

# The Leader-Vindicator

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## Courthouse annex plan is rejected

By **EVANNE GAREIS**  
L-V Staff Writer

CLARION — The Clarion County Courthouse Renovation and Annex project that has been on the minds of county residents since preliminary plans were unveiled in February has encountered a snag, according to commissioners Wayne Brosius, Butch Campbell and Greg Faller.

During their regular meeting on Nov. 26, the commissioners rejected the final project plans presented by contractor The EADs Group, deciding to discuss better cost-effective options and possible redesign.

Campbell explained that although comments

have been made throughout the county, building the proposed annex has never been a done deal, and won't be until it's put out for contract and bids.

"We are not stopping the process," Campbell said to the packed conference room of spectators. "We're moving forward looking at all the options."

The proposed final plans included both the courthouse renovation and the building of a new annex, but the estimated total cost came in approximately \$2 million above the original projected figure of \$8 million. The commissioners cited the increase in price as the main reason for their decision.

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[L-V photo by Rich Rhoades]

DEER HUNTING SEASON opened Monday, along with the start of the Big Buck contests in New Bethlehem and Rimersburg. Weighing in a 129-pound deer Monday at the New Bethlehem Fire Hall, Eric R. Smith of Fairmount City said

he was hunting in Clarion County when he bagged this 10-point buck with a 19.5 inch spread. For more photos of successful hunters and their deer, see our Sports section.

## Rmbg. holds taxes

By **JOSH WALZAK**  
L-V Editor

RIMERSBURG — Despite months of number crunching and delays, and warnings that Rimersburg's financial picture wasn't pretty, borough leaders Monday night approved a preliminary budget that holds the line on taxes even with rising expenses.

The council usually gives approval to the tentative budget in November; however, members said that this year's finances were so problematic, that they needed additional time to draft the spending plan.

With preliminary approval given on Dec. 1, members rescheduled their second meeting of the month from Dec. 15 to [Continued on Page A-6]

JUST IN TIME to kick off the holiday season, the first-ever New Bethlehem Community Christmas Tree was erected last Saturday afternoon. The 23-foot tall pine tree was freshly cut that afternoon from a farm belonging to Denny and Sandy Morgan before being secured in the yard between the First United National Bank and the Redbank Valley Trail by local contractor Bill Wills and a crew of volunteers. A tree lighting ceremony is planned for tomorrow (Friday) at 7 p.m.



[L-V photo by Evanne Gareis]

## Christmas traditions return, begin in NB

By **EVANNE GAREIS**  
L-V Staff Writer

NEW BETHLEHEM — The turkey is gone, and Christmas is in the air.

New Bethlehem is gearing up for the season with several favorite and new holiday activities — from parades to trees and craft shows — that the whole family can enjoy.

Kicking off the festivities this weekend is the eighth annual Redbank Renaissance Arts and Crafts Show and Sale held at the New Bethlehem Presbyterian Church on Saturday, Dec. 6 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Craft lovers can enjoy sweet treats from a bake

sale starting first thing in the morning, benefiting the church and the Redbank Valley Historical Society, and a hot lunch featuring soup, chili, hot dogs and sandwiches offered by Renaissance from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

According to Redbank Renaissance president Sandy Mateer, several new craft vendors will be joining returning favorites this year offering a wide variety of products such as candles, doll clothes and accessories, paintings, photographs, handmade jewelry, bags, dips, Christmas decorations and more.

"The arts and crafts available at the show in-

clude a variety of media and are offered at a full range of prices," Mateer noted in a press release, explaining that Renaissance encourages people to shop locally. "The show helps support our local artists, many of whom pursue their love of art in addition to other jobs."

In addition, local organizations will have displays offering products and information, and several businesses have donated products for a Chinese raffle.

Kelsy D. Studios will be on hand to demonstrate glass blowing techniques, and crafters can learn the art of papercrafting with [Continued on Page A-9]



The busy trifecta of Thanksgiving/Black Friday/First Day of Deer Season is now behind us and we can turn our attention to the start of December and the joy of the Christmas season.

New Bethlehem is the place to be this weekend as the holiday season rings in loud and clear with the annual parade and Snack with Santa on Saturday, the craft show at the Presbyterian Church and the new Festival of Trees at the former Family Dollar location in the plaza.

And don't forget to take a drive around the business district as many local establishments, including The Leader-Vindicator, [Continued on Page A-7]



FIRE CREWS FROM New Bethlehem, Hawthorn and Rimersburg and emergency personnel were on the scene of a tractor trailer roll-over on Dec. 2 along Route 861, near Squirrel Hill Road, in Porter Township. A Harrisville woman was operating a 2006 International Harvester DT466 truck when she reportedly fell asleep, causing the truck to hit the guidrails and roll over the bank. She suffered moderate injuries. For the full story, see Page A-2.

[L-V photo by Evanne Gareis]



## Former Bradys Bend school razed

By **JOSH WALZAK**  
L-V Editor

BRADYS BEND — The former Bradys Bend Elementary School, which closed after the devastating flood of 1980 and was later converted into a shirt factory, was demolished over the last several weeks.

Located along Route 68 in the Armstrong County village of

Bradys Bend, the former elementary school opened in January 1955 to replace the old school a few miles away at Kaylor. The property, wooded at the time, was donated by the Dewey Estate.

Joe Curran, who was on the project committee set up by Bradys Bend Township, which has owned the old school for a number of years, said last week that the building had deteriorated so

much that demolition was practically the only solution.

"The building really couldn't be salvaged," he said, noting that the roof was in very bad condition.

The township plans to keep the rear portion of the building, which was added on in the late 1980s or early 1990s. It will be used as a township office, election hall and eventually to store township equipment.

When the school opened mid-year in 1955, Curran said that it accommodated students in grades one through six. By the early 1970s, it was shifted to four grades.

The building sustained damages in the 1980 flood, and after it was deemed to be in the floodplain and not safe as a school, the Armstrong School District closed [Continued on Page A-2]



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