

### Wood, Wayne To Wed Sept. 29

Mr. and Mrs. James Wood of Eagle Lake announce the upcoming marriage of their daughter, Jamie Breana Wood, to Dr. Jason Kimble Wayne, son of Mr. and Mrs. Donald Wayne of Hamburg.

The wedding will be at 2 p.m. September 29 at the Parish of the Nativity Catholic Church in Eagle Lake.

Breana is a 2002 graduate of the University of Houston where she received a Bachelor's degree in Exercise Science. She is a 1995 graduate of Rice High School in Altair. She is currently employed by the Koala Health and Wellness Centers in Houston. Maternal grandparents are Mrs. Robert Johnson and the late Robert Johnson of Burlington, Wisconsin. Paternal grandparents are the late Mr. and Mrs. Dick Wood of Victoria.

Jason, a 2006 graduate of Texas Chiropractic College in Pasadena received a Doctor of Chiropractic degree. He graduated from Arkansas State University in 1999 and Hamburg High School in 1994. He is currently an associate at Frisco Spinal Rehabilitation Clinic in Fresno, Texas. Maternal grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Tom Brackman of Bradley. Paternal grandparents are the late J.K. Wayne of Pine Bluff and the late Mrs. Dill Segers of West Palm Beach, Florida.

## Blinn Vegetation Website Available To Public

An unfamiliar plant growing in a garden — friend or foe — may now be identifiable to those in this region of Texas thanks to a new database on the Blinn College web site.

The Blinn College Herbarium not only pays tribute to a former Blinn botany instructor who started the collection of plant specimens but also provides a valuable resource for the serious researchers as well as the curious home gardener.

The late Jesse Wied, who taught at Blinn from 1967 to 2000, began collecting the specimens in Washington County, his native Fayette County.

County, surrounding counties and from his many students from throughout this region of Texas. Now visitors to the herbarium on the college natural sciences web site can view photos and text about plants ranging from the familiar *Lupinus texensis* (Texas bluebonnet) to the less common *Lonicera sempervirens* L. (trumpet honeysuckle).

Brenham campus biology faculty members Dr. Greg Phillips and Colleen Biles continued the work of Wied and have made the fruits of his years of work available

to students and the public. Biles has since left the Blinn faculty; her husband's work took them out of state.

"Students in general botany gain quite an appreciation for our native flora, and I am excited that now they will have a way to share this not only with members of our local community but also with anyone in the world who might access the herbarium website," Biles said.

The Blinn College Herbarium website is also an ongoing service learning project for students enrolled in general botany on both the Brenham and Schulenburg campuses.

Students participating in this project are cataloging the more than 1,000 plants collected by Wied and his past students as well as photographing and preserving their own additions.

"The exciting part of this service learning project is that it ties Blinn's past and future together," said Phillips. "Our current students are helping to capture and preserve specimens that 40 years of Mr. Wied's students preserved."

Phillips says all new specimens are being collected by

non-destructive methods using high resolution digital imaging of the plants.

On a historical note, Biles and Phillips represented three generations of biology faculty involved in the project. Phillips is a former student of Wied's and Biles was a former student of Phillips'.

The herbarium site will include an alphabetical listing of the specimens by botanical name,

another listing by common names as well as links to taxonomy topics and the official Texas Vascular Plant database. Each entry also includes a photo and information on where, by whom and the date the specimen was collected.

The Blinn College Herbarium is accessible at <http://www.blinn.edu/natscience/herbarium/index.html>.



Above is an example of one of the many photographs on the Blinn Online Database.

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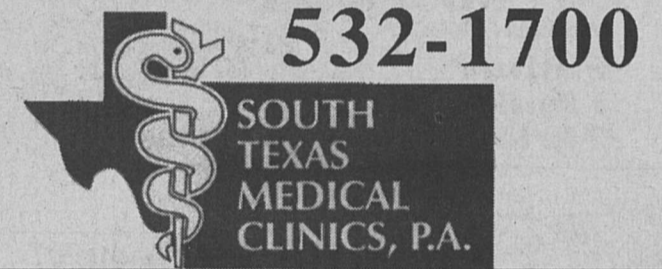
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## Fayetteville Opens Park To Pickers

Mayor Ronnie Pflughaupt and the city council of Fayetteville, have approved plans for the city's courthouse square to become the "Texas Pickin' Park."

The Texas Pickin' Park is an alcohol and drug free family oriented place where acoustic musicians can come together for impromptu jam sessions.

Musicians can just show up and always find someone to jam with. All ages and experience levels are welcome. Pflughaupt said, "We're inviting musicians to come not only from our local area, but from all over the state of Texas, and beyond."

Those who come to listen are invited to bring their lawn chairs and wander from group to group listening to the offerings of traditional, bluegrass, country, folk and gospel music.

"Jamming is impromptu," the mayor explains, "and that means if it is too hot, too windy, too cold or raining they may not want to." A "jam" is simply an informal gathering of musicians playing unrehearsed music; "acoustic" means that the instruments are not electrified.

Pflughaupt says, "This is going to be a huge thing for Fayetteville. Music will ring from every corner of Fayetteville's historic courthouse square as visitors stroll among gathering of musicians.

Fiddles, guitars, banjos, dulci-

mers, dobros, autoharps, stand-up bass, and other acoustic instruments will be heard just about every night of the week, weather permitting, during the season.

"I'm really excited about rolling out the red carpet for all these musicians." Any and all acoustic instruments are welcomed. Best of all, it's free. There is no charge to the musicians or the listeners.

Jam sessions are generally for the benefit of the musicians and are not stage performances, although the players appreciate having listeners.

Professionals and beginners alike look for opportunities to meet other musicians, experiment with new licks, and network for gigs.

This is not a one time event. Organizers of the Texas Pickin' Park are planning an exciting kickoff weekend for the 2008 season early next spring.

The season runs daily April through November. In the meantime, musicians are invited and encouraged to bring their instruments and show up any time, or any day of their choosing, to play music on Fayetteville's town square, the new Texas Pickin' Park.

Watch for future announcements about the Texas Pickin' Park. For questions or comments email [info@texaspickinpark.com](mailto:info@texaspickinpark.com).



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## Connect to Customer Choice

AS THE ELECTRIC DELIVERY COMPANY that has been serving south and west Texas for over 90 years, AEP Texas knows a thing or two about energy conservation. While we no longer sell electricity or send out monthly electric bills, we recognize this is going to be a long, hot summer.

Since AEP Texas and its 1,700 employees are directly connected to the many communities we live in and serve, we'd like to share some information on how you can help manage your electric bills through active retail choice and where you can go for additional help if need be.

One of the best ways to lower higher electric bills is to shop around for a less expensive retail electric provider (REP). Finding different offers can be done quickly and efficiently.

- 1) Visit the Public Utility Commission of Texas (PUCT) electric choice website at [www.powertochoose.org](http://www.powertochoose.org). If you don't have access to a computer, you can call the PUCT's website hotline at 1-866-PWR-4-TEX (797-4839).
- 2) Use the information you receive to contact different REPs to collect more information on various services and offers. Also contact your current REP at the number listed on your electric bill for other offers that may be available. Ask about contract terms and prices and be sure to look at the REPs' Electricity Facts Labels to make a good comparison.

### Need some help?

Customers having trouble paying their electric bills and wishing to avoid disconnection should discuss their concerns with their current retail electric provider. All REPs are required to offer deferred payment plans to eligible customers who express an inability to pay. REPs also offer balanced billing plans, which allow eligible customers to pay an average amount each month year-round.

Additionally, many community action agencies may be able to help with electric bills or energy efficiency programs. For more information, contact the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs (TDHCA) at 1-800-525-0657, e-mail at [info@tdhca.state.tx.us](mailto:info@tdhca.state.tx.us) or visiting one of the following websites.

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