



**Ken
Field**

*Owner of Slate
Belt Energy
Services*

Exclusively in the Blue Valley Times

Fakebook

Social media has opened yet another avenue for people to connect with someone to help them solve problems around their home. Many years ago I was an advisor on doityourself.com. I answered several questions every day and made suggestions about how to improve comfort in the homes of people who asked for information. It was not a paid position but it allowed me to share information I have learned over the last 30 or so years in the HVAC trade with people who could use it. I even made friends with some of the other advisors and still stay in touch to this day. Now we have twitter and facebook. Facebook gives everyone a place to say anything they want (almost) and connect with others on almost any topic. I belong to a number of groups and they are very diverse. I belong to local ones too but mostly for entertainment. There are many people who advertise their work there and many employees of them who immediately suggest their employer when someone asks about having work done. There is no vetting process and it is usually a free for all just like the rest of facebook. I always hope that homeowners interview these prospective contractors before they OK any work. Sometimes the terms licensed and insured come into play. Licensed in PA for most things means only a home improvement contractor registration. No training, just a payment. Insurance is rarely verified by a homeowner. They just ask if someone has it and they say yes and it moves on. Luckily it is rare for a contractor to cause major damage in someone's home but there is no insurance for a job that turns out poorly. When thousands of dollars worth of equipment or lumber end up being a huge disappointment where do you go? Not to the attorney general, that's for sure, because get in line and wait to be told you need a lawyer. Homeowners need to vet their contractors. Call previous clients from a list you should get from your contractor. And look at their work. Photos or visit jobs and see what is in store for you. Never feel bad about asking for either. Will they honor their warranty and that of the manufacturer? All too often I am called to repair something that I didn't install. Many times they are hack jobs with very basic sloppy installation mistakes. Refrigerant leaks are the worst because it is time consuming to find them and repair them. So be careful what you ask for on social media. Don't start by asking for a cheap installer and when you make contact grill them like your life depends on it.

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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Gymnastics in the Slate Belt

By Karen Brewer

BANGOR - The Slate Belt Heritage Center will present: "Gymnastics in the Slate Belt" on Thursday, July 11th @ 7:00 PM. Former Pen Argyl History teacher and Bangor High School graduate, Walter Cole, will give a four part presentation which will include information on the 50th Anniversary of "The Parkettes" which was founded by former Slate Belt residents Bill & Donna Strauss. There will also be a presentation about Pen Argyl's Kristen Maloney who won many national championships and was a member of the U. S. Women' Gymnastics team. This team won the bronze medal at the 2000 Sydney, Australia Olympics. The Pen Argyl High School gymnastics team will also be acknowledged which was coached by Duane Toth. His son, Tom, will talk about his father's program. The program will also recognize Bangor High School gymnasts, Hollie & Heidi DeBoer and Krista Janette. Any former Slate Belt gymnasts are invited to attend this program.

Also, The Heritage Center will participate in the regional "Passport to History" weekend on Saturday July 20 & Sunday July 21 with extended hours of 10:00 AM -4:00 PM. On Saturday, local historian, Cheryl Statham will demonstrate and instruct on the German Art of "Schernschitte" a Pennsylvania Dutch form of fancy paper cutting. Cheryl is also a craftsperson and retired museum educator. The "Smokin' Pastie" food truck will also be selling contemporary versions of the traditional ethnic food treat, the Cornish Pasty.

On Sunday, Perry Morris will demonstrate and distribute cut-out wooden Christmas ornaments. Both days will also feature the Center's special exhibit "25 Years of Memories" which celebrates the Heritage Center's quarter century of preserving and presenting Slate Belt History. Each room shows a special anniversary highlight.

All events are free and open to the public. The Heritage Center is located at 30 North 1st Street, Bangor, PA. For additional information please contact: Karen Brewer @ 484-894-5661.

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Waste to Energy provides power to 5,000 homes 	\$101 Million in Host & Neighboring Benefits for life of Expansion	20 Annual Environmental Education Programs
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	Providing 20 Years of additional Disposal Service 	70-Truck CNG Fleet Reducing GHG Emissions by 15%