

The Leader-Vindicator

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Serving Southern Clarion and Northern Armstrong Counties

75 CENTS

SANTA CLAUS paid the kids of the Peanut Patch Daycare in New Bethlehem an early visit on Dec. 16 with a bag of presents in tow. Two-year-old Violet Pitt made her last minute Christmas requests to Santa before the big day.

[L-V photo by Evanne Gareis]



Rmbg. signs off on tax, rate increases

By JOSH WALZAK
L-V Editor

RIMERSBURG — Increases to the property tax millage, as well as to the water and sewerage rates, for Rimersburg Borough were made official last week as town leaders formally adopted the town's 2014 budget.

Property taxes will rise 1 mill, while the base fees for water and sewerage will increase \$2 and \$1 per month respectively.

The increases were necessary, officials said, to help offset rising costs and a general fund operating deficit of more than \$17,000.

The tax hike is expected to generate approximately

\$5,600 in additional revenue.

At their Dec. 10 meeting, council members said they spent a lot of time on the budget in order to keep the increases minimal.

"We beat that up to death," councilman T.L. Stewart said.

The votes on the budget and increases were unanimously approved, although councilman Gary Fowler, the council's lone Democrat who was attending his final meeting after failing in November to gain re-election, initially joked that he would oppose the increases. In the end, he cast his vote alongside the council's Republican majority.

"That's it, I'm done,"

Fowler said as his parting words at the end of the meeting.

At the start of the meeting, however, it was resident Verna Whitmer who held the floor, as she told the council she was not pleased with the borough's rental property inspection regulations.

Whitmer, who said that her son lives in a house she owns in the borough, told the council she felt she should not have to have the property inspected since it is occupied by a family member and no rent is being collected.

"It's not a rental," she said. "I don't want it inspected. I feel like I'm being harassed."

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The L-V to close for holidays

Due to the Christmas and New Year holidays, The Leader-Vindicator offices will be closed on Wednesdays, Dec. 25 and Jan. 1.

The newspaper will maintain its regular Thursday publication schedule and will be delivered through the mail and on sale at local vendors on Thursdays, Dec. 26 and Jan. 2.

However, to accommodate the holiday

schedules, deadlines will be advanced:

- Social and church page items, and letters to the editor — noon on Fridays, Dec. 20 and Dec. 27.
- Classified advertising — 11 a.m. on Mondays, Dec. 23 and Dec. 30.
- Display advertising — noon on Mondays, Dec. 23 and Dec. 30.
- Regular news items — noon on Mondays, Dec. 23 and Dec. 30.

Season triggers growing need at food banks

By RON WILSHIRE
L-V Correspondent

NEW BETHLEHEM — The holidays often tax the limits of Clarion County food banks and most report a slight increase in the number of people served over Thanksgiving, attributing the need to continuing poor economic conditions and a cut in food stamps.

"The need is up and the number of people coming in is up," said Helen Toy of the Redbank Valley

Church Association Food Pantry in New Bethlehem. "We had about 20 more families this November. One time, several years ago, we had 192 families in November, but we haven't been anywhere near that until this year when we had 186."

A network of support ranging from contributions, surplus food, federal and state grants, donated food, and a tremendous amount of volunteers and community support allows 17 sites of different sizes in the Clarion County region to continue to provide

food to the needy. The typical bags of food are provided once a month to supplement food stamps and consumers must meet certain national poverty guidelines. [See the related article in today's issue.]

Most of the pantries are open once a month and provide different types of food at various locations to supplement food stamps in most cases. For instance, consumers can only receive surplus food/state food at one of the three locations each month.

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HELEN TOY AT THE REDBANK VALLEY CHURCH ASSOCIATION FOOD PANTRY

Fair adds demo derby contest

By JOSH WALZAK
L-V Editor

ALCOLA — Clarion County Fairgoers voted with their wallets last year, making the fair's demolition derby night one of the biggest attendance days in fair history.

Demo derby fans will be rewarded for their loyalty in 2014 as the fair not only brings back a second

night of derbies, but takes motorsport mayhem to the next level with its Saturday night debut of "Clarion County Wreckoning."

"We had such a great turnout and fan support last year," demolition derby organizer Ryan Kirkpatrick said this week in announcing the new event at the fair. "We want to make something bigger and better for the fans."

To take things to that next level, Kirkpatrick said that the fair has teamed up with Bo Lockwood Motorsports to build upon the local fair's long-standing tradition of demolition derbies.

The new Saturday, July 26 event will feature 30 full-size cars, 10 pickup trucks and thousands of dollars in prize money for the winners.

"What we're bringing is the big payout," Kirkpatrick said, explaining that prizes in the full-size car event will start at \$2,000 for first place. The event — which will use the "Redline Derby Engines Limited Weld" rules — will include three heats of 10 cars, with the top four in each heat, plus two last-chance qualifiers, moving

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THE UNION HIGH School lobby is decorated this year to the theme of "How the Grinch Stole Christmas!" The annual art display, created by the school's art classes, includes

a recreation of Whoville and the characters from the classic Dr. Seuss holiday story.

[L-V photo by Josh Walzak]



With the way the holidays fall this year, this issue will be our final one before Christmas. The Leader-Vindicator will still be published on Thursdays the next couple of weeks — on Dec. 26 and Jan. 2. Be sure to check out the information in today's paper about earlier deadlines for [Continued on Page A-9]



First United National Bank

Member FDIC

New Bethlehem, PA 814-275-2200

Fryburg 814-354-7311

Oil City 814-676-8647

Franklin 814-437-5758

Clarion 814-227-2400

Cranberry 814-678-1115

