

## Freeman Bill Would Establish Tutoring Program In All Pa. Public Schools

By Tom Andrews

HARRISBURG, June 27 – Although the school year ended several weeks ago, state Rep. Robert Freeman is looking ahead to improving academic performance in future school years. Under legislation introduced by Freeman, students in 11th and 12th grade would receive academic credit for tutoring elementary school-aged children.

“The benefits of high school students tutoring elementary students is abundant. Tutoring can increase good study habits, improve academic performance, boost self-esteem and can put students in charge of their own learning process and pass that knowledge on to the children,” said Freeman D-Northampton. “The students being tutored get the extra attention they need to improve their academic performance and are typically more receptive to learning from a high school student who would serve as a mentor.”

Freeman said his legislation (H.B. 1678) would require the state Board of Education to establish a tutoring program, which would provide academic credit to students in 11th and 12th grades for tutoring pupils in grades one to six.

“Tutoring is a time-honored and cost-effective way to enhance academic performance for the student being tutored and the student who serves as a tutor,” Freeman said.

School districts would be able to implement the program at little or no cost to taxpayers and it would foster a sense of community and pride in students, according to Freeman.

House Bill 1678 was referred to the House Education Committee for consideration.

## Discover underwater world of Cherry Creek

By Brodhead Watershed Association

CHERRY VALLEY - Snorkeling is a great way to come face-to-face with a new and different world: the underwater world of a creek bed. Brodhead Watershed Association will offer the opportunity to snorkel in Cherry Creek on Sunday, July 14.

From 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., school-age children and their families are invited to learn firsthand about life in Cherry Creek with Brittney Coleman of Kettle Creek Environmental Education Center. The event is free, and equipment is provided. Reservations are required.

Learn about the critters that call this creek home. Find out where the creek water comes from, where it goes, and what happens to it along the way.

This event is part of the Water Wiser Kids Series sponsored by Brodhead Watershed Association, funded by a Dr. Claus Jordan Endowment Grant from Lehigh Valley Health Network Pocono Foundation.

COST: Free, but registration is required and limited to 25 participants. CONTACT: 570-839-1120.



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## Hands On

I've been a fan of Mike Rowe since he was doing Dirty Jobs on TV and I even have his S.W.E.A.T. pledge on my wall. I agree with his philosophy on work and that although colleges are necessary, they aren't necessarily for everyone. I knew I wasn't destined for one and the help I got from the guidance department in high school was nothing short of pathetic. I was the perfect storm of events that could have caused me to be a failure in so many ways. Luckily I turned 18 and could make some choices on my own and that's when I began a career that I had some control over. It wasn't all rainbows and unicorns and it would have been much easier if I was allowed to take some business classes in high school instead of college prep but then Quickbooks came along and saved the day for this credit/debit dummy. Fast forward a few decades to my sons working with me and me teaching them how to work with their hands and watching them take it to the next level.

Now we have a vocational school student working with us for the summer and I get to watch my son teach him how things are done. There is so much more to learn about working than just what the trade is and even though it isn't for everyone, it is definitely what I'm wired for and I can see it is the same for my son. Employers can make all the rules they want but if you have to send someone out in a vehicle to do work, they are in charge of their own time and can use it wisely or they can waste a few minutes here and there and not finish their work on time. Learning when NOT to be on the phone and even how to focus when working as a part of a group essential. You can't be having a conversation about what you did last night while installing a complicated boiler or it is guaranteed that something will not turn out as it should. It's not a prison though and the scenery changes every day and some jobs are lighter than others.

I'm hoping that we give this young man a good idea of what heating and air conditioning is really like but I already know that he is good for our morale and giving us high hopes for the next generation of trade people. Training someone in a hands-on environment is not for everyone but in our family business it's second nature.

*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](http://www.SlateBeltEnergy.com)*

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## Martin Guitar Continued from page 1

Valley in the first place 180 years ago," said Nathan Eckhart, Chief Financial Officer at Martin Guitar. "That includes the area's proximity to major markets, the workforce of craftspeople that we value, and just the many wonderful resources the area offers."

Martin Guitar makes about 150,000 instruments each year, products that can be seen and heard across all genres of music and in all segments of pop culture, from concert and theater stages to television and movies. Eric Clapton, Ed Sheeran, Jason Isbell, Sturgill Simpson, and Colbie Caillat are just a few examples of famous names who play Martin guitars.

"Martin Guitar is a nationally-known company that makes world-class instruments used by some of the greatest musicians in the country, and they do it with the help of Lehigh Valley's central location, proximity to markets, high-quality workforce, and other economic assets," Cunningham said. "Martin Guitar made it happen. Lehigh Valley made it possible."

The company is currently working through the design phase for its new facility, which will be located at the corner of Eighth Street and Commerce Lane, Eckhart said. The company hopes to have the building ready for operation by 2021.

The project will allow Martin Guitar to consolidate an existing storage facility in Hanover Township, Lehigh County, and a distribution center in Forks Township, into the new location. The company employs about 30 people in those two sites, as well as about 500 people in its production facility and main offices in Upper Nazareth Township.

The new facility is located near the Route 33 interchange that opened four years ago, a \$40 million initiative that left the Chrin Commerce Centre in a position to become a major area of growth for Lehigh Valley.

## Salvation Army Continued from page 1

Hull said.

Hull has a history with addiction and so do some of her family and friends, she said. After years of struggling with alcoholism, she hit rock bottom when her house burned down. She rushed home fearing her children were in the house, but found they were out and safe. That's when she decided to address her addiction. She is now celebrating five years of sobriety.

Spiritual development was another goal of Hull's. Although she always had faith, she said she often found it difficult to pray out loud. Through the program, she gained the confidence to lead her church in prayer.

Her growth from the day she signed the contract to join Pathway of Hope on Feb. 27 2018, was measured on something called the Herth Hope Index.

Her self-sufficiency, spirituality, and finances also were assessed. As part of Pathway, Hull took a course on financial stability through Santander Bank and the Bureau of Consumer Finance Protection, sponsors of the program.

For the next year Hull will be monitored on a quarterly basis. For more information about Pathway of Hope visit: [www.salvationarmyusa.org](http://www.salvationarmyusa.org).



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