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RANDALL CONNER
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PHOTO: RUBEN CANTU-RODRIGUEZ

On Wednesday, February 8, VFW Post 9193 and Auxiliary representatives joined Winters students for the award ceremony of the Voice of Democracy contest. Pictured here are front row left to right second place Allison Crook, first place Armando Rodriguez, third place Sabrina Esquivel; back row program chairperson Mary Kurtz, Post Quartermaster RC Kurtz, A.V.I.D. and English Teacher Deb Pritchard, and Post Commander Pete Gray.

Read the Voices of Democracy essays Pages 3 and 6

Winters students show pride in service

WINTERS ENTERPRISE STAFF REPORT

WINTERS- An assembly was held in the Winters High School Auditorium February 8, 2012 to honor the winners of the Voice of Democracy Contest sponsored by the Winters Veterans of Foreign War Post 9193. All High School students, teachers and students families attended.

Since 1947, the Voice of Democracy has been the V. F. W.'s premier scholarship program. Each year, more than 50,000 school students compete for more than \$2.3 million in scholarships and incentives. The contest is open to students in grades 9-12. They compete by writing and recording a 3-5 minute essays on a cassette

tape or CD. This year's theme was "Is There Pride in Serving in Our Military".

The Winters students were supervised by Mrs. Deb Pritchard., (A.V.I.D. and English Teacher). A total of 23 students participated.

Winters High School Officers lead the Pledge to the United States of America and the State of Texas Pledge to start the program.

Post Commander Pete Gray, Post Quartermaster RC Kurtz, and Mary Kurtz program chairperson presented certificates designating each of the nine top students as an "Outstanding Spokesperson for Freedom."

Armando Rodriguez placed first and was

awarded a Voice of Democracy pin and \$50, Allison Crook placed second and was awarded with a Voice of Democracy pin and \$25.00, third place was for Sabrina Esquivel who received a Voice of Democracy pin and \$25.00. Places fourth through ninth were Daniel Cortez, Gabriela Jimenez, Stephon Cleghorn, Dusty Hines, Cheyenne Ellis and Adreanna Lopez. Each one of them was awarded with \$10.00

Armando Rodriguez, Allison Crook and Sabrina Esquivel presented their speeches to the group.

The VFW Post thanked all the students, teacher and others who participated in the contest and program.



Sheriff's Dept investigating theft in Ballinger Education Foundation

RUBEN CANTU-RODRIGUEZ WINTERS ENTERPRISE

WINTERS- Former Ballinger Education Foundation treasurer and former Ballinger Independent School District Business Manager Jackie Beth Gibbs is facing theft charges in a case being investigated by the Runnels County Sheriff's Office.

The former treasurer for the non-profit organization has been filed on Judge Glenda Wood's

Court and arrested for third degree felony theft of more than \$20,000 but less than \$100,000. Gibbs was bonded on a \$15,000 bond.

The foundation, not affiliated with the Ballinger ISD, was founded in 2007 by a group of well know and respected members of the community. The mission of the Ballinger Education Foundation is to generate and distribute funds to Ballinger Inde-

pendent School District students and staff.

Some of the most recent fundraisers and donations held by the foundation include scholarships donated to Ballinger High School Class of 2011 graduating Seniors, the sale of a recipe book compiled of recipes from Ballinger ISD exes, families and friends, and the sale of Bearcat Paw Print/Bearcat car window decals.

As of press time foun-

dation chairman Justin Busenlehner didn't return calls made to his home.

According to its website the foundation's mission is to encourage all students to work to their highest potential, recognize and reward Ballinger students and staff, and inspire parents and community to participate with the school district in enriching education.

Despite the Ballinger

Education Foundation is a separate non BISD-related organization, all its current and former members have an education/boards background. Jackie Beth Gibbs joined the foundation while she was the BISD Business Manager.

Gibbs is no longer working for BISD. On January 17, 2012, the district started advertising for a new Business Manager and the position is currently open.



PHOTO: RUBEN CANTU-RODRIGUEZ

A new store in town offers a wide variety of plants, floral arrangements, fashion jewelry and faith based home decor.

Plants, jewelry and a little faith

RUBEN CANTU-RODRIGUEZ WINTERS ENTERPRISE

WINTERS- From plants to funeral floral arrangements, faith based home decor, accessories and gifts, a new store in town offers a wide variety of products and home accents. Vicky Guy recently opened Ivy Lane, a store on Main St. at the intersection with Novice road.

"The Lord has blessed us to get this place running, to get it open and keep it open," says Vicky, a Winters resident since 1999. However moving to Winters wasn't new to Vicky, who as a child spent many summers and holidays at her grandmothers house.

Her store is a picture of the lost garden of Eden, plants and home decor spread over a building that used to house a car shop but it's now exquisitely remodeled and decorated by Vicky. The store displays all over her unique talent and skills;

what seems to be a tile floor is hand painted cement in full detail.

At Ivy Lane Vicky also has wholesale beads, minerals, stones and articles to make your own jewelry. The store has a great collection of fluoride, malachite, turquoise, jasper, amazonite, coral, tiger's eye, onix, dalmatian jasper, glass beads and many more. She also carries Sterling Silver, fashion jewelry, rhinestone belts, and Christian memorabilia.

Overall Ivy Lane's main business is plants, the store has a wide variety of plants, floral arrangements, natural and silk both inside and outside, and also carries vegetables and peppers. Everything is under a strict quality control and care of Vicky's "green thumb."

Ivy Lane is open Monday thru Friday from 9:30 a.m. thru 6 p.m. and Sundays from 2 - 5 p.m.

Winter storm brings snow and sleet

RUBEN CANTU-RODRIGUEZ WINTERS ENTERPRISE

WINTERS- After a relatively mild cold season, with only a few days with freezing temperatures, the winter finally arrived to town and area on Sunday afternoon, when a combination of a cold arctic airmass and an upper level storm brought nearly an inch of snow and sleet.

According to the National Weather Service office in San Angelo the winter weather advisory with chances of snow and sleet was effective to all West Central Texas through Sunday midnight.

Temperatures slowly increased during the night, with a slow transition to rain by early Monday morning.

Some area schools such as Miles, Olfen and Paint Rock were delayed two hours due to the icy roads. The Texas Department of Transportation Ballinger and Winters had



PHOTO: RUBEN CANTU-RODRIGUEZ

The first winter storm of the season painted the landscape in white last Sunday, February 12, with over an inch of snow and sleet.

regular school days.

Starting the week temperatures were on the rise again reaching over 70 degrees on Monday and almost 80 degrees on

Tuesday, February 14.

According to the National Weather Service slight chances of rain will come back for the region by Friday, Saturday

and Sunday. The weather will continue mostly sunny with temperatures in the range between the mid 30s and highs around mid 60s.

Winters Woman's Club getting ready for the Ladies Night Out

WINTERS ENTERPRISE STAFF REPORT

WINTERS- The Winters Woman's Club met on Saturday, February 11, 2012 at 8:30 a.m. at the home of Virginia Brown. This was unconventional to say the least. Several members were called on Friday and told to pick up various other members and invite them to the come as you are breakfast meeting.

The variety of night-wear and casual wear was very interesting. Several

members were awakened and did show up nearly as they were. A breakfast of sausage gravy with biscuits, cinnamon rolls, juice and coffee was served by hostesses Virginia Brown, Theresa Briley and Sylvia Wilson.

Everyone enjoyed good conversation after the business meeting. During committee reports, Joyce Broadstreet reminded the membership that Ladies Night Out is nearly upon us. It will be April 19 at

Jones Fellowship Hall. The theme will be A Hoe-Down. Tickets will go on sale soon.

Other committee news: Marianne Ray reported that The Rock Hotel will hold a stew luncheon in February but she was unsure of the date. New business: A new member was welcomed to the club. She is Peggy Belew. We are glad to have her!

In other new business, officers for the next two club years were pre-

sented. They are: Sylvia Wilson, President, Cheryl Bryan, Vice President, Jane Bourdo, Recording Secretary, Becky Hays, Corresponding Secretary, Kay Guy, Treasurer and Marianne Ray, Historian.

The next meeting will be Tuesday, March 13, 2012. The Winters Woman's Club normally meets on the second Tuesday of each month from September through May. Contact Marlene Smith for more information at 754-4961.

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FUNERALS AND OBITUARIES

Edward Elgin Day

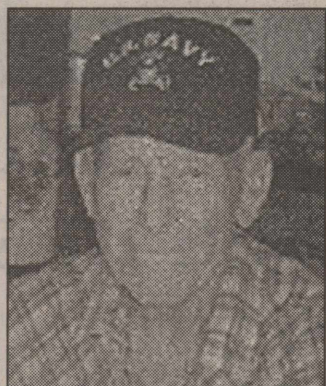
Edward Elgin Day, 86, passed from this earth to the loving arms of his Heavenly Father on January 21, 2012 at the Central Texas Nursing and Rehabilitation in Ballinger, Texas. He is survived by his wife of 66 years Lucille Day and their children Geraldine Day Broyles of Winters, Texas, Katheryn Autenrieth of Grand Prairie, Texas, and Eddie Jesse Day of Rowena, Texas.

Edward was born on August 15, 1925 in Coleman County Texas, to Bernice Clarence "BC" and Katy "Catherine" Day.

Edward enlisted into the United States Navy and served honorably on the USS Bottineau during WWII. While serving in the United States Navy he married Lucille "Bates" Day on January 26, 1946. He met Lucille his true love walking down the street and like the song "Looking Back To See" if she was looking back to see. He attended Brownwood College for 2 years. He was a Farmer, oil field man, and natural gas plant operator.

He was also, survived and blessed with eight grandchildren Valerie Wise, Paul Broyles, Terry Lynn Day, Faye Murrell, Micheal Wayne Autenrieth, Edward Paul Autenrieth, Wesley Dusek, Ida Maria Booher and 16 Great grandchildren Zak Wise, Chas Wise, Nichole Autenrieth, Tabatha Autenrieth, Megan Autenrieth, Justin Autenrieth, Dusty Day, Kacie Day, Cory Day, Jacob Murrell, Hannah Murrell, Hailey Murrell, Justin Dusek, Joshua Dusek, Sarah Booher, and Megan Booher.

Gravesite services were held at Silver Valley Cemetery, Coleman, Texas on Thursday, January 26, 2012, at 12:00 Noon.



Winters Enterprise, February 16, 2012



May Loraine Edwards

May Loraine Edwards, 78, of Winters died February 9, 2012. May was born August 15, 1934 in Travis County. Her parents, John S. Butler and May Mitchell Butler, preceded her in death. Memorial service will be at 11 a.m. Thursday, February 16, 2012, at Winters Assisted Living with Gregg Forston officiating.

Winters Enterprise, February 16, 2012

Multi-county cattleman's spring clinic in Lampasas

WINTERS ENTERPRISE STAFF REPORT

LAMPASAS- The Texas AgriLife Extension Service's multi-county Cattleman's Spring Clinic is set from 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m. March 1 in the Lampasas County Farm Bureau Building, 1793 N. Highway 281 in Lampasas, Texas.

"We will be focusing on the current state of the cattle business," said Heath Lusty, AgriLife Extension agent in Lampasas County. "Like most of the state, we've been hurting for rain for quite some time. Recent moisture has given us some renewed hope, but we still have a long way to go. The underlying theme for this year's clinic is how to cope with current range conditions while readying for range recovery and the cost of restocking once it does really start raining."

Topics and speakers will include: Market Update/Beef Cattle Economics, Bill Thompson, AgriLife Extension economist, San Angelo; Herd Management for Current Conditions, Dr. Rick Machen, AgriLife Extension livestock specialist, Uvalde; Beef Herd Health Management Calendar, Dr. Floron "Buddy" Faries, AgriLife Extension state veterinarian, College Station; and Rangeland Recovery and Associated Risks, Dr. Barron Rector, AgriLife Extension range specialist, College Station. For more information and to RSVP by Feb. 27, call the AgriLife Extension office in Lampasas County at (512) 556-8271.

In Memory of Damacio G. Torres

If I could write a story, it would be the greatest ever told, of a kind and loving father who had a heart of gold. If I could write a million pages but still be unable to say, just how much we love and miss him every single day.

Love, Wife & Kids

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COMING SOON: CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE AND FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK

NEWS NOTES

Bronte Golf Club select shot

The Bronte Longhorn Golf Club is having a two-person 18 holes select shot at 9 a.m. Saturday, March 3, 2012. Carts are limited, so sign up early if you need carts. For more information, call Bronte Longhorn Golf Club at 325-473-2156 or after 4 p.m. weekdays 432-661-3431.

Movie Night at the Winters First United Methodist Church

Movie Night at the Winters First United Methodist Church on Tuesday, February 21 in the Fellowship Hall starting at 6 p.m. Featuring "Secretariat". This movie is based on a true story about a famous race horse. For the very young children we will be showing "Tangled" a Disney production.

The community is welcome to join us for our monthly movie night.

Gifted/talented nominations

Nominations are being accepted for the Winters Elementary Gifted/Talented program, Kindergarten only. If you believe your child might benefit from a gifted/talented program, we welcome your nomination. Nomination and parent-permission-for-testing forms may be obtained at the Elementary Principal's office during normal working hours. All forms must be completed and returned to your child's homeroom teacher by February 24, 2012.

Las nominaciones para el programa de niños dotados y con talentos especiales están abiertas para el nivel de Kindergarten. Los padres que desean nominar a un niño pueden recoger una forma en la oficina de la Directora en la Escuela Elemental. Las formas se deben entregar antes del 24 de febrero del 2012.

Mentors needed

Winters Elementary School is looking for volunteers to be a mentor on an elementary student. The volunteer would meet with the student once a week during school hours for approximately 30 minutes to help with homework, read a book, or just talk. Mentoring has shown to help build self-esteem, improve grades and in some cases improves test scores. Anyone interested may contact Charles Murphy, Elementary Counselor at 754 5577 ext. 1126.

Runnels Co. RSE meetings

The Runnels Co. Retired School Employees meet at the First United Methodist Church, the second Tuesday of the month at 9:45 a.m. On February 14, 2012 Dist. XV President Nancy Byler will present the program at the Miles Citizen's State Bank; on April 10, 2012 UIL Students will be the program at the Winters Independent School District.

Cross Emmaus Community gatherings

The Cross Emmaus Community gatherings held first Thursday of each month at 6:30 at the United Methodist Church. For more information call (325) 365 2323.

Film features life of 4-H, FFA top contributor

WINTERS ENTERPRISE STAFF REPORT

COLLEGE STATION- 4-H families are encouraged to support Deep in the Heart - a full-length feature film about the remarkable life of Richard "Dick" Wallrath, the top individual financial contributor to Texas 4-H and Texas FFA scholarship programs, said a Texas 4-H administrator.

Wallrath's overall contributions to 4-H and FFA, including scholarship contributions through his educational foundation, currently exceed \$16 million.

"We sincerely request that 4-H families see this film about Dick Wallrath's life for two reasons," said Dr. Chris Boleman, director of the 4-H and youth development program of the Texas AgriLife Extension Service. "First, we feel this story of overcoming personal challenges, discovering what's truly important in life and second chances will resonate with many families. Second, because of Mr. Wallrath's continued generosity, a portion of all

ticket sales will go to both Texas 4-H and Texas FFA."

The money donated from ticket sales will go to further strengthen much-needed scholarship programs, Boleman said.

"Mr. Wallrath also has provided tremendous financial assistance to 4-H and FFA members through his participation in livestock show premium auctions, including buying show steers at junior auctions in major shows throughout Texas," he said. "In addition, he established the Richard Wallrath Educational Foundation, which to date has funded almost \$8 million in scholarships to students who've enrolled in Texas universities."

According to documentation, during Wallrath's 13-year involvement with the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo, he has purchased 130 steers, including three reserve champion and three grand champions, one of which he bought for \$601,000 - a world record. He also has purchased six grand

VFW meetings

Winters Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 9193 meet the second Monday night of each month at 6 p.m. in the Rock Hotel. All eligible veterans of the United States military are invited to attend.

Band Boosters

The Band Boosters meet every Monday evening at 7 p.m. at the Band Hall.

Winters Women's Club

Members meet the second Tuesday of the month. Call Marlene Smith at 754-4961 for additional information.

AA Meetings

AA meetings are held at 204 W. Truett behind church on Main St. Tuesday and Thursday at 7 p.m.

Ballinger Al-Anon meetings

Al-Anon meetings will be held every Monday and Wednesday at the First United Methodist Church of Ballinger, on Broad Ave. Meetings begin at 7 p.m. Please enter through the south side of the church.

City Council Meetings

Winters City Council meets at 6 p.m. the last Monday of the month at 310 North Main.

Colorado River Bikefest

The Ballinger Noon Lions Club will be holding its 37th annual Colorado River Bikefest/Lions Journey For Sight on Saturday, April 28, 2012 at 8:30 a.m.

Entry fee for the 5 mile ride, run and walk will be \$10. The 30K, 60K, and 100K tours registration fee is \$20. The first 100 entries will be getting free T-shirts. Proceeds will benefit Lions Club Journey for Sight. For more information contact Lanada Driskell at (325) 234-7842, e-mail lanada_driskell@yahoo.com or visit the Noon Lions Club website at http://www.ballingernoonlions.org. Entry forms are available on the website.

SOIL Annual Prayers Breakfast

Sisters Operating in Love Women's Ministry of Jesus Christ Church will be having their first Annual Prayers Breakfast "Women Moving Forward in Christ" on Saturday, March 3, 2012 from 8 a.m. until 11 a.m. at the Jesus Christ Church 407 South Seventh Street, Ballinger, Texas.

Minister Cheryl Crider, Bible Way, will be the speaker. Tickets are \$6.95 per person and can be purchased in advance from any member of S.O.I.L. and are available at the door. For more information contact the church at (325) 365-8711 or Sis. Reba Bonner at (325) 977-1931 or Lady Michelle Blaylock (325) 716-9948.

I'm not going back, I'm moving ahead, I'm here to declare to you, the past is over, in you all things are made new, surrender my life to Christ, I'm moving, moving forward.

Elmer Blaylock, Pastor; Lady Michelle, President; Reba Bonner, Chairperson.

Brand re-registration ends Feb. 29

WINTERS ENTERPRISE STAFF REPORT

FORT WORTH- Brand re-registration period for ranchers and cattle raisers ends February 29, 2012. The State of Texas requires that brands be re-registered in the county or counties where the owner operates every 10 years reminded the Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association.

Larry Gray, executive director of law enforcement at TSCRA, says that branding is the number one way to prevent livestock theft. Livestock theft continues to be a common problem throughout the United States, especially with recent record high cattle prices.

TSCRA was established in 1877 to help prevent and solve agricultural crimes. Since then, the association's law enforcement division has expanded to include 30 special rangers stationed throughout Texas and Oklahoma who work alongside local law enforcement agencies to protect citizens against agricultural crimes, including livestock theft.

Although Texas does not have a statewide brand registry database, TSCRA has market inspectors stationed at 105 Texas livestock auctions that collect brands and other identifying marks.

In Memory of Benito Reyna

I feel a warmth around me like your presence is so near, and close my eyes to visualize your face when you were here. I endure the times inside my heart. For as long as I have those memories, we will never be apart. Even though we cannot speak no more, your voice is always there, because every night before I sleep I have you in my prayers.

Love, Rachel & Aruto & Robert Castillo & Grandchildren

The family of JIMMY BLACK

would like to thank all of his Caregivers and Hospice of the Big Country for taking such good care of him during his illness.

All of the prayers, calls and visits were greatly appreciated.

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Blizzards will get a week bye

WINTERS BLIZZARDS ATHLETIC REPORT

BY STEPHEN HERMESMEYER

Basketball

VARSITY GIRLS
Coach: Brooke Bicknell

Date: 2/7/2012
Played at: Grape Creek
Quarters 1 2 3 4 Final
Winters 2 51 33 51 51
TLCA 3 3 6 11 11
Caitlin Kurtz 4, Jordan Busher 13, Lauren Bredemeyer 9, Crystal Sanchez 1, Camille Kurtz 7, Kat Lindley 4, LeeAnn Taylor 11, Ashley Guy 2

Date: 2/11/2012
Played at: Bronte
Quarters 1 2 3 4 Final
Winters 6 24 31 36 36
Miles 8 15 21 24 24
Caitlin Kurtz 13, Jordan Busher 9, Lauren Bredemeyer 4, Michelle Kruse 2, Camille Kurtz 4, LeeAnn Taylor 4
The Lady Blizzards finished the regular season placing second, and played Albany on Tuesday night at Coleman at 8 p.m. for the Bi-district championship.

VARSITY BOYS
Coach: Bicknell

Date: 2/7/2012
Quarters 1 2 3 4 Final
Winters 16 17 27 6 66
TLCA 12 8 9 16 45
Winters: Strait Daniel 26, Riley Ripley 11, Cristian Sandoval 9, Bryce Mikeska

8, Andy Garcia 4, Nik Kraatz 4, Matt Pritchard 3, Hayden Nitsch 1
TLCA: Newsom 12.
The Winters Blizzards finished the 2011-2012 season as District 12A Champs. They will play a warm-up game Saturday against Aspermont in Sterling City.

JV BOYS
Coach: Cates
Quarters 1 2 3 4 Final
Winters 4 8 6 9 26
TLCA 12 4 13 12 45

Winters: Daryl Hagle 9, Lucas Kraatz 8, Jake Brock 4, Ethan Bredemeyer 3, Jordan Hamrick 2

JV GIRLS
Coach: Holson

Date: 02/7/2011
Played at: Grapecreek
Team: JV Blue
Quarters 1 2 3 4 Final
Winters 7 2 8 2 19
TLCA 4 5 2 4 15
Cooper 9, Calcote 2, Esquivel 4, Wyatt 2, Tamez 2

Date: 02/3/2012
Played at: Winters
Team: JV Blue
Quarters 1 2 3 4 Final
Winters 2 2 7 5 16
Miles 6 10 0 11 27
Kraatz 3, Calcote 1, Esquivel 7, Wyatt 5



PHOTOS: JOE GERHART.

ABOVE: The Lady Blizzards placed second in District and played Albany last Tuesday night in Coleman.



LEFT: Nik Kraatz dribbling and going for the shot at the Varsity game the Blizzards held against the Abilene Hawks.

Winters Community Baseball sign-ups

WINTERS ENTERPRISE STAFF REPORT

WINTERS- It's time for the 2012 season, so please choose one of the days listed below to sign-up your player: Wednesday, February 15, from 5 to 6 p.m. or Sunday, February 26 from 1 to 2:30 p.m.

All sign-ups will be held at the Scout Hut on Main Street and registration

forms may also be picked up/dropped off at Bob's Tire and Auto, 403 S. Main or 306 N. Cryer. All players must be signed up by Thursday, March 1. Try-outs will be held Sunday, March 4. Boys 7 to 9 will try-out at 1:30 p.m. and 10 to 12 year old boys at 2:30 p.m. Girls 8 and under at 3:30 p.m.; girls 10 and under at 4:30

p.m.; girls 12 and under at 5:30 p.m. Try-outs are for any player who did not play last season or who is moving up an age division. Please be at the baseball/softball field 10 minutes prior to your scheduled try-out time. T-Ball will not try-out and they must be 4 years old by September 1, 2011. For more information, call 754-4959 or 365-6635.

VOICES OF DEMOCRACY CONTEST

Is there pride in serving in our military?

THIRD PLACE

BY SABRINA ESQUIVEL
If you were asked to join the military would you; knowing the possibilities which could happen. Knowing you may never see your families face again? Many brave soldiers take that risk, accepting nothing in return. Now you tell me is there pride in serving in our military? Shouldn't we be proud of the men and woman who are risking everything for us? Any man or woman who served or is serving in the military should be proud of the decision they're making to stand up for their country. They are taking a risk with their own life for the lives of others to whom they don't even know. I would have to say I look up to the men and woman who have the courage to be a part of that. I would consider a hero someone who is fighting for their country unconditionally. No matter what they gain you have to be brave and proud to accept that challenge.
War is a scary thing. People who have joined have had some bad experiences. Some it's made go insane — they see troubling things they cannot forget and it leaves them scarred for life. Most soldiers are aware of this outcome and still have the will to join. The men and

woman of our military should have plenty of pride in what they are doing. They are leaving for months and years without seeing their families, only communicating through phone calls or letters. They also have the possibility of being called back to serve. When being sent some place for duty you can't just leave when you don't want to be there any longer. For leaving without permission you are considered AWOL and a soldier who has gone AWOL and is recovered serves jail time or prison time. There is no pride in this — for it is a disappointment to your family and your country. "A true leader has the confidence to stand alone the courage to make tough decisions, and the compassion to listen to the needs of others. He does not set out to be a leader but becomes one by the equality of his actions and the integrity of his intent." U.S. General Douglas McArthur was stating that, a true leader does not buckle under peer pressure; but instead, makes his own decisions and cares for others besides himself. He does not do things in selfishness but yet earns recognition for his good deeds. The Armed Forces are filled with men and woman of many different races and ages. It takes a lot of strength to join any of these courses.

You can't just decide one day you want to join the military without giving it any thought. It takes dedication to be a part of the military. U.S. patriot Nathan Hale said, "I only regret that I have but one life to lose for my country." Joining the military is a courageous thing to do there are many obstacles you must be able to overcome. When at war soldiers have to adjust to the environment. Some days it could be freezing others it could be extremely hot, and with the protection they wear and the armor they carry it has to be even more difficult to get around. Not everyone can make it in the military; some people sign up and can't get in because they don't meet the standards. Serving in the military is tough to endure. General Douglas MacArthur said, "In war, you win or lose, live or die — and the difference is an only an eyelash." When I see soldiers or any kind of military personnel in their uniforms I can't help but stare. They have so much bravery. They are all good role models for our citizens; and they endure so much for so little. Our soldiers don't become part of the military to be recognized or admired however; they join because they care. They see their country in need and step up to pay the price. They are proud to serve in our military.

Main St program applications now available

WINTERS ENTERPRISE STAFF REPORT

AUSTIN- Applications for the 2013 Texas Main Street Program are now available from the Texas Historical Commission (THC). The Main Street effort brings Texas history to life and helps enhance a community's economic

and social health through a program focusing on the revitalization of the state's historic downtowns. New this year is a single application for small cities, urban programs, or re-certified applications. The THC's Texas Main Street Program is based on the Main Street

Four Point Approach of organization, design, promotion, and economic restructuring, all within the context of historic preservation. Communities selected to participate in the program receive a range of continual services from the Main Street Program.

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Thursday, February 23rd 3:00-4:00pm
Winters Winters Feed Seed & Supply 902 S. Main St.

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ROUND-UP

Runnels County

Winters Enterprise

Thursday, February 16, 2012

Camp Bowie to perform prescribed burns

WINTERS ENTERPRISE
STAFF REPORT

CAMP MABRY- The Texas Military Forces will conduct prescribed burns on training areas at Camp Bowie, a Texas Army National Guard Training Facility, in Brownwood, Texas. These burns are scheduled to occur between February 17, 2012 and March 1, 2012.

During this time residents may see plumes of smoke in the air, as well as smell smoke. In light of the recent catastrophic fires that took place throughout the state last year, all safety precautions are being taken and these controlled burns are being coordinated with the Texas Forest Service.

Mission readiness and natural resources stewardship requires wild land fire management programs that protect life and property, facilitate training and enhance ecosystem health. Prescribed fires are an integral part of those programs. Objectives for prescribed burns on Camp Bowie include reducing the chance for wildfires through fuel load reduction and the managing of healthy ecosystems.

For questions or more information, please contact the Texas Military Forces Public Affairs Office at 512-782-5620 or by email at paotx@tx.ngb.army.mil.

Texas ranked top exporting state

WINTERS ENTERPRISE
STAFF REPORT

AUSTIN- Texas has been ranked the top exporting state in 2011 for the 10th year in a row, according to data released by the U.S. Department of Commerce, a sign of Texas' continued role as a leader in the global marketplace.

"For a full decade now, Texas has been the nation's epicenter for international trade thanks to the continued strength of our state economy and

the opportunities created by our business climate," Texas Gov. Rick Perry said.

Texas' exports in 2011 totaled more than \$249.8 billion, up 20.7 percent from \$206.9 billion in 2010, outperforming overall U.S. exports, which grew by 15.8 percent in 2011. The state's top export recipients were Mexico, Canada, China, Brazil and the Netherlands, which respectively imported \$86.6 billion, \$21.9 billion, \$10.9 billion, \$9.9

billion and \$9.0 billion in Texas-manufactured goods. Texas' top exporting industries in 2011 were petroleum and coal products, chemicals, computer and electronic products, non-electrical machinery, and transportation equipment.

In 2011, Site Selection Magazine, DCI and Area Development Magazine each ranked Texas as the best business climate. Additionally, Texas won Site Selection Magazine's 2010 Governor's Cup for

the most new and expanded corporate facilities announced over the year. According to USA Today, Texas has moved past New York as the nation's second largest economy, and the Wall Street Journal has credited the state's low taxes and employer-friendly environment with helping make Texas the job creation capital of the nation. Additionally, Texas consistently ranks among the top states for Fortune 500 headquarters.

On the Level

BY CHARLES FRERICH

Life of a goldfish

If you have been to visit us at the Natural Resources Conservation Service, you must have noticed our aquarium with three goldfish and a turtle. It sits right in front of my desk and I have the opportunity to observe them out of the corner of my eye. No, I do not sit and watch them constantly! As far as excitement goes they swim constantly in search of parcels of food that have escaped the morning feeding. It seems they are never satisfied and always looking for something to sustain them. The turtle does what turtles do best, lazily swims up and down, back and forth across the watery home. It seems to mostly try to avoid the pesky goldfish.

Our lives are similar

to the life inside the aquarium. The majority of people are working to survive but there are a few who take life casually and accept what life gives them. Not only can this be said of work but education and in general just bettering themselves. When I graduated from high school, St. Joseph Catholic School in Rowena, the last class of seniors, we adopted our class motto as "To strive for the highest is to be the highest". I have always remembered the motto and have tried to model my life after this.

In our everyday lives, no matter what your role, you can sit back and just do your job or you can learn more about your job, take on added responsibilities and keep working your way up or you can become stagnant in what you do,

putting in your time and staying just under the radar.

In our world of conserving our natural resources we can sit back and let others try to save the planet or we can take an active part in saving the resources. Everyone knows that water is so very important. This drought we are in, even though we have received some moisture and the small grain looks good, our lakes are still depleting every day. Until we get the "big rain" to give us running water we will not be out of the woods as far as the drought is concerned. The goldfish rely on the office staff to keep their aquarium filled and filters clean so their environment will sustain them. We too must rely on God to give us the rain we need to sustain us. But we, living on this earth, must utilize our water to save every drop. There are

many new ideas of ways to conserve water, but we have to be willing to learn and yes, even change our way of doing things to do so. Education is the key and it does take time and effort to learn and implement the changes.

When we think of conserving natural resources we automatically think of the farmer/rancher and industry. These entities make up a small part of the population. It's up to every individual to do his/her part. So my question to you is "are you a goldfish or are you a turtle"? Will you strive to be the highest? Will you sit back and let someone else save the planet or will you decide to do something about it? The decision is yours. See you next time "On The Level".

For more information you can contact the Natural Resources Conservation Service or contact me at charles.frerich@tx.usda.gov.

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CUSTOMER NOTICE INCORPORATED AREAS OF THE MID-TEX DIVISION

On January 31, 2012, Atmos Energy Corporation, Mid-Tex Division ("Atmos" or "the Company"), filed a Statement of Intent with each City served by the Mid-Tex Division (hereafter "Affected Cities") with the exception of the City of Dallas. The Company's Statement of Intent proposes to increase its gas rates and implement a new schedule of rates and riders applicable to all customers within the Affected Cities. The proposed effective date of the requested rate changes is March 6, 2012. If approved, the proposed changes will affect approximately 1,194,420 residential, 100,461 commercial, and 705 industrial & transportation customers.

If approved, the proposed rates will increase the Company's annual revenues by \$49,080,069 or 4.36%, including gas costs, or 11.94% excluding gas cost. The proposed change in rates constitutes a "major change" as that term is defined by Section 104.101 of the Texas Utilities Code. In addition to the rate changes, other proposed tariff changes include revision of the Company's residential and commercial rate schedules (Rates R and C), as well as its Rider WNA and Rider GCR to change the current billing rate basis from Mcf to Ccf. The Company further proposes to revise the Rider GCR to: (1) remove the 2009 interest rate reference, (2) clarify that the calculation of (b) Pipeline Cost is inclusive of interest, and (3) update the Upstream Pipeline Charge Allocation (Factor D). Atmos also proposes to modify its Rider WNA to update the heat load and base load factors. The Company further seeks to implement a new Rate Review Mechanism ("RRM") tariff, as well as a new conservation and energy efficiency tariff ("Rider CEE"). In addition, the Company seeks to recover all of its rate case expenses and all city rate case expenses as allowed by law. The exact amount will not be known until the case is completed.

Based on the proposed rate design, the average monthly bill for each customer class within the Affected Cities will change by the amount and percent shown in the table below:

Customer Class	Current Bill **	Proposed Bill **	Difference	Percentage Change with Gas Cost	Percentage Change without Gas Cost
Residential *	\$48.51	\$51.21	\$2.70	5.57%	13.60%
Commercial *	\$241.15	\$246.50	\$5.35	2.22%	9.69%
Industrial *	\$3,703.47	\$3,499.26	\$(204.21)	-5.51%	-14.22%
Transportation	\$1,754.60	\$1,550.39	\$(204.21)	-11.64%	-14.22%

*Includes Rider GCR Part A cost of \$4,5750 per Mcf.
**The calculation of bill impacts assumes average monthly consumption of 4.4 Mcf for residential, 34.2 Mcf for commercial, and 3,897 MMBtu for industrial and transportation customers.

Persons with specific questions or desiring additional information about this filing may contact Atmos Energy Corporation at 1-888-286-6700. Complete copies of the filed Statement of Intent, including all proposed rates and schedule changes, are available for inspection at Atmos' offices located at 5420 LBJ Freeway, Suite 1600, Dallas, Texas 75240 or on our website www.atmosenergy.com/mtx-soi. In addition, customers can contact their City for additional information regarding this rate request.

Éste es un aviso a los clientes de Mid-Tex División de Atmos Energy Corporation, (la "Compañía"), que la Compañía está solicitando un aumento en la tarifa del gas. Este aumento afecta a todos los clientes de la Compañía excepto en la ciudad de Dallas y las áreas no incorporadas. Aquellas personas que deseen comunicarse con la autoridad reguladora que tiene jurisdicción sobre esta solicitud deben ponerse en contacto con su ciudad. Si usted tiene preguntas con respecto a este aumento, por favor llame a Atmos Energy Corporation al 1-888-286-6700.

PUBLIC RECORD

Runnels County Jail Record					
Christina Medina	27	WPD	Pedro Alfaro	36	RCSO
Disorderly conduct and public intoxication			DWI 3RD Sent. SAFP		
Aristio Alfaro	17	WPD	Kristi Bishop	30	RCSO
D.O.C. fighting			Theft by check		
Jacob Hernandez	25	BPD	Don Estes	36	Coleman
P.I.			Theft of property		
Damiel West	19	Concho	Martin Helms	59	Concho
Burglary vehicle			MTR (Ind. w/child)		
Michael Boggio	23	Concho	Christi Sanchez	36	Concho
Burglary vehicle			Poss. of Marij.		
Thomas Peiser	36	RCSO	Adrian Aguirre	27	BPD
Asslt. w/ severe bodily injury.			Theft		
James Dane	29	Concho	Gene Binham	21	Concho
DWI			Assault Class C		
Jessica Tienda	34	Concho	Robert Pullen	38	Coke
JP ticket warrant			Asslt. F.V. w/ B.I.		

COWPOKES

By Ace Reid

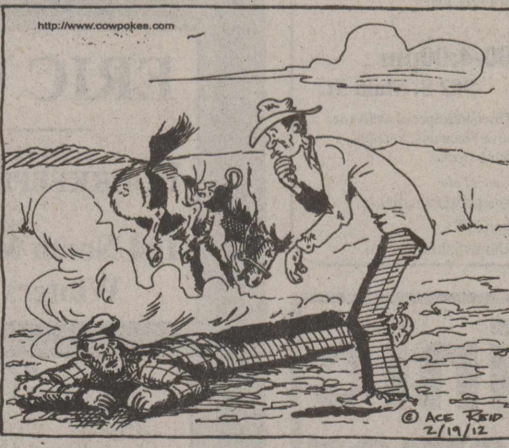
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COWPOKES * By Ace Reid



"Naw, I ain't gonna git on him again. I think he's had enough for the day."

Veteran's Corner

A space dedicated to Runnels County Veterans and families of Veterans of the armed forces

Veterans experiencing an emotional distress/crisis or who need to talk to a trained mental health professional may call the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline toll-free number, 1-800-273-TALK. The hotline is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Callers are immediately connected with a qualified and caring provider who can help. For more information, contact Sandra at the Veterans Service Office at 602 Strong Ave or call 365-3612.

Sandra G. Van Zant
Veterans County Service Officer

P.O. Box 108
Ballinger, TX 76821
Phone: (325) 365-3612
E-mail: rcvso@wtxs.net

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Runnels Co. Auditor's Office is accepting applications for an **Assistant Auditor**. Job description and application information are available at: **www.co.runnels.tx.us**
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 -Certified Medication Aide,
 -CNA
 -LVN NIGHT SHIFT
 If you are interested please apply within or call:
 Danny Prado 325-754-4566 or 506 Van Ness, Winters, Texas
THE CITY OF BALLINGER will be accepting applications for a **TCLEOSE certified POLICE OFFICER**. A job description for this position can be picked up at the City Hall during office hours Monday-Friday. Applicants should turn in their resumes at the City Hall, 700 Railroad Avenue or mail them to P.O. Box 497 - Ballinger, Tx 76821. Any question regarding this job should be directed to Chief Mark McNulty 325-365-3591. The deadline for

245 Help Wanted Full Time
 accepting applications will be 5:00 p.m. on March 2, 2012.
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 275 Instruction & Training
BRONTE HEALTH AND REHAB will be starting CNA classes in the near future. We would like any interested candidates to come by and put in an application for the class. For more information call 325-473-3621 or come by 900 S. State Street.

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ROY TRAWEEK.
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NEW PRICE!! 422 Tinkle, Winters - 2 bed/1 bath, metal roof, large living area, carport with storage, small yard.

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- TUESDAY**
Breakfast Pizza or Cereal or Breakfast Taco, Toast w/Jelly, Juice, Choice of Milk.
- WEDNESDAY**
Biscuit/Egg Pattie or Oatmeal or Breakfast Burrito, Toast w/Jelly, Juice, Choice of Milk.
- THURSDAY**
Breakfast Pocket or Cereal or Pancake/Sausage Link, Toast w/Jelly, Juice, Choice of Milk.
- FRIDAY**
Biscuit/Sausage or Cereal or Muffin Sausage, Toast w/Jelly, Juice, Choice of Milk.

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Note: Menus are subject to change without notice. Students may purchase extra Entree for \$1.00, Milk for \$.30, Sides for \$.50, Large Chef Salad for \$2.00, Small Chef Salad For \$1.00, Tea \$.50 (Jr. High and High School), Water \$1.00, Visiting Adult \$4.00, Visiting Child \$3.00.

- MONDAY**
Chicken Nuggets/Gravy or Meat Loaf, Mashed Potatoes w/Gravy, Tomato Pasta, Tossed Salad/Carrot Sticks, Rosy Applesauce, Hot Roll, Choice of Milk.
- TUESDAY**
Pizza or Meatball Sub, Broccoli w/Cheese, Corn, Rainbow, Hot Roll, Choice of Milk.
- WEDNESDAY**
Nachos or Bean Chalupa, Spanish Rice, Pinto Beans, Tossed Salad/Carrot Sticks, Coleslaw, Rosy Pears, Cornbread or Jalapeno Cheese Bread.
- THURSDAY**
Steak Fingers w/Gravy or Chicken Bits, Baked Beans, Baked Potato, Tossed Salad/Carrot Stick, Orange Wedges, Sugar Cookie, Hot Roll, Choice of Milk.
- FRIDAY**
Cheese Burger or Chicken Spaghetti, Oven Fries, Italian Green Beans, Lettuce/Pickle, Tossed Salad/Carrot Sticks, Mixed Fruit, Choice of Milk.

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Is there pride in serving in our military?

FIRST PLACE
BY ARMANDO RODRIGUEZ

America is fortunate to have citizens who are willing to serve their country by defending this great nation. There is plenty of pride in the military. Service men have a steady job, and realize a sense of accomplishment, the knowledge that they did something meaningful in their lives. It is a high honor to be among the ranks of our service men and women.

Why do people join the Armed Forces now days? They do it so others don't have to; because they believe in the cause. They enlist because they know they need to fight for those who can't fight for themselves, and because there is something significant about devoting your life to something greater than yourself.

Most people enlist due to patriotism and the desire to "serve one's country." When mandatory military service ended in 1973, the volunteer military was born. By the early 1980s, the term "poverty draft" had gained popularity to suggest the belief that the enlisted ranks of the military were made up of young people with limited economic opportunities.

Others say the reason they join the military is because they wanted to prove to their beloved country that they are good citizens and that they will defend the nation for as long as they can.

In some cases, joining the military is an entrenched family tradition. In some families, generations spanning back to World War I and beyond have fought for the U.S. military. New generations highly anticipate the day when they can take up their family's proud legacy of military service. For some individuals, there's no greater testament of how they feel about their country than making a career of defending it.

Joining the military helps citizens become more than what they already are. U.S. General George Marshall said, "The soldier's heart, the soldier's spirit, and the soldier's soul, are everything. Unless the soldier's soul sustains him, he cannot be relied on and will fail himself and his country in the end. National strength lies only in the hearts and spirits of men."

Participation in the military is a great way to gain leadership skills. Not only can military personnel climb the ranks within the armed services, but they also gain skills that

VOICES OF DEMOCRACY CONTEST



The award ceremony of the Voices of Democracy contest, sponsored by VFW Post 9193, was held on Wednesday, February 8 at the Winters High School Auditorium.

are highly valued in many civilian arenas. Joining the military is like a "daring" game, where people get to grab the chances of proving their courage. It is as if when you join the military, you have somewhat proven to your community that you are brave enough to face your fears.

U.S. General Douglas MacArthur said, "the courage of one's convictions,

the courage to see things through the world; is in a constant conspiracy against the brave. It's the age-old struggle- the roar of the crowd on one side and the voice of your conscience on the other.

There are some hesitant to serve in our military. For instance, parents disagreeing with their son's or daughter's decision to join the Armed Forces.

However, those who persist in becoming a part of this institution insist that the feeling is what they call "a call of duty." They feel compelled to protect and fight for their beloved country.

So is their pride in serving in our military? Yes! Serving in the Military is one of the most patriotic things you can do for your country!

VOICES OF DEMOCRACY CONTEST

Is there pride in our military?

SECOND PLACE
BY ALLY CROOK

The United States has been through many devastating events throughout our history as a nation. Fortunately, our military has been there to help and support our country through it all. Many of these events have killed hundreds, and even thousands of people. Pearl Harbor and the plane crashes of September 11, 2001 mark some of the most devastating events in our nation's history, and if it weren't for our military, America wouldn't be the great place that it is today.

There is more pride in our military today than there has ever been before. The people that have joined the military do it to fight for their nation and they sacrifice their lives for the freedom and safety of the people in America. These people inspire others every day to follow them and join the military to help the United States.

Some people dedicate their entire lives to the military for the glory of being able to help their nation. Many people in America have given their lives just

for our freedom and safety. They sacrifice the time that they could be spending with their families to protect the lives of our country. Some of these people are taken away from their families for months, and even years at a time just for the knowledge and pride that they were able to help their entire nation.

The men in our military fight in wars and they know that they could die at any moment, but they take pride in being able to help so many people. On July 4, 1776, the United States broke free from the British government and became an independent country. Since then, our military has been responsible for protecting the United States, and many of them have sacrificed their lives for the people of the United States. Our military is the reason our country has survived everything that it has been through.

George S. Patton once said, "If you can't get them to salute when they should salute and wear the clothes you tell them to wear, how are you going to get them to die for their country?" He said this when people were drafted in the military and had to serve for their

country. It means that if you make someone join the military they are not going to take pride in it rather than the people who join themselves who care about their country enough to die for it.

Those who don't believe in pride in our military don't understand the reasons that people join, and they don't understand that people take great honor in fighting for their country. The reason people join the military is because they love their nation and they want to do everything that they can to help it and protect everyone and everything in the United States. Our military does everything it can to make America the safest place it can possibly be.

Our nation's military is here to fight for and protect all of the citizens of the United States. Everyone in our military takes pride in what they do, and they sacrifice their lives for the safety of everyone else. If we didn't have such a great military, then the United States wouldn't be the nation it is today. The veterans in our country are heroes to everyone that can understand the amazing things they have done for our nation.

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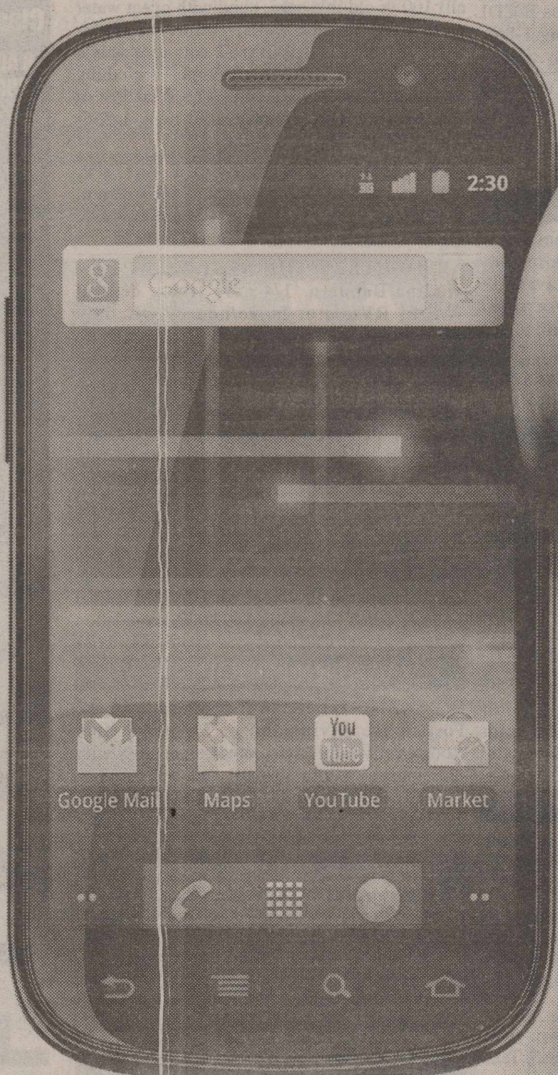
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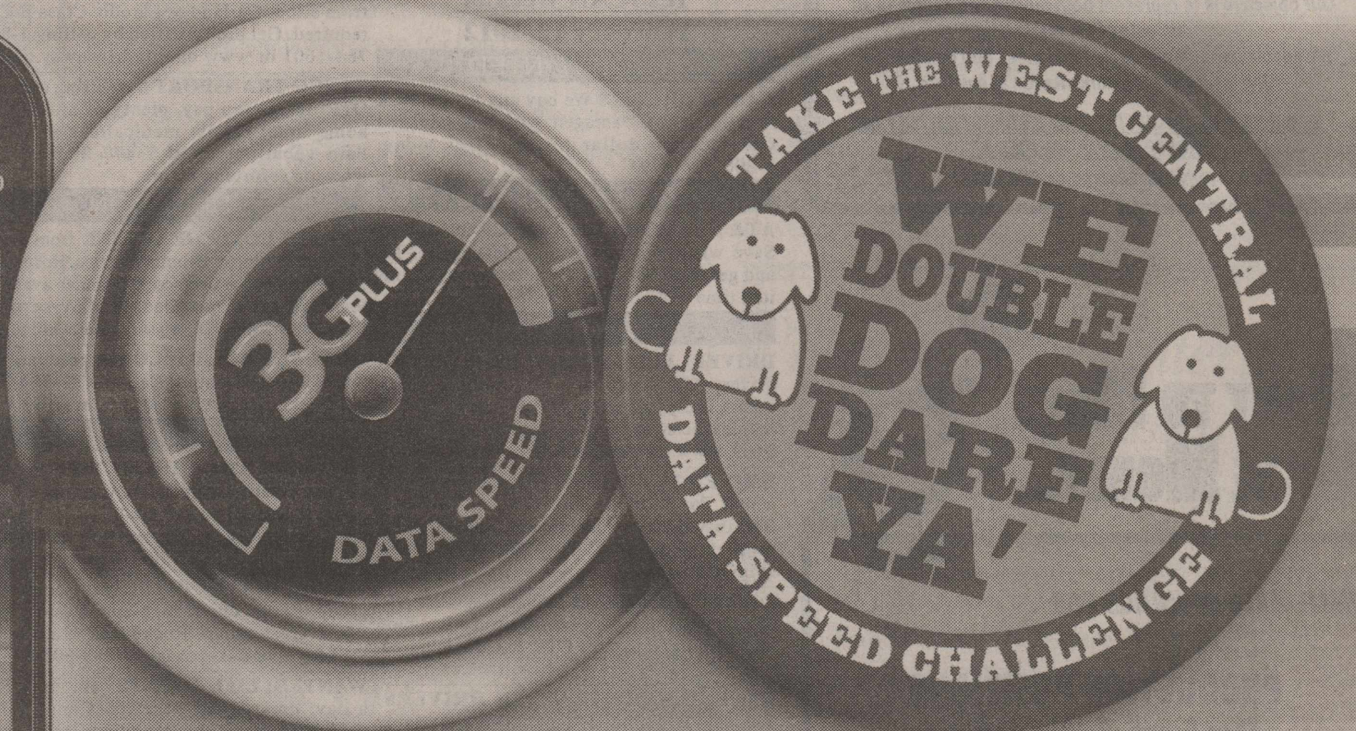
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