

## Farewell and Thank You



Ken Fields  
Owner of Slate Belt Energy Services  
*Exclusively in the Blue Valley Times*

Not that I'm counting but this year is the 14th year that I have been writing a weekly article for The Blue Valley Times. I missed a few but very few and I apologize for that. I take all of my responsibilities seriously and there were other times that I just could not think of something to write about. I never wanted them to be boring or irrelevant but it's hard to entertain an audience and educate them at the same time. I always attempted to not be opinionated but I'm sure my opinion found

its way through on many occasions. To be perfectly honest, there were a couple times that I was ready to throw in the towel and Mr. Ortoski shared some words of encouragement which gave me a second and even a third wind.

I have shared so many personal experiences with all of you by explaining what it's like to be on my side of the energy business and I have gotten some great feedback over the years. I always appreciate hearing that someone picked up a valuable piece of information or an idea that helped them improve their home in one way or another. As I near retirement I would love to see a younger person with younger ideas take over here. The sad part is that life today is complicated and very busy for all of us. I am trying to reduce some of the clutter in my shop and my truck and even on my schedule. I still remember the first customer who I met with about replacing a heating system and after the work was finished, they told me where they got my number. It was from this article. So even though I did not get a fat check every month for sharing all of this information, it was well worth every minute I spent. The comments weren't all positive because I shared facts that may not be popular with people in every part of the energy business. I had to explain the Btu content of wood pellets once to an angry caller but Google stood behind me. But overall the articles were received well and some did very well when shared on Facebook. I hope that everyone got some useful information from each one.

In closing, I would like to thank Mike Ortoski for all of his work in bringing the Blue Valley Times to so many people every week and doing it with class and professionalism. It has been my privilege to contribute to the paper and I will remain a reader forever.

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)

## Built Like a Mack Truck

By Rep Ann Flood

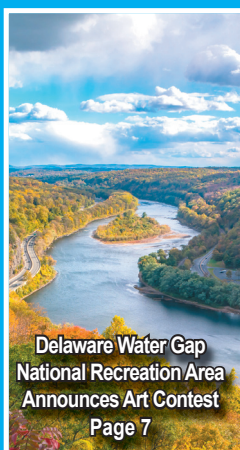
Watch Video Here <https://links.pahousenews.com/q/ZTb--JxvjV0XtGQV2zwAEO2Cu6gV0kmfYnZcOJYnZ0aW1lc0ByY24uY29tw4g9aDZLH4VergGL6kf6JXITsfei3g>.

Have you ever heard the phrase "Built like a Mack Truck" and wondered where it came from? Mack Trucks have been an American icon since the early 1900s, becoming one of the first major truck manufacturers to achieve sustained success for over a century.

Last week, I toured the Mack Lehigh Valley Operations (LVO) plant in Macungie, where their famous trucks, complete with the iconic bulldog hood ornament, are built. Every Mack truck for the North American market starts its journey at this 1.7-million-square-foot facility, which includes three cab assembly lines, two chassis assembly lines, a truck modification center and an engine grooming line.

During my visit, I also learned they manufacture a line of Mack Defense specialty military vehicles. These trucks and tractors are based on commercial vehicles but are adapted to meet the specific needs of the armed forces. They can be configured for logistical missions and

*Continued on page 2*



Delaware Water Gap  
National Recreation Area  
Announces Art Contest  
Page 7



Women's Club of  
Pen Argyl  
Page 8



Northampton County  
Open Gate Farm Tours  
Page 13



Donation as Sweet  
as the Lemonade  
Page 19

## Slate Belt Energy Services

# SBE



**COLUMBIA**  
STORAGE GROUP  
Columbia Self Storage

1059 Pennsylvania Ave., Pen Argyl, PA (610) 991-7224



**State Farm**  
Debbie Pettinari, Agent  
106 S Broadway  
Wind Gap, PA 18091  
610-881-4433  
[Debbie.pettinari.wz73@statefarm.com](mailto:Debbie.pettinari.wz73@statefarm.com)

**WE CHANGED OUR NAME!**  
Horn's Outdoor, Inc.  
is now  
**H&H**  
OUTDOOR  
POWERSPORTS  
We are the same great people and will continue to provide the same quality of service to our valued customers!  
1169 Mt Bethel Highway, Mt Bethel, PA.  
610-588-6614  
Hours: Tuesday - Friday 9:00am - 5:00pm; Saturday 9:00am - 1:00pm [www.hhoutdoors.com](http://www.hhoutdoors.com)

**HIRING DRIVERS**  
BANGOR SCHOOL DISTRICT  
— NO EXPERIENCE REQUIRED —  
BONUSES  
APPLY ONLINE  
**RIDESTA.COM**  
610-588-3590