



Ken Field

Owner of Slate Belt Energy Services

Exclusively in the Blue Valley Times

It's Not Easy

It's not unusual for a customer to observe me troubleshooting and repairing their heating system. Some will ask if I mind their presence and my answer is always the same. "If I didn't know what I was doing you might make me uncomfortable, so pull up a chair". What they may not realize is that I'm using all of my senses at the same time to diagnose their problem along with my experience about every component of their system. I can detect the odor of an overheated component from the front door. I can be carrying on a conversation and still narrowing down my search for the problem. Occasionally the search leads to more than one possibility and since most intermittent problems never occur when I'm on the site, I have to use some judgement to make a repair without replacing something that is not at fault. What I don't want to do is leave and then have to return for a second visit. So I run a whole set of tests in an attempt to simulate the problem. Sometimes I can pin it down but not always. Depending on the age of the system it can be a wise choice to replace electrical parts that are approaching 20 years of service. It's not always just about getting things working again but upgrading things that are about to cause the nickel and dime syndrome. Nobody likes the inconvenience of waking up in a cold house or taking a cold shower, especially on the weekend or a holiday. Having worked on almost every brand and type of system, I know what parts to keep on my truck and usually have what I need. So after pinpointing the culprit I can usually walk to me truck and get a replacement. That might look easy too but when I tally up the cost of those parts it's no wonder I don't have a boat or a lake house to keep it at. Information you won't find on the internet is which brand of parts are lemons and fail often and what thermostats are junk and what to check first on systems that have not been serviced regularly. I share that information with my techs and all of my friends who may call for advice from time to time but I don't shout it to the world. And I also know what brand of replacement parts NOT to have on my truck. What you get can be much more than you see on the surface. It's hard to make it look easy.

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



L-R SMSgt. Pat O'Brien, West Point Cadet Plebe Liam Kephart, King College Army ROTC Freshman Cadet Joseph Freeman, Former Cadet Commander Christopher Knapp, Air Force Academy Second Class Morgan O'Brien, Naval Academy First Class Amelia O'Brien, Bloomsburg Senior Air Force ROTC Cadet Kyle Zborezny, Penn State Junior ARMY ROTC Kyle Fleming, Coast Guard Academy First Class Cadet Jenna Kelley, Samford University Freshman Emma Kelley, Capt. Joseph Knapp

Civil Air Patrol

Continued from page 1

Civil Air Patrol. "Regardless of where they ended up, we are very proud of their accomplishments" said O'Brien.

Civil Air Patrol's cadet program transforms youth into dynamic Americans and aerospace leaders through a curriculum that focuses on leadership, aerospace, fitness and character. As cadets participate in these

four elements, they advance through a series of achievements, earning honors and increased responsibilities along the way. Many of the nation's astronauts, pilots, engineers and scientists first explored their careers through CAP.

- Attracts over 24,000 members ages 12 through 20 for participation in its cadet programs.

- Educates youth in four main program areas — leadership, aerospace, fitness and character development.

- Enriches school curricula through after-school programs.

- Offers orientation flights in powered and glider aircraft, as well as flight training scholarships.

- Provides activities and competitions for cadets at the local, state, regional and national levels.

- Provides opportunities for community involvement through color guard/drill team and emergency service missions.

- Challenges youth to be ambassadors for a drug-free lifestyle.

- Introduces thousands of cadets to cyber defense careers through CyberPatriot, the Air Force Association's National Youth Cyber Security Competition.

- CAP cadets make up about 10% of the Air Force Academy's classes.

- Cadets who have earned the Gen. Billy Mitchell Award enlist in the Air Force, U.S. Army and U.S. Coast Guard at a higher pay grade.

- Participates in the International Air Cadet Exchange program.

- Awards college scholarships in several disciplines.

If you are interested in being involved in the Civil Air Patrol you can contact 2dLt Brent Kephart at brentkephart@hotmail.com or SMSgt. Pat O'Brien 610-509-6235.

SCHMIDT FUNERAL HOME, PC

"Affordable Cremations & Funeral Services"

202 West Street
Wind Gap, PA 18091
610-863-5429

Jane Follweiler, FD Supervisor

schmidtfuneralhomepc.com

VFW Post 739
Bangor, Pennsylvania

Dyle E. Bray – VFW Post 739
202 Washington Blvd, Bangor PA • 610-588-5555