

## Boeshart -Travis Boeshart and Megan Babich

We're (finally) getting married

Couples line up to receive marriage licenses as county offices reopen

By Austin Jackson | Published on May 06, 2020



LONG

ROAD TO MARRIAGE – San Antonio residents Travis Boeshart, 27, and Megan Babich, 26, drove 307 miles to get marriage licenses at the Wise County County Clerk's office Monday. With restrictions easing, county clerks are seeing a wave of couples applying for marriage licenses. Messenger Photo by Austin Jackson Eighteen months ago, Travis Boeshart dropped to one knee and asked his longtime girlfriend, Megan Babich, to marry him.

On Monday, the young couple from San Antonio drove 307 miles to Decatur to make their marriage official.

Boeshart, a respiratory therapist, and Babich, a third grade ESL teacher, have felt the effects of the pandemic firsthand. It affected their work first, with Boeshart treating COVID-19 patients and Babich teaching remotely.

By April, the pandemic threw their wedding plans into disarray.

Starting last month, the two shaved down guest lists, made tough decisions and shed tears as precautions related to the coronavirus put their Fort Worth wedding in a seemingly endless state of flux.

"We honestly thought we weren't going to get married," Babich said. "We thought we were going to have to keep pushing it back."

The light at the end of the aisle shined brightly Monday for Boeshart and Babich at the Wise County Clerk's office, which for the first time since March 23 resumed issuing marriage licenses.



IT'S OFFICIAL – San

Antonio residents Travis Boeshart, 27, and Megan Babich, 26, look over their marriage license at the Wise County County Clerk's office Monday. The two were among the 10 couples that received a license at the local office Monday. Messenger Photo by Austin Jackson

After driving to Wise County, the two were met with a thermometer hovering over their foreheads and a slew of screening questions. Masked employees filed papers and answered calls as the two waited behind a strip of blue masking tape.

But after a few minutes, Babich and Boeshart got the piece of paper that was so elusive for so long. The couple wasn't alone.

By Monday afternoon, the Wise County Clerk office scheduled 18 marriage application appointments between Monday and Tuesday. The 10 appointments for licenses on Monday was just two shy of the Wise County office's record for 12 in a day.

The pandemic matrimony wave hit Tarrant County, too. No appointments were available for Babich and Boeshart, who grew up in Fort Worth, forcing them to come to Wise County for a license.

Wise County Clerk Sherry Lemon said she was happy to have them. For several weeks, the office has continued working, processing documents internally, despite being closed to the public.

The office doors opened back up this week, peppering the office with couples eager to finally tie the knot after the days of quarantine and social distancing stretched to months.

"It's very rewarding," Lemon said. "All the couples have been very appreciative of getting a license. It's been good to be able to offer marriage licenses again."

For Babich and Boeshart, things are finally starting to go their way, like their relationship, which began in high school.

The two went their separate ways after going to college, but reconnected, starting a four-year relationship.

"We've been inseparable since," Babich said.

For around a month, the two have watched Gov. Greg Abbott's executive orders with bated breath hoping for good news, only to have to contact the venue and vendors to cancel or reschedule, seeking refunds. They had an appointment to get a marriage license back in San Antonio, but feared if they went ahead and got the license, it would expire before they could tie the knot.

But for every door that's slammed in the couple's face, another has creaked open.

Now they have a license, a date and a location. A family friend who lives on acreage offered up their home to the couple for a May 15 wedding ceremony.

The next step was whittling down their guest list from 160 people to the 31 most essential loved ones. It might not be the wedding they planned, but despite the changes, they're looking at the opportunity to exchange vows with optimism.

"It was difficult, but we're kind of excited about it at the same time," Boeshart said. "Most people can't enjoy their wedding day because there's so many people and so much going on. It's going to be close friends and family."

It will be an intimate ceremony, and one that was hard earned.

After a trip to Wise County, a wedding that seemed like a figment of their imaginations was finally set in stone, or type rather, on an official document with their names on it.

"It's exciting," Boeshart said. "It's real."