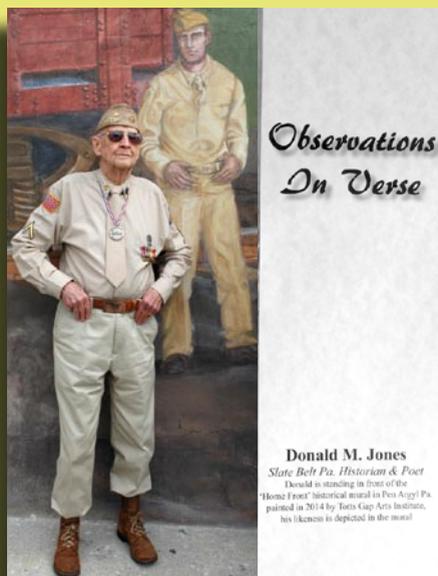


A Poem from the Archives of Donald Jones

Exclusively in the Blue Valley Times



Donald M. Jones
Slate Belt Pa. Historian & Poet
Donald is standing in front of the
"Home Front" historical mural in Pen Argyl Pa.
painted in 2014 by: Ruth Kay Yoko Institute.
his likeness is depicted in the mural

FEBRUARY

You fooled us with a taste of Spring
We should have known it wasn't the real thing.
Now they tell us you're going to blow
And drop on us a lot more snow.

As I recall, it happened last year
The same warm days and a sky so clear.
So we dare not let our Spring hopes soar
For your are Winter with snow once more.

Pennsylvania to Ramp Up Litter Prevention Measures

Don Harris

Harrisburg, PA – Today the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), Department of Transportation (PennDOT), and Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful released the results of the first statewide comprehensive research on litter, the cost of cleaning it up, and attitudes toward litter and announced the formation of a state-led workgroup to shift Pennsylvania's strategy from cleanup to prevention.

"Pennsylvania has a littering problem that cleanup efforts alone can't solve. Litter undercuts our quality of life and the health of our waters and soil. It shortchanges community improvements and economic development, as funds that could otherwise be spent more productively instead go to trash cleanup," said DEP Secretary Patrick McDonnell.

Field research results indicate more than 502 million pieces of litter on Pennsylvania's roads. The most common items are cigarette butts (37 percent) and plastics (30 percent), with plastic film and beverage containers most prevalent. There are an estimated 29.3 million beverage containers alone on the roads. Motorists and pedestrians are leading sources of litter, followed by improperly secured truck loads.

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COLUMBIA STORAGE GROUP Content Sale

Columbia Self Storage will sell the contents of the occupant's leased space at public auction to satisfy the owner's lien on StorageTreasuries.com all personal property stored in this facility by: Unit #228 Christopher Hendershot, consisting of boxes, furniture, misc. items. Unit #324 Richard Itterly, consisting of boxes, furniture, appliances, misc. items. Unit #245 Shana Ceasar, consisting of boxes, toys, misc. items. Items will be offered for sale by auction to the highest bidder for enforcement of storage liens.

**Auction will be held at 9AM, Tuesday, February 25, 2020
on StorageTreasuries.com**

All auction sales are FINAL. Cash only and paid at Columbia Self Storage, 1059 Pennsylvania Ave., Pen Argyl, PA 18072. Columbia Self Storage reserves the right to refuse any bid.

Upper Mt. Bethel TWSP., Northampton County, Pa.

NOTICE OF EMPLOYMENT

Upper Mt. Bethel TWSP., Northampton County, Pa. is currently seeking a Full-Time CDL Operator with air brakes for the Public Works Dept. Applications are available at the Township Municipal Building located at 387 Ye Olde Highway, Mt. Bethel Pa. 18343, between the hours of 7:30 am - 4:00 pm. Applications will be accepted until March 1, 2020.

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Minsi Lake

Continued from page 1

Refilling Of Minsi Lake Following Dam Rehabilitation Project

By PAFBC Mike Parker

HARRISBURG – The Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission (PFBC) is pleased to announce that the refilling of two popular lakes, Donegal Lake in Westmoreland County and Minsi Lake in Northampton County, is underway following lengthy dam rehabilitation projects. “As the refill

process gets underway in both of these lakes, people will notice the water levels increasing gradually over the next several weeks,” said Paul Urbanik, Director of the PFBC’s Bureau of Engineering. “It’s an exciting time because we’re all anxious to see these lakes return so that we can enjoy them again, but it’s also vital that we control the pace and monitor things closely along the way.” Donegal Lake, a 90-acre impoundment located in Donegal Township, Westmoreland County, is fed naturally by Four Mile Run. The lake was drained in 2016 when the previous dam was deemed unsafe. A \$5.5 million rehabilitation project was completed in December 2019. Minsi Lake, a 117-acre impoundment located within Northampton County’s Minsi Lake Wilderness Area is fed naturally by East Fork Martin’s Creek. The lake was drained in 2017 when the previous dam was deemed structurally deficient. A \$4.9 million rehabilitation project was completed in December 2019. Urbanik expects both lakes to refill at a pace of about 2-3 feet per week, with the lakes approaching full capacity in approximately 6 weeks. Refilling is intentionally performed slowly to allow the earthen portion of the dams to adequately saturate



and to allow engineers to monitor new concrete dam structures which will be placed under a tremendous amount of pressure for the first time as water is introduced. Both facilities will be subject to weekly inspections to ensure safety and monitor performance. “We’re confident that the dams will perform exactly how they were designed, and we don’t anticipate any issues,” added Urbanik. “In moving slowly, we’ll also be able to control the amount of sediment that gets stirred up in the lake and reduce the amount that moves into downstream waterways.” Water quality in both lakes will be monitored ahead of trout stocking events planned at each location in the coming weeks. Minsi Lake is scheduled to be stocked on March 24, ahead of the Regional Mentored Youth Trout Day on March 28. Donegal Lake is scheduled to be stocked on April 1, ahead of the Statewide Mentored Youth Trout Day on April 11. Both lakes will be stocked with Rainbow Trout and golden Rainbow Trout during the preseason period, with additional Rainbow Trout to be stocked throughout the spring and fall. Volunteers are welcome to attend the stocking events and participate in placing the trout into the lakes. A complete 2020 Adult Trout Stocking Schedule and information about the mentored youth programs can be found on the PFBC website (www.fishandboat.com). Both Donegal Lake and Minsi Lake are regulated as Stocked Trout Waters and are closed to all fishing (including taking of minnows) from March 1 to 8 a.m. on their respective opening days of the trout

season, except for Mentored Youth Trout Day. The lakes are also managed under a temporary special fishing regulation requiring catch and release/no harvest for all species except trout. Anglers fishing for trout should follow Commonwealth Inland Waters regulations. Beginning in spring 2020, PFBC biologists and hatchery staff will begin to implement multi-year restocking plans at the lakes, which include the introduction of fingerling-sized warmwater gamefish including largemouth bass, as well as various panfish and minnows. Over time, these stockings will result in self-sustaining populations of fish that contribute to a diverse and successful fishery and regulations will be adjusted to allow for harvest. During the refill process, anglers and boaters should avoid areas that may become muddy or slippery. Boaters should only use paved launch areas when water levels have adequately covered the launch to allow for safe entry into the water. Boaters are reminded to always wear a lifejacket, and that a mandatory cold water life jacket requirement is in place from November 1 through April 30 for anyone aboard a boat less than 16 feet in length including any canoe, kayak or paddleboard.