

Coronavirus: What You Need to Know

By Rep. Joe Emrick

BANGOR - With Coronavirus having been confirmed in five U.S. states so far, the Pennsylvania Department of Health is urging citizens to learn more about the virus and how to protect yourself.

Coronaviruses are a large family of viruses that are common throughout the world. These viruses can evolve and infect people spreading through human to human contact, just like the flu or a cold.

These viruses display symptoms similar to a normal flu or cold, including runny nose, headache, cough, sore throat and fever. The virus can sometimes cause lower-respiratory tract infections as well.

To protect yourself and others, cover any coughs or sneezes with your elbow, do not use your hands; clean surfaces frequently, such as countertops, light switches, cell phones and other frequently touched areas; and contain the spread of any sickness by staying home until you are feeling better.

Learn more here. http://links.pahousenews.com/q/hZGQQYb4xcckPQ9_qAShpdhVQRcSwJTKKTnd7RZM8dp9IRB5w1DwAc2k9-fg



New Law Allows Landowners to Mark Property with No-Trespassing Purple Paint

By Rep. Joe Emrick

BANGOR -Pennsylvania has joined several other states in adopting a "purple paint law," which provides landowners with an alternative to marking their properties as "no trespassing."

Under the law, landowners may paint purple stripes on trees or posts to mark their properties. The lines must be vertical and at least 8 inches long and 1 inch wide. They must be 3 to 5 feet off the ground, readily visible to a person approaching the property and no more than 100 feet apart. While the law does not specify a certain shade of purple, a number of paint manufacturers offer a product called "No Hunting Purple."

Previously, the only way landowners could post their properties was by posting signs that would deteriorate over time.

The law applies everywhere, except in Philadelphia and Allegheny counties.

Purple Paint Law



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Ken Field

Owner of Slate Belt Energy Services

Exclusively in the Blue Valley Times

Who's the Boss

Some people are just difficult to work for. There, I said it. Sometimes they pull up a chair and get in the way of an installation. Other times they want us to watch the kids while they run out to the store. Even more upsetting is when they ignore my professional recommendations and insist on having me do something that I'm not really in favor of. I know that the customer is the boss and some even go as far as to say the customer is always right. The customer is always in the driver's seat but if I don't like where they are headed I may just have to ask them to pull over and let me out. Some brands of parts and some combinations of equipment do not work well together. I have learned this over the years so I do not use them. Now that YouTube makes everyone an instant expert, I have to justify all recommendations after someone finishes researching them. My disclaimer is that when a customer requests something specific or refuses a recommendation, I remind them that in the future if problems arise it will not have been caused by me. I even put a note on the invoice that the customer requested said item.

My recommendations are based on many years of trial and error and if someone wants to ignore that, so be it. But why even have me there if you don't want my advice?

My preferences for equipment are not based on incentives offered by manufacturers or any other hidden perk. It is based solely on value. Nothing lasts forever but some things seem to last only a day or two past the warranty period. Some of the best parts I can buy are not available locally. I don't know why that is but my hunch is that they are slightly more expensive than the run of the mill parts and they wouldn't move fast enough at the supply house. Some are slightly more difficult to install and actually end up being an upgrade to the whole system.

That is a huge value to a 10 year old system when energy saving features can be added that weren't available when the equipment was made. Reading trade magazines and internet blogs expands my horizons enough to allow me to bring better ideas to the table.

You should be in control of the repairs that go into your home just like you should be in control of medical advice and prescriptions you take. Employ responsible professionals and everything will be fine.

Ken Field is the owner of Field's Service, Inc. and Slate Belt Energy Services. He has over 40 years of experience in heating, air conditioning and is certificated by RESNET and BPI in various areas of energy conservation. He can be reached at 610-599-8832 or at www.SlateBeltEnergy.com

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Pleasant Valley School Hall of Fame

By Senator Mario Scavello

PLEASANT VALLEY - Last week it was my privilege to help induct Geoffrey Roche into the Pleasant Valley School District Hall of Fame. Geoffrey grew up in the Poconos and attended Pleasant Valley. He currently serves on the President's Cabinet at Harrisburg University where he manages and executes strategic initiatives to support the health science academic programs. Previously Geoffrey worked for what was then Pocono Medical Center for 9 years. Congratulations Geoffrey!

Workshop on Attracting Tourism to the Slate Belt

By Beckey Bartlett

EASTON - Lamont McClure and the Northampton County Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED), in collaboration with Discover Lehigh Valley, will hold a free workshop on developing travel packages for individuals and groups to increase tourism in Northampton County.

Attractions and businesses in the Slate Belt which benefit from tourism are encouraged to attend a workshop on Thursday, February 20, 2020 from 9:00 – 11:00 AM at the Slate Belt Heritage Center 30 North First Street, Bangor, PA 18013 to assist in the development of themed travel packages for day and overnight trips: History, Arts, Shopping and Dining, Recreation, etc.

Interested participants should RSVP by February 13th to Dawn Tomaino at DTomaino@northamptoncounty.org

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