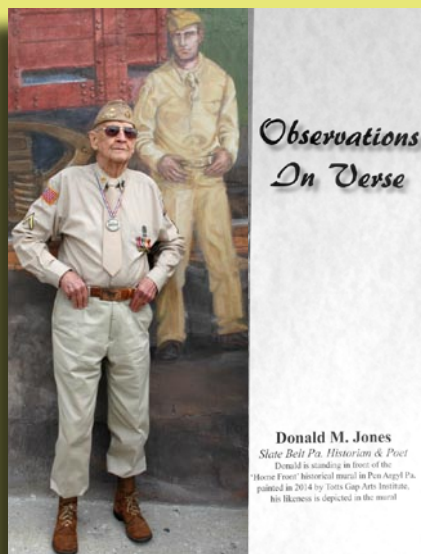


A Poem from the Archives of Donald Jones

Exclusively in the Blue Valley Times



Observations
In Verse

Donald M. Jones
Slate Belt Pa. Historian & Poet
Donald is standing in front of the
"House Fire" historical mural in Pen Argyl Pa.
painted in 2014 by Tessa Gay Arts Institute.
His likeness is depicted in the mural.

CLOUDS

Cloud formations always fascinate me.
Shaping and forming, and totally free.
Like ships sailing in a sea of blue
Over the horizon, then gone from view.

Cloud formations, completely new each day
A wonderful scene; don't turn away.
Changing patterns to make you stop and stare,
They can tell of storms, or weather that's fair.

If you're like me
You will want to see
Cloud formations!

Grants Available to Small Businesses, Farmers

By Stste Rep. Joe Emrick

NAZARETH - An estimated \$1 million in grant funding is now available to Pennsylvania small businesses and farmers for energy efficiency, pollution prevention, and natural resource protection projects through the Small Business Advantage grant program. Eligible projects include adopting or acquiring equipment or processes that reduce energy use or pollution. New to the program this year is the opportunity for small business owners to install solar hot water systems for their business operations.

Natural resource protection projects may include planting riparian buffers, installation of streambank fencing to keep livestock out of streams, and investing in agricultural stormwater management projects, with the goal of reducing sediment and nutrient loads in our waterways. Pennsylvania-based small business owners with 100 or fewer full-time equivalent employees are eligible.

Applications will be considered on a first-come, first-served basis, and will be accepted until fiscal year 2019-20 funds are exhausted or April 12, 2020, whichever occurs first. All applications must be submitted through the Commonwealth's Single Application for Assistance website. Printed, faxed and mailed applications are not accepted. More information about the program requirements is available here. Last year, around 200 small businesses were awarded more than \$947,000 in grants for their projects.

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PAFB Proposes To remove Bradys Lake From Big Bass Program and Others

By Michael Ortoski

HARRISBURG – At the meeting of Pa. Fish and Boat in Harrisburg last week new board members were elected and proposals were brought to the table.

In Monroe County, Commissioners voted to remove Bradys Lake, a 229-acre infertile impoundment owned by the Pennsylvania Game Commission (PGC) located within State Game Lands (SGL) 127 in Coolbaugh Township, Monroe County from both the Big Bass Program and Panfish Enhancement Program. This reservoir was completely dewatered in 2003 to rebuild the dam and refill was completed in 2008.

The PFBC stocked the lake from 2008 through 2013 with select fish species to establish a high quality warm-water and cool-water fishery. Since 2009, Bradys Lake black bass and panfish fisheries were managed with Big Bass and Panfish Enhancement special regulations while all other species are managed with Commonwealth Inland Waters angling regulations. The black bass and panfish populations were evaluated during 2012, 2015, and 2018 to monitor progress towards development of a high quality warm-water and cool-water fishery and determine efficacy of the of the special regulation programs. Total catch per hour of Largemouth Bass during nighttime boat electrofishing surveys did not meet the minimum recommended program criteria for waters managed with Big Bass regulations during any of the survey years, and inconsistently met catch per hour program criteria for bass greater or equal to 12 inches and bass greater than or equal to 15 inches. In addition, assessment trap net catch rates did not meet the minimum recommended program criteria for waters managed with Panfish Enhancement regulations throughout the assessment period and overall results suggested poor recruitment to the panfish fishery. Bradys Lake will revert to Commonwealth Inland Waters angling regulations on January 1, 2020.



Scavello Announces \$1 Million Grant for West End Emergency Services Facility

By Christine Zubeck

HARRISBURG – Senator Mario Scavello (R-40) announced the approval of a \$1 million state grant to help pay for the construction of Shared West End Emergency Services Facility in Chestnuthill Township.

Chestnuthill Township proposes to build the two-story Shared Emergency Services Facility at a centrally located site at the corner of Fire House Lane and Route 715.

The new building will serve as an all-in-one facility with space for the West End Volunteer Fire Company, West End Community Ambulance Association, and a Regional West End Emergency Operations Center. The center will serve Chestnuthill, Jackson, Eldred, Ross, Polk and Hamilton townships and provide an administrative backup location for the Monroe County Control Center.

“I am happy to have worked to secure this funding because it serves the public safety interests of not only the West End, but surrounding townships as well,” said Scavello. “This project will deliver public safety services in an efficient manner and ensure that we continue to serve the farthest reaches of Monroe County with quality and timely emergency response.”

The funds were made available through the Redevelopment Assistance Capitol Program, which is administered by the Office of the Budget. Scavello noted that this is one of many important projects he is working on for the region that will have a lasting impact for communities across the 40th Senate District.