



## Ken Field

Owner of Slate Belt Energy Services

*Exclusively in the Blue Valley Times*

### Opportunities in the Trades

The opportunities today for a young person to enter the workforce are very abundant. Every trade I know of is looking for help. Just about the only requirements are that you need to show up and pay attention for an entry level job. That sounds easy but when an employer is buying your time for their use, they are buying 60 minutes in every hour except for any breaks that you may need. Blogging and Snap Chatting and Facebooking are not part of that. Neither are phone calls and texts.

Those things can be a deal breaker for phone addicts and may lead to shortened employment. I know a lot of young people and I see a wide variety of personality traits. Some are admirable and some are red flags for an employer. Some of these people would not make it past an interview because nobody wants to waste their time training someone who isn't interested in anything except a paycheck.

You need to bring some value to the table. Maybe not advanced skills but something to give an employer just enough confidence to wade through the paperwork and forms needed to put someone on the payroll. There usually is a probationary period where a new hire will be observed on the job. This takes another person away from their job to monitor a new employee. Safety training and equipment training even for someone mowing grass is necessary. These things all cost the employer money. Laborers need manual skills and appropriate workwear and need to be ready to get hot in the summer and cold in the winter. But many of these jobs allow some freedom to work independently and many times work in the outdoors. Because of the turnover rate in many trades, a new employee who keeps their nose clean and shows some initiative won't be the low person on the totem pole for long. Advancement can be very fast for someone who can follow instructions and manage their time properly. The road to the top is not as crowded as you might expect. All it takes is a little more enthusiasm and dedication than the average person is willing to give. The argument is usually that someone can't live on minimum wage. Maybe it is appropriate for someone who lives at home and can learn on the job and move up. Nobody without experience starts on any rung of the ladder but the first one so the sooner you get on that rung, the sooner you can get to the second one and so on and so on.

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

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## PA ABLE

Allowing residents with disabilities and their families to save for expenses, future care

### August is ABLE to Save Month

By Senator Scavella

PEN ARGYL - Thanks to the federal Achieving a Better Life Experience (ABLE) Act of 2014 and the Pennsylvania ABLE Act of 2016, Pennsylvanians with disabilities and their families now have the tools they need to save for the future without losing critical benefits they rely on like Supplemental Security Income or medical assistance.

PAABLE offers various savings options including an interest-bearing checking account with an accompanying debit card. All of the options come with generous tax benefits including no federal or state income tax on savings growth or withdrawals for qualified expenses, state income tax deductions for contributions up to \$15,000, and exemption from state inheritance tax.

Pennsylvanians with disabilities and their families have opened more than 5,000 accounts and saved nearly \$60 million since the program opened in 2017. Pennsylvanians with disabilities can save for costly expenses such as assistive technology or modified vehicles – or for necessary day-to-day needs like groceries and housing. Families can also use PAABLE to save for their loved one's future care.

For more information about eligibility for PAABLE, qualified expenses and savings options, visit [paable.gov](http://paable.gov) or call 855-529-2253.

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