

Students tell stories of engagement

BY ANNE REBAR
Staff reporter

Hearts are everywhere this time of year, but it's diamonds that have some girls excited.

The traditional proposal is a thing of the past to those who turn to nostalgia and adventure create a memorable proposal.

Adventurous

Junior Brent Baxley met senior Tonya Jackson through mutual friends in GlobeMed. Some time later Baxley set up an adventure for Jackson.

Baxley meticulously set up a scavenger hunt around Kirksville, leaving notes in places that had meaning in their relationship.

"Three of my best friends showed up at my door with a really sweet note — that I promised Brent I would never repeat to anyone — that led to [a] room in Magruder," Jackson said.

After a little searching, Jackson found a note outside the classroom where they first met.

"[The note] led me to the soccer field where we had our first date," she said. "At the soccer field there was a note leading me to the Delta Chi fraternity house where we had our first kiss."

Along with fond memories, the fraternity house contained another note leading to Baxley's room.

"There were roses waiting for me, along with a note that led me to [Forest Lake in] Thousand Hills [State Park] where he was waiting to propose," Jackson said.

Jackson said they discussed marriage before but she wasn't sure when he would propose.

"We were at my friend's house on New Year's Eve and looking at rings online, and I was joking around and said 'Look, Brent, that's the one I want,' and I guess he made a mental note," Jackson said.

Ethical

Senior Alicia Collins met fiance Alex Whitworth, a senior at Illinois State University, in biology class their freshman year of high school.

"The next year when we were sophomores, we ended up being lab partners in chemistry, so we always joke that we had chemistry from the beginning," Collins said.

Collins had an unusual request for her engagement ring. She said she made sure

her fiance knew it was important for her to have a certified non-conflict diamond. Whitworth put effort into finding one and getting all the paperwork that certified its origin from a socially responsible source, Collins said.

She said the proposal took place during the summer when Whitworth called and asked her to come to dinner at his apartment.

"After dinner he said he needed to go to Best Buy, so we got in the car and started driving, but at one point he turned the wrong direction, and I realized something else was going on," Collins said.

She said they ended up at the arena where they had their first date. After walking around for a bit, they ended up in a garden near the arena. When she turned to look at him, he was down on one knee.

"I said 'Oh my God, you're not serious!' because I was so surprised," Collins said. "He said 'You're my best friend. I love you. You make me a better person. I want to spend the rest of my life with you. Will you marry me?'"

Collins said she was crying so hard she actually forgot to say yes to the proposal.

"In the car ride on the way home he asked me, 'So that was a yes right?' and I of course told him yes," Collins said.

Quaint

Junior Andrew Pieper took a quiet approach when he asked junior Melissa Douglas to marry him during Winter Break. He chose to pop the question over a quiet dinner with both of their families.

"We were sitting there and we were talking about how his birthday was in December, along with Christmas, and how he wanted one more thing for his birthday, and I was like 'Your birthday is over — what do you want?' and he was like 'I want you to marry me,'" Douglas said.

Douglas said their parents knew in advance, but Pieper's brothers were both taken by surprise. Douglas said Pieper did not, however, get down on one knee.

"Which I didn't mind because that would have been awkward at the restaurant, but he asked me in front of everyone, and I said yes," Douglas said. "It was very exciting."

Pieper and Douglas are high school sweethearts and have been dating for five years. They are planning to have a long engagement so they can both finish graduate school before they get married, she said.



Krista Goodman/Index
Three couples have their own distinct stories regarding their proposals. Junior Brent Baxley organized a scavenger hunt for his fiance, senior Alicia Collins received a non-conflict diamond and junior Melissa Douglas was asked among family and friends.

Angel Food Ministries earns wings for service

BY JESSLYN TENHOUSE
Staff Reporter

A local food service is offering more than just a meal for those in need.

Angel Food Ministries, a non-profit, non-denominational organization, provides grocery relief in communities throughout the United States, and Kirksville boasts two host sites: First Baptist Church and Hamilton Street Baptist Church.

Pam Barnett, the Angel Food Ministries director at First Baptist, said the program's root in ministry makes it unique.

"We're here to feed bodies and the souls," Barnett said.

To participate in the program, individuals sign up in advance at a host site and return the last Saturday of each month to receive the order.

Each package contains enough food to feed a family of four for one week or a single person for approximately one month. The \$30 price tag on one package is about half of its retail value, Barnett said.

"If you went to the store and bought the same comparable things, you'd be spending, you know, around \$60, so it's a very good buy," Barnett said.

Barnett said fewer people participated in the program last month,

with only 60 units ordered. She said that in the past, numbers were as high as 100 units.

"Numbers are down from where they have been," Barnett said. "I don't know if it's the economy hitting everybody pretty hard."

She said First Baptist is not the only local host site with lower numbers.

"Everybody's dropped off," Barnett said. "The site that we go to in Moberly — we've checked with them — and their numbers are down, too."

Barnett said she wants others to know about the value of the program.

"We'd like to get the word out that this is a good way to maximize your money," she said. "The food is wonderful, and it's a very good buy."

She said people from all age groups use the service, from senior citizens to young families with many children. Barnett said participants re-

spond positively to the program.

"They love it," she said. "They know it's a good value, and they are very grateful that we're doing it."

Charles Jackson, pastor of Hamilton Street Baptist Church, said he enjoys the opportunity to reach out and help community members.

"[Angel Food Ministries] provides a nice ... way of having a positive impact on the community," Jackson said. "As a church, it's not just about what we do within our walls but things that we can do to have a positive benefit to our community."

Charles Jackson
Pastor of Hamilton Street Baptist Church

He said the program's lack of income requirement makes the service attractive to a variety of community members.

"If you're very affluent and you want to use Angel Food [Ministries], you can," Jackson said. "If you're struggling ... and Angel Food's a help to you, then you can

come right in."

Jackson said those who sign up for the service do not have to answer any questions about income level or number of family members.

"You don't have to divulge any personal information," he said. "That can be embarrassing at times."

Junior Danielle Wall volunteers with Angel Food Ministries at First Baptist Church and said she enjoys interacting with the community members using the program.

"I just love being able to have that — the face-to-face and the hand-to-hand contact," Wall said. "It's very much a blessing just to see the people come through and especially the older adults that come through — just the smiles they give you and just, you know, the kind words ... that really means a lot."

Wall said she thinks the program is about more than providing food.

"It's just being there with a positive spirit to show the love of Christ in any way that we can," she said.

Wall said those who use the program know the service offers more than an economical dining option.

"They realize that we're not just here to help them financially and for the economic crisis, but we're also here to help them spiritually and emotionally as well," she said.

February 2009 Menu
Courtesy of angelfoodministries.com

- 1.5 lb. Sirloin Strip Steaks
- 2 lb. Tray Pack Chicken Breast
- 1 lb. Boneless Pork Chops
- 2 lb. Breaded Chicken Nuggets
- 28 oz. Salisbury Steak Entrée
- 12 oz. Sliced Bacon
- 1 lb. All-Meat Hot Dog
- 1 lb. Stir Fry (Broccoli, Red Peppers & Onions)
- 1 lb. Carrots
- 8 oz. Breakfast Cereal
- 32 oz. 2% Shelf Stable Milk
- 35 oz. Crinkle-Cut Fries
- 7. 25 oz. Mac'n Cheese
- 1 lb. Rice
- 1 lb. Bean Soup Mix
- Dozen Eggs
- Dessert

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