

Pen Argyl Area High School 2020 SENIOR AWARD WINNER

Families First Scholarship



Molly Kutz

Pen Argyl Area High School 2020 SENIOR AWARD WINNER

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David Eibeck

Families First 2020 Scholarship Recipients

By Frank Jones

PEN ARGYL - On May 31, 2020, two Families First scholarship recipients were acknowledged at the Pen Argyl Area High School awards night. The Families First scholarship committee had a difficult time in making their final selection, since all of the essays were very well presented.

The two recipients are David Eibeck and Molly Kutz. They will each receive an award of \$500.00. David will be attending The University of Pittsburg in the fall majoring in Political Science. Molly will be attending Kutztown University in the fall and majoring in Elementary Education and Vision Impairment/Special Education.

On behalf of the Board of Directors of Families First we wish them all the success in their future endeavors.

For more information about Families First view our website www.familiesfirstpenargyl.org

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Ken Field

Owner of Slate Belt Energy Services

Exclusively in the Blue Valley Times

Dark Secrets

There are a number of things that must be cleaned, verified, and measured while balancing on 2 thin pieces of wood usually in near total darkness during an air conditioner tune-up in an attic. Since condensed humidity is really just distilled water, it needs to be drained away from the fan unit. There are some general laws of nature that make it difficult. Water flows downhill, that adds complexity right off the bat. It would be so cool if there were some waterfalls that went from a pool in the earth up to the top of a mountain but mother nature won't allow that in a national park or in your attic. If that is the case then why do installers run drain pipes uphill? The rule is that a small drain pipe like we use for condensate must go downhill at the rate of 1/2" per foot. This means that in 10' of pipe the far end would be 5" lower than the starting end. It could be easy if the fan unit was installed on a platform or suspended from the roof but when it is dropped on top of the framing in the attic, there is usually no downhill place to go with the water. When water lays in the pipe, it forms algae and eventually clogs and causes an overflow. There also needs to be a secondary drain pan under the fan unit. It needs to be larger than the unit and it needs to be supported well in case it has to catch water. Many jobs are 0 for 2 on that score. There also needs to be an alert for the occupants when water actually flows into the pan because it is not just there to be a swimming pool for stink bugs. I prefer not to drain those pans into the same drain as the unit because one clog will insure a drywall repair job on the ceiling. My preference is to install a water safety switch in that pan. It will stop the outdoor unit when there is water danger. The indoor fan will continue to run but there will be no cooling and no more condensate will be produced. Once an attic spelunker reaches the flooded unit in total darkness and determines the source of the overflow, it can be resolved and the system will come back on. Sometimes people get upset that the cooling stopped but if you have ever had buckets under every recessed light in your living room catching water, it's not such a bad thing to lose the cooling for a little while.

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

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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