



## Ken Field

Owner of Slate  
Belt Energy  
Services

*Exclusively in the Blue Valley Times*

### New Home Horror Show

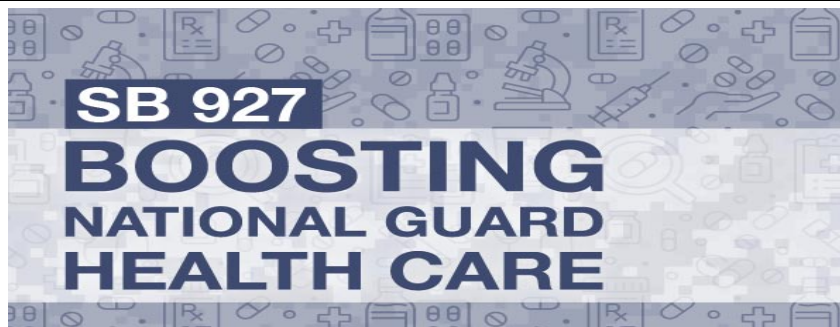
Some things I see in the field make me angry. At my age lots of things make me angry but things at work really fire me up. Every trade has experts as well as frauds. Not every job has to be checked by an independent inspector so the vast majority of poor quality work is never called out. The 'who did it' part is not nearly as important to me as the 'what they did part'. Every repair or replacement job causes a homeowner to dip into their pocketbook or even borrow money to complete it so it should be done correctly and should last a long time.

I recently had the displeasure of looking at a brand new home that had some of the sloppiest and worst performing insulation work I ever saw. I was there because the heating cost for 5 weeks was well over \$1000. This home was built by a big name builder who is building hundreds of homes in our area. If the rest are as bad as this, many new homeowners are in big trouble.

It is part of a new development and I have a feeling I will be inspecting others in the same area. I was there AFTER the builder sent their insulation contractor back TWICE and I found missing insulation in the attic and areas that were still done so poorly that they stood out like a sore thumb on the thermal camera. The trust between the homeowner and the builder is gone. I'm not a certified electrical inspector or a building code inspector but I know both codes pretty well. The violations I found should have been flagged by the code inspector during the rough electrical inspection and the insulation inspection. They should have been rectified before the inspector signed off but they were passed and construction continued. I saw problems behind drywall with the thermal camera that should have been repaired before the drywall was allowed. The inspector was asked to return and see the electrical code violations and he said it was sloppy but not illegal. I cited the electrical code to the homeowner and we'll see how they dismiss that. The builder even installed a water heater for natural gas when the home uses propane. That was a serious fire hazard and if the homeowner hadn't noticed soot by the vent, the place could have easily burned down one day. It seems like building inspectors are for sale today just like politicians.

Some of us are not for sale and someone needs to stand up for homeowners getting cheated from every angle.

**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**



## Senate Acts to Improve PA National Guard Health Care

By Senator Scavello

PEN ARGYL - Legislation to increase the number of health care providers in the Pennsylvania National Guard was approved by the Senate. The bill was sent to the House of Representatives for consideration.

The legislation improves the Medical Officer or Health Officer Incentive Program, which was created in 2014 to provide an education stipend to those who qualified through their time in the armed services.

This incentive program began to address the lack of health care providers within the Guard. However, some health professionals, such as dentists and physician assistants, were inadvertently left out of the program.

Senate Bill 927 would establish a broader definition of "health professional" to capture those left out of the original program. It would also create education stipend tiers based on the participant's education level, so that physicians and physician assistants would get a higher reimbursement to help pay down their higher tuition debt.



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## Local Athletes Inducted into the Bangor Athletic Hall of Fame for 2022

By State Rep. Joe Emrick

BANGOR - I was happy to attend the Bangor Athletic Hall of Fame induction ceremony last weekend where numerous local athletes were added to this year's hall of fame. I would like to extend my sincerest congratulations to our new inductees and wish them all the best.

The athletes inducted for 2022 are as follows:

- Stani (Schivonne) Shoop – 2011 golf and track.
- Scott LaValva – 2011 football and basketball.
- Donald Keat Sr. (posthumously inducted) - basketball.
- 2008 Girls Softball Team – Colonial League and District XI champions. Team included Head Coach Barb Wismer, Jessi (Cobler) Wriker, Adriana (Pinto) Andrews, Samantha (Daus) Mele, Alyse (Horn) Pyatt, Kelsey (Speer) Smith, Autumn Paraschos, Katie (Farley) Barnes, Kate (DeBoer) Giovanni, Amanda Whitford, Steph (Brewer) Bastian, Olivia Martino, Haley (Ellis) Schleicher and Megan (Botteri) DeRose.



## Attention Students: House Fellowship Program Taking Applications

By State Rep. Joe Emrick

BANGOR - The Pennsylvania House Fellowship Program is accepting applications for its Summer 2022 session. The 13-week program remains based at Pennsylvania's Capitol Building in Harrisburg where fellows are placed in committee chair and House leadership offices.

Qualified applicants must be:

- Undergraduate juniors and seniors, graduate students or law school students.
- Enrolled in a Pennsylvania college/university or a Pennsylvania resident enrolled in an out-of-state institution.
- Students of any major with a GPA of 3.0 or higher.

For more information or to apply, visit [www.pahouse-fellowship.us](http://www.pahouse-fellowship.us). Applications can be submitted via email to [pahousefellowship@pabmc.net](mailto:pahousefellowship@pabmc.net). The deadline to apply is March 1.