

# ACCENT

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**'Top Model' judge shares tips on enhancing beauty**  
Nigel Barker has a new book full of tips. **Charm, 6D**

**WOODY'S NEW FILM:** Naomi Watts is fascinating. **Liz Smith, 2D**

## INTO THE FLATTS



Janis Fontaine gives her review of tonight's show on

pbpulse.com



Photo by REGINA LAELLA

## KATE MERRELL MORRIS

**HER LESSON:**  
*Put yourself into the memories you make, with ribbons and tutus and a topsy-turvy cake*

Kate Merrell Morris and her groom, Jeremy Morris, are the creative sort. They used ribbons on everything from their invitations to their flower girls' tutu dresses to the 'wedding wands' they gave their 225 guests. The ribbons added a festive and fun touch to all the photos of the wedding, held at The Harriet at CityPlace.

'Guests told us that the wedding fit our personalities and was a true reflection of us as a couple,' Kate says.

## KELLIE PICKLER



Country songstress Kellie Pickler opens tonight for Rascal Flatts at the Cruzan.

## IN LOVE, IN SHAPE, IN CONCERT

By JANIS FONTAINE  
Palm Beach Post Staff Writer

Five years in the spotlight have not singed the wings of songbird Kellie Pickler.

She's still the sweet, vulnerable girl America fell in love with on season five of *American Idol*. But don't mistake that sweetness for weakness.

The former roller-skating Sonic waitress from Albemarle, N.C., who endeared herself with her homespun speech and girl-next-door good looks, is hard at work on her third studio album. Combine that with a hectic touring schedule — she opens tonight for Rascal Flatts at Cruzan Amphitheatre — it's no wonder she's yawning at 3 in the afternoon.

Add Pickler's upcoming wedding, and you're talking serious fatigue. "I am a little tired," she says. "But the recording is going great. We've got a lot of work to do, but it's coming together. I definitely have a lot on my plate now. But it's all good things."

Pickler accepted songwriter Kyle Jacobs' proposal on Rosemary Beach in North Florida in June.

"I've just never known anyone like him," she said. "He's such a man of God. By far the greatest thing that's happened this year is us getting engaged and planning to spend the rest of our lives together. He's very understanding of my schedule and the demands

See PICKLER, 3D ▶

### Kellie Pickler

Today, 7:30 p.m.,  
Cruzan Amphitheatre

Tickets: livenation.com,  
or phone (800) 745-3000.

# 5 Brides 5 Weddings 5 Lessons Learned

Meet the brides and find more lessons, 4D-5D

## KAYLA SHEEHAN

**HER LESSON:** *There's magic in the details*

Kayla Sheehan choreographed her bridesmaids' color scheme from head to toe. They wore identical black dresses from Priscilla of Boston, and each bridesmaid had a different color bouquet — pink, blue, green, yellow, purple and orange — with shoes to match her bouquet.



Photo by Sara Kauss Photography

## MOLLY McMYLER STRINGER

**HER LESSON:** *Find that special place*

◀ Molly McMyler Stringer and Navy Lt. Ronald F. Burris II wanted to have an American military wedding at the 'happiest place on Earth' — Disney World. Though the destination meant that the bride would have to carefully control the number of guests, the patriotic details wowed the crowd. Cinderella's Castle provided a backdrop for the wedding, and the reception was held inside the American pavilion at Epcot.



Photo by Disney Fine Art Photography

## GRAVE MISGIVINGS

*Being far from home complicates life — and death.*

The old man carried a whisk broom in the glove compartment of his Crown Vic. It was ancient, the kind made from corn bristles that tend to break and crumble through the years, but his was in good shape.

He used it on my mother's tombstone.

I never lived near my father when he tended to our mother's grave, but the town where I grew up is small and friends would often say

they'd see him in the cemetery at the top of the hill, near the park named after Harvey Firestone. I can envision this in a very lovely way. He'd have a Camel straight

pinched between his right thumb and forefinger. He'd be pacing, just a bit. Nothing frenetic. And he'd be talking. To himself. To the politicians he watched on C-SPAN. To the wife he'd lost after 63 years.

My dad is now in the grave next to her, and I'd like to think that he's still talking to himself, just a bit.

There are an estimated 79 million Baby Boomers in America right now, according to popular count, and a great many of us are considered members of the Generation Jones — that is, we were born between 1954 and 1965. And here's the thing about so many of us.

We've moved away to lead lives that don't revolve around the

See EMILY, 5D ▶



Emily J. Minor



Emily Minor is trying to find someone to tend to her parents' graves in her Ohio hometown.

# 5 Brides 5 Weddings 5 Lessons Learned

By AIME DUNSTAN ■ Special to The Palm Beach Post

## MOLLY McMYLER STRINGER

*Her lesson: Find that special place*

**Groom:** Lt. Ronald F. Burriss II

**Couple lives in:** Palm Beach Gardens and Pensacola

**Bride's profession:** Investment management professional

**Wedding date:** April 17, 2010

**Ceremony venue:** Walt Disney World Wedding Pavilion, Lake Buena Vista

**Reception venue:** Epcot Center's American Adventure Rotunda

**The dress:** An ivory silk satin strapless a-line Platinum Collection gown encrusted with beadwork and metallic thread embroidery by Priscilla of Boston.

**The cake:** Created by Disney's Grand Floridian Resort & Spa, the four-tier chocolate cake featured a white-chocolate Cinderella castle that was lit from inside.

**The theme:** "Since my family and I are very patriotic Americans, and Ron is a naval aviator from a military family, we wanted to have an American military wedding at the 'happiest place on Earth,' Disney World," says the bride.

**The bridesmaids:** They carried white roses arranged in a gold handle and wore red strapless dresses.

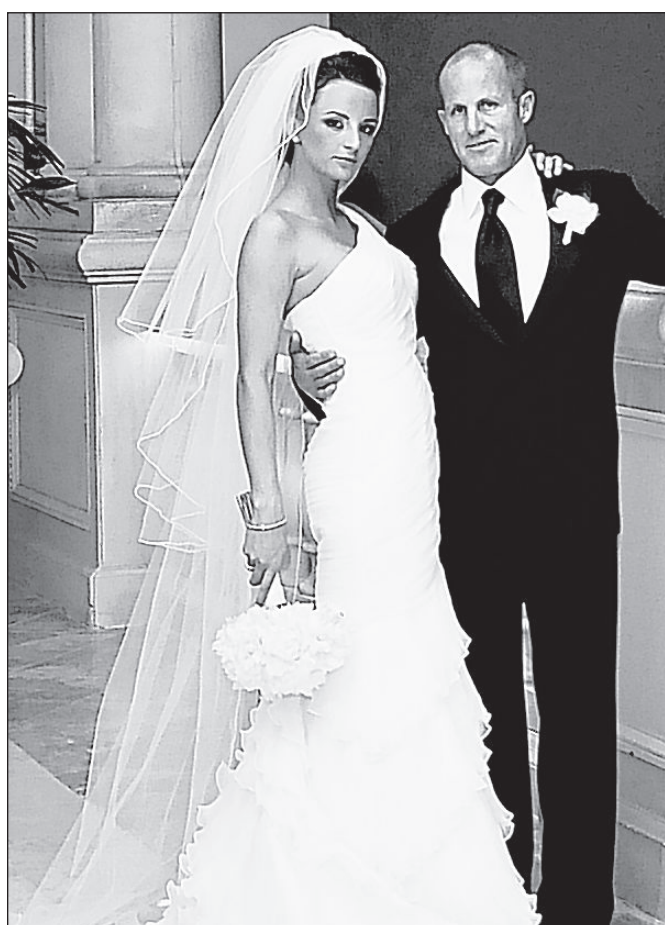
**A personal touch:** "A special touch was our eight-man sword arch with our close friends from the Navy and Marine Corps welcoming us as a couple and me to the Navy," she says. "Our guests were then transported by coach over to Epcot Center to the American Adventure Rotunda, which was closed down for us while the park was still open! Guests were led up the flag-lined staircase for cocktails, and Voices of Liberty, an a cappella group, sang historic American and military songs throughout the night."

**The take-away:** "Having a destination wedding, we had to really micromanage the guest list. Also, the groom was deployed with some of the groomsmen for 10 months leading up to the wedding, and some were about to leave on deployment, so were very lucky to have the whole bridal party there!"



Disney Fine Art Photography

"Since my family and I are very patriotic Americans, and Ron is a naval aviator from a military family, we wanted to have an American military wedding at the "happiest place on Earth," Disney World," says the bride. "Our ceremony was at the Wedding Pavilion, a nondenominational chapel on an island in the Seven Seas Lagoon. ..."



Cashman Photo

Stephanie Harris wore a Pronovias one-strap gown with mermaid waistline, pleated skirt and chapel train.

## STEPHANIE MARIE COVERT HARRIS

*Her lesson: Planning a Las Vegas wedding? You'll be exhausted — but happy*

**Groom:** Lamont B.P. Harris

**Couple lives in:** Palm Beach

**Wedding date:** July 10, 2010

**Ceremony venue:** Bellagio Las Vegas

**The dress:** A Pronovias "Gaudi" one-strap gown.

**The theme:** "We decided to go for a complete Las Vegas glamour wedding, and we did everything right," says Stephanie. "From my bachelorette party, which started at THEhotel at Mandalay Bay and ended at Tao Nightclub, to the glamorous suites overlooking the Bellagio fountain."

**The cake:** A three-tiered vanilla rum cake with white and blue details.

**The bridesmaids:** "My bridesmaids wore short, strapless Tibi dresses in electric blue with Christian Louboutin shoes. I chose simple dresses because I wanted them to showcase their personality and put their own spin on it with jewelry and accessories."

**The take-away:** "I planned the entire wedding myself. I made two itineraries: One for the kids and one for adults. It was truly exhausting because I didn't want help. But it turned out to be amazing. I couldn't have married a more amazing man, and I couldn't have asked for a more beautiful wedding."



Bob Gothard Photography

Kate Rostad's April 10 wedding was held at her mother's home in Tequesta. "I was looking for a vintage look," says the bride. "But I also wanted to introduce rustic elements, which the branches and pussy willows accomplished."

## KATE ROSTAD

*Her lesson: Remember to remember — and freeze special moments in your mind*

**Groom:** Jay Rostad

**Couple lives in:** Jupiter

**Bride's profession:** Medical device account executive

**Wedding date:** April 10, 2010

**Venue:** Mother of the bride's home in Tequesta

**The gown:** A Carolina Herrera strapless gown. The Belgian lace veil was purchased by the bride's aunt in Brussels for her own wedding in 1953. Kate was the 13th bride to wear it.

**The cake:** Chocolate, vanilla and strawberry three-tiered cake by Sweet Tiers in Hobe Sound

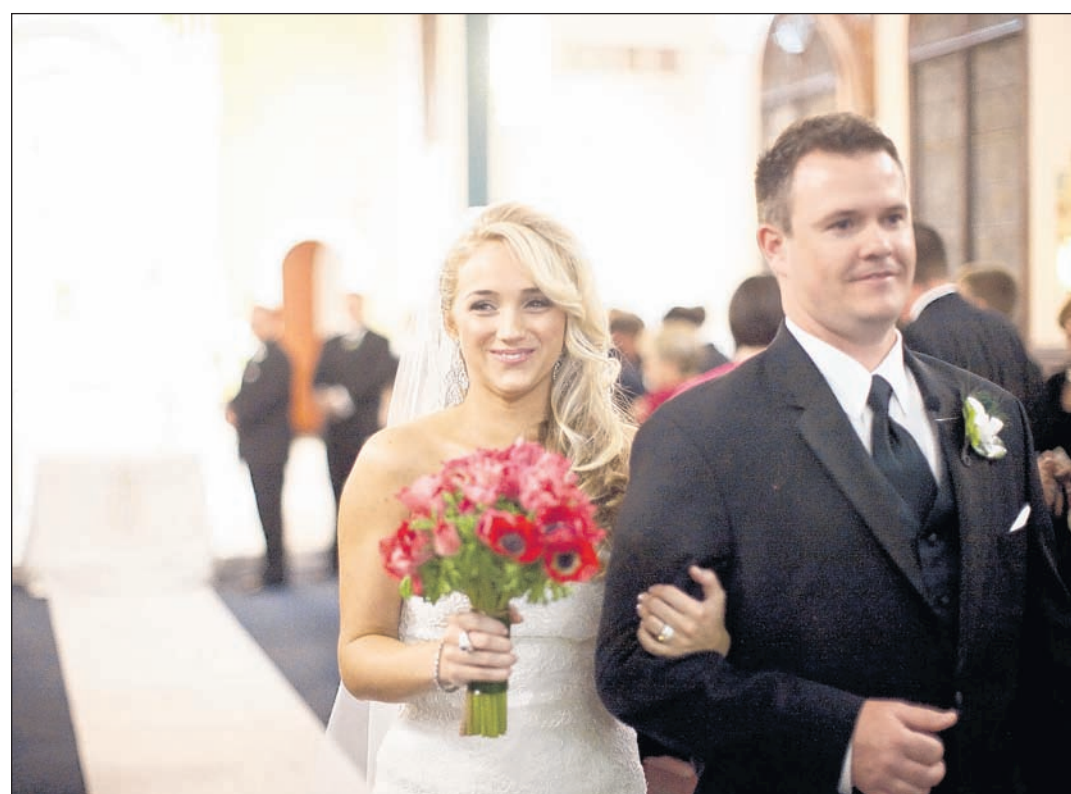
**The flowers:** Michael Ereshena of The Special Event Resource and Design Group of West Palm Beach

**Setting the scene:** "The ceremony site was on the center island of the cul-de-sac," recalls the bride, noting that 116 guests were seated beneath a canopy of live oak trees outside her mother's home in Tequesta.

**The bridesmaids:** They wore long beige pleated satin and lace gowns and carried green cymbidium orchids with trailing green amaranthus.

**A personal touch:** "The groom's father read a message during the ceremony from his father (the groom's 95-year-old grandfather who could not attend) offering his advice for a happy marriage."

**The take-away:** "It was over so fast. Days leading to and on the big day, I would close my eyes and think to myself, 'I've got to always remember this second.' I would call them 'freeze moments,'" she says. "I took great care in finding a photographer, Bob Gothard Photography of Martha's Vineyard, that I knew would capture every 'freeze moment' perfectly."



Kayla and Benjamin Sheehan were married on Jan. 30 at St. Edward's Catholic Church in Palm Beach.

Sara Kauss Photography

## KAYLA SHEEHAN

*Her lesson: There's magic in the details.*

**Groom:** Benjamin Sheehan

**Couple lives in:** West Palm Beach

**Wedding date:** Jan. 30, 2010

**Ceremony venue:** St. Edward's Catholic Church, Palm Beach

**Reception venue:** The Colony, Palm Beach

**The dress:** A lace gown by Pronovias. She wore a diamond bracelet, a gift from her father-in-law, and a sapphire and diamond ring.

"Something blue and it was extra special because it is our daughter's birthstone," says the bride.

**The cake:** Cakes by Mary Lou created a classic four-tier vanilla cake with raspberry filling and buttercream icing.

**The bridesmaids:** They wore black Vineyard Collection dresses from Priscilla of Boston. Each bridesmaid had a different color bouquet and shoes to match her bouquet. (Flowers by Garden Party Florals of West Palm Beach.)

**A personal touch:** "We had an Irish

wishing well instead of an engagement session photo album or guest book. Next to the well was a framed Irish blessing on a table with white linens and green lighting. It is an old Irish tradition. We asked our guests to make a wish for us and toss a penny into the well."

**The take-away:** Book your trial hair and makeup appointments four to six months in advance. "I was pretty good with being on time with picking vendors, but the things I didn't realize that took the longest to find were makeup artists and hairstylists," says the bride.



Regina Latella

Kate and Jeremy Morris wrote their vows, and Jeremy baked the bread used for Communion.

### KATE MERRELL MORRIS

*Her lesson: Show off your personality*

**Groom:** Jeremy Morris

**Couple lives in:** West Palm Beach

**Bride's profession:** Owner, Katydid Designs

**Wedding date:** Jan. 25, 2009

**Ceremony venue:** Harriet Himmel Theater, West Palm Beach

**Reception venue:** Improv Comedy Club, CityPlace

**The dress:** Cream lace gown purchased from a local bridal shop which has since closed. "I loved my shoes — Hollywould Pink Palm. They were bright pinks and oranges with this cute flower at the toe. They were pointed flats; so my feet never hurt!"

**The cake:** "The cake was the highlight of the reception. It was a four-tier topsy-turvy cake — one layer had stripes, one had large polka dots, one had diamonds and one had silver balls — all in my color scheme." (Made by Melissa from Buttercream Couture, which the bride found on Facebook.)

**The flower girls:** "I loved my flower girls' dresses. My mom made them to fit perfectly into my vision. They were bright pink dresses with pink and green tutus. The girls walked down the aisle barefoot waving wedding wands."

**The bridesmaids:** They wore navy dresses, lime necklaces and pink shoes of their choice.

**The theme:** The main theme was based on ribbon and our colors: navy, pink and lime green. Everything from the invitation to the bouquets incorporated ribbon details and our colors. Guests later told us that the wedding fit our personalities and was a true reflection of us as a couple."

**A personal touch:** "Jeremy and I wanted our wedding to really feel like us and incorporate all our friends and family (we had 225 guests). We made or had friends make almost every aspect of our wedding. We wrote our own vows, and Jeremy even baked the bread we used for Communion."

**The take-away:** "Stay true to what you see for that day. I had the vision for all the guests waving ribbon streamers (I called them wedding wands) as we walked down the aisle and exited the church. That small detail made for beautiful pictures and really added that special touch."



'I loved my flower girls' dresses,' says Kate. 'My mom made them to fit perfectly into my vision. They were bright pink dresses with pink and green tutus. The girls walked down the aisle barefoot waving wedding wands.'

## PALM BEACH brides an idea show



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Enjoy light bites and cocktails, listen to music and watch a bridal fashion show as you gather ideas, discounts, deals and contacts to plan your perfect wedding.

With more than 80 vendors participating, you'll find everything you need for that special day, from venues and caterers to photographers and florists. Visit all of our vendors to register to win even more prizes! Many vendors offer services for all special occasions, so you will be able to pick up great ideas for bar mitzvahs, birthdays, anniversary parties and more.

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## Mom and Dad will get birthday wreaths — whatever that takes

### ► EMILY from 1D

communities where we grew up. This complicates things, of course, and not just on holidays and birthdays.

It complicates day-to-day life. And it complicates day-to-day death.

My husband, son and I visited my parents' graves on a recent trip back to Ohio and I have spent the initial days upon our return rather desperately dialing up just about any civic or religious group I can think of. My dad's Catholic church. The local American Legion. The old florist shop on the road past the park. I'm one of those far-flung daughters who wants to pay someone to do something she cannot.

I want someone to visit their graves — pick the weeds, sweep the mud from the markers. And if they want to reach down now and then and give my mother, Nedra, a little pat, better yet.

My dad and I did well the summer

morning we walked through the cemetery to pick this spot. It was just after my mom had died in August 2006, and we chose a secluded place just beyond a small chapel. The physical location is still nice, under a big shade tree and close to the grave of a young man killed in Iraq. I often think of this boy's family and wish they could find comfort in knowing their soldier is buried so close to people as loving as my parents.

But my siblings and I — there are four of us — live elsewhere, just like the stats. And while there are many in town who continue to love my parents, even in death, volunteering to visit a grave isn't something you can really expect of someone else.

Their final resting spot isn't shocking, just lonely and sad — perhaps even worse since they were not sad, lonely people. A cemetery crew mows the grass

and keeps the common grounds pretty. But graveside for Nedra and Kenny Smith, there's an old bouquet of pink silk daisies. There's some kind of variegated plant, now leggy and lifeless. And there's a tall thing that I'm suspicious is nothing more than a very large weed, but since nothing about me is green, including my thumb, I really can't be sure.

If only Dan Perrin lived in my tiny hometown.

Perrin is in the cemetery as many as five times a day, but unfortunately it's not Columbiana Cemetery. He's the general manager of Lake Worth Memory Gardens and, like so many of us, his parents are buried elsewhere. When he goes home to western Kentucky, though, the family graves are immaculate. He has his daughter to thank.

"It's different today," says Perrin, somewhat of a student of cemetery sociology and all the comings and

goings. "Unfortunately, in the kinds of areas where you and I grew up, a lot of people have moved away.

"We go back home for funerals or weddings and there's no one to really look after the cemetery."

This Baby Boomer estrangement from loved ones both dead and alive has affected our social senses in an interesting way.

More and more, there are small entrepreneurial grave-tending businesses popping up across America. People who will place a wreath on a birthday or plant after winter's last snowfall. People who will weed around the gravestones and brush the mud from the markers.

You just have to find them. And I will. I've promised my parents daffodils this spring.

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