

Tibbets took their time on the way to the rest of their lives

Jacob & Brandi Tibbets, June. 24, 2023

by Elise Brochu, Maries County Advocate Special Correspondent

For Brandi Thompson and Jacob Tibbets, it was not love at first sight. They went to school together, in Belle, and were around each other a lot, but never really talked until 2019, her senior year of high school.

"One time, back in like sixth grade, we went on a church youth group trip, and I had a very obnoxious laugh," Brandi reminisces, laughing. "Well, we were stuck in a van together the whole weekend and I guess my laugh was really annoying him, and he threw a football at my face to get me to be quiet. From then on, I always told myself I did not like him!"

After graduation Brandi moved three and a half hours away for college. "Jacob randomly Snap-chatted me one day, and I was like 'Why is Jacob Tibbets Snap-chating me?' That one Snapchat was the only time we talked to each other for about two months, until I decided I was going to move back after my first semester," Brandi said. "I then Snap-chatted him when I moved back to Belle around November 2019, and we started talking every day

and hanging out every night!"

Jacob asked her out on Dec. 13, 2019. They went to dinner with friends, then to see Christmas lights at Santa's Magical Kingdom, where Jacob asked her out. "We went out a lot with friends before we started dating. I think that our first 'date' was Taco Bell. Which is funny because now, anytime we go on road trips or anything, Taco Bell is the place that we go to," Brandi said.

The couple dated for three and a half years. "I knew since day one that Brandi was either going to be my wife one day, or the one that broke my heart. I am so glad that it was the first one," Jacob shared.

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He proposed on Aug. 12, 2023. "I got her ring the day I proposed to her," Jacob said. "I couldn't wait any longer after I got the ring, so I ended up asking her to marry me once she got home from work, in our living room."

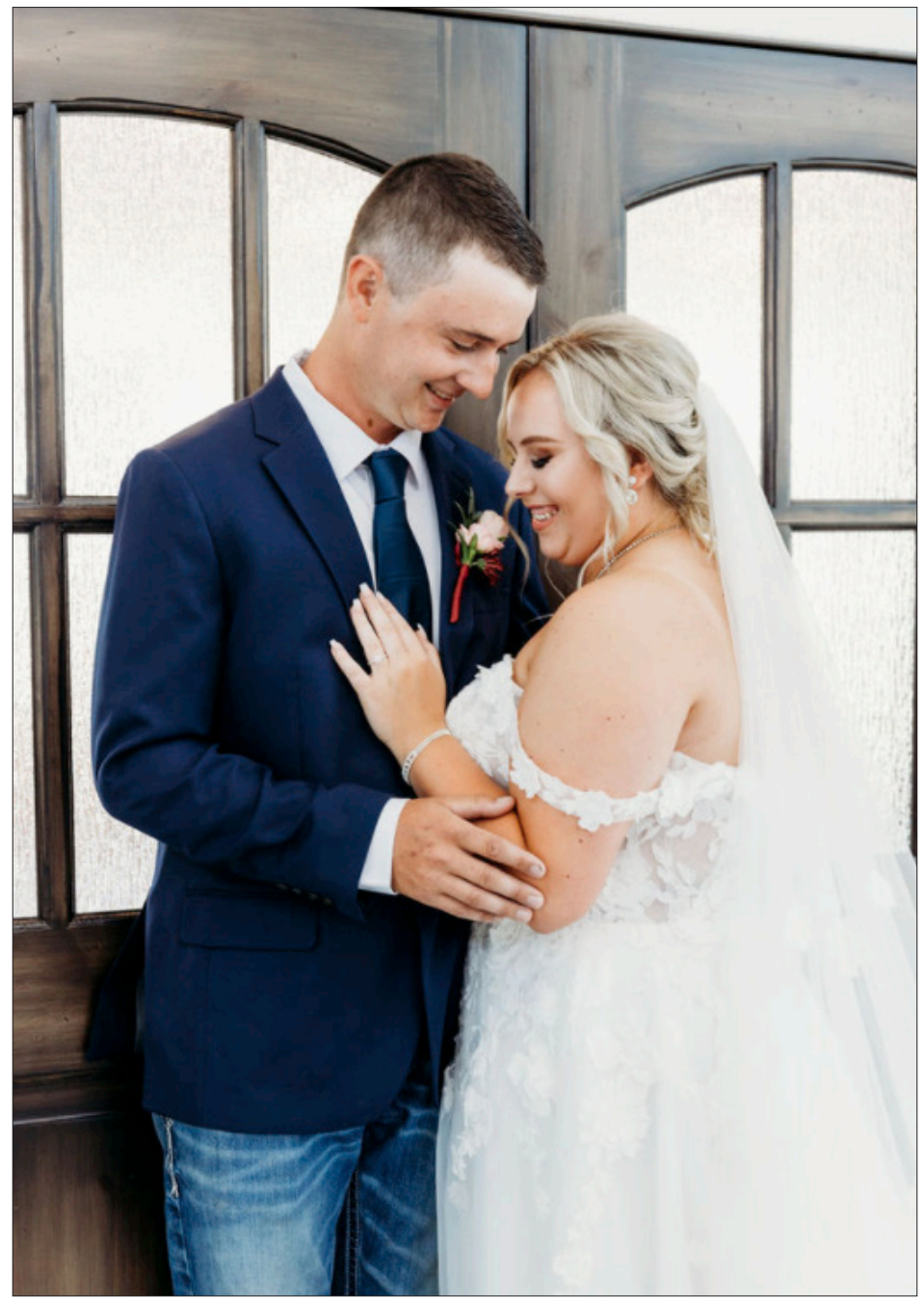
For Brandi, he couldn't have chosen a better time or place.

"Some people dream of the big extravagant proposals," she said, "but I have always hinted to Jacob that I did not ever want to be proposed to in public or have any big proposal. I do not like being the center of attention, and I always thought, if it was in public, it wouldn't be as intimate. So, to me, this was a perfect way!"

They immediately started planning their wedding. Brandi is a tax accountant, so she knew they needed to get all of the planning done before her busy season hit on Jan. 1, which gave them only about four months to plan their wedding. They toured several venues before deciding Red Oak Valley was the perfect place. Once they set the date, they immediately called vendors.

"We had an idea of what vendors we wanted to use, just from seeing these vendors at other weddings," Brandi said. "Luckily, all of our vendors were available on our wedding date, so we got all of the vendors we wanted, which was

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Photos by Kristin Carr Photography



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Dixon couple celebrates rustic wedding

Colton & Allie Baker, Sept. 23, 2023

by Colin Willard, Marias County Advocate Staff Writer

Sometimes a chance encounter can change the course of a person's life.

Allie Zimmer, from Vienna, was riding around with a friend in January 2020 when they stopped to get a drink at a convenience store in Dixon. While there, they ran into a friend from school, who introduced them to one of their friends, Colton Baker.

"Later that night, he added me on the famous app called Snapchat, and we started talking on there," Allie said.

The two began exchanging messages. Colton remained interested despite some early roadblocks.

"He kept asking me when we could hang out, and I just kept saying I was too busy," Allie said. "We eventually hung out together. It wasn't your typical first date where you go to a movie or get food. He came to pick me up, and we rode around for a while just talking and getting to know each other. Then, we went to his house and watched a movie together."

The pair continued to date for three years until their relationship blossomed into an engagement. Colton proposed

on February 24, 2023, at their home on his family's farm.

"It was very private and intimate," Allie said. "I wouldn't have had it any other way."

Colton said he was the first to know that he wanted to marry Allie. Although it took Allie longer, she eventually knew she felt the same.

"I had never been in love with someone before, so I didn't know how it felt," she said. "I fell in love with him though."

After the engagement, the couple's first step was to tell their families and closest friends before making the announcement online. Then, they picked a date. They knew they wanted to get married within the year, so they chose Saturday, September 23, 2023, to avoid the heat of the summer.

The couple settled on rustic colors for the wedding. They picked tan and dusty blue with navy and white accents.

"We both wanted something simple," Allie said.

Allie made two appointments while shopping for dresses. The first was at Vows Bridal and Formal in Columbia.

Allie tried on a dress she loved while she was there, but she did not buy it because she still had another appointment.

"If I came back and they still had it, I knew it was meant to be," she said.

Allie went to the other shop, but none of the dresses compared to the dress she left behind.

"Nothing was making me feel the way that the dress at the first place did," she said. "When I went back and they still had it, I tried it on and knew it was the one."

They planned an indoor wedding and reception at The Red Shed in Doolittle to avoid having to work around the weather. Allie said it was best for everyone to stay out of the heat.

Once the big day arrived, the wedding party entered to the song "A Thousand Years" by Christina Perri. When it was time for Allie to walk down the aisle, the couple shared similar thoughts while "I Get to Love You" by Ruelle played on the sound system. Colton said the only thing running through his mind when he saw his bride was that he was

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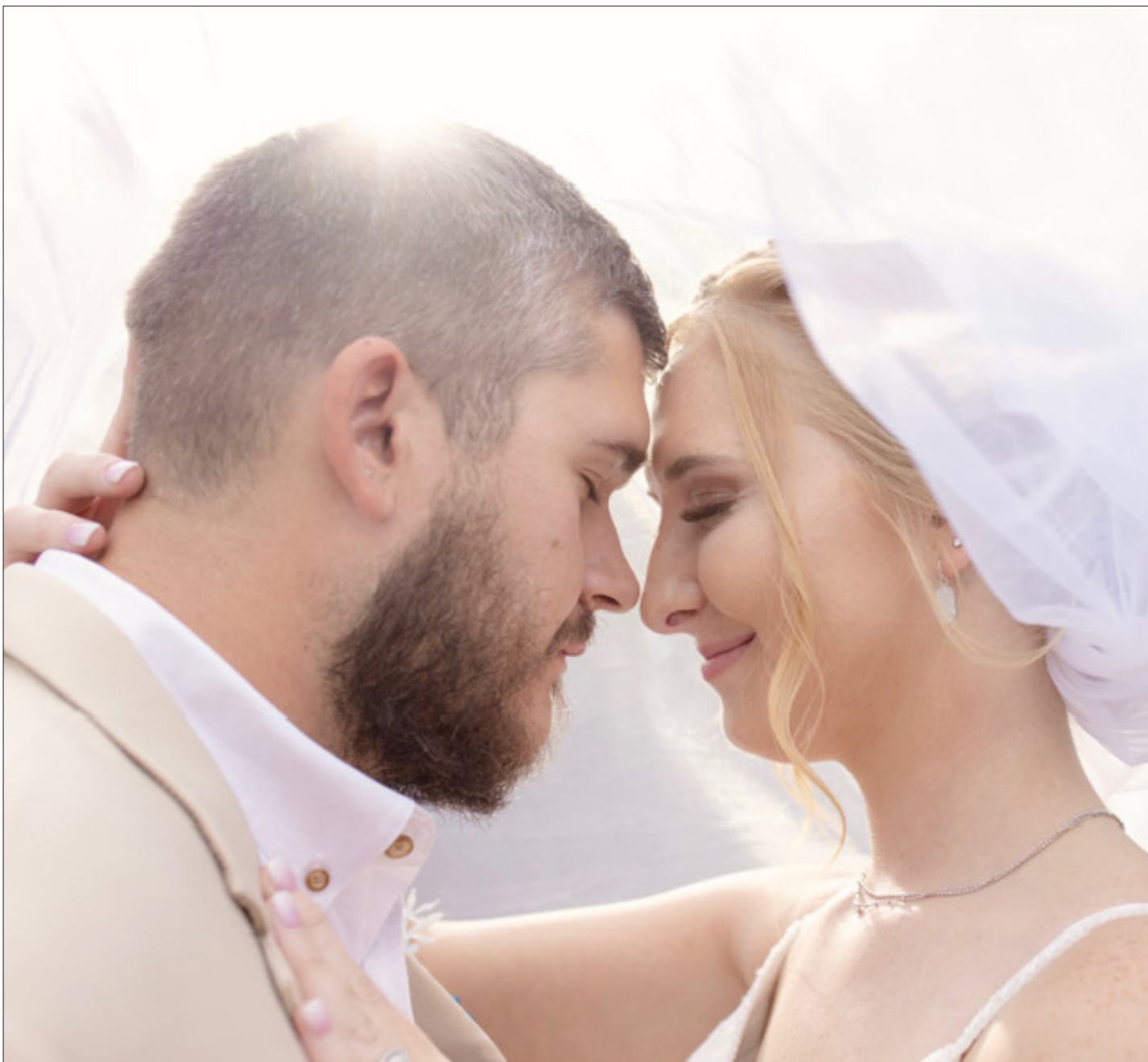


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excited to marry his best friend.

“When I was coming down the aisle, all I could think about was that I was about to be married to the love of my life in just a few short moments,” Allie said.

Music continued throughout the ceremony and the reception. Following “I do,” the newlyweds walked back down the aisle to “Lovin’ on You” by Luke Combs. Later, they shared their first dance to the song they always considered the most special to them, “Porch Swing Angel (Acoustic)” by Muscadine Bloodline. They had simultaneous father-daughter and mother-son dances to the song “My Wish” by Rascal Flatts.

Looking back, Allie said one of her favorite memories from the day was getting ready with some of her favorite people.

“It helped me relax, and it was so nice being surrounded by love,” she said. “It was great being surrounded by friends and loved ones on our big day. There were so many people that showed up to show us love and support.”

Colton said he loved being able to see so many people at the wedding who he had not seen in a long time.

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such a relief.”

Once all of the big vendors were booked, all they had to worry about were details. “I always wanted a blush color, burgundy, and navy,” Brandi said. “I always thought that it looked so good together. I will say, the hardest part was the flowers. I had no idea what would look good. I was on Pinterest all the time saving ideas, and I eventually just sent all of those to Jacob’s cousin, Natalie, who was putting all the flowers together and decorating with them. She drew everything up and it was perfect.” The couple selected Judy Morris of Old World Creations for their bouquets, and for the flowers, Natalie Koch used them to make the centerpieces and decorations. DJ Night Moves Entertainment provided the music. Their photographer was Kristin Carr Photography, and the videographer was Complete Weddings and Events. Red Oak Valley provided catering, as well as the venue. There was a photobooth by Bridal Boss. The cakes were provided by Samantha Eads of Sam’s Cake N’ Bake, and other desserts were created by Wendy Butler. Their officiant was Mason Butler.

Fried morels, fine hotels, and all that in the middle...

Both wanted a large wedding surrounded by friends and family. Brandi said, “I would say that deep down, I always wanted a big wedding. But I do not like being the center of attention at all. So, I was originally thinking about a small wedding with a few friends and family. Maybe a destination wedding. However, the thought of a bigger wedding where all of our friends and family could spend our special day was still there.”

For Jacob, it was less concrete, but family was paramount. “I did not really have a wedding vision,” he said. “I did know that I wanted a wedding where all of our friends and family could be there. We both have big families, so it was nice to have them all there with us. I let Brandi take care of most of the planning. The only thing I requested was that me and the groomsmen wear jeans and boots.”

Brandi’s dress came from Ana Marie’s Bridal in Jefferson City. “The dress was absolutely perfect,” Brandi said. “It had



off-the-shoulder straps, the prettiest buttons on the back, a long train, and the top was just everything I dreamed of. It had floral throughout the whole dress.”

Her early opinion of the dress was similar to her early opinion of Jacob.

“It is actually a really funny story on how I decided on this dress,” Brandi said. “Most of my bridesmaids were with me, along with my mom, and Jacob’s mom. When we first pulled up to the store there was this dress in the window. I looked at it and turned around to the girls that were with me and I said, ‘That is the ugliest dress I have ever seen in my life.’ The dress in the window had colorful flowers

on it, was not what I was looking for, and I was just completely against it. Going into wedding, I wanted a dress with lace sleeves. I tried on about three dresses with sleeves and quickly realized that was not what I wanted. I was getting discouraged, thinking I would not find one. As I was in the dressing room trying on another dress, the lady at Ana Marie’s pulled my sister to the side and said, ‘Do you think she would like this dress?’ It was the dress in the window. My sister laughed because she knew I thought it was so ugly, but my sister said that I needed to just try it

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on to see what it would look like, because we could get this exact style in all-white instead of the colorful flowers. So, I tried it on. I instantly knew this was the dress. The dress that I thought was so ugly was the dress I was in love with. But I also had another appointment later that day at another bridal store. So, I told them I would be back if I did not find one at the other store. Every dress I tried on at the other store, I did not like at all. I ended up crying in the changing room with my sister because I did not want any dress but the one at Ana Marie's, so we ended up leaving, going back to Ana Marie's and buying that 'ugly' dress in all-white. My advice would be to try on any and every dress, even if you think its not your style or that it is ugly."

I'm all your'n and you're all mine ...
The big day was June 24, 2023. The couple spent the night before the wedding hanging out with friends, then did a first look before the wedding.

Brandi walked down the aisle to "I Get to Love You" by Ruelle. "I was excited to marry my best friend," she said. "Once the doors opened for me to walk through, I kept my eyes right on Jacob and did not pay attention to anything else. This helped me with all of my nerves."

"When I first saw Brandi, all I could think about was how pretty she looked and how excited I was to spend the rest of my life with her," Jacob added.

The couple said the day went perfectly, with one humorous exception. "One funny thing from the wedding day was when we were saying our vows, Jacob got confused on one part and did not know if he was supposed to say 'I do' or 'I will' and he asked our officiant what he was supposed to say. Everyone started laughing," Brandi said.

Their first dance as husband and wife came to to "All Your'n" by Tyler Childers. Brandi and Jacob agreed one of the most memorable moments for them was the private dance at the end, to "You Make it Easy" by Jason Aldean. "It was the very last song of the night," Brandi remembered. "The DJ had everyone leave the building. Even the DJ left after he started the music. It was nice to have just a few minutes alone as a married couple, and just take a few minutes to unwind from a very busy day. We had never heard of this before until our DJ asked if we would be interested in it, and we are so glad we decided to do it."

Their wedding was everything they dreamed of, and more. "It was the best day," Jacob said. "We still receive compliments to this day about our wedding."

So I'll love ya 'til my lungs give out ...
The couple went to St Lucia for their honeymoon. "We left the Wednesday after our wedding. It was the best time," said Brandi. They still live in Belle. In addition to working full-time, both are continuing their education. Jacob is taking EMT classes and Brandi is studying for her CPA exams.

"We are just enjoying the married life!" Brandi said.

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“The only thing I would have done differently is enjoy the day more because it goes by so fast,” Allie said.

The couple spent the week after their wedding on a honeymoon in Gatlinburg, Tennessee. They live on Colton’s family farm in Dixon. Allie works as a member service representative for Gascoage Electric, and Colton works as an HVAC general maintenance worker for TSAY Professional Services.

“We have been married for almost five months now, and it’s been great,” Allie said. “We will be coming up on our four-year anniversary of being together in the next couple of months, and we wouldn’t have it any other way. We thank God for one another every day. We are excited to see what all God has in store for us and are very excited to be doing this thing called life together.”

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— Allie Baker

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