

The Leader-Vindicator

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Peanut butter production gets reprieve

By JOSH WALZAK
L-V Editor

NEW BETHLEHEM — The smell of roasting peanuts in New Bethlehem will continue — at least for an additional year.

After announcing in February that peanut butter production would cease in the summer of 2014 at the New Bethlehem factory, officials with the J.M.

Smucker Co. confirmed this week that it will now be sometime after the summer of 2015 when the local facility is converted from peanut butter production to other nut butters.

Maribeth Burns, vice president of corporate communications for the Ohio-based J.M. Smucker Co., said Monday that Smucker's "recently announced additional new investments in

our peanut butter supply chain to further improve production capacity."

As a result, she said, "we have extended the transition timing for converting our New Bethlehem facility into a facility solely dedicated to the production of nut butter products."

In February, the company announced it would cease peanut butter production at the New

Bethlehem site by the summer of 2014.

Now, she said, the local factory will "continue to produce natural peanut butter until sometime after the summer of 2015, at which time natural peanut butter production will begin transitioning to our Memphis facility."

Once that happens, Smucker's will convert the New Bethlehem

plant into a "smaller nut butter facility to support our nut butter products, which include Jif hazelnut spreads and Jif almond and cashew butters."

The factory currently employs 55 people. After the transition away from peanut butter, it will likely cut its workforce to around 30 employees, Burns said.

"We are in the process of [Continued on Page A-2]

Taxes, rates set to rise in Rimersburg

By JOSH WALZAK
L-V Editor

RIMERSBURG — Rimersburg residents have been warned for several months that the borough's budget outlook was bleak for 2014, and council members backed up those predictions last week by raising taxes as well as water and sewer rates.

Council members unanimously approved the borough's preliminary 2014 budget on Nov. 12, raising property taxes by 1 mill to help offset expenses that will still need money carried over from this year.

The tax hike is expected to generate about \$5,600 in additional revenue.

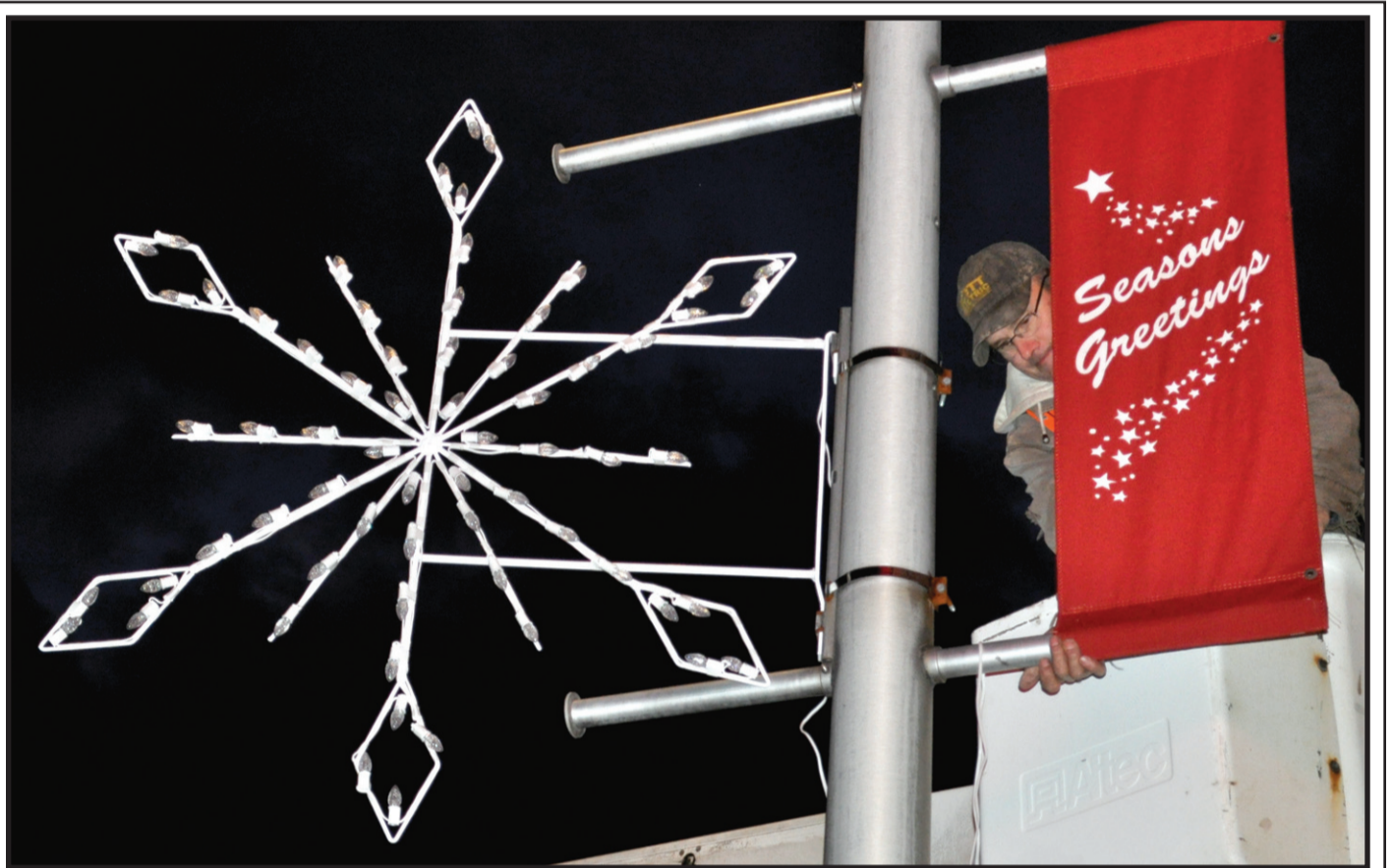
Total general fund reve-

nues are listed at \$318,600, up from \$293,950 this year.

Conversely, expenses for 2014 are anticipated to total \$336,080, down from \$340,400 in 2013. That leaves a deficit of \$17,480 in the general fund.

To help balance the borough's water account budget, officials approved a \$2 per month hike in water rates, along with a \$1 per month rise in the sewerage base fee. The total base fees will rise to \$24 for water and \$12 for sewer service.

The water account budget shows revenues of \$453,100 in 2014 with expenses coming in at \$421,450. The predicted [Continued on Page A-2]



THE NEW CHRISTMAS lights were placed atop poles along Broad Street in New Bethlehem this week. The snowflake LED lights were purchased by the Redbank Valley

Chamber of Commerce. Bill Reddinger (pictured) of Reddinger Electric assisted with the installation.

[L-V photo by Josh Walzak]

ACMH's South Street office to open in Feb.

By JOSH WALZAK
L-V Editor



WORK CONTINUES ON THE NEW ACMH SOUTH BETHLEHEM PRIMARY CARE CENTER

SOUTH BETHLEHEM — Construction of a new building for Armstrong County Memorial Hospital's South Bethlehem Primary Care Center is taking shape, with the opening of the facility planned for mid-February.

Dr. Chad Shaffer said recently that his practice will move from its Route 28/66 location just down the road in South Bethlehem to the new, and much larger, South Street location.

Ground was broken in September for the new building, which will feature nine exam rooms, lab space, a procedure room, expanded waiting rooms

and space for a future x-ray room.

Callie Karaica, director of operations for ACMH Physician Services, said that the hospital spent several years planning for this expansion.

"The hospital worked very closely with Dr. Shaffer and his staff," she said, noting that everything fell into place with the new site at 102 South Street.

Shaffer, who opened the South Bethlehem practice in 2005, said that the current facility quickly became too small.

"We looked far and wide for the best place for it," he said, explaining that he looked at some sites in downtown New Bethlehem but determined there were [Continued on Page A-3]



Sligo man faces homicide by vehicle charge

PERRY TWP. — A Sligo man was charged with vehicular homicide while driving under the influence of alcohol, two counts of driving under the influence of alcohol and multiple other traffic violations after a crash at 5:07 p.m. on Nov. 17, 2012, along Route 368 near West Freedom in Perry Township.

Charles Wayne Shreffler, 41, was arraigned Nov. 13 before District Judge Jeffrey C. Miller and placed in the Clarion County Jail on \$25,000 bail.

According to reports, state police were dispatched to a crash along Route 368. Upon arrival, they noticed a Dodge Durango, with significant damage, off the south berm.

A Perry Township firefighter found Shreffler in the driver's seat of the vehicle.

Firefighters asked Shreffler if there were any passengers in the vehicle and he reportedly answered, "no."

He was airlifted to UPMC Presbyterian Hospital in Pittsburgh for treatment of injuries, police said.

Joann Marie Carpenter, 35, of Butler, was [Continued on Page A-6]

Care for Bears

KINDERGARTEN STUDENT Hayleigh Griffin takes care of her bear during a Teddy Bear Clinic, held Nov. 13, in kindergarten classrooms at Sligo Elementary School. The event was sponsored by Clarion Hospital.



The L-V to publish early

Due to the Thanksgiving holiday, The Leader-Vindicator will publish one day early next week, on Wednesday, Nov. 27.

The L-V offices will also close Thursday, Nov. 28.

To accommodate the earlier publication schedule, the following deadlines have been advanced:

- Letters to the editor, social and church news items — Friday, Nov. 22, noon.
- Classified advertising — Monday, Nov. 25, 11 a.m.
- Display advertising — Monday, Nov. 25, noon.
- Regular news items — Monday, Nov. 25, noon.



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