



Mr. and Mrs. Ralph and Yelena Gertson

Gertsons Honored With Wedding Celebration

Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Gertson, III were the guests of honor at a party on Saturday evening, July 1. The poolside backyard of Ralph's parents, Ralph and Connie Gertson, provided a tropical paradise setting for the gala.

Immediate family members and close friends gathered to celebrate Ralph's accomplishments in the United States Navy; his marriage to Yelena Zakharenko while living in Virginia Beach, Virginia; and the couple's new home in Hollywood, Florida.

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Guests enjoyed snacking on cheese and crackers, fruit, snack mix, and a vegetable tray while visiting with Ralph for the first time since he'd been "home" in Eagle Lake in February 2005 and meeting his wife Yelena.

Ralph and Yelena met in Virginia Beach while he was stationed in nearby Norfolk, Virginia. Yelena, who was born and raised in Russia, came to the States in 2003. Her parents, Tatyana and Sergey Zakharenko, and brother, Sergey, still live in Russia.

To commemorate the marriage, the sunroom of the home was decorated in the wedding theme and included a three-tiered white wedding cake featuring stacked layers and a very simple dotted, chenille texture.

Fresh alstroemeria adorned the cake. The chocolate groom's cake was topped with fresh strawberries.

After the traditional cutting of the cakes by the guests of honor, a good ol' Texas barbecue meal was served by Austin's Catering.

Special guests for the celebration were Ralph's grandparents, Dorothy Breithaupt, and Ralph and Jo Ann Gertson, all of Eagle Lake; and his great grandmother, Pearl Meitzen Ulrich, also of Eagle Lake.

Hosts for the festivity along with Ralph's parents were his sister and brother-in-law, Sunny and Tee Dippel of Brenham; and brother, Dillan Gertson of Eagle Lake.

Assisting with hostess duties were Gail Guthman, "special" aunt of Ralph's; Shirley Seaholm, Linda Henske and Carolyn Taylor, aunts; Shelia Mathis, Sylvia Rucka and Monica Broesche.

The couple now resides at 1400 S. Ocean Dr., #1107, Hollywood, Florida 33019.

Chill Out With A Summer Classic, The Margarita

Summertime wouldn't be summertime without the occasional party.

Whether it's to celebrate a specific event or just to enjoy some time off under clear skies and warm sun, a summertime party epitomizes the laid back atmosphere most people instantly associate with the year's warmer months.

A key element to most summertime get-togethers is the classic margarita, a warm weather drink if there ever was one. While most are quick to associate the margarita with the Mexican holiday Cinco de Mayo, conflicting traditions exist as to just how this popular drink came about.

One story credits a mid-1940s California bartender with the cool concoction, while another points the finger at American socialite Margaret Sames, who reportedly served the drink to friends sometime around 1948.

The latter tale might have a little more merit, as historians claim the drink's very name is derivative of Sames' own first name.

However the drink came about, it continues to be a fixture at warm-weather gatherings even today, six decades after it first gained popularity in the United States.

For those looking to do the drink right, consider the following recipes for a "Strawberry Margarita" and a "Papaya Margarita," courtesy of Mittie Hellmich's "Ultimate Bar Book: The Comprehensive Guide" (Chronicle Books).

Strawberry Margarita
2 ounces tequila

1/2 ounce Cointreau
1/2 ounce strawberry liqueur
1/2 ounce fresh lime juice
2 to 3 sliced, hulled fresh strawberries
1 strawberry
1 lime wheel

Blend all ingredients except the garnish with 1 cup crushed ice until smooth. Pour into a chilled margarita glass. Garnish with the strawberry and lime wheel.

Variations: For a peach margarita, substitute 1 peach, peeled and diced, and peach schnapps for the strawberries and strawberry liqueur.

For a mango margarita, substitute 1/2 mango, diced, for the strawberries and strawberry liqueur, and substitute Tuaca for the Cointreau.

For a melon margarita, substitute 1/2 cup cubed honeydew melon and 1/2 ounce melon liqueur for the strawberries and strawberry liqueur.

Papaya Margarita

2 cups cubed ripe papaya
6 ounces fresh sweet-and-sour
6 ounces silver tequila
2 ounces Damiana liqueur
4 lime wedges
4 small pink orchids (optional)

Chill 4 margarita glasses. Set aside. In a blender, mix the papaya, sweet-and-sour, tequila, and Damiana until thoroughly pureed. Add 2 cups ice and blend until the mixture is smooth. Divide the mixture evenly among the prepared glasses. Garnish each with a skewered lime wedge and orchid.



Summertime parties are always a lot more refreshing when the drink of choice is an ice-cold margarita.

Texas Crop Weather Report

Agricultural Summary

Heavy rain fell along the Upper Coast and the Louisiana border, where four to six inches fell in some places.

One county in the Upper Coast reported 10 to 12 inches of precipitation.

More inland, from the Lower Valley through East Texas, at

least 0.25 inches of moisture were recorded in most areas, with many locations receiving one to two inches.

Many places in South Texas, the Panhandle, and the Trans-Pecos reported over 0.25 inches of precipitation, with 0.5 to two inches in some counties.

The rest of the state was generally dry. Farmers in the High Plains actively prepared ground to plant wheat.

Harvest of corn and sorghum came to a standstill in the Upper Coast because of the heavy rainfall.

Pasture and rangeland continued to dry out, except in areas that recently received moisture.

Ranchers cut herd sizes due to the long-term effects of hot, dry conditions.

Field Crops Report

Cotton: The crop was blooming to the top and at or near cutout (the end of fruit set) in many fields in the High Plains.

Reports from the Plains indicated that much of the dryland acreage had been zeroed out.

Growers continued to defoliate and harvest in the Coastal Bend and Lower Valley, except where precipitation delayed activities.

Heavy rain in the Upper Coast caused some lint losses. Statewide, cotton condition was mostly rated fair to poor.

Corn: Growers irrigated heavily in the High Plains, where maturity reached the dent stage in some fields.

Producers in the High Plains who were without water due to well trouble began to harvest for silage. Harvesting for hay continued in the Blacklands.

Harvest began in the Coastal Bend with a wide range of yields depending on rainfall and irrigation received.

The corn condition statewide was mostly rated fair to very poor.

Sorghum: Producers in the Northern High Plains with water problems began to cut sorghum for silage.

Harvest was complete in some areas of the Blacklands. Growers harvested in the Coastal Bend, except where rains delayed harvest.

Statewide, sorghum condition was mostly rated fair to very poor.

Peanuts: The crop continued to peg in the Southern High Plains fields, where there were some reports of pod rot due to heavy irrigation.

Growers harvested in South Texas. Peanut condition statewide was rated mostly good to fair.

Rice: The condition of rice was mostly rated good to fair statewide.

Soybeans: Farmers continued to bale soybeans for hay in the Blacklands. Statewide, the condition was mostly rated fair to very poor.

Fruit, Vegetable and Specialty Crop Report

Watermelon harvest was in full swing in the Southern High Plains, where early reports indicated good yields and quality.

North East producers harvested watermelons, peas, and tomatoes. Peach production was

way down in South East areas.

Pumpkins continued to do well in the Northern High Plains with continuing irrigation.

Pecans: Nut development was good, but with a low set, in the Trans-Pecos.

Livestock, Pasture and Range Report

Hay was still expensive and in short supply in much of the state. Pastures and rangeland continued to dry out across much of the state, except in areas where it rained recently, including East Texas, the Coastal Bend, Upper Coast, and South Texas.

Cattle sales remained high as cattlemen continued to cut herd sizes.

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COUNTRY FESTIVAL

Sunday, August 6, 2006
Holy Mass - 8:15 AM

AUCTION • 1 PM
Featuring quilts, homemade items & more!

BINGO
11 AM - 3 PM

FREE DANCE
Red Ravens • 4-8 pm
music during the day by Douglas Polasek

FRIED FISH • Served at 11 AM
with buttered potatoes, hush puppies, cole slaw, pinto beans, bread, pickles & tea
Meal Ticket: Large \$7.50 • Small \$4.50
Drive Thru Line: Plate to go \$7.50

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Plant Walk • Cake Walk

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