



**Ken
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Cool Stuff

There are a lot of amazing things going on inside your air conditioner but who really cares as long as it keeps the house cool? Many people don't care about the internal workings of anything because they're not the inquisitive type. Others are just too busy with everyday life to spend much time pondering how things work. But some of us feel the need to know what makes things tick. I have been that way forever. I still have some of the first books I got as a kid on engines. That was my first real love of mechanical things. Especially because if you used them right they could make you go fast. I dismantled junk lawn mowers and fixed whatever I could and I guess that began the development of the methodical and inquisitive side of my brain. Turning energy into a different form is an incredible way to get work done.

Where else could 8 oz. of liquid turn a tree into sawdust but inside a chainsaw? Doing it safely and efficiently has led our society to many inventions. The refrigerant inside an air conditioning system or any refrigerator, freezer or ice cream machine is some really cool stuff. (Pun intended) The refrigerant in your air conditioner boils at around -40°F. at atmospheric pressure.

Evaporation causes cooling in an air conditioner just as it does on the surface of your skin when you perspire. But because it happens at a very low temperature and inside a closed system it does not just go off into the air. Refrigerant comes into the house through a small pipe as a liquid under pressure and evaporates in the coil in your basement or attic. A fan blows house air over the coil and much of the heat is removed by passing over this very cold coil. The evaporated refrigerant is then a gas and returns to the outdoor unit through a larger pipe. It is compressed and gets very hot from all that pressure. That's when it goes through the coils you see on the outdoor unit and a fan cools it from about 350° back down to nearly the same temperature as it is outside. That causes it condense back into a liquid and the whole cycle starts over. A system that doesn't leak can do this for 20+ years without needing much attention. Keeping all parts clean and lubricated is a must but other than the electricity that is needed to move air and compress the refrigerant, these systems are self-contained and pretty amazing. Even though I work on them almost every day I am still impressed how well they do the job they are designed for.

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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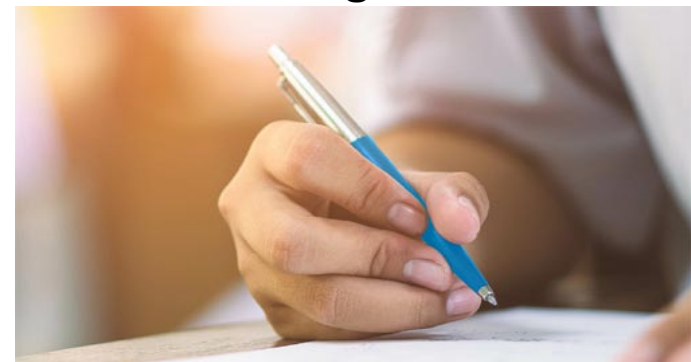
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PASSHE Freezes Tuition for In-State Undergraduates



For the seventh consecutive year, the Board of Governors for Pennsylvania's State System of Higher Education (PASSHE) froze tuition for in-state undergraduates for the 2024-25 academic year. The tuition rate will stay the same at all 10 state-owned public universities.

PASSHE schools serve the most in-state students of any four-year college or university in Pennsylvania, at the lowest price. Nearly 90% of PASSHE's 82,000 students are Pennsylvania residents, many from middle-income families.

To make higher education more affordable, the Senate passed Grow PA – a package of bills that creates new programs to recruit the best talent to Pennsylvania schools in industries that will grow the state's economy while also expanding existing financial assistance programs that are already working. Read more about the scholarship and tuition waiver programs.

Senate Approves Bill Providing Support to Military Community



The Senate unanimously passed legislation to improve the quality of life for service members, veterans and their families by creating and operating the Service Member

Veterans and Their Families Fund (SMVF Fund).

Senate Bill 1192 would allow the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs to lease real estate at Fort Indiantown Gap and use the proceeds to support the SMVF Fund. To ensure transparency and accountability in the fund's operations, the bill also includes provisions for annual reporting on the revenues, expenditures and activities financed by the SMVF Fund.

The fund would be dedicated to paying for quality-of-life programs – including physical fitness, personal growth, social interaction and recreational activities – for the military community. The programs would be designed to support the readiness and well-being of the service members, veterans and their families.