

## Former Lampasan undertaking bike tour

Continued from page 1

During their trip, the former Navy nuclear propulsion workers are promoting the Armed Services YMCA in San Diego, where Williams' girlfriend of three years works.

The YMCA offers after-school programs for youth from military families, as well as a variety of counseling programs for the spouses and children of deployed armed services personnel.

"The military lifestyle could be, and is, difficult for everybody, especially people with kids and loved ones left behind [during deployments]," Williams said.

The LHS graduate rides with a brightly colored YMCA shirt, and he and Miller have been raising funds for the organization.

Williams and Miller have ridden an average of 70 miles per day during their trip, although they took one day of rest in Tallahassee and two days off in New Orleans. After their longest travel day -- a hilly 97-mile trek to Williams' sister's home in Wimberley -- the pair rested for a few days in Lampasas before preparing to reach Lubbock and then Albuquerque. They considered an alternate route through El Paso in case they encountered inclement mountain weather.

"We're going into some higher altitudes, so we may have to take some detours," Williams said.

Finding accommodations has given the Navy buddies some adventures at times. They have camped in several state parks, were evicted from an RV park because they didn't bring a recreational ve-

hicle, and accepted an invitation to sleep in a couple's front yard in Paige, in Bastrop County.

In Bay Saint Louis, Miss., where four years after Hurricane Katrina numerous gutted buildings still show the effects of winds and flooding, Williams and Miller camped in the loading dock of an abandoned Winn-Dixie grocery store in a deserted strip mall.

"We just pulled our bikes inside and made the best of it," Williams said.

Despite their \$40-a-day budget, the cyclists haven't always settled for spartan lodging.

They stayed in a hostel in New Orleans, and at another place in Louisiana a couple pulled off the road in their vehicle to invite Williams and Miller to stay the night in their home. Avid cyclists, the couple hope to open a hostel for touring bicyclists.

Near Brenham, Williams and Miller met an Australian couple who were completing a cycling trip from Alaska to Atlanta.

"It's kind of interesting how you meet people and form your own little networks," Williams said.

Other than one minor accident -- when the riders collided with each other -- the journey has gone fairly smoothly, even when riding up the shoulder-less Mississippi River bridge in New Orleans. Their bikes weigh 60 pounds when loaded with four fully provisioned saddle bags each, but the duo have maintained a steady pace without too much fatigue.

Neither rider completed much intense training before beginning



PHOTO COURTESY OF TYSON WILLIAMS  
Tyson Williams, left, and Harry Miller try to maintain their cadence while riding on a stretch of road outside of Brenham.

the trip, Williams said.

"You don't have to be in that good a shape to do it," the former Lampasan said.

Future riding plans likely will keep Williams and Miller in peak condition, though. Both plan to focus on college coursework in the spring -- Williams will study chemical and environmental engineering at the University of Colorado at Boulder -- and then try another tour with Navy friends in the summer. They are considering a Pacific Coast trip, a European venture or a trek across Southeast Asia.

They probably won't find many Winn-Dixies in another hemisphere, but they will continue to seek adventure.

## Garcia to run again for office

Continued from page 1

mental health emergency detention orders. In addition, justices perform inquests on all unattended deaths and can perform weddings.

Justices of the peace are on call for inquests and warrants 24 hours a day, Garcia said.

"There's a lot to this job," he said.

"There's a lot of people who think it's just sit in here and collect money from speeders. Nothing could be further from the truth."

Before his election as justice of the peace, Garcia served as a Texas Department of Public Safety trooper for 32 years. In his last six years with DPS, Garcia worked in

commercial vehicle enforcement.

Garcia said he hopes a second term will allow him to incorporate new technology more completely in the Precinct 1 JP office.

"I've just started," he said. "By no means have I learned this job [fully], because every day brings a new challenge."

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