#### BLUE VALLEY TIMES

# Bangor Area Middle School Proudly Presents "Legally Blonde Jr."

By Brandon Hanks

BANGOR - Bangor Area Middle School is getting Serious with the big, fun and pink musical Legally Blonde JR!

Show dates: Friday November 22th 7:00PM, Saturday November 23th 1:00PM. Tickets at www.showtix4u.com or at the door.

Based on the wildly popular movie with

book by Heather Hach and music and lyrics by Laurence O'Keefe and Neil Benjamin, Legally Blonde JR. is a family-friendly version of the Broadway hit audiences have loved for over a decade. Sorority star Elle Woods doesn't take "no" for an answer. So when her boyfriend dumps her for someone "serious," Elle puts down the credit card, hits the books, and sets out to go where no Delta Nu has gone before: Harvard Law. Along the way, Elle proves that being true to yourself never goes out of style.

Starring in the role of Elle Woods is 8th grader Ava Renner along with her best friends Margot, played by Kassandra Makatura, Serena, played by Madeleine Erdie, and Pilar, played by Grace Deeney. Sarah Greene plays a very sassy Paulette, and Brooke Wyndham is played by Delaney Fox.

## New Education Benefit for PA National Guard Families Available

### By Joe Emrick

NAZARETH - Members of the Pennsylvania National Guard are encouraged to take advantage of the new Military Family Education Program, or PA GI Bill, which is now open for enrollment.

Under Act 32 of 2019, Guard members who commit to an additional six years of service can receive five years of higher education benefits for their spouses and children. The program will provide 10 semesters of tuition-free education for family member(s).

The benefit must be used at a Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency-approved educational institution, and at the tuition rate set by the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education.

Previously, Guard members only were eligible for the Education Assistance Program with their initial service obligation of six years that provides a non-transferable educational benefit. The expansion of this program to spouses and children will help more military families succeed.

Interested Guard members can apply through their unit to the PA National Guard Education Office. Tuition benefits will begin for the 2020-21 academic year.

More information about the program is available at http://links.pahousenews.com/q/pp3ZZ-f7Y1Bw JgKhmF74YueCkt11P5m7UugO1ULT1fois-20kZDHDxA7sFsA.

### Coach John C. Smith Has Resigned



By Timothy J. Egan / Athletic Director Pen Argyl Area High School PEN ARGYL - Pen Argyl Area High School Varsity Football Coach, Mr. John C. Smith has officially tendered his resignation. Coach Smith has been the Head Football Coach at Pen Argyl for the past two seasons. John noted that "Coaching was very rewarding and I have a wonderful bond with thousands of students and athletes. Coach Smith is indebted to the players in 2018 & 2019 who were receptive in reinvigorating a positive culture of brotherhood, academic achievement and worked tirelessly to achieve some tangible victories."

He has served as a head coach in the 19070's, 1980's, 1990's and the 2000's. He missed many of his children's events over the years and now plans to immerse himself in spending the greater portion of his life with his family, especially his 9 grand children who range from 17 years to 6 months. John explained, "The experience with Pen Argyl

Area School District has been phenomenal. Students and staff are wonderful to work with and for that I am deeply grateful for my 13 years as Principal and 2 years as Head Football Coach."

Mr. David Domchek (Principal) & Tim Egan (Athletic Director) thank Coach John C. Smith for his dedication to Pen Argyl Area School District and our football team. Coach Smith cares deeply for our players and has taken an active role in leading them both on and off the field. He has always maintained that the true measure of a successful program is contingent upon the attainment of highly positive careers and to see his former students & players thriving 5, 10, 15, 20 years into the future. We wish him the very best and hope he enjoys his retirement and time with his family.

Pen Argyl Area School District plans to accept Coach Smith's resignation and open the position at their next School Board meeting.





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#### Exclusively in the Blue Valley Times

A Problem with No Solution As an employer I see a shortage of well trained technicians to fill the job market in many trades. As a consumer, I have made calls to contractors for work I want to have done at my home and out of 8 calls I made I had 3 return calls and one actual visit to my home. That visit yielded exactly nothing because I never received an estimate even after 2 more calls to that company. The work is not

difficult or complicated. It is just out of my area of expertise and I want to have someone else do it. None of the trades are glamourous and none are fun year-round but they provide careers for people who like bands-

vide careers for people who like handson problem solving and find building things to be rewarding. I enjoy sharing the knowledge I have gained in my career with people who want to pursue the areas I have knowledge in. So when I hire someone new, I get to be a teacher for a while and fine-tune someone to follow the procedures we use in our trade. Some aspects of the heating trade have almost no place a person can go today to get trained. There was a school for oil heat training in the area in the past but it has closed and there isn't any place locally I could send someone if I wanted to. I know what you are thinking, there may be a school for writing and I should sign up for that. But this is my place to vent frustrations and eloquence doesn't

pay the bills. What local contractors could use are more technicians who are well-trained in their field. An incentive for employers to hire and train young workers would be nice too. We are losing ground with manpower in the trades. We don't just need laborers, we need trained technicians. So much new equipment has complicated controls and troubleshooting works better with young eyes and a sharp brain.

Once I find a contractor who is really good at what they do, they are on my list for all future work and also to recommend to my customers when asked about other areas of construction. I may drop the ball occasionally but more times than not, I provide a clearly written proposal in plain English which is based on value. The problem is that I can only be in one place at a time and can't

keep up the feverish pace I used to. So a backlog is common anymore even though I don't like it that way.

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



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