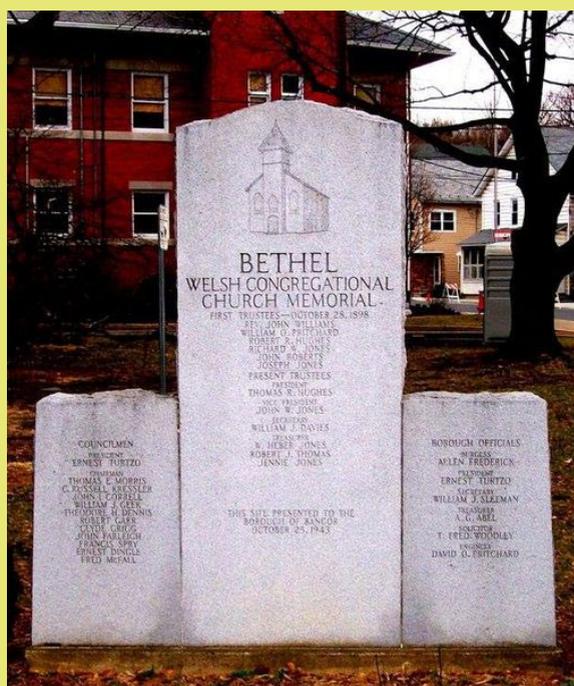
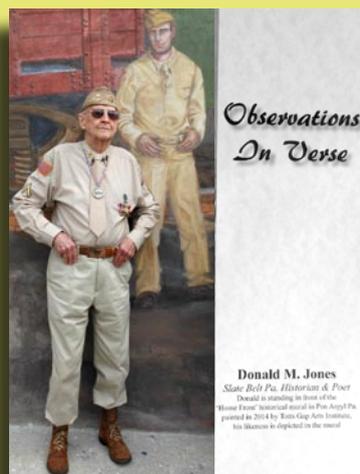


Slate Belt History From The Archives of Donald Jones

Exclusively in the Blue Valley Times



This Is A Constant Reminder Of The Welsh Church That Once Occupied This Site Now Known As Bethel Park So Named After The Church. Many Of The First Welsh Settlers Were Members Here And For Some Time And Sunday Services Were Conducted In Welsh. Some Of My Relation Were Members And Officers Of The Church. The Church Was Turned Over To The Bangor Borough And Dismantled In The 1940s.

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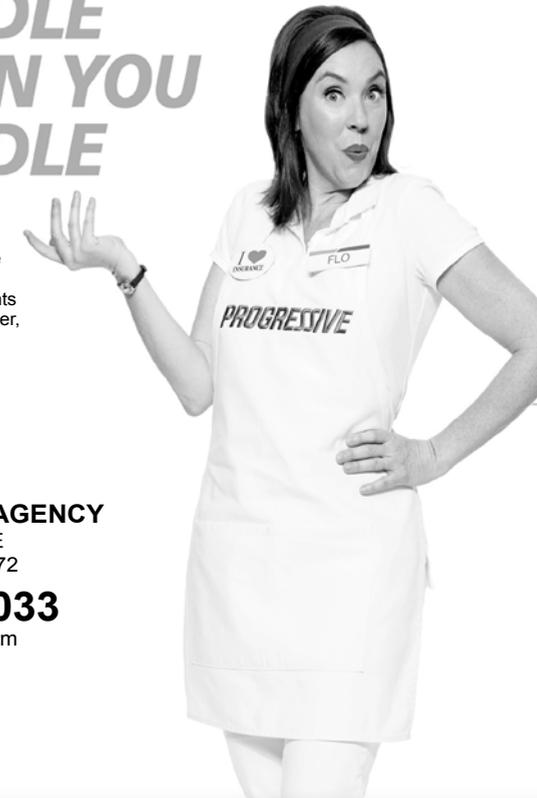
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Trump Administration Invests Over \$435,000 in Producer Grants in Rural Pennsylvania

By USDA

Harrisburg, Pa., Sept. 22, 2020 – The Trump Administration today announced that the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) is investing \$435,259 to help agricultural producers enter into value-added activities related to the processing and marketing of new products. The goals of this program are to generate new products, create and expand marketing opportunities and increase producer income.

“Under the leadership of President Trump and Agriculture Secretary Perdue, I am honored to announce these investments in rural Pennsylvania. Missions like this are critical to the goals of President Trump and set forth in his Task Force on Agriculture and Rural Prosperity. The VAPG program will help local business owners to reach more customers across Pennsylvania. It is truly an honor to give back to the local family producer businesses and help grow their workforce and market share,” said Trump Appointee Curt Coccodrilli, Pa. State Director for USDA Rural Development.

USDA Pennsylvania is funding 5 projects with total investments of \$435,259 and will help serve rural Pennsylvanians through the Value Added Producer Grants. The investment funding may be used for planning activities or for working capital expenses related to producing and marketing a value-added agricultural product. For example:

Locally Karena Ellen Thek dba Thek Farm located in Kunkletown, Pa. was awarded \$14,946 in grant funds to be used as working capital funds to support Thek Farm. The grant and matching funds will be utilized for expanding its customer base for local honey sales. Currently, the farm sells its honey out of its basement, by word of mouth. The funds will be used for marketing and branding initiatives, get the honey in store fronts and farmers’ market stands, and begin branding efforts by the use of social media, package label design, and farm roadside sign development. The project is anticipated to increase the agricultural producer’s customer base by approximately 700 customers.

More than 100 types of projects are eligible for Community Facilities funding. Eligible applicants

include municipalities, public bodies, nonprofit organizations and federally recognized Native American tribes. Projects must be in rural areas with a population of 20,000 or less.

Interested parties should contact their USDA Rural Development state office for information about additional funding, application procedures and eligibility details. Also see the Community Facilities Direct Loan Program Guidance Book for Applicants a detailed overview of the application process.

USDA Rural Development provides loans and grants to help expand economic opportunities and create jobs in rural areas. This assistance supports infrastructure improvements; business development; housing; community facilities such as schools, public safety and health care; and high-speed internet access in rural areas. For more information, visit www.rd.usda.gov.





A Fun, Informative Series of Presentations on Water

September 30, 2020 - 6:30PM - 8:00PM

**Prayers in Stone:
The Mystery of Ceremonial Stone Landscapes in our Woodlands & Wetlands**
Jim Wilson, Northampton County Parks & New England Antiquities Research Association
Bangor Trust Brewing Company - Courtyard, 50 Broadway, Bangor, PA 18013



Ceremonial Stone Landscapes is the term used by the United South & Eastern Tribes (USET), a nonprofit intertribal organization of American Indians, for stonework sites in eastern North America. USET states that, for thousands of years before the immigration of Europeans, the medicine people of the USET Tribal ancestors used these sacred landscapes to sustain the people's reliance on Mother Earth and the spirit energies of balance and harmony. Whether these stone structures are massive or small, stacked, stone rows or effigies, these prayers in stone are often mistaken by archaeologists and State Historic Preservation Offices as the effort of farmers clearing stone for agricultural or wall building purposes. That long held view is now shifting and is being reevaluated in Pennsylvania, which is rich in stone landscape structures, including here in the Lehigh Valley. In this presentation, you'll see scores of photographs of local "prayers in stone," learn how the dates of these structures can now be determined and how the PA State Historic Preservation Office is working with citizen volunteers to document Ceremonial Stone Landscapes across the Commonwealth.

Please comply with all Pennsylvania Department of Health and United States Centers for Disease Control guidelines regarding COVID-19.

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/tap-talk-the-mystery-of-ceremonial-stone-landscapes-in-our-watersheds-tickets-119298279365>

Thank you to our program partner:
Registration is required due to limited space!



To learn more about the Watershed Coalition of the Lehigh Valley, please visit our website:
<https://www.watershedcoalitionlv.org/>