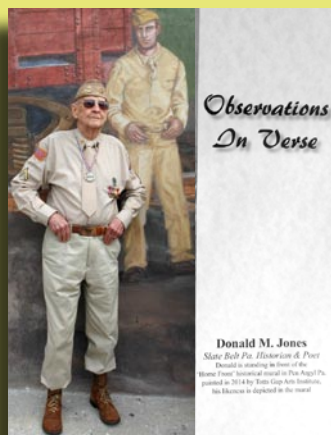


A Poem from the Archives of Donald Jones

Exclusively in the Blue Valley Times



GIVING BACK

Life is a gift full of pleasure
Life is a gift for us to treasure.
And since it's a gift shouldn't
we repay
Even if only in some small
way.

For there are those who stand
in need
Those who look for some
good deed.

So let's repay our gift of life
By helping others through
storm and strife.

In offering yourself, you will
find
A treasure of another kind.
It's that warm feeling that
comes over you
A reward for the good things
that you do.

Winter Birds

By DCNR
HARRISBURG - Christmas Bird Count Begins this
Week!

The National Audubon Society's annual Christmas
Bird Count citizen science opportunity begins this
week.

Volunteers must make arrangements to participate
in advance with the compiler within a count area,
however, anyone can participate.

If you love birdwatching or would like to get started, you can participate. If you are a beginning
birder, you will be able to join a group that includes more experienced bird watchers.

In the photo this cedar waxwing was recently seen at Kings Gap Environmental Education Center
gobbling up some berries to prepare for winter. Winterberry holly is a great native winter food source
for birds in Pennsylvania.

The bird count begins Saturday, December 14, 2019, and ends on Sunday, January 5, 2020. A
count close to you will be held on one of these days, however, you can participate in as many counts
as you would like.

For 120 years, the Christmas Bird Count has relied on volunteers to help track bird data which
helps in the conservation efforts of birds.



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Park Ranger Rainey McKenna Wins Regional Freeman Tilden Award Bushkill

By Jennifer Kavanaugh

WATER GAP - Park Ranger Rainey McKenna, Outreach and Education Coordinator at Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area, was named as the 2019 recipient of the National Park Service's Freeman Tilden Award for the North Atlantic-Appalachian Region. Ranger McKenna was recognized for her work on Science Sundays, a six week drop-in, family-oriented program offered to fourth grade students and their families.

Science Sundays was created in partnership with the Pocono Writing Project, East Stroudsburg University, and educators from Resica Elementary School. The program encouraged students to think and write like scientists as they explored six unique science-themed curriculums each week at locations around the park. Students and their families explored the week's theme through place-based, hands-on activities at five to six student-led learning stations. The Freeman Tilden Award recognizes outstanding contributions to the public through interpretation by a National Park Service employee. Freeman Tilden provided a philosophical basis for interpretation in his book *Interpreting Our Heritage*. Nominees for this award are judged upon their creativity, originality, and positive contributions to enhancing the public's understanding of the National Park System and the resources it protects.



GED Classes to Begin

By Michael Ortoski

BANGOR - PEN ARGYL - NAZARETH - FREE Adult Education classes of the Bangor, Pen Argyl, and Nazareth Adult Education program will begin in February 2020. The GED preparation class will help students improve computer skills, reading, writing and math skills to then advance to take the GED test. Students must attend class both days of the first week for assessment and orientation. If a student is not able to begin in February, they will have to wait until September or contact the Main Office at 610-332-8650 for year round classes.

The Bangor area GED preparation class will meet in the library of DeFranco Elementary School on Five Points Richmond Rd, Bangor from 6 pm to 8:30 pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays. The start date is Tuesday, February 4th.

The Pen Argyl area GED class will meet in the Pen Argyl Senior High School Library. This class will run from 6 pm to 8:30 pm on Mondays and Thursdays. The start date is Monday, February 3rd.

The Nazareth area GED class will meet in the lower level of the Nazareth Senior High School Library. The nights for the Nazareth classes are Tuesday and Thursday, from 6 to 8:30 pm. Class will begin Tuesday, February 4th.

The classes will run until the middle of May and new classes will begin again in September. The 37 year old program has helped many area students earn a GED. Students, who pass the GED, attend class and complete certain requirements, may receive an equivalency high school diploma.

The program is mostly funded by federal and state education grants managed by Northampton Community College. NCC operates one of Pennsylvania's largest Adult Literacy programs serving hundreds of students each year. Funding is also provided by Bangor, Pen Argyl and Nazareth school districts. In addition to these classes, information about job searching and continuing studies at NCC will be available.

For more information about these classes, please call Northampton Community College at 610 - 861 - 5427. Go to www.GED.com for all information about the GED test.

GED