

# The Winters Enterprise

Volume 22, Issue 10

Thursday, December 29, 2011

Winters, Texas 75c

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## Oh, Christmas tree

### Hundreds enjoy tree extravaganza

BY RUBEN CANTU-RODRIGUEZ

WINTERS ENTERPRISE

WINTERS- The Tree Extravaganza closed last Thursday, December 22 the 2011 holiday season at the Rock Hotel. Hundreds of visitors enjoyed the Christmas tree exhibit since it's opening on December 1.

Starlyn and Richard Smelker entertained a good attendance with traditional and non-traditional Christmas carols. Their two-guitar version of The Little Drummer Boy, Silent Night and Joy to the World made everyone in the audience vibrate and provided the perfect environment to make everyone remember what Christmas is all about, the birth

of a little child in Bethlehem over 2,000 years ago.

Wanda Brewer, President of the Rock Hotel Board, thanked everyone for their support by participating with donations and by purchasing chances of the wall hanging quilt raffle, as well as a limited edition folding Case knife.

Joyce Carbery, board member and head of the Christmas tree committee said that 2011 was a record year for the Tree Extravaganza, and also thanked everyone for their continued support.

The Tree Extravaganza featured unique and originally decorated trees sponsored by churches, clubs, associations and

businesses in Runnels County.

Thursday's event was the last one of the 2011 season and some of the sponsors were already getting everything ready for the 2012 Christmas tree exhibit.

Threes were put up by Lupe and Shelly Guevara "A Dollar Store Christmas", Lone Star Book Club, First United Methodist Church, Red Hat Blizzard Babes, Nadine de la Cruz, Winters ISD, Winters 4-H Club, Sew and Sew Club, Senior Activity Center, Winters Women's Club, Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 9193, Winters Area Business and Industrial Corporation, Runnels County Historical Commission, and Winters Enterprise.



For more photos See Page 6B

## Winters Lion of the Year



Randy Couch, manager of Lawrence Bros. IGA in Winters, was recognized as Lion of the Year by the Winters Lions Club. Couch has worked with numerous Lions Club projects and is always willing to assist in fund raising efforts for local school and charitable organizations, including Samaritan House and Winters School projects. Working quietly and behind the scenes, he has been a strong asset to the community and a great supporter of Winters. Present for the award presentation was Marvin Jones, Winters Lions Club president Will Ahrens, district manager for Lawrence Bros. IGA Sammy Hancock, Couch, George Mostad and Gene Wheat.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Members of the Lutheran Church were just one of the many volunteers that helped donate their time to deliver meals and made donations.

## Meals on Wheels, a warm meal from those with a big heart

WINTERS ENTERPRISE

STAFF REPORT

WINTERS- Runnels County Meals on Wheels and the Winters Activity Center thanked the community in Winters for the gifts, donations and contributions received as memorials.

Donations received include in memory of Wayne Rodgers by Bill

and Joyce Suggs; in memory of La Voy McNeil by Sleta Webb and Gwen and Allen Andrae; in memory of Rebecca McKnown by Oleta Webb; in memory of Lisa Bedford Gray by WHS Class of 1977; in memory of Mamie Hoppe by Maurine Davis and Gloria and Ronnie Poehls; in memory

SEE MEALS, 3

## Mission accomplished: Toy drive helps 137 families

BY RUBEN CANTU-RODRIGUEZ

WINTERS ENTERPRISE

WINTERS- A record of over 500 kids and 137 families received a present from the Sheriff's Toy Drive. The toys were given away on Wednesday, December 21 to parents who had previously registered their children.

The Sheriff's Department Toy Drive has been held for over 20 years in Christmas season thanks to the generosity of corporate and individual sponsors who contribute with their donations to families in need in Runnels County. Sheriff Bill Baird, staff and deputies also donate their time and effort to help the most needed all over the county.

Clubs, associations, businesses and individuals helped the Sheriff's Department to put a smile in many children faces this Christmas.

The record participation outnumbers the 400 children that received a toy in 2010. The drive benefited families coming from Ballinger, Winters, Wingate, Miles, Norton, Olfen and every single corner in Runnels County.

Sheriff Bill Baird thanked the community for all donations received, both in cash and new toys, because without their help this drive wouldn't be possible.



The Sheriff's Department Toy Drive distributed more than 500 toys to 137 families in Runnels County. Deputy Steve Gray, Deputy Carl Squyres, Sergeant Dan Stoker and Runnels County Sheriff Bill Baird stand with some of the toys that were donated.

PHOTO: RUBEN CANTU-RODRIGUEZ

The City of Winters welcomes tourists

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GOT A HOT NEWS TIP?

From time to time you may run across information that could or should be turned into a news story. When you do, please share the information with our news staff at (325) 365-3501 or e-mail us at [news@wintersenterprise.com](mailto:news@wintersenterprise.com)

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## Winters 4-H meet at the Tree Extravaganza



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Winters 4-H Club met Sunday afternoon, December 11, 2011 at the Rock Hotel to take a tour of the Christmas trees exhibit, wrap gifts and had a short meeting. Attending were, from left to right, Brooklynn Anderson, Matt Jacob, Seth Gerhart and Megan Tarr; back row, Carlee Busher, Macy Gerhart, Megan Jacob and Kara Heathcott. The group put up one their own three at the Tree Extravaganza decorated with hands, the 4-H motto and pictures of all the club members. It was one of the most admired trees in the show.

### FUNERALS AND OBITUARIES

#### Leo Tischler

Leo Tischler, 67, of Winters, died Wednesday December 21, 2011. He was born August 3, 1944 in Goldthwaite, Texas to Lee and Helen Senger Tischler and moved with his family to Runnels County in 1947 and lived here since. He worked with his parents at the Red Top Grocery Store and gas station for 32 years. He was a member of St. John's Lutheran Church in Winters.

He is survived by one brother, Jerry Tischler of San Angelo; two nieces, Kaycee Beglau and husband Deuce of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania Lauren Tischler of San Angelo and many cousins.

Services were held on Saturday December 24, 2011 in the Winters Funeral Home Chapel with Rev. Alsen Wenzel officiating. Internment was at the Lutheran Cemetery directed by Winters Funeral Home.

Instead of flowers the family request memorials be made to St. John's Lutheran Church.

Winters Enterprise, Thursday, December 29, 2011

### DEATH NOTICES

#### Rosemary Rodriguez

Rosemary Rodriguez, 50, of Weatherford formerly of Winters, died December 23, 2011.

Rosary will be 7:00 P.M. Monday December 26, 2011 at Winters Funeral Home. Funeral Mass will be 2:00 P.M. Tuesday December 27, 2011 at Mt. Carmel Catholic Church. Burial will be in Lakeview cemetery directed by Winters Funeral Home.

Winters Enterprise, Thursday, December 29, 2011

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7:00 pm - 8:00 pm

at

First United Methodist Church  
141 N. Church Street  
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Come pray for an hour, or walk in, pray and leave as you are ready.

"Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer, present your request to God."  
Philippians 4: 6

### ALL ARE WELCOME!

"For where there are two or three gathered in My name, I am there in the midst of them."  
Matthew 18: 20

# Celebrating the season



Rowena KC's Bishop Forrest Council #2636 and Rowena Catholic Daughters Court Our Lady of Grace #1734 gathered to celebrate the Christmas Season on December 20. The evening began with the Lighting of the Advent Wreath and Christmas Tree. David Lange read the Christmas Story from the Gospel of Luke, which was followed by the singing of "Silent Night." Special guest for the evening was Brent Johnson, of San Angelo, who is the agent for Knight of Columbus insurance. Door prizes were given away throughout the evening. Those attending enjoyed the good food and fellowship. Personal items were collected by the group for residents at San Angelo State School.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

## Millions of trees killed by drought

### WINTERS ENTERPRISE

STAFF REPORT

COLLEGE STATION- As many as 500 million trees scattered across the Lone Star State have died this year as a result of the unrelenting drought, according to preliminary estimates from Texas Forest Service.

The numbers were derived by Texas Forest Service foresters, who canvassed local forestry professionals, gathering information from them on the drought and its effect on trees in their respective communities.

Each forestry expert estimated the percentage of trees in their region that have died as a result of the 2011 drought. That percentage was applied to the estimated number of trees in the region, a figure determined by the agency's Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA) program.

Using this approach, an estimated 100 million to 500 million trees with a diameter of 5 inches or larger were estimated to have succumbed to the drought. That range is equivalent to 2 to 10 percent of the state's 4.9 billion trees.

"In 2011, Texas experienced an

exceptional drought, prolonged high winds and record-setting temperatures. Together, those conditions took a severe toll on trees across the state," said Burl Carraway, Sustainable Forestry department head. "Large numbers of trees in both urban communities and rural forests have died or are struggling to survive. The impacts are numerous and widespread."

The preliminary estimates indicate three multi-county areas appear to be the hardest hit. The area including Sutton, Crockett, western Kimble and eastern Pecos counties saw extensive mortality among Ashe junipers.

The area including Harris, Montgomery, Grimes, Madison and Leon counties saw extensive mortality among loblolly pines. Western Bastrop and eastern Caldwell counties, as well as surrounding areas, saw extensive mortality among cedars and post oaks.

Additionally, localized pockets of heavy mortality were reported for many other areas.

Texas Forest Service foresters plan to use aerial imagery to conduct a

more in-depth analysis in the spring, which is when trees that may have gone into early dormancy — an act of self-preservation — could begin to make a comeback.

A more scientific, long-term study will be completed as the agency collects data through its FIA program. Considered a census for trees, the federally-funded program allows the agency to keep a close watch on trees — and how they're growing and changing — across the state.

As part of the program, foresters are tasked with surveying certain, designated plots of land each year. Because the state is so big, it takes a decade to complete a full inventory cycle.

"Quantifying the impacts of a statewide drought on tree survival is no small task," Carraway said, noting that Texas was home to 63 million acres of forestland, much of which is in remote areas.

"During this time of year, it's difficult to tell in some cases if a tree is truly dead. And keep in mind that the drought is ongoing. We fully expect mortality percentages to increase if the drought continues."

### NEWS NOTES

#### Veteran's Corner

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is extending retroactive traumatic injury benefits to service members who suffered qualifying injuries during the period October 7, 2001 to November 30, 2005, regardless of the geographic location where the injuries occurred. 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

### TxDOT Targets Holiday Revelers with Anti-Drunk Driving Blitz

#### WINTERS ENTERPRISE

STAFF REPORT

AUSTIN, TX — With the holiday season upon us, the Texas Department of Transportation is pulling out all of the stops to remind motorists not to get behind the wheel if they've been drinking and to find a sober ride home or call a cab.

Throughout the month of December, convenience stores, bars and restaurants, gas stations — even movie theaters — in major Texas markets will carry TxDOT's

campaign messages, urging Texans to celebrate responsibly.

This year's campaign is supported by new Driver Awareness and Attitudes survey results, which indicate that fewer Texas motorists are drinking and driving. Indeed, according to the Texas Transportation Institute (TTI) survey conducted this summer, motorists are now more likely to designate a sober driver, call a friend or family member, stay put, or to take a taxi or public transportation than to drive while impaired.

### CAFETERIA MENU

Jan. 2 - 6

Subject to change

**WINTERS ISD BREAKFAST**  
**MONDAY**  
HOLIDAY  
**TUESDAY**  
Breakfast Pizza or Cereal or Breakfast Pocket, Toast w/Jelly, Juice, Choice of Milk.  
**WEDNESDAY**  
Biscuit/Egg Pattie or Oatmeal or Sausage on a Stick, Toast w/Jelly, Juice, Choice of Milk.  
**THURSDAY**  
Sausage Roll or Cereal or Breakfast Burrito, Toast w/Jelly, Juice, Choice of Milk.  
**FRIDAY**  
Biscuit/Sausage or Cereal or Cinnamon Roll/Sausage, Toast w/Jelly, Juice, Choice of Milk.  
**WINTERS ISD LUNCH MENU**  
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**  
HOLIDAY  
**TUESDAY**  
Lasagna or Chicken/Bun, Italian Green Beans, Cooked Carrots, Tossed Salad/Carrot Sticks, Hot Cinnamon Apples, Hot Roll, Choice of Milk.  
**WEDNESDAY**  
Frito Pie or Chicken Fajita, Spanish Rice, Pinto Beans, Carrot Sticks, Coleslaw/Lettuce & Tomato, Rosy Applesauce, Corn Bread or Jalapeno Cheese Bread, Choice of Milk.  
**THURSDAY**  
Turkey/Rice w/Gravy or BQ Rib/Bun, Broccoli w/Cheese, Mashed Potatoes w/Gravy, Orange Wedges, Bread Pudding, Hot Roll, Choice of Milk.  
**FRIDAY**  
Cheese Burger or Chicken Bites/Gravy, Curly Fries, Baked Beans, Lettuce/Pickles, Tossed Salad/Carrot Sticks, Orange Wedges, Choice of Milk.

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Publication No. 040700  
One year mail subscription rates

Runnels County \$21.00  
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Postmaster:  
Send address changes to:  
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ABOVE: Volunteers helping Meals on Wheels from the First Baptist Church. LEFT: Volunteers helping Meals on Wheels from the First Methodist Church.



ABOVE: Volunteers helping Meals on Wheels from the Church of Christ. BELOW: Volunteers helping Meals on Wheels from the Wingate Baptist Church and Eastern Stars. RIGHT: Volunteers helping Meals on Wheels from the Mt. Carmel Catholic Church.



### Meals: Thanks for the support

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Post Center Director Barbara Heathcott said that everyone is also truly grateful for the monetary and food donations from: Jerry Lloyd, Donald Harville, Ouida Foster, Olbie Webb family — John, Terry, and Barbara, Charolette and Bill Baker, Richard Hamilton, Pyburn and Virginia Brown, City Bank, Walmart, Juanita Bredemeyer, Karen McGallion, Frances Bredemeyer, Willum Layton, Eddie Bennie, Larry Bilbrey, Davis Gnohmon, Nancy Spill, Bill LaFair, Lavera and Paul

Tharp, Robert and Adeline Holder, Juanita Wilson, Onita Smith, Barbara Gray, Maribel Esparza, Bryant and Marcie Webb, Canasta and Runko Ladies. "God has blessed us with such wonderful friends. Your support and love for the Activity Center is appreciated," said Heathcott. She also gave a special thank you to the volunteers that deliver meals. The true spirit of Christmas is getting from the heart and giving of yourself. Our volunteers do this all year long serving meals to the home bound.

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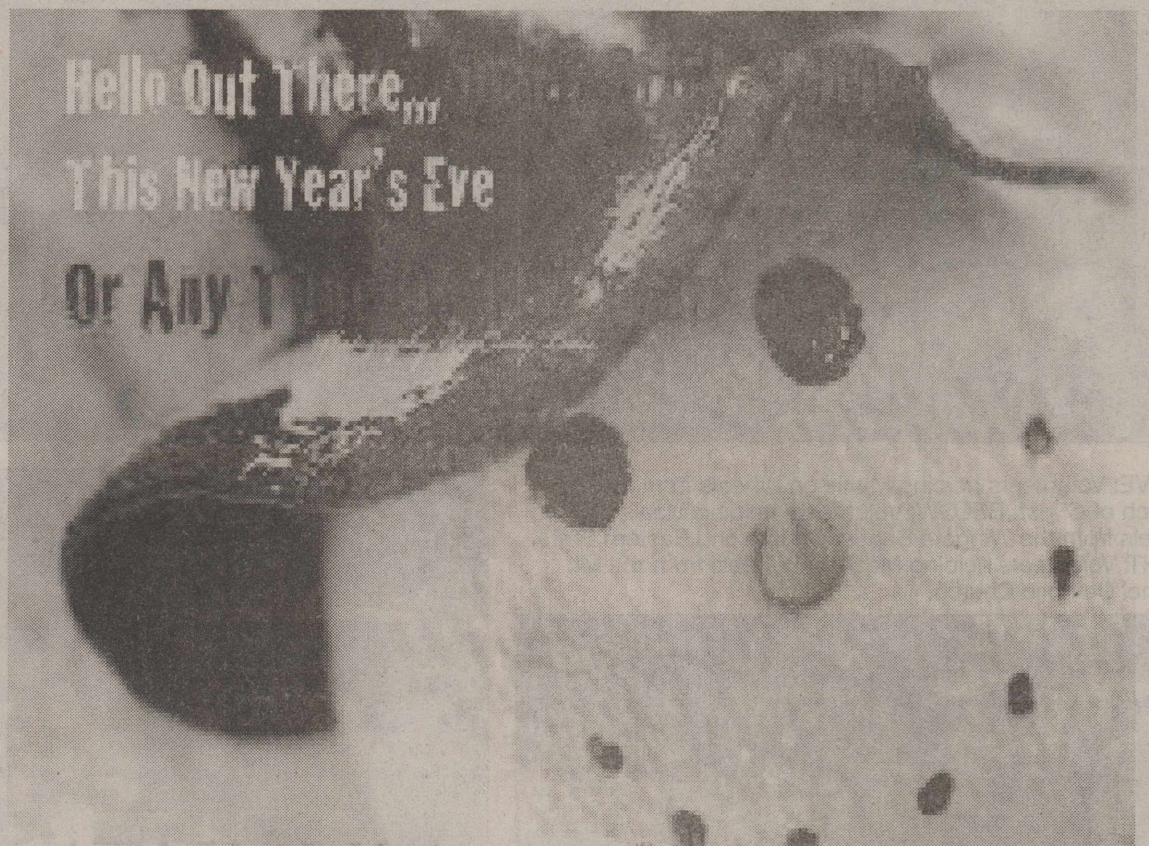
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413 S. Church, Winters - 3 bedroom, 1 bath, new electrical and insulation, detached garage, cellar, pecan trees, great condition.  
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