockey services, florists, reception venues, jewelry, bridal and prom gown shops, tent rentals, travel agencies, caterers and many more bridal and prom-oriented services.

Businesses interested in being a vendor may contact The Sentinel at 248-6741, extension 130, or email marketing@lewistowntownsentinel.com for details. The Sentinel will publish a Bridal & Prom Preview edi-

IF YOU GO

- **What:** The Sentinel's Bridal and Prom Expo
- **When:** 2-4:30 p.m. on Feb. 17 (bad weather date Feb. 24)
- **Where:** Lewistown Country Club, 306 Country Club Lane, Lewistown, PA
- **Admission and Parking:** Free

tion on February 13 in the newspaper with more details on the event.

Receive RSVPs quicker online

Picture it. After hours of addressing the envelopes for your wedding invitations, you finally send them out, complete with RSVP cards. Three months later, you have only received responses from three-quarters of your guests, and in order to get an accurate head count for the caterer, you must spend a few hours calling all of those who failed to respond. This is the scenario that many brides face every year. In spite of their best efforts to get an accurate head count through RSVP cards, some guests misplace or lose the cards and forget to respond. All of the time and money the bride put into those cards is simply gone.

To reduce the risk of misplaced or lost RSVP cards, many brides are now giving guests the option to reply to their invitations online.

Guests simply go to the Web site listed on the invitation, fill out the required information and submit their RSVP. The advantages of online RSVP are numerous. The bride does not have to provide RSVP card envelopes and stamps, which saves on the budget, nor does she have to worry about guests misplacing or losing RSVP cards. The bride also receives responses faster through the Internet.

Of course, not all people are Internet savvy. For brides that have a mix of Internet savvy and not-so-savvy guests, sending out invitations with the Web site address listed for online RSVP,

along with printed RSVP cards, may be the best option. Guests can either RSVP online or by mail. Because there is the option of online RSVP, brides can forgo putting stamps on the RSVP envelopes and let guests who use the printed cards take care of the matter themselves.

While brides may set up online RSVP through e-mail or a free Web site, experts recommend they use an RSVP service provider. Depending upon whom they choose, brides may receive any number of special features, including the ability to set up RSVPs for multiple events surrounding the wed-

ding, 24-7 access to all reports, e-mail confirmation for guests, meal tracking and more. Of course, RSVP providers will require a fee, but for brides with hundreds of guests, it may be worth it.

Who knew how simple responding to a wedding invitation could be? Online RSVP makes it so easy for guests who use the Internet often and speeds up the process significantly for brides. The bride can confirm the number of guests attending her wedding at any given time in a matter of minutes rather than sitting around waiting for the mail to arrive.

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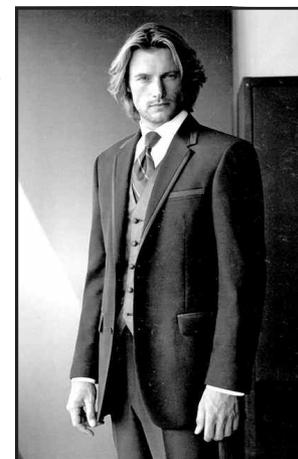
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