



Wilkerson, Cranek Engagement

Mr. and Mrs. Howard Wilkerson of Eagle Lake announce the engagement of their daughter, Kayce D'Laine Wilkerson of Eagle Lake, to Garrett Louis Cranek of Garwood.

Kayce is the granddaughter of Shirley Wilkerson and the late Joseph "Bill" Wilkerson of Eagle Lake, Clara Gold and the late Edwin Gold of Garwood.

Garrett is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Gary "Bodock" Cranek of Garwood.

He is the grandson of Mr. and Mrs. Louis Cranek, Jr. of Garwood and the late Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Bures of El Campo.

Kayce is a 2002 graduate of Rice High School and a 2006 graduate of Texas A&M where she received her Bachelor of Science degree in Horticulture and is receiving her teaching certification through I teach Texas. She is employed as a second grade teacher at Eagle Lake Elementary School.

The prospective groom is a 2002 graduate of Rice High School and a 2006 graduate of the Sugar Land Fire Academy. He is currently enrolled with CyFair Junior College where he is working toward his Associates degree in Fire Science Technology. He is employed as a full-time firefighter/EMT-I for Rosenberg Fire Department and part-time firefighter/EMT-I for Richmond Fire Department. In addition to firefighting, Garrett helps his family maintain their farming and cattle ranching business.

Kayce and Garrett will exchange vows on June 27, 2009, at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Nada. A reception, dinner and dance will follow at the Wharton County Youth Fairgrounds in Crescent.

Several showers were recently held for the couple: A couple's shower honoring Kayce Wilkerson and Garrett Cranek was held at 4 p.m., Saturday, March 21 at the home of Walter and Doris Wilkerson of Altair.

Thirteen couples hosting the shower presented the couple with a stainless steel microwave.

Potted marigolds used as decorations were given to the hosts. Lime green table coverings were accented with brandy snifter candleholders and the marigolds in hot pink, orange, yellow, and lime green pots.

A meal of hamburgers with all of the trimmings was served.

Kayce and Garrett were honored with a couple's shower on Saturday, March 28 at the home of Todd and Vicki Nelson of Garwood. The party was given by friends and family.

Multi-colored table covering of pink, lime green and yellow were accented with crepe paper, confetti, Hershey Kisses and yellow potted marigolds.

A meal of pork fajitas with all the sides was served along with pinto beans, chips, dip and an assortment of desserts.

Special guests were Howard and Gretchen Wilkerson and Gary "Bodock" and Marla Cranek, parents; and Mr. and Mrs. Louis Cranek, Jr., grandparents.

The couple presented the hosts with the yellow potted marigolds in hot pink, lime green, yellow and orange pots. The honorees received a Calphalon 21-piece knife block set.

A miscellaneous shower was given in honor of Kayce Wilkerson, bride-elect of Garrett Cranek on Saturday, April 18 at the home of Monica Staff in Nada.

The shower was given by 29 hostesses that are friends and family of both Garrett and Kayce. The hostesses presented the honoree with a monetary gift, a vacuum, cookie cutters and an apron.

The guests enjoyed breakfast pastries, quiche and punch.

Special guests at the shower included Gretchen Wilkerson and Marla Cranek, mothers; and Clara Gold, grandmother.

The couple will exchange vows on June 27, 2009 at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Nada.

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Energy Star Tax Holiday Coming Soon

Thinking about replacing your old energy-zapping refrigerator or washing machine?

The second annual Energy Star Sales Tax Holiday may be the extra incentive you need.

Consumers who have delayed buying a new, energy-efficient air conditioner, dishwasher or other major appliance may want to consider making a purchase over Memorial Day weekend, when Texans have the opportunity to cash in not once, but twice, on energy efficient products.

"It's a great deal for consumers who will not only save at the register, but also at home, where they'll see the benefits returned in energy savings on their utility bills," Texas Comptroller Susan Combs said.

"Texas benefits from conserving energy and natural resources."

During the three-day tax holiday, which runs May 23-25, Texas shoppers get a break from state and local sales taxes when they purchase certain energy-efficient appliances and other household equipment bearing an Energy Star label.

Shoppers can expect to save about \$3 million overall in state and local sales taxes during the event, which is patterned after the annual Sales Tax Holiday on clothing and shoes in mid-August.

The Energy Star Sales Tax Holiday applies only to the following appliances and household equipment: air conditioners priced less than \$6,000; refrigerators

priced less than \$2,000; ceiling fans, incandescent and fluorescent light bulbs, clothes washers, dishwashers, dehumidifiers and dishwashable thermostats, along with installation and delivery charges for these products.

More information about the tax holiday is available on the Comptroller's Web site at http://www.window.state.tx.us/taxinfo/faqs/faq_energy_star.html. More information about Energy Star products can be found at www.energystar.gov.

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Why Are All My Fish Dying?

"My fish are dying!" County Agents across the state will hear these words hundreds of times during the next two to three months.

This is a common problem that we face each summer in small ponds that are intensively managed for sport fish, i.e., catfish and bass.

How do you determine the cause and what can be done to prevent this from happening?

When the fish in a pond exceed the optimum 1,000 lbs/acre carrying capacity during the hot summer months, the stage is set for die off.

Warm water does not hold as much oxygen as cool water, yet fish need more oxygen as the water temperature increases.

A farm pond that could easily carry 2,000 to 3,000 lbs. of fish per surface acre through the winter months will quickly be depleted during the dog days of summer.

Oxygen is usually lowest at the daylight hours, so this is the best time to check for signs of oxygen depletion.

These signs would include:
--Larger fish swimming very near the top of the water.

---Smaller fish surfacing out of the water seemingly gasping for air.

The factors that contribute to

this phenomenon are:

--A couple of hot, still, cloudy days in succession.

--Aquatic herbicide treatments in hot weather.

--Overfeeding or over fertilization.

Correcting low oxygen levels:
--Reduce the number of fish present to less than 1000 lbs./acre.

--Do not practice catch and release.

Practice catch and eat.

--Aerate the pond by backing a boat on a trailer into the pond and running the motor to circulate oxygen.

--Add fresh aerated well water to the pond.

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