

Eagle Scout Richard Kim of Troop 89

By Senator Scavello

PEN ARGYL - We had the pleasure recently of recognizing Richard Kim of Troop 89 in Cresco for earning the rank of Eagle Scout. For his project, Richard renovated the concession stand at Barrett Township Park. Currently studying pre-med in his freshman year, he continues to lead and further himself in ways fitting of an Eagle Scout. Congratulations to you and your wonderful family on this great accomplishment, Richard!

Greater Valley YMCA Offers Free Membership to Furloughed Federal Employees

By Jennifer DeLong / Branch Executive Director SLATE BELT YMCA

PEN ARGYL - As the federal government shutdown continues, the Greater Valley YMCA is extending support to those community members impacted by this time of uncertainty. The branches of the Greater Valley YMCA offering relief to those affected are located in Allentown, Bethlehem, Easton/Phillipsburg, Nazareth, Suburban North, and Slate Belt.

Any furloughed federal government employee who is not currently being paid due to the shutdown is welcome to use the YMCA's facilities through a free one-month membership. If an individual is already a member of the Greater Valley YMCA, their next monthly YMCA membership fee will be waived.

"This is about helping our community in this difficult time," said David Fagerstrom, President and CEO of the Greater Valley YMCA. "At the Y, we work to strengthen the foundations of our community. When we see an area in our community where help is needed, we respond. We hope that those impacted by the government shutdown will take advantage of the mental, physical and emotional support we aim to give those in need.," Fagerstrom added.

The YMCA's support of our community extends beyond the government shutdown, as the Y has always focused on social responsibility. The Y currently provides financial assistance to those in need to ensure everyone has access to the YMCA's facilities and program offerings, and provided over one million dollars in subsidy/scholarships to the Lehigh Valley in 2018.

Those community members impacted by the shutdown simply need to visit the member services desk at their local YMCA branch with their government-issued ID and furlough letter to take advantage of this benefit. Branch locations can be found at gv-ymvca.org.

Information on History of Mills in the Slate Belt Needed

By Karen Brewer

BANGOR - The Slate Belt Heritage is in the process of gathering information regarding the 305 mills that were once in operation in the entire Slate Belt. We have a list of 315 owners, and know where they were located.

What is Needed is what was made at the mill and the number of employees, bosses and any other pertinent information. Information can be sent to: Slate Belt Heritage Center, 30 North 1st Street, Bangor, PA c/o Karen Brewer or email: theklbs@epix.net.

Babies Born in 2019 Eligible for \$100 to Kick-Off College Savings

By Michael Ortoski

Under the new Keystone Scholars Program, \$100 will be deposited in an education savings account for any PA baby born or adopted in 2019.

It was created by the General Assembly last year to boost college savings and is funded by private donors.

If a family puts in just \$25 per month starting when their child is born, by age 18 that would grow to approximately \$10,000, based on PA Treasury investment assumptions. Parents can sign up at <https://www.pa529.com/keystone>.

Scholarships Available for Construction-Related Education

By Senator Scavello

PEN ARGYL - Applications are being accepted for Merit Shop Construction Scholarships from the Keystone Chapter of Associated Builders to assist individuals seeking to further their education in careers in construction.

An average of eight scholarships of up to \$4,000 each is awarded yearly. To be eligible, applicants must enroll in a trade school, college or university program that is directly related to a construction career, including skilled trades, engineering, or construction management. Deadline to apply is Feb. 22.



L-R Richard Kim, Taylor Munoz from Senator Scavello's office

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Exclusively in the Blue Valley Times

The Long and Winding Road

Some things we learn because we want to and some things we learn because we need to. To be even more accurate, some things we learn we didn't even want to learn. My education has taken a long and winding road to reach where I am today but it was definitely not a dead end. None of it really makes me someone fun to have a conversation with but it gives me the confidence to look at any problem within my realm of knowledge and know whether I can solve it or not. This type of problem solving doesn't have any relationship to how big my corporation is, or how many trucks I have on the road, or my gross revenues. It has to do with never wanting to say I don't know why someone's house is uncomfortable or too expensive to heat or cool. In the past I have run up against the unknown and I didn't like it. I have walked away from jobs that I had no solution for. But then I went searching for people who had them and learned from those people, and now I have the knowledge of dozens of brilliant people inside me. It wasn't free but real knowledge never is.

Last week I was asked to look at a home that was uncomfortable for years. It was built in the 80s and was a beautiful home inside and out. But as I like to say, "not in between". Several rooms were cold and on first walk through I saw a few issues. After seeing the basement and both attic spaces, the picture was getting clearer. I could even see the evidence of others who tried to fix some of the problems the easy way. The heat pump was only a couple years old but the problems pre-existed this unit. The basement was finished and the duct system was inaccessible. I have to return to take measurements that I will detail in another article but obviously ones that nobody has done yet in this house. Duct pressure, total air leakage, register flow, infrared photos, heat loss and gain to name a few. When I am finished with these, I will have what amounts to an MRI of this house. Using probably \$20000 worth of tools I will reveal every comfort problem in the home. That is an exciting journey for me every single time I do it.

What's even more exciting is that I can prescribe a solution for every problem and turn that beautiful house into a beautiful, comfortable house.

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

Pen Argyl H.S. Honors Sr. Wrestlers

Continued from page 1

Austi plans to attend Thaddeus Stevens College of Technology for HVAC and hopefully continue his wrestling and football careers with the Bulldogs.



L-R Theron Ashenfalder, Austin Ashenfalder and Barbara Ashenfalder



L-R Jason Grim PAHS head wrestling coach, Jordan Sims

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Pennsylvania Leopold Conservation Award Continued from page 1

The Difebos, who raise grass-fed beef cattle, converted highly-erodible row crop land to grass pastures, installed contour strips, raised cover crops, used no-till seeding practices, and fenced off streams and ponds on their farm.

"Richard and Dohl Difebo earned this prestigious award by demonstrating that agricultural business operators can be successful while also being responsible environmental stewards," said Scavello. "Harvest Home Meats has family ties to our area that go back a century, and we all celebrate their nationally recognized achievement."

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**References available from residential
to commercial sources.**

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