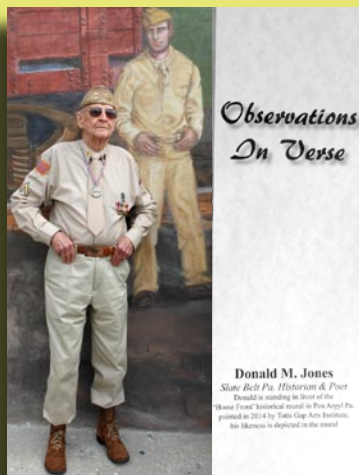


# A Poem from the Archives of Donald Jones

*Exclusively in the Blue Valley Times*



## A YELLOW SPRING

Mother Nature has called in Spring  
Giving up Winter, she tends to be mellow.  
And if she has a favorite color  
You can be sure that it is yellow.

There are dandelions and daffodils  
There are forsythia and crocus  
Buttercups "springing" up in the fields  
Yellow wherever your eyes so focus.

But of course there are other colors  
Favorite colors for everyone.  
But yellow is a popular color  
I've yet to see a purple sun.

## Unemployment Compensation Update: Benefits for Self-Employed

By Rep. Joe Emrick

Many people who are self-employed or working as private contractors are now eligible for unemployment benefits under the CARES Act.

Go to : <https://online.flippingbook.com/view/1045126/2/#zoom=z>



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# RESOURCES to KEEP STUDENTS LEARNING

## Educational Resources Available for Students During Indefinite School Closures

By Senator Scavello

Governor Wolf recently announced that all schools in Pennsylvania will remain closed indefinitely in order to limit the spread of COVID-19. A number of resources have been developed to provide a continuity of education for Pennsylvania students.

Schools that are interested in offering new courses or supplementing existing programs can subscribe to the online learning platforms Odysseyware and Edgenuity. These resources are available at no cost to school districts through their local intermediate unit.

The Department of Education also plans to provide grants for schools to purchase computer equipment to support online learning programs. Applications will be available through the department's e-grants system by April 6 and must be submitted by April 10 <http://www.egrants.pa.gov/Home>

In addition, Pennsylvania's seven Public Broadcasting Station (PBS) channels will also provide instructional programming for students. The Learning at Home resources are available to families and educators at <https://learningathomepa.org/>

More information about continuity of education for Pennsylvania students during the COVID-19 shutdown is available here.

Major Disaster Declaration Issued in Pennsylvania

President Trump issued a major disaster declaration in Pennsylvania this week, freeing up federal money that can be used to help fight against COVID-19. The federal assistance will bring money to state and eligible local governments as well as certain private nonprofit organizations for emergency protective measures, including direct federal assistance.

In addition to providing direct support, the declaration also ensures that eligible expenses related to the COVID-19 response – including materials and supplies to support state and local response efforts – will be partially reimbursed by the federal government.

## Wildfire Vigilance Especially Needed During Spring Season

By DCNR

DCNR statistics show nearly 85 percent of Pennsylvania's wildfires occur in March, April, and May, before greening of state woodlands and brushy areas.

Warming temperatures, dry air, and strong winds also contribute to increase the wildfire danger in the spring.

In 2019, human carelessness with outdoor fires continued to lead the list of causes of wildfires across the state. Escaped fires from people burning debris is frequently the leading cause of wildfires each year.

Fighting wildfires is dangerous to both citizens and first responders. Related injuries would add challenges to already taxed first-responders and medical facilities; and take them away from being able to deal with other emergencies.

Amid COVID-19 precautions and staffing restraints, DCNR's wildfire fighting force is ready to meet any wildfire threats in the days ahead, but the help of all Pennsylvanians is needed.

Property owners, anglers, hunters, and others are urged to observe wildfire prevention vigilance throughout the state. Please be careful with fire this spring!



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