



PRESS ENTERPRISE

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TUESDAY, JUNE 8, 2021

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Medical pot may bench rescuers

By GERI GIBBONS Press Enterprise Writer

BERWICK — Berwick council is considering barring firefighters who have medical marijuana cards from active service with the department.

Berwick council considers sidelining firefighters who have marijuana cards

The safety committee is made up of one council member and representatives from the police department, the department of public works, the codes department and the

administration, borough manager Damien Scoblink explained. Although medical marijuana cards are issued by the state, federal law still bans marijuana use, Scoblink pointed out.

Not singled out

He said the fire department wasn't being singled out. Police and public works already have a similar policy in place. Please see MARIJUANA page 10

New showroom a perfect fit

Downsizing suited Lightstreet kitchen-bath business, owner says

By MICHAEL LESTER Press Enterprise Writer

LIGHTSTREET — John Coates admits he "lost a lot of money" after deciding to substantially downsize plans for a 60,000-square-foot lumberyard and kitchen-and-bath showroom to a 10,000-square-foot showroom called Forest & Field.

It was 2016, and Coates, owner of Tri-County Lumber and Truss in Berwick, already had paid architects to design the larger building for the Columbia County Business Park near the Interstate 80 interchange in Lightstreet.

The project had all the necessary government approvals to move forward.

Yet Coates said doubt started to creep in about the logistics of the project. His gut told him something wasn't right.

One morning in 2018, he woke up a "nervous wreck," wondering if he'd be able to find the number of reliable employees he'd need to do the physical labor necessary at an expanded lumberyard.

Coates had a heart-to-heart conversation with a businessman friend of his about those concerns.

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

"The logistics to See FIT page 10



Forest & Field owner John Coates, above, shows off one of the display 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

Teen's serious charges dropped

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

By SUSAN SCHWARTZ Press Enterprise Writer

BERWICK — A 19-year-old high school student accused of brandishing 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 Smith St. Unit 1, instead pleaded guilty to disorderly conduct as part of a plea bargain as his family looked on.

District Judge Richard Knecht ordered Triplett to pay \$825.25 in fines and costs, plus serve six months on probation.

As long as he stays out of trouble and away from drugs and alcohol, he should be fine, Knecht told his family.

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

"He stays in the house. He's a homebody."

First Assistant District Attorney Brenda Hess said prosecutors agreed to the deal because while Triplett allegedly showed the younger boy the knife and told him he "could" hurt him, he didn't actually threaten to do so.

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

Green space still worries some Berwick directors

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

By SUSAN SCHWARTZ Press Enterprise Writer

BERWICK — Supporters of a plan to plant fruit trees along Thompson Run and a native wildflower meadow by West Berwick Elementary brought a panel of experts to Monday's school board

meeting who said it would be less expensive to maintain, better for the environment, and prevent flooding. But not all school directors appeared convinced.

Board members are scheduled to take a final vote on whether to move ahead with the project Monday.

"At this point, we're just go-

ing round and round," said Jon Morell, before moving to put the issue on the June 14 agenda.

The presentation during the board's committee of the whole meeting was the third time the idea was pitched to the board; it was organized to give the public a chance to ask questions after

some directors said residents had come to them with concerns.

But only about a dozen community members showed up. Only one spoke.

Dangers of trees

Board members, however, had Please see GREEN page 10

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WEATHER

TODAY: Stray t-storms HIGH TEMP: 85° PRECIPITATION: 50% TONIGHT: Humid LOW TEMP: 66° PRECIPITATION: 25% More, page 10



WebstaurantStore HIRING EVENT - 6/10 & 6/12! Thursday: 9AM-5PM Saturday: 9AM-3PM Address: 19 Mitchell Drive, Bloomsburg MASK, RESUME, & PHOTO ID REQUIRED

