



## Ken Field

Owner of Slate Belt Energy Services

*Exclusively in the Blue Valley Times*

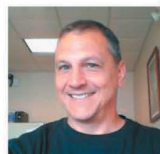
### Luxury vs. Necessity

Utilities are a huge convenience for us. Infrastructure was started over a hundred years ago and has moved forward steadily since then. Morse code is not well known because we moved from that to the telephone. That was definitely an upgrade. Electricity, water, sewer, and now internet are conveniences we rely upon every minute of every day. Notice I said conveniences. Every one of those is operated by a corporation. The number one job of a corporation is to be profitable. There are some differences with utilities but nothing that changes the profit aspect. If you think they will replace a pole because it looks old or may be bending slightly you have it all wrong. The same goes for cutting trees leaning on utility lines. Nobody has time for that. A lot of the initial materials that went in 100 years ago are still out there today. Everything wears out and weakens eventually and whether it is buried or above ground, time takes its toll. When the electric grid was designed it was not built for an air conditioner in every home and a Tesla in every garage. For example, if you were 20 years old and someone handed you a 10 lb. bag of flour to carry you did it with ease. Now at 80 years old someone hands you a 50 lb. bag of flour and expects you to move at the same pace. It's not possible. The more electricity that flows, the more heat that is generated in all of the components. On a very hot summer day it's not unusual for some of these components to reach their maximum operating temperature. At that point the utility has to shut them down or risk catastrophic failure. No matter how much more you want to pay for it at that point, you just can't have it. Last week when a bad thunderstorm rolled through several areas were out of power. I saw many complaints on social media about it. How long is it going to be? What are they doing, I don't see any power company trucks in my neighborhood? There was no danger of anyone's home freezing. That is the only real emergency for loss of power. Air conditioning is a luxury whether you want to admit it or not. You can't have much of a backup plan for gas, water, sewer and even internet but if you love electricity, get a generator. It is that simple. Get a big one that starts automatically and changes your house over automatically and you will be fine. Until then, you all have to accept the best that the power company can do to keep you happy. 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](mailto:Ken@FieldsService.com)

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## Unemployment Compensation Hints for School Bus Drivers

By Senator Rosemary Brown

STROUDSBURG - It continues to be challenging to find bus drivers so children can safely and reliably travel between home and school each day. When the problem is bad enough, it can even shorten the school day and limit the learning students can accomplish.

To avoid impacts to students' education, it's important to retain as many bus drivers as possible. Of course, they are not needed in the summer and aren't able to collect a paycheck during that time. Unemployment compensation (UC) helps to bridge the gap until the school year begins so bus drivers aren't forced to abandon their critical roles to pay their bills.

Information is available to help school bus drivers who will be laid off during the summer successfully claim their unemployment compensation. First, it's crucial to claim during the correct week: the first week in which they are actually unemployed. Second, understand that UC and workers' compensation are different when filling out the UC claim form. Please reach out to my office if you still have issues with your claim.



## Remember the Fallen This Memorial Day

By Rep Joe Emrick

BETHLEHEM - Monday, May 27, is Memorial Day – a day set aside to honor the more than 1.1 million Americans who have died defending freedom.

Please take a moment this weekend to remember these men and women who sacrificed their lives for us and for our country and consider participating in Memorial Day events in your community.