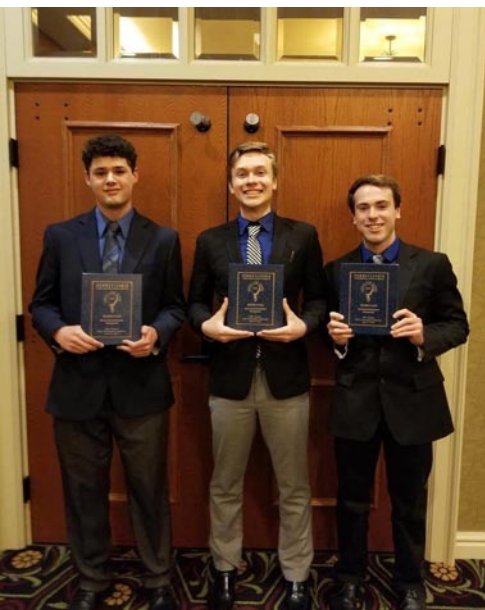


## Future Business Leaders of America



By Senator Scavello

PEN ARGYL - I want to take a moment to acknowledge the accomplishments of several students from my district who recently represented Nazareth High School with distinction through Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA). The Nazareth chapter is the 3rd largest in the state and 73 students recently took part in the state competition in Hershey. Matt Terry, Alex Lynch and Michael Ifkovits (pictured) comprised the Sports & Entertainment Management team and qualified for the national competition in Texas this summer.

Not only do these three young men shine through FBLA, but all three are also National Honor Society members and student-athletes. Congratulations to you (and your whole chapter) on your victories so far and for making your school, advisors and families proud!

We wish you all the best in Texas!

## Two Eagle Scouts Recognized

By Senator Scavello

PEN ARGYL - Jake Oravec of Troop 84 in Sciota and Frank Mille of Troop 352 in Bethlehem. For his Eagle Scout service project, Jake constructed an archery pavilion at Twin Pines Camp so campgoers could safely practice their archery skills. Frank completed his service project at the Lehigh Valley Zoo, where he helped maintain an experiment to produce disease resistant varieties of the near-extinct, endangered American chestnut tree.

Well done to you both on your significant accomplishments and thank you for your service to our communities!



Left  
Senator Scavello  
with Eagle Scout  
Jake Oravec of  
Troop 84 in Sciota.



Right  
Taylor Munoz from  
Senator Scavello's  
office with Eagle  
Scout Frank Mille  
of Troop 352 in  
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*Exclusively in the Blue Valley Times*

## Get Your Rebate

Rebates are a great way to save money. Unless they are difficult to apply for or they require you to purchase something you didn't want or need in the first place they are a source of free money. The current rebates that I am aware of that most people are eligible for are from UGI and Met-Ed. Although UGI rebates don't apply to most of the slate belt area for some reason, they offer \$500 for a new furnace and up to \$1800 for a combination heat and hot water boiler. Of course they have to be high efficiency models but that's why there is a rebate in the first place; to get people to stop installing inefficient systems. I have filled out many rebate forms for jobs we completed and put all of the complicated numbers needed on the forms and then I send them to the homeowner to forward to the rebate company and it's a done deal.

With Met Ed there is a rebate for installing a new system of mid to high efficiency as well as one for a new programmable thermostat and even a \$50 rebate for having maintenance performed on your air conditioning system. They also have a rebate for having an efficient fan motor installed. The maintenance rebate can only be used once every 7 years but if you haven't gotten one yet, there is no reason not to do it.

On one hand it seems like there shouldn't need to be an incentive to replace worn out inefficient furnaces and air conditioners but it means that the utilities don't need to increase their capacity to supply homes, it is really saving them money too on infrastructure. Installation contractors have the responsibility of informing homeowners about the systems available and the rebates that go with them so intelligent choices can be made when that time comes.

Systems can fail in any number of ways but the most common is the slow expensive way. Where they nickel and dime you and then after you have invested several hundred dollars, they fail completely. The best time to consider replacement is when yours is older than 12 years and a few levels of efficiency lower than current or has been troublesome for a few years in a row. The brand name can also be a tip for contractors to know when to suggest replacement but history is the best way. The replacement work can also affect the longevity of new equipment so be sure to have confidence in your installer.

*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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## Senate Votes to Give Firefighters Online Training Options

By Rep. Joe Emrick

BANGOR - The Senate approved a bill on Monday that would help Pennsylvania's volunteer fire companies recruit and retain members. Senate Bill 146, which makes online training more available to current and prospective first responders, now goes to the House of Representatives for consideration.

In the 1970's, Pennsylvania had more than 300,000 volunteer firefighters; today we have fewer than 40,000. Firefighters – especially younger, tech-savvy firefighters-in-training – have requested that some courses be offered online, so that they can learn vital skills from the convenience of their own homes and on their own schedules. The option is also available to career firefighters.

## Celebrating Our Small Businesses

By Rep. Joe Emrick

BANGOR - This week marks Small Business Week in Pennsylvania.

Small businesses are the backbone of the Commonwealth's economy, employing over 2.5 million people. In fact, 99.6% of employers in the state are small businesses.

House Republicans have been working hard to help Pennsylvania's small businesses thrive and grow by cutting the red tape that creates barriers to growth and cleaning up our outdated laws.



## PEN ARGYL AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT RESIDENTS



The Pen Argyl Area School District is offering a property tax rebate program. You may qualify if:

1. You have owned and occupied your home during the period for which you are claiming a rebate. Rebates are granted for your primary residence only; and
2. (a) You or your spouse (if living with you) were 65 years or older as of December 31, 2018; or  
(b) You were a widow or widower during all or part of 2018 and were 50 years old or older as of December 31, 2018; or  
(c) You were permanently disabled during all or part of 2018, and you were unable to work because of your medically determined physical or mental disability which is expected to continue indefinitely; and
3. Your total annual income, including the income of a spouse residing with you, was \$35,000 or less in 2018. (**IMPORTANT:** only report 50% of your Railroad Retirement benefits and 50% of Federal Social Security Act benefits); and
4. 2018/19 Pen Argyl School District Real Estate Taxes were paid in full.
5. Only one member of your household may file a claim.
6. Delinquent taxes **DO NOT QUALIFY.**

**The deadline for filing an application is June 30, 2019**  
Applications are available at the Pen Argyl Area School District Office, or call the District Office at (610) 863-3191.