

📖 CLASS OF 2021: Northwest Area Honor Students and List of Graduates PAGE 8 🔳 📖

TUESDAY, JUNE 8, 2021

# Medical pot may bench rescuers

# By GEN GIBBONS Prest Ringende Winter Berwick council considers sidelining in freighters who have mediation for the borough's safety com. Derwick council considers sidelining in the safety committee is made up of the safety committee is

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New showroom a perfect fit Downsizing suited Lightstreet kitchen-bath business, owner says

# **By MICHAEL LESTER**

LIGHTSTREET - John Coates ad-mits he "lost a lot of money" after decid-ing to substantially downsize plans for a 60,000-square-60,000-square-lumberyard kitchen-andfoot and bath h showroom to 10,000-square-foot

a 10,000-square-foot showroom called Forest & Field. It was 2018, and Coates, owner of Tri-County Lumber and Truss in Berwick, already had paid ar-chitects to design the larger building for the Columbia County chitects to design the larger building for the Columbia County Business Park near the Interstate 80 in-terchange in Light-street. The project had all the necessary gov-ernment approvals to move forward. Yet Coates said doubt started to gistics of the project. His gut told him something wasn't right.

right.

One morning in 2018, he woke up a "nervous wreck," wondering if he'd be wondering if he'd be able to find the num-ber of reliable em-ployees he'd need to do the physical labor necessary at an ex-panded lumberyard. Coates had a heart-to-heart con-versation with a busi-nessman friend of his about those con-cerns.

cerns. Coates already

Coates already had a lumberyard. What he really need-ed was the kitchen-and-bath showroom to attract more cos-tumers looking to remodel or build homes.

"The logistics to See FIT page 10



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I orest & Field owner John Coates above, shows off one of the dis-play kitchens in the showroom at Lightstreet.

Coates, in photo at left, stands outside the new kitchen-and-bath showroom in the Columbia County Business Park in Lightstreet. Coates also owns Tri-County Lumber and Truss in Berwick.

Another photo, page 10.

PHOTOS BY KEITH HAUPT

# Green space still worries some Berwick directors

Supporters of trees, meadow near school have experts make case at board meeting By SUSAN SCHWARTZ

The draw who said it would be less ing round and round," said Jon some directors said residents had expensive to maintain, better for Morell, before moving to put the the environment, and prevent issue on the June 14 agenda. But only about a dozen common funding the presentation during the board's committee of the whole Board members are scheduled to meeting was the third time the take a final vote on whether tomove idea was pitched to the board; it wheel whether tomove idea was pitched to the board; it would be the whole board so area to the source to the BERWICK — Supporters of a plan to plant fruit trees along Thompson Run and a native wild-flower meadow by West Berwick Elementary brought a panel of experts to Monday's school board

ahead with the project Monday. "At this point, we're just go-a chance to ask questions after

# Board members, however, had Please see GREEN page 10

# Teen's serious charges dropped

Berwick student, 19, gets plea deal in knife-pulling case at bus stop

By SUSAN SCHWARTZ

BERWICK — A 19-year-old high school student accused of bran-dishing a knife at a seventh-grader at a school bus stop had the most serious charges against him withdrawn Monday.

Alex Thomas Triplett, of 4037 Alex Thomas Triplett, of 4037 Smith St. Unit 1, instead pleaded guilty to disorderly conduct as part of a plea bargain as his family looked on.

looked on. District Judge Richard Knecht ordered Triplett to pay 852525 in fines and costs, plus serve six movnths on probation. As long as he stays out of trou-ble and away from drugs and alco-hol, he should be fine, Knecht told his family. "He doesn't do any of that" re-

"He doesn't do any of that," re-plied his mother, Sabrina DeFrain. "Only coffee with a whole bunch of

"Only coffee with a whole bunch of sugar. "He stays in the house. He's a homebody." First Assistant District Attor-ney Brenda Hees said prosecutors agreed to the deal because while Triplett allegedly showed the younger boy the knife and told him e "could" hurt him, he didn't ac-tually threaten to do so. "Triplet allos is young and there

Triplett also is young, and there may be other issues, Hess said.

# Other issues

DeFrain told the judge her son is on disability. Public Defender Elizabeth Wood asked prosecutors to tell the alleged victim and his brother to stop bothering the teen. Please see KNIFE page 9

## INSIDE WEATHER TODAY: Stray t-storms HIGH TEMP: 85° PRECIPITATION: 50%



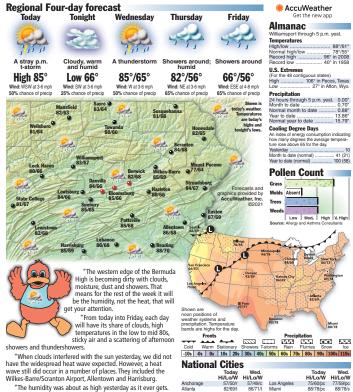
Increased starting rates for all shifts! -AAM MAAM ANAMAMAN

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**Webstaurant**Store HIRING EVENT - 6/10 & 6/12! Thursday: 9AM-5PM Saturday: 9AM-3PM

Address: 19 Mitchell Drive, Bloomsburg



"The humidity was about as high yesterday as it ever gets. That helped produce showers and thundershowers over about 30% of the state. Many were over the Poconos."

Thaddeus Quackus, PE weatherbird

Sun and Moon				River Stag
			5:36 a.m. 8:38 p.m.	Susquehanna Bloomsburg
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	10	0		Fishing Creek
Jun 10	Jun 17	Jun 24	Jul 1	near Bloomsburg

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FOREST & FIELD owner John Coates shows a display kitchen in his new Lightstreet showroom.

# Fit 'It's a proper place to showcase what we sell'

County Lumber for years, but that actu-ally was half the size of Coates's new 500-square-foot office inside Forest &

 aliy was here.
 for office inside Forest & unenjoyable process enjoyable.

 Field.
 unenjoyable process enjoyable.

 That limited Tri-County staff to showing homeowners and contractors
 Family business nearly 30 years

 Daper or digital images of kitchen and
 Coates's father, the late John L. Coates, bought the former Fahringer

Continued from front page
 Continued from front page
 Art Sorest & Field, homeowners and it Tri-County Lumber: An Interview in Babero actually experiments in a fridge inside contractor for actually experiment.
 The friend suggested Coates juic.
 So, after about woy seai of planting.
 Coates as lot of money." Coates sais a fridge inside and 1984 grad of Bloomsburg the barr port actual and 1984 grad of Bloomsburg.
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showroom in the area. "The whole idea is to have a low-pres-The nearest competitor, he said, is in Allentown. Coates said. "Beople have a hard time vi-Coates said. "Beople have a hard time vi-sualizing things that aren't three-dimensional. It just makes it easier when you can see things. We don't want the process to be [stressful]. We're trying to make an unenjoyable process enjoyable."

Press Enternrise/Keith Haur

kitchens that range in cost from \$1,200 to six figures. Appointments are required to consult with the business's kitchen and bath de-signers, Kim Lupashunski and Danae Orlando. But anyone is welcome to stop by un-announced to look around, Coates said. Forest & Field's location right off Interstate 80, Coates said, will help the business attract customers from other

# Marijuana

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# Green Continued from front page

plenty of issues to bring up. Director Carol Bodwalk worried that leaves falling from the trees, which would be near the high school, would clog the waterway and ourso flooding during a term would clog the waterway and cause flooding during storms. The trees would block neigh-bors' view of the school, giv-ing vandals free rein, she said. Leaves would fall on the district's driveways and cre-ate a slick hazard for inexpe-tions end during his print rienced drivers in the rain, and wildlife attracted by the Wed. Hi/Lo/W

nenced threes in the rain, and wildlife attracted by the meric route attracted by the route attracted by the meric and the said. Director Maryann Kova-lewski, meanwhile, said tall neadow grasses and flowers such as the ones planted in a similar project at Geisinger's Woodbine Lane site would tower over small children, she said. "Kidis walking into some-thing like that will be feeling entrapped, overwhelmed, and sustifiably so," she said. She showed a slide show illustrat-ing her concerns. She worried the trees would take up space for spec-

would take up space for spec-tators at the athletic fields by

the secondary schools. Meanwhile, the district isn't able to keep up with the maintenance issues it has now, she said, showing slides of overgrown grass growing in Thompson Run through the continue of a predestrian in mompson kun through the grating of a pedestrian bridge, as well as overgrown grass along the waterway's embankments, plus an un-locked, burned van on school

But Justin Ulanoski, presi-dent of Native Creations Landscape Services, said he and landscape architect Rob Harter worked hard to get the grants to install the natural green spaces, plus maintain them for two years, at no cost

## Flood control

 stonal. It just makes it easier when you can see things. We don't want the process we don't want the process we don't want the process serioyable."
 Susan Schwartz covers the wards to be in the series want want neep the series we want was and want the process enjoyable."

 Family business attract customers from other "It's a proper place to showcase what we sell," Coates said.
 Sas part of preparing the Susan Schwartz covers would clear out the inva- reached at 570-367-1234 ext. It is the series would clear out the inva- reached at 570-367-1234 ext. It is the process enjoyable."

 Family business attract and the process in the process in the series would clear out the inva- reached at 570-367-1234 ext. It is the process in the process in the series would clear out the inva- reached at 570-367-1234 ext. It is the series would clear out the inva- reached at S70-367-1234 ext. It is the process in the process in the series would clear out the inva- reached at S70-367-1234 ext. It is the series would clear out the inva- reached at S70-367-1234 ext. It is the series would clear out the inva- reached at S70-367-1234 ext. It is the series would clear out the inva- reached at S70-367. The series would clear out the inva- reached at S70-367. The series we can at the inva- reached at S70-367. The series we can at the series would clear out the inva- reached at S70-367. The series we can at the series we can at the series would clear out the inva- reached at S70-367. The series we can at the series we can at the series would clear out the inva- reached at S70-367. The series we can at the seri

rally instead of building up, explained Colleen DeLong, a habitat biologist for the ClearWater Conservancy. Harter said the trees would provide shade, preventing similar grass from growing rampanity. Leaves don't build up in tree-lined creeks because they decompose, becoming nutrients for natural bacte-

they decompose, becoming nutrients for natural bacte-ria, said Brian Mangan, a Ne-scopeck resident and environ-mental science and biology teacher at King's College. "Right now, you have a glo-rified ditch with weeds," he said. "If this project goes for-ward, you'll see that stream emerge."

ward, you'll see that stream emerge." DeLong said trees along creeks prevent flooding by soaking up the water into their roots. Those roots also create air space in the soil, which can hold water instead of sending it over the surface. They're much more efficient than lawns at holding water, she added.

than lawns at holding water, she added. Director Ronald Robsock asked when the run was last dredged. Culver said that be-cause of the slope of the wa-terway, experts determined dredging wouldn't prevent flooding.

## Stabilizing soil

Stabilizing soil Statithey Hartzell, Colum-bia County's watershed spe-cialist, said trees also stabi-lize the soil beside waterways within three to five years, pre-venting them from eroding their banks. Using concrete to restore a waterway like Thompson Run if it erodes soils (330000 and acre, she said. A preventive buffer like the one proposed costs only \$1,200 an acre, including maintenance, she said. The county is strongly in flow of the project as part of its state-required storm-vater management program, she said. So is the Dependent of

So is the Department of So is the Department or Environmental Protection, said Jason Fellon, watershed manager for the North Cen-tral Region of the Department of Environmental Protection, who participated by phone. "I don't see any negatives," he said. Hartter said he would work

he said. be said. with the community to make sure the plantings don't inter-fere with the neighbors' abil-ty to keep an eye on the school building or athletic fields. And Ulanoski said the company would plant shorter species of grass and wildflow-ers in the meadow by the el-ementary school, and smaller trees near driveways.

# Professor: a resource

Director Morell said wet aves shouldn't be a concern, even if they do make roads more slick. "When it rains, you slow

"When it rains, you slow down," he said. Mangan noted many of the borough's streets are already lined with trees and bushes. "And I think you'd be sur-prised by the wildlife already moving through town," he said. "There are deer, and counter."

moving unrough rown, ne said. "There are deer, and coyotes." The new green space would be a wonderful re-bource for teachers and stu-dents, he said. "I would kill to have some-thing like that in my back yard at King's College," he said. "You're going to make something beautiful that will enrich the students. There's grant money to tap into willing to help. The sky is re-ally the limit."

property. The proposed changes would be beautiful, she said, but "We don't have the re-sources to take care of what we have "changed"

sources to take care of what we have," she said. Tami Eddinger, the only member of the general pub-lic to speak, echoed concerns about how to maintain the green spaces

"We have enough parks paid for by taxpayers," she said. "I don't think we need more."

# Saving green

them for two years, at no cost to the district. Usually, he said, such proj-ects go to college towns and other areas in the central part of the state, but Berwick is just as deserving of the ben-

le: