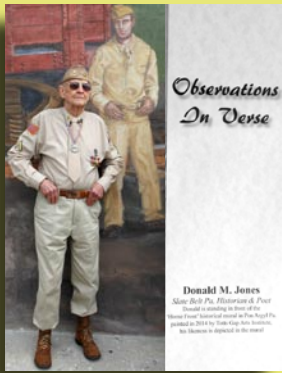


A Poem from the Archives of Donald Jones

Exclusively in the Blue Valley Times



WINTER COMES

The earth dresses down,
Crisp and cold brightens the light.
It lengthens the night.

Confining traveler to room and hall,
Because of the season's first snow fall.
To sit and dream of warmer days
While staring at winter's white haze.

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The PA Veterans' Trust Fund

By Senator Mario Scavella

PEN ARGYL - The PA Veterans' Trust Fund is accepting grant applications for programs and services benefiting Pennsylvania veterans. The deadline to apply is Dec. 18.

The Department of Military and Veterans Affairs will award grants to nonprofits, veteran service organizations and county directors of veteran affairs. Funding priorities for this grant cycle are veterans' initiatives focused on homelessness, behavioral health, veterans' courts, and new and innovative programs and services.

For applications go to <https://www.dmva.pa.gov/veteransaffairs/Pages/Programs%20and%20Services/Veterans%20Trust%20Fund/VeteransTrustFundGrantProgram.aspx>.

Growing Greener Plus Grants

By Senator Mario Scavella

PEN ARGYL - Counties, municipalities, municipal authorities, county conservation districts, councils of government, educational institutions, watershed and other organizations have until Dec. 20 to apply for state Growing Greener Plus grants to restore and protect water quality.

Funded through the commonwealth's Growing Greener Plus program, \$30 million in grant funding is available to help communities restore and protect water quality by reducing abandoned mine drainage and urban and agricultural runoff pollution and addressing harmful algal blooms, climate resiliency, PFAS, and other emerging issues.

For More info go to <https://www.dep.pa.gov/Citizens/GrantsLoansRebates/Growing-Greener/Pages/default.aspx>.



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Merchants Bank Receives Awards



Slate Belt Rising



Bangor Borough Streetscapes Enhancements project

By Susan Kovacs
BANGOR - Merchants Bank received awards for the bank's role in Bangor Borough Streetscapes Enhancements project and their role in the Slate Belt Rising Program that won in the Revitalization and Multimunicipal Cooperation categories, respectively. Additionally, Merchants Bank was among those honored for the Slate Belt Community Gardens in the Revitalization category.

"This is the second year I had the privilege of accepting the bank awards. I'm impressed by the collective efforts of all those who were honored and awarded. These awards exemplify "community," and our participation in this recognition pays tribute to the hard work each of our employees contributes every day. They carry out the value Merchants Bank provides to our community partners", says Mark Jobes, Senior Vice President, Chief Banking Officer.

Bangor Quarry Hoist Pavilion Progress

By Mike Piersa

BANGOR - Next time you pass by the Hoist, take a look through the orange construction fence and you will notice that the pavilion's utilitarian concrete pillars are no longer visible. They have been covered with beautiful bluestone faces and caps, befitting the landmark that the site is becoming. The team at Serene Scenes Landscaping, the Kluska Boys from Bangor, volunteered their labor and expertise to do a job that any stone-worker would envy.

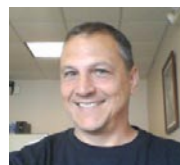
There is more than meets the eye, as they dug, by hand, almost to the bottom of the original pillars, poured additional concrete around each pillar, then built up with their masonry to form the surfaces seen today. Other tasks, such as ongoing maintenance to keep the Hoist operational, preparing slate for the roof, and making custom steel brackets to mount the timber frame to the pillars, have kept volunteers busy. Stay tuned for news about the upcoming installation of the slate roof, wrought iron fence, and finishing touches.



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