



## Ken Field

Owner of Slate Belt Energy Services

### *Exclusively in the Blue Valley Times* Covid Collateral Damage

The coronavirus pandemic has had some far-reaching effects and it is far from over. The problems that are beginning to show up in the supply chain of my business make me a little nervous about how it will progress in the next year or so. My suppliers say that things will get better in a few months, but nothing seems to have gotten better yet.

Whole systems are not readily available and in certain cases I have had to use substitute parts to get a system up and running. Some parts now take a long time to get. I am still waiting on repair parts for heating systems that are leaking or broken. Having online sources to choose from is good when I need something that is not available locally but I've been forced to use that avenue far more

in the last few months than ever before due to the protracted delivery times offered by local suppliers. That brings shipping companies into the picture and they are less reliable and much slower than ever before. We all have to deal with the inconveniences that come with the covid but if I can't keep someone's house warm, that is not acceptable. Most popular parts I now have several of in stock and many not-so-popular parts I have decided to keep in inventory as well.

6 or 8 weeks is not an acceptable delivery time in the winter for a critical component of a heating system here in PA. One week is bad enough and overnight delivery or second day air delivery adds substantially to the cost of the repair if the part is even available in the US. I'm not suggesting that people have spare parts for their own equipment on hand because with modern boilers and furnaces, there are a lot of parts. That being said, I see the failure frequency of some specialized parts and keep them in stock now because I know there will be a need and they are not readily available. This is a cost that may take a long time to recoup but telling someone that I don't have a part for a system I installed makes me feel like a schmuck. If I knew parts were going to be like hens teeth, I would have chosen another brand to install but they are all about the same at the moment. Hopefully things return to normal soon and the supply chain is once again reliable but in the meantime be patient with your contractor if he has to order a part for you.

order a part for you.

order a part for you.

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**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**



## PennDOT Encourages Students to Explore Transportation Funding Challenges

By Senator Scavello

PEN ARGYL - PennDOT's annual Innovations Challenge program invites students in 9th through 12th grades to explore solutions to real-world transportation problems. This year's contest encourages students to submit their ideas on how to provide stable and sufficient funding to support critical transportation upgrades. The deadline to submit an entry is December 18.

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## Penn State Educator honored for Family and Consumer Sciences

By Kelly M Bond

ALLENTOWN - Denise Continenza, Penn State Extension Educator based in Lehigh County, was honored recently at the National Extension Association for Family and Consumer Sciences (NEAFCS) 86th annual session, broadcast virtually from Utah September 14-16, 2020.

She led a team that received the 3rd Place National and 2nd Place Eastern Region NEAFCS Television/Video Communications Award for a project called "Be the One". Team members included: Andrew DeAngelo and Mike Daniels, both members of the Whitehall-Coplay Communities That Care (CTC); Andrea Tessier, Community Outreach and Engagement Manager at Penn State Lehigh Valley, and Liz Keptner, Director of the Multimedia Innovations Center at the Penn State Lehigh Valley campus.

"Be the One" is a series of short videos about the dangers of underage drinking, social hosting, and substance abuse. These were scripted and produced by the team and recorded by members and students. During the 2019 football season, they were played during home football games at Whitehall-Coplay and shared during school district events as well as through the district website.

They can now be viewed at:

PSA Parents 1-3: <https://youtu.be/AR-vPB6hvbvc>

PSA Parents 2-3: <https://youtu.be/tBIQsOsDxsM>

PSA Parents 3-3: <https://youtu.be/LLOriQlcl10>

PSA Parents 3-4: <https://youtu.be/O6ZYAYjQwil>

PSA Youth 1-3: <https://youtu.be/oPa9CvMMBso>

PSA Youth 2-3: <https://youtu.be/9cPYIEgUPzs>

PSA Youth 3-3: <https://youtu.be/Hu3thoy2Rpk>

PSA Youth 3-4: <https://youtu.be/hONoln1YKLY>

NEAFCS Television/Video Communications Award recognizes excellence in an educational or promotional feature in a regular broadcast or a special program. Continenza's commitment to meeting the needs of individuals, families and communities is exemplary. This award is sponsored this year by the NEAFCS membership and awards fund.



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Be a fraud fighter! If you can spot a scam, you can stop a scam and remember, only scammers ask you to pay with gift cards.

**Be a fraud fighter! If you can spot a scam, you can stop a scam.**

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