



Ken Field

Owner of Slate Belt Energy Services

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Keep Living and Learning

Once you learn about something, that information is stuck inside your head and it can change the way you think about everything. Once you know what is healthy for the human body and then look at the nutritional information on a bag of potato chips, it's harder to eat them. It isn't a right or wrong decision; it's just a choice to proceed at your own risk. Life is full of those choices and they should be yours to make. Nobody lives forever but some people live longer than others. Live for today is a great saying but it's too broad. Because what if you save nothing for tomorrow and take unnecessary risks and shorten your life by a dozen or so years?

Won't someone miss you?

Knowing what I do about all things mechanical, I can spot a hyped up piece of junk a mile away. Some things are so bad I can't even believe China agreed to make them for someone. Everything from lawn chairs to power tools and so many things in between. If they last 30 days, there is no way to return or replace them so in the trash they go. If it's a lawn chair, it takes up much less space in the landfill than if it's a refrigerator but the money spent on it is still gone forever.

When you buy things that will need parts, someone should check on the availability before making the purchase. Someone installed a mini split heat pump for a customer of ours and apparently chose a brand for them that was sold by home depot. That was 5 years ago and now they need a motor and that brand is gone. No parts are available. If it was a lawn chair, it would already be in the trash but these units were not that cheap and there are 4 indoor units and one outdoor unit. The original installer is also not interested in servicing the units because that's not where the profit is, so he just walked away from this breakdown. What people don't realize is that the parts inside these systems that come from Korea and China are not universal at all. If you can't find the correct part, you have nothing. Knowing the brands that are NOT supported by parts makes me avoid them like potato chips.

The original owner did not know this when he had these installed but I'm sure he will never buy another off brand system now that he has learned the hard way.

Ken Field is the owner of Slate Belt Energy and Field's Service, Inc. As a certified energy rater and contractor, he is qualified to assess every aspect of energy usage and prescribe solutions to save energy. He can be reached at 610-759-6306 or email Ken@FieldsService.com

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Helping Teachers Obtain Certifications

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Senate Votes to Extend Program Helping Schools Find Substitute Teachers

By Senator Scavello

PEN ARGYL - Pennsylvania schools could have additional opportunities to find qualified substitute teachers under a bill approved by the Senate this week.

Lawmakers created a program in 2016 that allowed individuals training to be teachers to serve as a substitute teacher, provided the individual has valid clearances and at least 60 credit hours. However, the program is set to expire on June 30.

The legislation approved this week would make this temporary program permanent. As a result, schools, intermediate units and career and technical schools can ensure qualified substitutes are available to meet the needs of students.



Protecting the First Amendment Rights of Teachers

By Senator Scavello

PEN ARGYL - The Senate approved a critical bill this week to ensure the First Amendment rights of teachers are better protected. The legislation would repeal a provision of the School Code which prohibits teachers from wearing any garb, mark, emblem or insignia that would indicate they are a member of or adherent to any religious order or sect while in the performance of their duties as a teacher.

Although federal courts have held that the school's religious affiliations policy violates the free exercise of religion and free speech clauses of the Constitution, these provisions are still in place and public school directors can be held criminally liable for failing to enforce this prohibition. Pennsylvania is the last state in the United States with this provision still in place.



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