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BUCKS COUNTY Courier Times

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Late freeze limits orchards, crops



The market at Solebury Orchards will be stocked with seasonal fruit, some of which will be shipped in from other regions to supplement the significant loss in crops brought on by a late April freeze.

Certain fruits will be missing from Bucks farms this year

Michele Haddon
Bucks County Courier Times
USA TODAY NETWORK

Solebury Orchards opened to the public last week for the picking season, but things are a little different than years past. “We’re fortunate to have a decent blueberry crop, but cherries and peaches did not make it,” said Brian Smith, a local grower who’s owned Solebury Orchards and currently experiencing his worst season since opening in 1985

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Blueberries ripen on a branch on June 29. at Solebury Orchards, where picking season has just begun. PHOTOS BY MICHELE C. HADDON / BUCKS COUNTY COURIER TIMES

Judge gives sentences for Oxford Valley Mall shooting

Jo Ciavaglia
Bucks County Courier Times
USA TODAY NETWORK

A Philadelphia man has admitted he shot and injured a man outside the Oxford Valley Mall last year, a crime that sent the shopping center into lockdown for hours.

At a court appearance July 6, Shannon Lewis, 33, entered guilty pleas on all charges in the June 19, 2025 shooting including felonies for aggravated assault and carrying a firearm without a license.

Bucks County Common Pleas Court Judge Wallace Bateman Jr. accepted the plea and sentenced Lewis to three to six years in state prison.

The judge also ordered Lewis – who has been free on bail since February – to remain on home confinement with electronic monitoring until he is required to turn himself in for incarceration on Aug. 7.

Middletown police said Lewis approached and shot a man who was sitting on a wall near a bus stop outside the JC Penny.

An hour before the shooting, Lewis was captured on surveillance cameras getting off a SEPTA bus at the mall. He was seen walking around and talking on his cellphone near the fountain, until shortly before 5 p.m. when he walked to the front of the JC Penny, police said.

Lewis approached the victim and asked if the man was from Trenton.

After the victim, who told police he did not know Lewis, refused to answer the question, Lewis pulled out a revolver-style handgun and shot the man, police said.

After the shooting, Lewis walked back to his backpack, put the gun inside and casually walked toward the nearby Atlee Square apartments, which sit

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No issues reported with screenings at Bucks district court

Jo Ciavaglia
Bucks County Courier Times
USA TODAY NETWORK

The first day of new security screenings for visitors in the busiest Bucks County District court could not have gone better.

No backups. No complaints. No de-

lays. “No problems,” Bensalem District Court Judge Joseph Falcone said. “Today everything was flawless.”

Falcone estimated about 50 court visitors were screened July 6 at his court located in an office complex off Bristol Road.

The Bensalem court is among the

first five Bucks County district courts that will participate in a pilot program that will station armed county security guards at entrances and screen visitors and their belongings.

Bucks is the latest Pennsylvania county to implement some level of security in district courts, which handle traffic and landlord-tenant disputes, plus

non-traffic, civil and criminal matters.

This month Montgomery County is also stationing contracted security guards and metal detectors at some of its 29 district courts.

Four additional Bucks courts will add at least one armed security guard and

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