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As it was, the couple had a beautiful day. Things got off to a good start the night before with a paella rehearsal dinner and a bonfire on the beach with 40 people, all arranged by the bride's brothers. The next day it was back to the beach for couple and bridal party photographs. They posed on the Gearhart dunes and on Cannery Pier Hotel owner Jake Jacob's 1978 red British double-decker bus. Then up to Astoria and the Maritime Memorial, where Peter Mertens, a childhood friend of Zach's, officiated the wedding. The couple wrote the entire service, beginning with a basic outline they found online, choosing the readings and creating their vows. The only problem they encountered was the failure of the audio system, which didn't matter because, Cydni said, "Peter fortunately has a loud, booming voice."

Cydni said their choice of the Red Building for the reception was an easy one. "When we first walked into the room it felt right," she says. "It was upscale but comfortable, and it had a great view. All our guests said that it was a wonderful, beautiful space." The couple had not hired a wedding coordinator, but the Loft's Jessica Newhall was easy to work with. "It all fell into place," said the bride.

The wedding was put together almost entirely with the help of family and friends over a five-month period, and they used local vendors as needed. They found Bellissima Salon very professional and affordable, and Cydni said Jessica at the Loft at the Red Building "went above and beyond for us." Their photographer, Douglas Reynolds, "felt like one of our friends, and I still can't figure out which picture I like best." Rogue Ales provided food and beverages for the reception, and the cake came from a Portland friend's business, Good Golly Cakes n' More.

How do they feel, looking back on their special day? "I'm really happy," Cydni said. "We got to do everything we wanted to do." ■

