

# The Winters Enterprise

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Thursday, March 1, 2012

Winters, Texas 75c

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PHOTO: JOE GERHART  
 Riley Ripley jumps to take a shot at the Area playoff game the Winters Blizzards held against Munday.

## Blizzards great season comes to an end

RUBEN CANTU-RODRIGUEZ  
 WINTERS ENTERPRISE

WINTERS- The Winters Blizzards finished last Friday, February 27 a great basketball season in the Area round of the playoffs. The Blizzards were defeated by Munday by a score of 65-48. However the Blizzards end the 2011-2012 season as Bi-District champions and with a long list of awards, nominations and accolades.

Among these recognitions are the nominations of Senior Riley Ripley as the Most Valuable Player, and Senior Andy Garcia as the Defensive Most Valuable Player. Ripley and Senior Cristian Sandoval were also named to the first team All-District. Hayden Nitsch, another Senior, was included in the All-District second team. Those receiving honorable mention are Senior Matt Pritchard, Senior Nik Kraatz and Junior Bryce Mikeska.

## Remodeling brings savings, enhancement to City Hall

RUBEN CANTU-RODRIGUEZ  
 WINTERS ENTERPRISE

WINTERS- The remodeling of the second story of the Winters City Hall will represent savings for the City of Winters and the Police Department in expenses for Police officers, and provides an adequate facility to hold training seminars and conferences. The second story of the building located on Main Street is now ready after several months of remodeling by the Winters Police Department.

Chief of Police Nathan Johnson toured last Monday, February 27 the council members through the facility that had not been used for many years. The tour was held after the City Council meeting celebrated downstairs.

The second story of the City Hall was once used as the Council chambers, but changes in the disability regulations and the high cost of getting an elevator installed turned that part of the building for many years into a warehouse.

Yet without the elevator the building now has a bedroom, restrooms, a conference room, kitchen and everything needed to provide housing to one Police officer. The facility is also equipped with plenty of tables, and video and audio equipment to hold seminars or conferences.



PHOTO: RUBEN CANTU-RODRIGUEZ  
 Council member Rick Dry, Mayor Lewis Bergman, City Attorney Ken Slimp and Alderman Chris Bahlman.

The Winters Council members toured the building as the closing of the February monthly meeting held last Monday.

Other agenda items in the meeting included the final pay request for Maguire Iron for the USDA-Rural Development funded water tank improvements project. City auditor Ricky Bowman presented his fiscal year 2010-2011 audit report, which was accepted by the City Council unanimously.

Aldermen present at the meeting also approved the fire fighting contract and agreement with Runnels County, the new WTU Energy rates, and passed a resolution upon request of Atmos Energy to sus-

pend proposed effective date of the proposed rate schedules in order to start with the new rate process.

The Winters City Council passed a resolution updating the fee schedule for City services and rejected a project to accept debit/credit cards for utility bills and Municipal Court payments. According to the analysis presented by Mayor Lewis Bergman the cost of this service would be adding to the City budget the debit/credit card processing fees.

Mayor Lewis Bergman and Council members Rene Wolfenden, Rick Dry and Chris Bahlman were present at the Council meeting.

## USDA announces highly erodible cropland initiative

WINTERS ENTERPRISE  
 STAFF REPORT

WASHINGTON- Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack announced a new conservation initiative to protect up to 750,000 acres of the nation's most highly erodible croplands. Vilsack made the announcement via video to attendees of the National Pheasant and Quail Classic, held Feb. 17-19 in Kansas City, Mo. The new initiative will assist producers with targeting their most highly erodible cropland (land with an erodibility index of 20 or greater) by enabling them to plant wildlife-friendly, long-term cover through the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP).

Producers can enroll land on a continuous basis beginning this summer at their local Farm

Service Agency (FSA) county office. With the use of soil survey and geographic information system data, local FSA staff can quickly determine a producer's eligibility for the initiative.

"As we work towards President Obama's vision for an economy that is built to last, America's natural resources must play an important role. Lands in CRP help support strong incomes for our farmers and ranchers and are the source of good middle class jobs related to outdoor recreation, hunting, and fishing," said Vilsack. "This announcement will strengthen CRP by focusing on protecting the most environmentally sensitive land. It targets limited resources where they can make the most difference for farmers, ranchers and to drive economic

growth. I urge landowners who have highly erodible land to visit their county office to learn more about this program."

Lands eligible for this program are typically the least productive land on the farm. In many cases the most cost-effective option to reduce erosion is to put the land into a wildlife friendly cover, which will improve habitat and reduce sediment and nutrient runoff and reduce wind erosion. For 25 years, CRP has improved water and air quality, preserved habitat for wildlife, and prevented soil erosion. Programs such as CRP are important conservation safeguards. They prevent the return of the dust storms of the 1930s and the ravages of unmitigated gully erosions of our past.

## Courthouse possibly having a 'facelift'



PHOTO: RUBEN CANTU-RODRIGUEZ  
 The Runnels County Commissioners Court is evaluating a project to remodel/repair some aging effects in the Courthouse building. Last Tuesday, during the regular Commissioners Court the commissioners took a tour around the building to discuss about possible actions. Here County Judge Barry Hilliard watches the mason check the mortar in the building.

## District litigation puts voter cards on hold

WINTERS ENTERPRISE  
 STAFF REPORT

WINTERS- Voters in Runnels County will not be receiving their voter cards until the election dates in Texas are settled. Robin Burgess, Runnels County Tax Assessor/Collector, said that there are roughly 7,000 voter cards in the county that need to be mailed, and that represents a considerable amount of funds just for the mailing.

"Voter cards will not be mailed until the election dates are settled," said Burgess.

As a result of on-going redistricting litigation, the mailing of new voter registration certificates is delayed in the county and all over the state.

All previously-issued

voter registration certificates expired on December 31, 2011, but only the cards expired, voter registrations remain valid, according to the Texas Secretary of State's office. Voters, who are currently registered, but do not have any changes to their voter registration do not need to take any action, their cards will be automatically renewed.

Voters who remain in their county of registration but have changed residence address or name, will need to submit their updated information to their county voter registrar.

For those voters who changed their county of residence, they will need to submit a new voter registration application

no later than the 30th day before Election Day.

"Once the court approves interim redistricting maps and counties have the opportunity to finalize precinct lines, the county will issue new voter registration certificates."

For information on how to register to vote or to determine if you are already registered, please visit [www.vote-texas.gov](http://www.vote-texas.gov).

For more information about the Texas voters' online voter registration and election information resource visit the website is [VoteTexas.gov](http://VoteTexas.gov)

There voters will find all of the information they need to register to vote and how to cast their ballot during early voting or on Election Day.

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FUNERALS AND OBITUARIES

Harold Poe

Harold Dean "Butch" Poe, 77, of Winters, died February 21, 2012. Butch was born February 26, 1934 to Fred C. and Rebecca Poe on the family farm west of Winters. He graduated from Winters High School. He married Nelda Smith in January 1955 in Winters. He was a farmer and a rancher and he was a Methodist. He is survived by his wife: Nelda Poe of Winters, two children Pamela Bell of San Angelo and Fred Poe and wife Amanda of Winters; brother Fredrick Poe of Midland, and four grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his son, Carey Poe. Graveside services were held Thursday, February 23, 2012 at Lakeview Cemetery with Rev. Jayme Palady officiating directed by Winters Funeral Home.

Winters Enterprise, March 01, 2012

Obituaries in The Winters Enterprise are now also online, check out our webpage at MyRunnelsCounty.com

Trophy bass management symposium to be held on March 24

WINTERS ENTERPRISE STAFF REPORT

ATHENS- Private bass pond managers will get a behind-the-scenes look at how Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) inland fisheries biologists monitor fish populations and care for trophy bass at a statewide symposium set for March 23-24, 2012, at the Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center (TFFC) in Athens.

"There are more than a million private impoundments in the state, many of which could be used for increased recreation through bass fishing with better management," said Dr. Billy Higginbotham, Texas AgriLife Extension wildlife and fisheries specialist. "As many landowners have learned, you just don't stock a pond or lake with largemouth bass and automatically get trophy-size fish."

Growing big fish takes top management, which can be learned at "Bass Tech: The Technology to Manage for Success." Participants may register online at http://agriferegister.tamu.edu (enter the keyword "bass") or by calling (979) 845-2604. There is a fee for attendance.

In addition to session presentations, attendees will be able to observe a TPWD fisheries management crew electrofish on Lake Athens and demonstrate how to obtain and record data necessary for managing a bass population.

Also included will be a behind-the-scenes tour of the Toyota ShareLunker holding facility at TFFC. The "Lunker Bunker" is where bass weighing 13 pounds or more are cared for and spawned as part of a selective breeding program. This tour will take place from 3-5 p.m. March 23.

Session presentations March 24 will include Basic Pond Ecology, Water Quality, Pond Fertilization, Do-It-Yourself Fish Population Assessment and Corrective Stockings, Better Bass Fishing Through Genetics, Trophy Bass Management, Identifying and Controlling Nuisance Wildlife, Aquatic Weed Identification and Control, and Aging Largemouth Bass Using Otoliths.

Instructors include wildlife and fisheries experts with AgriLife Extension, TPWD and American Sport Fish Hatchery, a southeastern U.S. stocking and pond maintenance service.

A similar symposium was held in 2008. "The main difference this year is that we've trimmed some topics based on participant evaluations," Higginbotham said. "The one-day program means participants won't have to go to the expense and trouble of spending the night if they don't want to."

Registration will be from 7-8 a.m. on March 24. The symposium will conclude at 5 p.m. A catered lunch and break refreshments are included in the registration fee.

In addition, each registrant will receive a CD of the proceedings, speaker notes and a copy of Higginbotham's "Wildlife and Fish Management Calendar."

Texas Department of Agriculture private pesticide applicator license holders can earn one continuing education unit in integrated pest management.

TFFC is four miles east of Athens and 75 miles south-east of Dallas. More information on the center can be found at http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/spdest/visitors-centers/tffc/. For more information on the symposium, or to register by regular mail and check, contact Higginbotham at (903) 834-6191 or b-higginbotham@tamu.edu or Dr. Michael Masser, AgriLife Extension fisheries specialist, at (979) 845-7370 or m-masser@tamu.edu.

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NEWS NOTES

Immunization clinics

The Texas Department of Sate Health Services will be having two immunization clinics in Runnels County. Flu vaccine will be available. The first clinic will be held in Winters, on Thursday, March 1, 2012 from 1:30 p.m. thru 5:30 p.m. at the Professional Building, 110 South Main St. Suite 108. For your convenience us rear entrance on Grant St.

The second clinic will be held in Ballinger, on Thursday, March 8, 2012 from 10 a.m. thru 12 noon and from 1:30 p.m thru 3 p.m. at 608 Strong Ave. behind the Courthouse.

Please bring child's immunization records. If child has Medicaid or CHIP please bring card. For more information call (325) 753 4945.

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.

Bronte 2012 golf calendar

Bronte Longhorn Golf Club 2012 events: March 3, two-person 18 holes select shot; April 7, two-person 18 holes select shot; May 5, two-person 18 holes select shot; May 19, Wilson tournament three-person 27 holes select shot; June 2, two-person 18 holes select shot; July 7, two-person 27 holes LB/AS/SS; August 4, three-person 27 holes select shot; September 8, two-person 18 holes select shot; September 29 and 30, Coke Co. Tournament two-person 18 holes select shot each day; October 6, two-person 18 holes select shot; November 3, two-person 18 holes shots. Carts are limited so sign up early if need carts. Bronte Longhorn Golf Club (325) 473-2156.

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.

Spring Craft Show in Kingsland

The Spring Craft Show at Kingsland House of Arts and Crafts, 112 W. Chamberlain St., Kingsland, Texas, will be held on Saturday, April 7 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday, April 8 from 11a.m. to 4 p.m. Food, music, crafts, children's activities will be available. Interested Vendors can contact Elsi at (512) 755-1322 or website www.kingslandcrafts.com

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 April 10, 2012 UIL Students will be the program at the Winters ISD.

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.

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 meeting 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.

Study links principal behavior and student achievements

WINTERS ENTERPRISE STAFF REPORT

COLLEGE STATION- A Texas A&M University study focused on developing the leadership skills of principals has identified positive changes in principal behaviors that research links to student achievement.

Conventional wisdom is that an effective school leader sets the tone for high academic expectations, works with teachers to make changes that impact classroom instruction and still finds time to put the 'pal' in principal, interacting with students, teachers and community members to develop positive relationships.

Roger Goddard, principal investigator and director of the Education Leadership Research Center at Texas A&M, and a team of researchers from Texas A&M and the University of Michigan are working to assess the efficacy of the Balanced Leadership Program. This professional

development program, created by Mid-Continent Research for Education and Learning (McREL), provides principals with intensive guidance that addresses three key challenges of school leadership: improving school culture and climate, managing change, and focusing efforts on improving student learning.

Participants in the study include 78 elementary school principals from northern Michigan broken into two groups. Half the schools in the study participated in the two-year Balanced Leadership Program, which consists of 10, two-day professional development sessions. The other half are part of the control group and only use current professional development practices already in place in the schools.

"The Balanced Leadership Program is designed to teach these principals about the research and prepare them to use it to make changes that

improve learning in their schools," Goddard says. "The program provides them with the tools for change but lets them decide how to actually use these tools in their own schools."

After receiving just 50 percent of the training, principals in the treatment group were reporting positive effects. Of note, principals receiving the training reported higher levels of knowledge and involvement in their school's curriculum, instruction and assessment programs, higher levels of efficacy and a greater likelihood to create a positive school climate. Furthermore, turnover rates in control schools were five times higher than in the group experiencing the program (10 principal departures vs. two).

Although preliminary, researchers concluded the Balanced Leadership Program has the potential to create long-term changes in principals' job performance, school climate, teacher practice and student learning.

"Changes in educator behavior are often hard to produce," Goddard says. "Many recent scientific studies have found limited or no effects on student

achievement, largely because educator practices have remained unchanged. Not surprisingly, experts have questioned the value of leadership development programs. These findings are striking because they suggest important leadership behaviors linked to higher levels of student achievement can be improved through targeted leadership development."

As the study continues, researchers will examine the link between the program and teacher reports of principal leadership, school climate and student achievement.

Goddard would eventually like to take the study to a national trial, with schools in the study being more representative of the U.S.

"Our evaluation shows the Balanced Leadership Program positively impacts principals' learning of leadership practices that are linked to student achievement," says Goddard. "We know that as lifelong learners, these principals can benefit from further development, and in the end, we all want to help schools and the students they serve."

Goddard and his team are funded by a U.S. Department of Education grant.

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# ROLL-UP

## Runnels County

Winters Enterprise

Thursday, March 1, 2012

### TAHC accepting comments on rule proposals

**WINTERS ENTERPRISE**  
STAFF REPORT

AUSTIN- The Texas Animal Health Commission is currently accepting public comments on rule proposals that were authorized during the January 24 Commission meeting. The Commission proposed amendments to Chapter 51, entitled "Entry Requirements." The purpose of the proposed amendments are to make Texas' entry requirements more consistent with current national interstate movement standards. The Commission is specifically amending Section 51.3 entitled "Exceptions," to clarify and

modify interstate entry requirements for sheep, goats and swine. The first amendment will waive the prior requirement for an entry permit and certificate of veterinary inspection (CVI) for swine consigned directly to slaughter, or consigned to a specifically approved livestock market from their farm of origin. The proposed changes to Section 51.3 would also no longer require an entry permit for sheep and goats consigned from United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) sanctioned "Consistent States," which means they have an active scrapie surveillance and control program.

The Commission is also removing a requirement related to Vesicular stomatitis (VS) in Section 51.7. Currently, when VS has been diagnosed in another state, the veterinarian issuing the CVI must write on it that any equine, bovine, porcine, caprine, ovine, or cervidae entering Texas from that state have not been exposed to the disease. The Texas requirement prohibiting entry of certain livestock from a premises or area under quarantine for vesicular stomatitis will be left in place to protect Texas livestock. In Section 51.14, the Commission is removing the requirement that swine imported into

Texas for feeding, breeding, or exhibition purposes must be accompanied by a certificate of veterinary inspection certifying that swine have not been exposed to hog cholera, which is now called Classical Swine Fever (CSF). CSF has been eradicated from the United States for several years so this requirement is no longer necessary. The previous rule proposals have a comment period of 30 days. They may be commented on until 5 p.m. on March 18, 2012. A detailed description of the proposed rules can be found on the TAHC web site at <http://www.tahc.state.tx.us> under Rule

Proposals. The Commission also proposed amendments to Chapter 35, entitled "Brucellosis." The Commission is proposing to remove the Brucellosis test requirement for change of ownership of adult sexually intact cattle, and to add a requirement that cattle be permanently and officially identified when there is a change of ownership. Comments on the proposed regulations must be submitted to Carol Pivonka, Texas Animal Health Commission, 2105 Kramer Lane, Austin, Texas 78758, by fax at (512) 719-0721 or by e-mail to [comments@tahc.state.tx.us](mailto:comments@tahc.state.tx.us)

### Spaghetti dinner, a huge success

Rhonda Legg and Monica Minzenmayer co-chaired the committee in charge of planning the annual Spaghetti Dinner/Bake Sale/Prize Drawings sponsored by the Rowena Catholic Daughters on Sunday, February 26. A good number of diners enjoyed the spaghetti dinner and bake sale and participated in the drawings for 37 prizes donated by the CDA members. The group is grateful for all those who came and are looking forward to next year's event.

PHOTO: CONTRIBUTED



### Cowboys linebacker, an inspiration for kids

**WINTERS ENTERPRISE**  
STAFF REPORT

DALLAS- Cowboys linebacker Sean Lee was a featured speaker at the recent Texas AgriLife Extension Service and Fuel Up to Play 60 Partnership kickoff, which took place recently at the Texas AgriLife Research and Extension Center, in Dallas. Fuel Up to Play 60 is an in-school nutrition and physical activity program launched by the National Dairy Council, Dairy MAX

and the National Football League, in collaboration with U.S. Department of Agriculture. It encourages young people to consume nutrient-rich foods, including low-fat and fat-free dairy foods, fruits, vegetables and whole grains, and to get at least 60 minutes of daily physical activity. "Fuel Up to Play 60 is a great initiative to get kids interested in exercise and nutrition," said Lee, who has been a program spokesman and supporter since 2010. "If you get kids interested in a healthy lifestyle, it will help them in whatever career or endeavor that may have by making them feel better, have more energy and have better concentration." The kickoff, which included speakers' presentations, a press conference, an exercise warm-up with more than 30 area 4-H club members and a 5K walk/run led by Lee, officially welcomed AgriLife Extension to the program. It also introduced AgriLife Extension's plans to support and promote Fuel Up to Play 60 statewide, beginning with their multi-county East Region, which includes Dallas and Tarrant counties.

### Veteran's Corner

"My HealthVet" is the Veterans online gateway to managing your health. Registered users can safely collect data from VA hospital records, data from your service days, view appointments, check lab results, review details about your allergies and vaccinations, see vitals and readings, refill prescriptions, and exchange messages with doctors, nurses and all members of their health care team. Sign up at [va.gov](http://va.gov) today. For more information, contact Sandra at the Veterans Service Office at 602 Strong Ave or call 365-3612.

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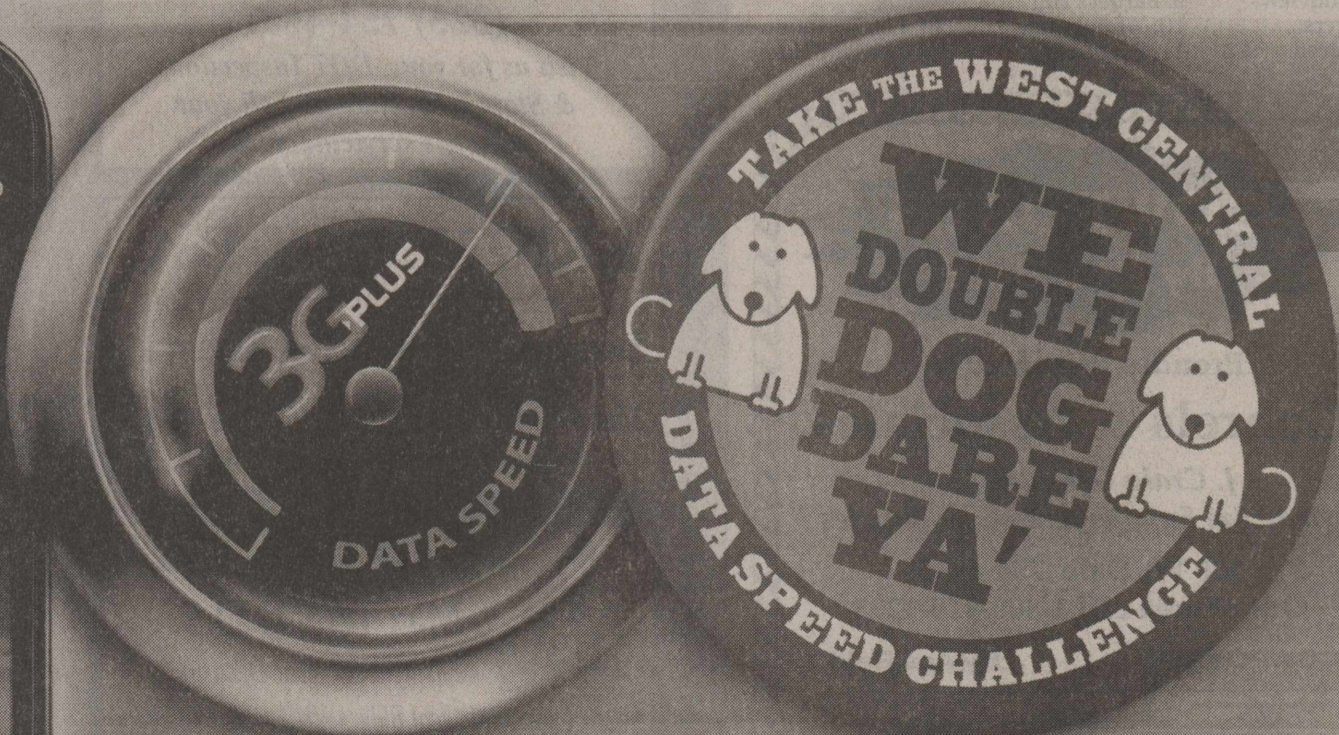
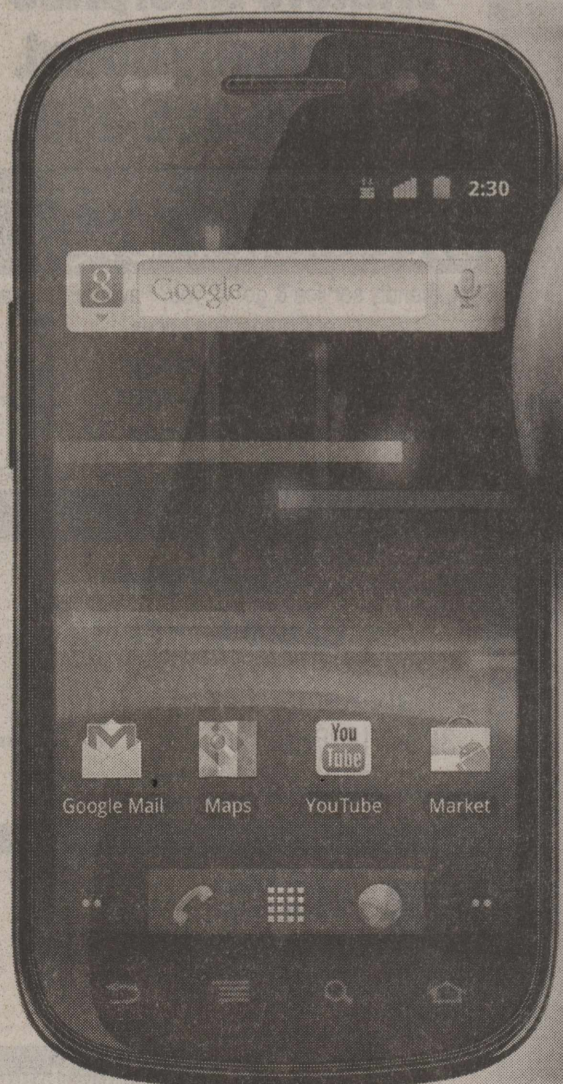
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West Central customers, can receive a special "Double-Dog Dare Ya' Data Speed Challenge" t-shirt, or a donation can be made in your name to the Humane Society. Plus, you can check out the speedy Samsung Nexus S smartphone available for only \$99.

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