

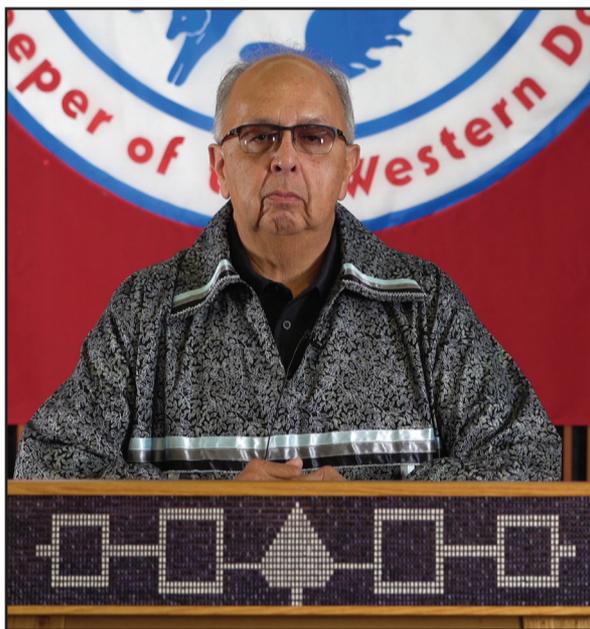


The Official Newsletter of the SENECA NATION



May 15, 2020 - [visit us @ sninews.org](http://sninews.org)

A message from President Rickey L. Armstrong, Sr.



Greetings!

I hope this message finds you all well, staying safe and managing your day to day activities within the temporary limitations of this unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic. I know this has been a challenging time for all of us. I would like to reassure you that we are doing everything we can to ensure your safety, as we consider a thoughtful and realistic process for us to re-open our business and get our governmental services operating to full capacity, once again.

True, this time we are living through right

now, with this Coronavirus, can be very scary, especially since it is so insidious. Even though life as we were comfortable living it, has changed, we cannot and should not be living in fear. Our people have lived through such difficult times in our history and we've come a long way from where we once were. I hear some people say we may have advanced "too far", and it's time to return to our old ways, customs and traditions. Regardless, we are where we are; and we are where we are because we are strong and resilient people. We have persevered and prospered because our ancestors paved the way for us to be able to do so. Once again, I am reminded – not only am I not alone, but, we are not alone. I encourage everyone to share your traditional knowledge with one another and to reach out to your neighbors, to see if they need help or some food or a ride. If you have knowledge about putting in a garden, I encourage you to share that knowledge, as planting season is around the corner. We are being given an opportunity to create our own new normal. These are the times when we can lean on one another and stand together to protect our communities as best as we can, so when we return to our new normal, we can be even better and even stronger, for the

generations who come after us.

I have found when I've been faced with difficult and trying times in my life, I have had a tendency to think I'm probably the only person who has ever been in whatever situation it is, that I am facing at that moment. It's human nature to focus on myself and my surroundings. As I have been around for a while and raised a family, achieved some of my goals and checked some things off my "bucket list", I've come to realize that even in what I thought were some of the darkest moments or the saddest times, I've never truly been alone. There has always been someone there, extending their hand for support, or I have found comfort in being with my grandchildren or lifelong friends. I've also learned that bringing joy to someone else's life doesn't require a large gesture or an over-the-top gift. Sometimes, the smallest gesture of sitting quietly with someone when they are silently suffering, might be just what is needed at the time and is good medicine for both of us.

If you feel like you are suffering alone, remember you are not alone and there is support available. In addition to family and friends, we have established a non-

SENECA NATION COVID-19 HOTLINE: 945-8153
(24/7 for non-medical questions)

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medical related COVID-19 hotline, (716) 945-8153; and the Behavioral Health Center has made adjustments for counseling services to be available by telephone. To speak with a Counselor, please call BHU at: (716) 945-9001 for Allegany; and (716) 532-5583 for Cattaraugus. I would also like to give a shout out to all of our Seneca Nation Health Department nurses in honor of Nurses Day, May 12th, 2020. Many nya:wehs for everything you do and the risks you take every day - to keep our community members safe and healthy!

I have heard reports about how some of our neighbors are doing in the surrounding communities. Some citizens are being

left to fend for themselves and find masks or make masks, without any municipal support, whatsoever. Just know that the Seneca Nation will continue to distribute resources and supplies to our community members; and disseminate information door to door to the best of our ability. Again, you are not alone. We will continue to make progress on our plans to bring our workforce back, restore our services, and become fully operational. Unfortunately, I do not have a date to report, because the timing is closely connected to the number of positive cases in our physical locations; and we don't want to make the situation worse, by opening too soon. We will get there, though.

I admit, some of you may be tired of hearing my message to "continue to take care of one another" or "we'll get through this together", but it is meant in all sincerity and all seriousness. And, of course, please continue to wear face masks if you have to go out in public, wash your hands frequently and practice social distancing. If you have the time and the resources, please reach out to your family members, friends or neighbors – if even to just say hello.

Respectfully,
Rickey L. Armstrong, Sr.



FROM THE DESK OF THE TREASURER



Treasurer Matthew Pagels

Nya:wëh Sgë:nö',

Spring is finally here! Everyone looks forward to warmer days, time outdoors, gardening and exercising. I hope you continue to do these things but with caution and awareness. During this extraordinary time, abiding by guidelines such as social distancing, limited gatherings and continuous hand washing is most important for our community's health and well-being. As we, New York and surrounding states contemplate opening up, more testing is anticipated including the antibody testing for prior exposure. Stay aware, stay safe and stay healthy.

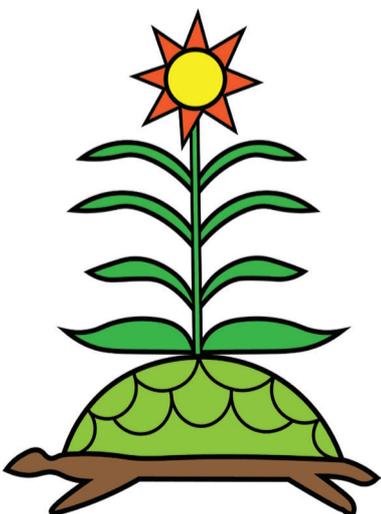
With this pandemic, many things have changed for the Nation, including our economic outlook. As you may be aware, without our businesses meeting revenue projections, it is essential to make adjustments to our Departmental budgets. A budget sweep will happen in May reducing budgets by a various amounts to best plan for the remainder of the fiscal year. As always, essential services will continue as needed.

Another main consideration during this time is the direct member benefits such as annuity payments. Our casino and gaming enterprises remain closed thus the Nation is unable to receive head lease payments which fund all these benefits. Council and the Executives are continuing to develop a plan for required reductions and will be decided at the May Council session. I will release a public service announcement to help explain the decision made and the funding options moving forward.

The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act through the CARES Act provides payments to government entities such as the Nation, navigating the impact of the COVID-19 outbreak. Exact payments to Native governments have yet to be determined. Once we receive this award, the Nation will designate the funding to cover essential programs.

On a more positive note, the Nation has a large scale asphalt milling project using the remnants from the I-90 project. Cattaraugus residents can call the Treasurer's office to request millings and give brief location information. Please be patient with the project as we are limited with equipment and staff. Everyone will eventually receive what they need.

Again, enjoy your time with family, get out and enjoy the weather and stay well.





Bethany Johnson, Clerk
ALLEGANY TERRITORY

CLERK'S OFFICE HOURS

While our doors are closed temporarily, we will continue to remain open Monday through Friday; 8:00 am – 4:30 pm with limited staff who are available by TELEPHONE ONLY.

Cattaraugus Territory (716) 532-4900 ext. 5000
Allegany Territory (716) 945-1790 ext. 3000

You can mail completed forms along with a copy of your photo identification as proof of identify if you are unable to obtain a notary to: Seneca Nation of Indians, 90 Ohi:yo' Way, Salamanca NY 14779.

All forms are available online at www.sni.org under Clerk's Office documents.

DIRECT DEPOSIT OF ANNUITY AND/OR ELDERS PAYMENTS

If you would like to sign up for Direct Deposit of your Annuity and/or Elders Check, you will

have to complete the form. The form is available on the web at www.sni.org under Documents/Clerk's Office / Direct Deposit



Marta Kettle, Deputy Clerk
CATTARAUGUS TERRITORY

forms or at the Clerk's Office.

- All direct deposit forms MUST have attached a voided check or deposit slip (start-up checks will NOT be accepted).
- Members must be at least 18 years old to sign up for Direct Deposit
- Minors are NOT eligible for Direct Deposit

If you receive direct deposit, it is your responsibility to keep your address updated with the Clerk's Office.

BURIAL FUND

A Burial fund has been designated to pay for funeral expenses up to \$7000 for enrolled members. For additional details, please contact the Clerk's Office during regular business hours.

If after hours or on weekends, please contact Bethany Johnson, Clerk (716)-474-6361 or Marta Kettle, Deputy Clerk (716)-474-5403.

ADDRESSES

Please remember to keep your address current with the Clerk's Office. This includes changes with custody of minor children or legal guardians (Court orders).

REGISTRATION

We are suspending the acceptance of any in person registrations temporarily. This temporary measure does NOT relieve members of the obligation to register by December 31, 2020. If there are any changes, they will be posted on the SNI Web site at www.sni.org

Please stay healthy, safe and remain at home as much as possible. Nya:wëh for your patience and understanding during this time and please watch for updates as this may change unexpectedly. Any changes will be posted online at www.sni.org.

Seneca Nation's first virtual Council session

On Saturday May 9 the Seneca Nation held the first virtual regular Council



session via the GoToMeeting platform. This allowed for safely maintaining social distancing, while providing secure access to Senecas who wanted to participate.

Councilors and Executives video conferenced from the Council chambers on their respective territories and 156 members logged in, some from as far away as Oklahoma and California. Everything worked well and members were able to have their questions and concerns addressed.

This will be the format for regular monthly Council sessions until it is safe to lift social distancing practices.

Correction

In the April 24, 2020 edition of the SNI Official Newsletter, under deletions to the Nation's Roll - April 11, 2020 Regular Session of Council, June Conklin was erroneously listed as Hawk Clan. She should have been listed as Turtle Clan.



PUBLIC NOTICE

In response to COVID-19 the President of the Seneca Nation has issued an Executive Order suspending fishing to non-residents until further notice.

*Non-resident: Are people who do not reside on Seneca Nation territories. Salamanca residents are permitted to fish with a valid SNI fishing license and in accordance with SNI fishing regulations.

Current license holders will have the expiration date extended to compensate for lost fishing days.

Please remember these are unprecedented times and this is temporary, we apologize for any inconvenience this may cause and we appreciate your understanding.

Stay Healthy and Be Safe



SN PRESENTS

HEMP COMPLIANCE



SENECA NATION of INDIANS
Keeper of the Western Door

LOGO DESIGN CONTEST

CASH PRIZE

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS
JUNE 12

SUBMISSIONS - SenecaNationHCA@sni.org - EPS/JPEG/PNG/GIF

GUIDELINES FOR SUBMISSION

- MUST INCLUDE "SENECA NATION HEMP COMPLIANCE DEPARTMENT"
- MUST HAVE GREEN IN LOGO DESIGN
- MUST INCLUDE SENECA ART AND/OR REFERENCES
- MUST BE SUITABLE FOR COLOR AND BLACK AND WHITE REPRODUCTION
- MUST BE SUITABLE FOR SCALING DOWN AND UP

The entries (Maximum of 2 two per artist) must be your own original design

All submissions become the property of the Seneca Nation which will enjoy unlimited use of the image in all media. All entrants will have our undying thanks and be entered in the contest for monetary compensation (Cash Prize). The creator of the selected logo will be contacted and announced on the Seneca Media & Communications Center Facebook account, as well as the Seneca Nation Newsletter, and sni.org website.

QUESTIONS: EMAIL JESSICA.CROUSE@SNI.ORG

IF HAND DRAWN: ATTN: JESSICA CROUSE / Seneca Nation Hemp Compliance Dept. / 90 Ohiyo way / Salamanca, NY 14779



NEED TILLING DONE?

DPW is offering free Tilling for the upcoming garden season to Enrolled Allegany Community Members.

This will be a NO-CONTACT service for our community

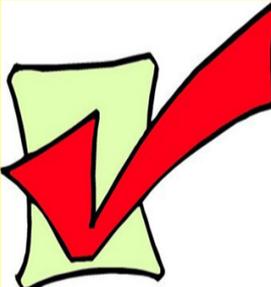
-No larger than 20x20*

- Area MUST be clearly marked and/or staked out on your property

Deadline: May 29th, 2020

For Info Call Sherry Dowdy
716-945-1790
Ext. 3150

BEAN AND CORN SEEDS ARE AVAILABLE FROM GAKWI:YO:H FARMS BY CALLING MICHAEL SNYDER 716-801-0116

GRADUATING THIS SPRING?

CATTARAUGUS MARSHAL

COMMUNITY OUTREACH PROGRAM

Scholarship opportunity for 3 graduating Seniors attending a Tri-District school; Gowanda, Lakeshore, Silver Creek. There will be 1 Scholarship winner from each school, and they will receive a \$500 cash scholarship to assist them in their 1st Semester of higher education learning. Applications are available @ www.sni.org/departments/marshals-office/

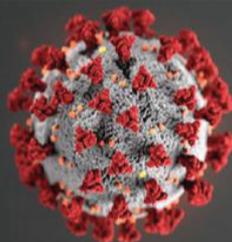
Click on "Documents"

Applications due Friday **May 29th**

Email application to cops.app@sni.org



\$500 SCHOLARSHIP



CORONAVIRUS UPDATE

Clarification of Governor Andrew Cuomo's Executive Order:

The governor's "mask mandate," formally known as Executive Order 202.17, requires anyone venturing out into public places to wear some sort of cloth covering over their nose and mouth **whenever social distancing -which he defines as being 6 feet away from another person- is impossible.**

It does not automatically require someone to wear a mask when they go outdoors, but it should be used when taking public transit or using private transportation.



NY Connects, your link to Long Term Services and Supports

Submitted by Gail Kennedy

Get help with your long term supports needs.

Connect to long term services and supports in your community

- Personal care services
- Education and counseling
- Health and wellness
- Behavioral health supports and services
- Intellectual/developmental disability supports and services
- Social supports

Three ways to connect to reach NY connects.

By phone. Call 1-800-342-9871. Interpretation and translation services are free. Individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing can use NY Relay System 7-1-1.

Online. Visit our website: www.nyconnects.ny.gov

In-person. To find the NY Connects office near you, call our toll-free number, visit our website, or see the address below.

Your local NY Connects office:

Seneca Nation Area Office for the Aging.

Wini Kettle Senior Center

28 Thomas Indian School Drive

Contact: Gail Kennedy, Options Counselor, Phone (716) 945-8991. Fax: (716) 532-5077. gail.kennedy@sni.org

How do I get Medicare Part A and Part B?

Submitted by Gail Kennedy

Many People Automatically Get Medicare Part A and Part B

Already get benefits from Social Security for the Railroad Retirement Board (RRB)? If you get benefits from Social Security or the Railroad Retirement Board (RRB), you will automatically get Medicare Part A (Hospital Insurance) and Medicare Part B (Medical Insurance). Medicare Part B is a voluntary program that will normally require you to pay a monthly premium. Medicare will mail you a Medicare card and general information before the date you become eligible.

If this describes you- You get retirement benefits from Social Security or the RRB. You get disability benefits from Social Security or certain disability benefits from the RRB.

Here's when you automatically get Part A and Part B.

Starting the first day of the month you turn 65. Starting the first day of the 25th month your Social Security or RRB benefits begin.

Special Enrollment Period

If you didn't sign up for Part A and/or Part B (for which you pay monthly premiums) during your Initial Enrollment Period because you're covered under a group health plan based on current employment, you qualify for a Special Enrollment Period (SEP). You can sign up for Part A and/or Part B as follows:

Anytime that you or your spouse (or family member if you're disabled) are working, and you're covered by a group health plan through the employer or union based on that work.

During the 8-month period that begins the month after the employment ends or the group health plan coverage ends, whichever happens first.

Note About Monthly Premium Penalties: Part A

If you don't sign up for Part A when you're first eligible, you may have to pay a penalty equal to 10% of the Part A premium, unless you're eligible for a SEP. The 10% premium penalty applies no matter how long you delay Part A enrollment. You will have to pay a premium for twice the number of years you could have paid Part A, but didn't sign up. For example, if you delay enrollment for 2 years, you must pay the 10% premium penalty for 4 years.

Note About Monthly Premium Penalties: Part B

If you don't sign up for Part B when you're first eligible, you may to pay a penalty to get it later. For each 12-month period you delay enrollment in Part B, you will have to pay an extra 10% of the Part B premium, unless you qualify for a SEP. In most cases, you will to pay that penalty every month for as long as you have part B. If you're enrolled in Part B because you are disabled and you're paying a premium penalty, you no longer have to pay this penalty once you turn 65. Note: You usually don't pay this enrollment penalty if you sign up during a SEP.

Disability paperwork on hold

Submitted by Leanna LeRoy

Seneca Nation Disability Services will not be accepting any new paperwork at this time.

If you are due for Recertification there is a HOLD on it until the COVID-19 Pandemic is over you will not be in violation in any way.

Please hold on to the paperwork that you have and we will contact you when the program is open.

Please call us if you have any concerns.

**Ashley Kettle 532-4900 Ext 5152 or
Leanna LeRoy Ext 5151 or
716-801-2955**

PLEASE STAY SAFE! STAY HOME!
Nya:wëh!



Got time on your hands at home? Got kids and looking for new learning materials? Got Onöndowa'ga:' Gawë:nö'?

Catch video lessons with Ja:no's on Seneca Media and Communications Facebook page

Learn Seneca Language at home! Online resources and live video classes! Check out the great resources available at senecalanguage.com.

They've also got a Facebook group for discussion and questions and a YouTube channel filled with fun and educational videos. Check it out today!

#SenecasStaySafe

SNI Economic Development Company extends deferral period

Salamanca, NY- April 21, 2020, The SNIEDC Board of Directors voted to defer all MIC, BRL, and CMG loan payments for the months of May and June 2020. The deferral fee of \$25 is waived for all SNIEDC clients. Accounts must be current to be eligible for these deferments.

If your loan payments are made via annuity check. SNIEDC will issue a check for the amount pledged.

This is in response the COVID-19 pandemic and the anticipated economic hardships our clients may undergo during closures of businesses at this time. Please stay safe and remember we are all in this together.

*** SNIEDC like to introduce you Destiny Sampson. She is the new Loan Administrator for the company. Welcome Destiny!***

\$ INCOME OPPORTUNITY \$

CALLING ALL GREENTHUMBS

The Seneca Nation Department of Transportation is looking for any local amateurs experienced in gardening/landscaping to fulfill seasonal, and/or one-time contracts for managing gardens and landscaping within Seneca Nation public spaces.

Clubs, Groups, Hobbyists, and anyone with a knack and knowhow for botany are encouraged to apply!!

- Grow and cultivate flora and fauna - often times with cultural significance
- Maintain, clean, weed, and repair plants/vegetative areas and landscape features - replace plants as needed
- Provide insight that will help guide new projects and landscape plans

OPPORTUNITY FOR ALLEGANY & CATTARAUGUS TERRITORIES

POTENTIAL PROJECTS:
 Route 5&20 Round-a-bout
 Irving Gateway Sign
 Roadside Planters
 Ohi:yo' Gateway
 Pennsy Trail
 and More!

Anyone interested should contact the Seneca Nation's Special Projects Planner, Ben Anderson.



Attn: Department of Transportation
 Ben Anderson, Special Projects Planner
 90 Ohi:yo' Way
 Salamanca NY, 14779
 (716)-945-1790 x3088
benjamin.anderson@sni.org



Sullivan Hollow water issue

By Joel Merrill

The Seneca Nation continues to address the water issues at Sullivan Hollow.

Utilizing a grant from EPA, the Seneca Nation plans to replace the well house at Sullivan Hollow and upgrade the water treatment system to meet all water quality standards.

In addition, a water storage tank will be constructed to meet the current and future water needs. Construction is contingent on securing additional grant funding to construct the project at no cost to the Seneca Nation.

The most recent project schedule is to complete construction by winter of 2020. Please contact the Seneca Nation Health Engineer at (716) 945-5894 with questions.

Tune-in to WGWE!

If you're outside the radio range of WGWE and want to hear some classic hits with some Seneca flavor you can still tune in through the website and the newly updated Android and iPhone/iPad apps.

Free millings for Cattaraugus residents

By Treasurer Pagels

If you are a Cattaraugus resident and would like millings delivered to your property, please call the Treasurer's Office at 716-532-4900. Residents will need to provide their name, address, and phone number.



Be sure to check out Gae:no' with Brett Maybee, the Night Show with Louis Snyder, programming from the Native Voice 1 radio network, all your favorite daytime DJs from 6a-9p M-F, plus important Seneca Nation updates.

You can request songs and even send a shout out through the apps, so be sure to check out all the ways you can stay tuned in to WGWE-land!

Cattaraugus Edu Dept on long distance learning, meal services, graduation arrangements

By Trudy Jackson, Education Director (Cattaraugus)

All districts have now moved on to the last grading period for this school year. Schools must still determine if students have met minimum learning requirements to advance to their next grade level. Therefore, students are required to continue learning new material while at home and demonstrate that they have learned and understand it.

Teachers and staff at all districts are available every day for support and questions. Encourage your children to reach out to their teachers regularly, even if they do not need help with assignments.

Online applications are being used across all districts to make submitting work, meeting with teachers and providing updates much easier and quicker. If you are having issues getting connected through these apps you should contact your teachers first for assistance. Teachers are the first direct contact for questions or help with anything during this time. Technology

needs can be addressed from your child's home District.

Parents should make sure their contact numbers are up to date and phones are able to receive voicemails. Teachers and school staff will reach out regularly to check in with students and families. You may also contact the Education Department for assistance as we have direct access to Building Administrators and support staff at each district.

WiFi access is available at all districts in the parking lots, as well as the Seneca Nation Education/ECLC building parking lot. Contact the Education Department for the passcode. Our number is 716-532-3341.

Meal service is available through the end of the academic year. Gowanda and Silver Creek provide pick-up and delivery of meals. Lake Shore provides pick up service at the Middle School and Seneca Nation ECLC.

Contact your school if you would like to be added to this service for deliveries (Gowanda, Silver Creek). All children under 18 are eligible to receive meals at each location.

Graduation ceremony arrangements are available on your District Website. Many Schools are waiting for NYS Governor's decision regarding social gatherings etc. and will be determined on May 30, 2020. The Seneca Nation Senior Dinner is also on hold for the time being. The Education Department may contact Seniors for information regarding a project we are working on for Senior recognition should the dinner be canceled.

Parents and Students, please keep up the hard work and dedication to learning for the rest of the school year. Your efforts count and will help with retention upon returning next school year. Stay safe families.

SALC Head Start students

By Karen Frank, Head Start teacher

WE MISS YOU!! We are so sad that we can't be in school right now. Looking forward to seeing all of you and giving you a BIG HUG! Here at school, we have been planning for activities when you all return.

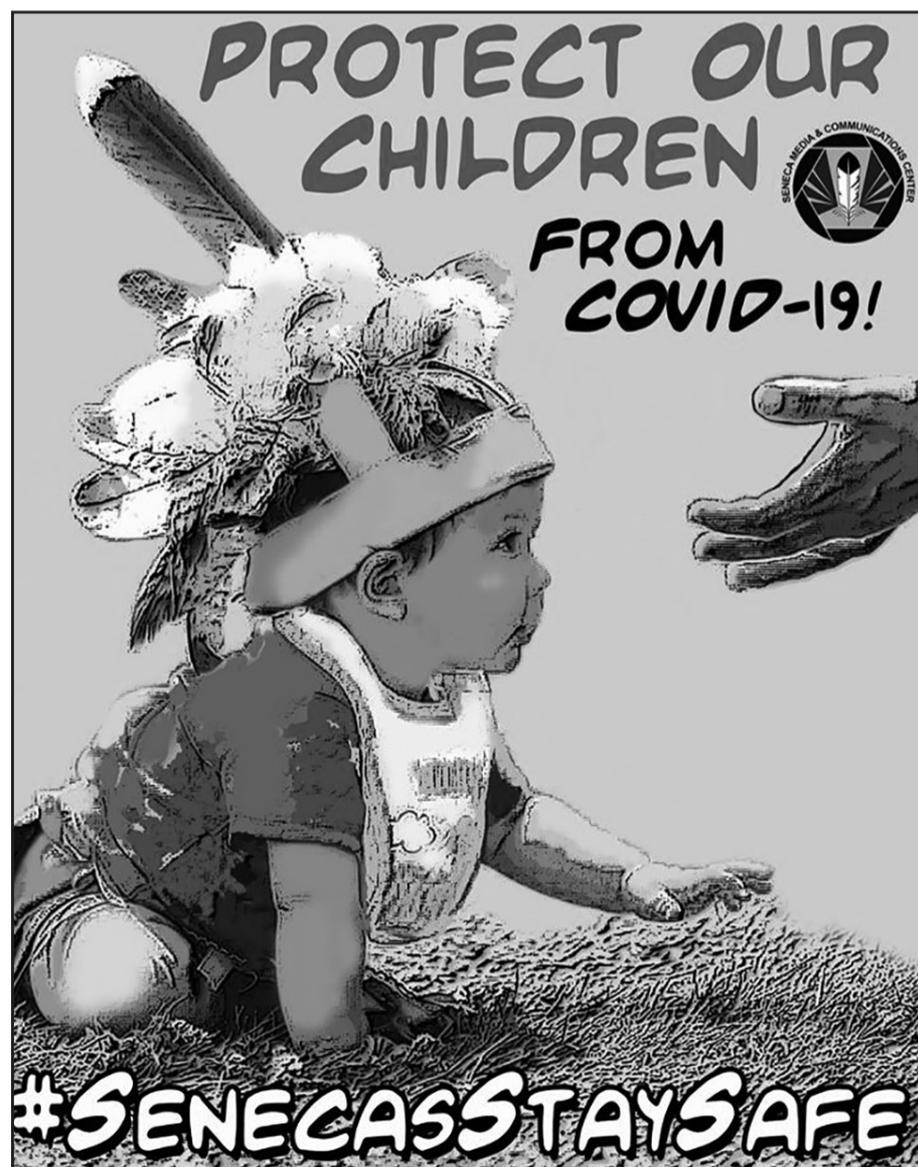
Here are some ways to stay connected with us:

- Weekly Zoom meetings (if not able to make normal time, let Ms. Karen know to set up another time)
- Class DoJo
- SALC face book page



Our children are our joy and our hope for the future

If you need support during these times for your child or family, be sure to check out the resources available from the Seneca Nation Health System at <https://www.senecahealth.org/>



Waterlines will receive routine maintenance

By Theresa Lay, Utilities Director

NEWS FROM SNI UTILITIES

ATTENTION ALL WATERLINE USERS ON CATTARAUGUS TERRITORY

Please note that during the month of May the SNI Waterline will be doing some routine maintenance to keep our waterlines working to their best capabilities. We shall be flushing lines (see attached zone diagram) for your vicinity on these dates:

ZONE 1-IRVING-BUCKTOWN AREA

MAY 18-19

ZONE II- MID RES MAY 20-21

ZONE III-EASTERN RES/OZARKS AND INDIAN HLL ETC MAY 27-28TH

Water main flushing moves water systematically through sections of a drinking water distribution system, creating a scouring action to clean the line. The increased flow rate scours the water pipe's inner walls and helps to remove build-up of naturally occurring debris and sediment. The water is discharged through select fire hydrants onto local roads or other surface areas.

There may be a slight drop in pressure or noticeable discoloration of the water from the minerals and sediments that are being flushed out. In the event customers draw discolored water into the home, flush a cold tap for a few minutes, up to 15 minutes. During the flushing operation in your neighborhood, you will be able to see crews flushing the water mains through fire hydrants and ends of water main pipes commonly called blow-offs. To prepare,

you may want to grab a pitcher of water to drink during this time but water is fine to use after.

This department's waterline was primarily funded through the Indian Health Service and we must adhere to strict guidelines. Therefore, if you've had water service for one year or longer, it is up to you, as the homeowner, to maintain your hook-up. All renters should advise their landlords of their responsibilities if they are not being met.

Should any community members notice any standing water on your lawn, under your trailer, (especially if it hasn't rained in a while); please notify us immediately so we may identify the problem. Please note if you hear any water running in a home that is unoccupied, there may be a leak. **THE WATERLINE DEPARTMENT MUST BE INFORMED WHEN OCCUPANTS ARE LEAVING THEIR HOME FOR ANY LONG PERIOD OF TIME SO WE MAY SHUT OFF THE WATER AND AVOID COSTLY REPAIRS TO THE OWNER.** We appreciate any help our residents can give us!

Also, please note that if you have to dig near any utilities you must contact DIGSAFELY, which is an underground utility locating service (800-962-7962). This could prevent you from accidentally ripping out dangerous electrical lines, natural gas lines, and waterlines that could interrupt residential services. And, along this line, please note where you are tiling your gardens-or having others doing it for you, septic lines and leach beds are not a good place to plant anything other than grass or flowers. Vegetables may not be safe to eat as home

cleaning chemicals could be leaching into these lines-roots from deep planting or hardy growing plants could pierce the piping, and clog the leaching process.

Also, please take note of the process that occurs when applicants apply for services from our department for wastewater facilities...we are funded through the Indian Health Service, so we do have to follow protocol and their guidelines. This process is not the fastest, but working hand in hand with the agency, we will attempt to get all systems installed on a timely basis. At this time, there is a six month waiting period (at least) for new systems to be checked, site spec'd and designed and ready for construction. We do emphasize to our residents to be aware of when they decide to build or buy a home and to put their application in as early as possible. Sometimes people decide to build, or buy a home and think that this infrastructure can just be placed in at their timeline, but planning ahead is very important, unless you are able to wrap it into your own costs, we are not to be used as a resource as priority level residents could come in at any time. These guidelines are available to residents, stop by our office and pick up an application, the first two pages outline what is required. We appreciate an informed resident!

Please call if you have any questions or anything to report (716)532-9221. Again, Nya:wëh for your cooperation!

Have a safe, healthy spring/summer season!

SNI Utilities – Catt. Territory

Free Food Safety & Career Development Training Online

Course: ServSafe®

By Jessica Crouse, Gakwi:yo:h Farms

In response to the Coronavirus, now through May 31st, ServSafe® is offering a free ServSafe Food Handler course online. For this course: you do not need to complete the free course by the offer end date, you only need to add it to your ServSafe account by May 31st, 2020; you will have 1 year to use the course from the date it was added to your profile; once you've started, you will have 60 days to complete both the online course and assessment; and the certification is valid for 3 years.

The following other courses are also available for free: ServSafe Takeout and Delivery: COVID-19 Precautions, ServSuccess Training for Restaurant Workers, AHLEI Training for Hospitality Professionals.

ServSafe® has been at the forefront of food safety for 30 years. The

trainings they provide cover topics such as: cooking temperatures, safe storage, and cross contamination, as well as hygiene, sanitation, and other risk mitigation activities. ServSafe Takeout and Delivery with COVID-19 Precautions Training covers: the five-step handwashing process, respiratory hygiene practices to reduce the spread of the virus, keeping guests safe through heightened cleaning and sanitizing, guidelines for single-use gloves, packaging considerations for takeout and/or curbside pickup, guest contact precautions during takeout.

This is an awesome opportunity to learn ways to further safeguard the health of our families, friends, and community!

Link to free courses: <https://www.servsafe.com/Landing-Pages/Free-Courses>

Fish and Wildlife has best hatchery year to date

By Tami Watt

Despite the pandemic the Seneca Nation Fish and Wildlife crew had a successful electroshocking outing this past month. The crew had the best collection to date.

In the 9 years of operation, the Walleye Project has become a great benefit the Seneca community. "We experience more success every year, it has been a tremendous journey to watch this project thrive. This year has been the best hatchery to date, my crew really outdid themselves this year. I'm really proud of their dedication and efforts. In the process, Shane and the rest of the staff have become valid walleye experts that are respected in conservation world," explains Director Allie George (Allegany).

Shane Titus, Fisheries Manager, estimates about 6.5 million walleye eggs were collected through electroshocking. Titus projects about 5 million fry (hatched walleye eggs) will be released back into the reservoir, locally known as Ohi:yo' (the good river).

Electroshocking is the process of sending a pulse of electricity into the water to stun the fish into submission for collection. This is how the male and female walleye are retrieved from the river and brought back to the hatchery for fertilization.

The Fish and Wildlife staff utilize boats for safety due to dangerous water levels and currents, large debris such as trees can cause serious injuries. Using a boat is critical for safety.

Once the walleye are collected, they are brought back to the hatchery until they are ready to their release eggs. The males and females are divided into their own tanks. They are held in separate tanks to prohibit spawning. The females are checked daily with slight pressure placed on their abdomen. If eggs come out easily without much pressure, they are ready for release.

Staff handles the fertilization process manually by removing the eggs from the female and mixing it with the milk from the males. The fertilized eggs are collected and stored in hatching jars. The eggs take 25-30 days to hatch. After the eggs hatch, the fry are released into the reservoir system. Around 5 million fry will be released this year.

The walleye fry are placed into the Christmas trees that were donated to from the community and local Home Depots- bringing their project full circle. The



trees provide food and shelter for the tiny walleye fry (about the size of the a mosquito larvae) against larger game in the river. This allows the fry to mature. "That's the reason for us being out in the middle of winter placing trees at the bottom of the river," explains Titus.

After the fertilization process is complete, the males and females are released. The females receive a T-Bar purple Seneca Nation tag with a number on it that documents their length, weight, and past egg release. If a local fisherman catches a female with a purple tag, they can go www.senecaconservation.com and fill out a questionnaire. This allows them to track their females. Female walleye have been caught as far up as Hindsale, NY and Aldred, PA.

"Our scientific documentation and efforts are beneficial for the entire watershed, not only for the Seneca Nation but for the entire area and river system," says Titus.

Although walleye are released, Fish and Wildlife's operation does not end. Staff conducts surveys throughout the year to check for walleye survival rates. According to Titus, survival rates have increased steadily over the last few years.

In the off season, the Fish and Wildlife shift their focus on other aquatic species in the Ohi:yo' and continue to conduct surveys for collection purposes.

A note from Joe Stahlman- Director, SINM

Nya:wëh Sgë:nö,

We are quickly approaching the second month of the COVID-19 pandemic and the Seneca-Iroquois National Museum continues to honor Seneca and Haudenosaunee cultures. Unfortunately, we had to cancel many of our Spring events, we hope to reschedule these events when possible.

While we remain closed to support the effort to contain the spread of COVID 19, you can still visit us from home! Our website is updated at least once a week. This week we offer our first virtual tour of some of our exhibits. We will do our best to upload a new tour every week. We have also updated the on-line store.

Visit our on-line gift shop for medicine and wellness items including all natural salves, elixirs and books such as "To Become A Human Being", and a valuable resource for the identification and uses of herbaceous plants "Cultural Plants and Trees" (in both paper and downloadable form). We have apparel, DVD's, eco-friendly kitchen utensils and more mission based items.

Even though the museum is closed at this time, you can still contact us as snim@sni.org.



Seneca Nation community distributions

By Tami Watt, Editor.



L-R: Councillor Tim Waterman, Councillor Tina Abrams, President Rickey L. Armstrong, Sr., Councillor Arlene Bova

In an effort to curb the spread of infection from COVID-19, the Seneca Nation has distributed personal protective equipment and supplies not only Seneca Nation employees and members but to residents on our respective territories.

On April 23rd, President Armstrong, Treasurer Pagels, and CEO Mark Halftown handed out medical grade masks to Seneca Nation Health System employees. Providing medical grade protective gear to our Seneca Nation Health System staff is imperative to ensure safety to all workers and patients.



Councillor Arlene Bova and Councillor Tina Abrams hand out supplies

Days prior, masks were delivered to all elders residing on Seneca Nation Territories on behalf of the Seneca Nation Health System with the help of Sharon Ray

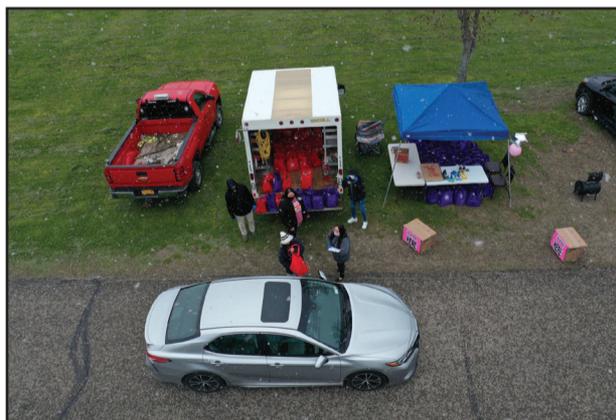


Councillor Tina Abrams handing out supplies to a community member

(Director of Transportation) and Gerri Jimerson (GIS).

Allegany and Cattaraugus residents were given face masks in a drive up event held at both community centers on April 24th. A limited number of dental care packages for adults and children were provided from the Dental Unit as well as denture care supplies as requested by elders.

The Seneca Construction Management Corporation and Seven Generations in conjunction with Seneca Nation Housing Authority (SNHA) donated Chiavetta's chicken dinners to residents at elder housing including 44 Seneca on April 30th and Oak Tree Apartments on May 1st. The SNHA has hosted weekly dinners and mask distributions at both complexes on each territory for residents.



On May 8th, a mass distribution of personal protective equipment and non-perishable food items was held on each territory. SNHA staff delivered to all SNHA tenants on both territories including elder complexes, rentals, and homeowners in the morning. Seneca Nation Executives hosted a drive-thru distribution for the rest of the community in the afternoon.

Over 400 care packages were given out on each territory according to Sunnea John,

SNHA staff. John was pleased with the success of event and the reaction of the recipients. "Everyone was grateful and thankful for the supplies provided, some of which hard to get," said John.

Some items included in the package for personal protective equipment were masks, hand sanitizers, gloves, and cleaning supplies.



"I'm very thankful! I want to say "Nya:wëh" to the Seneca Nation. I know my family and I have been having a hard time getting hand sanitizer and gloves, especially. Having the masks will be beneficial for all of us and the community out here really appreciates everything that everyone is doing," said Barbara Hill, Seneca member and mother of four.

The Seneca Nation has continued to provide masks to residents on territory. Another mask and hand sanitizer hand out took place on May 13th at the community centers on each territory for residents.

All recipients are kindly requested to stay in their vehicles during the drive-thru events.

To keep up to date on any future community hand outs, please check www.sni.org, the Seneca Media Facebook page, the Seneca Nation Coronavirus Response Hub, or www.sninews.org. Stay healthy, stay safe. #SenecasStaySafe



Councillor Presley Redeye & Treasurer Matthew Pagels

Local business owner donates PPE to frontline workers

By Tami Watt, Editor

Native Pride owner, JC Seneca, donated personal protective equipment and immune-boosting juices to Seneca Nation frontline workers, first responders, and health care providers. Seneca Nation Health System's CEO Mark Halftown accepted the gracious gift from Seneca on April 9th in an organized delivery by Seneca, his wife Nicole, and General Manager Brandon LeBeau.

N-95 masks, gloves, and immune-boosting juices were handed out to Seneca Fire, the Seneca Nation Marshals, the Seneca Nation Health Systems, and the Community Health and Wellness Centers on the Allegany and Cattaraugus territories.

"On Seneca Nation Territories, our first responders and health care workers are coming to work every day in the face of dangerous odds. That is dedication we need to support, by supplying starter packs of the immune-boosting juices as well as masks and gloves," Seneca states.



JC Seneca and wife Nicole deliver PPE supplies at LRJ Health Center

"Many Nya:wēhs to J.C. Seneca! I am so thankful that you are looking out for our elder population and their well-being. I know some of us cannot prepare meals sometimes and by you being so kind as treat us to hot meal is so awesome. You will be blessed by our Creator." -an Appreciative Elder

Seneca Fire first responders recognized by alumni

Let's give a hand to MICHELE REDEYE, who graduated from Gowanda Central School District in 2004 and now is a firefighter and EMS. She works for the Cattaraugus Reservation in Emergency Management at Seneca Nation of Indians.

Thank you for your service amid the #COVID19 pandemic, Ms. Redeye! #PantherPrideForever #StayConnectedGCS #StayHome #StaySafe #StopTheSpread

Credit: Gowanda Central School District Facebook

Let's give a hand to PRESLEY REDEYE, a 2007 graduate of Gowanda High who is now the fire chief for Seneca Fire - Cattaraugus Territory and a nation leader serving on the Seneca Nation Council.

Thank you for your service amid the pandemic, Mr. Redeye! #PantherPrideForever #StayConnectedGCS

Credit: Gowanda Central School District Facebook



Amos Whitcomb (*Allegany, son of Rae Lynn George and Chad Whitcomb*) playing lacrosse at an elite level for his family and little brother Kaine. Ja:goh Amos!

By Dan Ninham | Reprinted from *NDNSPORTS.com* | April 7, 2020 | Photo credit: Kristen Sledge-Whitcomb

Amos Whitcomb is a member of the Seneca Nation and of the Snipe Clan. His Native name is Hadeyost, which translates to "The fighter". He is the son of Chad Stxy Whitcomb and Rae Lynn George. Amos is from the Allegany Territory in Salamanca, New York. He is 17 years old and a junior at Salamanca Senior High School, Salamanca, NY.

Family and Brother Influences

"When I play lacrosse, I play for my family, especially my little brother Kaine," said Amos. "Family means a lot to me and I love how everyone comes out to watch me play and show their support for me and the lacrosse team. Growing up, my brothers and I would wear #42 to honor my Grandpa, he passed away in 2008, but he was a huge part of who we are as a family. We all looked up to him and wanted him to be proud of us. The reason we wear #42 is because he was born in 1942. He was a member of the Seneca Nation Wolf Clan."

"Next, my brothers Kobe and Keion, I have looked up to both of them since I was a baby," said Amos. "I went to all of their practices and games. I watched them and learned from them. We would play lacrosse in the yard, in the house and everywhere we went. Even though I was younger than both of them they would never take it easy on me. We would be full contact in the yard with our Dad in the goal. We would have no pads at all and they would never let me win, let alone pick up the ball. I had to fight for everything I did with them. We were competitive and wanted to win, even in backyard lacrosse or mini-lax in the house. I feel I am the way I am today because of those two, for never letting me win, never letting me

quit, and always teaching and showing me lacrosse."

"My brother Kaine pushes me in a different way," said Amos. "He's my younger brother, but I look up to him and I am



encouraged and motivated by him. Kaine was born with a rare genetic disorder. Doctors said he could never play sports or do everyday things like the rest of us. Growing up my Dad taught us to never treat him any different, show him to play, run, learn lacrosse and know he wasn't any different than us. Kaine would play with us in the yard, in the house, and at the Community Center. Finally the day came when Kaine got the "OK" from his doctors to actually play box lacrosse, and it was a great moment. He loved being out on the floor, always happy, always giving all he could. He could only play one minute in a whole game and he still was the happiest kid out there. He loved playing and especially loved being part of a team. He's played three years of box lacrosse and started his second year of field lacrosse for the modified team in Salamanca."

"I play for Kaine because now he looks up to me. He comes to my practices, and my games. He watches everything I do and I want to be a positive role model and brother to him. He

has been through so much and it feels good to make him happy or smile. He always tells me something I should have done in a game, or gets excited about a certain goal I had then he goes home and tires it. So, I guess

you can say I compete for my family! They all play a part in my success on the field and in the classroom."

Academic and Athletic Accomplishments

Amos is a high honor roll student at Salamanca HS. He has perfect attendance the past two years and is in the top 10 in his class in the past three years. Amos is a member of the National Honor Society and Seneca Language Honor Society. He's a Boys State Finalist. He also does community service at the Allegany Community Center with his dad and at the Food Pantry with his mom.

Playing lacrosse since he was three years old for the Allegany Arrows, Amos played with many teams and in tournaments. He is most proud to play with his brothers in local tournaments. Amos played for Champion Lacrosse and earned a bronze medal for Team Haudenosaunee at the 2017 North American Indigenous Games where he also was named MVP.

Amos finished as the #2

ranked point scorer in Western NY. He was an All American Honorable Mention athlete. The dad-coached Salamanca HS modified season had a 12-0 record this past season. As a freshman varsity player, he scored 36 goals with 32 assists. This past year as a sophomore on varsity, he scored 60 goals with 66 assists.

"My tribe core values definitely contribute to who I am as an athlete," said Amos. "The Creator gave us lacrosse and I am so proud to play for all the people who can't, the old, young, and my family. The game of lacrosse is so important to Native Americans, and it is our game! Growing up on such a small reservation really brings us all together as a community and keeps us close to our culture and historical roots."

Coaches As Positive Influences

"Franky Brown positively influenced me as a competitive athlete," said Amos. "He is a family friend and played at Hobart College, Iroquois Nationals, and the Buffalo Bandits. Franky has always given me positive encouragement. He's a great guy and I really appreciated all he has done for me. He would train me one-on-one in the lacrosse arena, let me know what to work on, encouraged me to keep my grades up, and stay out of trouble. We have been in the weight room together and he has given me advice on college and what it takes to succeed. Franky has played at a high level of lacrosse his whole life and I feel privileged that he sees something in me and he makes time to help me anyway he can."

"Josh Becker is a fitness coordinator and friend," said Amos. "He and I are close friends and he always

has advice for me in life and lacrosse. He would train with me at times and give me college workouts to do. He played for the Iroquois Nationals, college, and professional lacrosse so I always listen when he tells me how to do something."

"I've always had a strong relationship with Jesse Jimerson," said Amos. "He's a great person, father, and role model, all three of them are! I use to love watching Jesse play lacrosse, his style, always going all out, always playing his best. Jesse played for Six Nation Rebels, Arrows, and Iroquois Nationals."

"I met Brad about three months ago," said Amos. "I started doing his Warrior Boot Camp class at 5:30am, 3 days a week. I wanted to prepare for the upcoming season. Brad has become my personal trainer two days a week, pushing me, getting me into shape. I really appreciated the time he has put into helping me out to become a better lacrosse player. He's always upbeat and positive and very knowledgeable in the

fitness field."

The Holistic Way of Life with Training and Performance

The holistic way of life is focused on a balance of body, mind, spirit, and emotion. To be able to practice and perform at a peak level all four area's need to be trained efficiently.

"I have been doing a lot of skill training to maximize my performance," said Amos. "In the off-season I go to our arena or high school four times a week to run or shoot, usually September-November. I started hitting the weight room this off-season as well, working with Frank, Josh, Jesse and Brad. Before school I go to Warrior Boot Camp at 5:30 am with my friend Tre and twenty others! Just before the season I started with a personal trainer to ensure I will be in shape physically and mentally. And of course I am in the yard with my dad and brothers. My Dad always reminds me everything starts at home."

"There's always room for improvement and I'm always working to increase my knowledge about the game and the fundamentals of lacrosse," said Amos. "It's just as important as physically playing the game. Also, the historical element of the game, that's something I would also like to improve, my knowledge on because the game is so important to my heritage."

"The day I was given a small wooden lacrosse stick was the day lacrosse and I were connected forever," said Amos. "It's a way of life, and it's all over on the 'rez', now it's in colleges and on TV. I will always love lacrosse and I want to do so much more with it. High school, college, pros...it's in my blood, it's in our culture, and it will always be with me spiritually."

"When I'm faced with stressful game situations I remind myself that it's just a game, a game I love to play," said Amos. "It's not about the stats to me or just winning. It's about the love of the game, my friends, family, and teammates. The

coaches I have met, friends I have made, the traveling because of lacrosse. Lacrosse will always mean family to me including my dad, my brothers, my grandparents, and especially Kaine. He taught me to always look on the positive side of things. There will always be another game."

Coping with the Pandemic

"I'm staying well by following the guidelines given to us all by staying home and indoors most of the time," said Amos. "I still train by laxing in the backyard and doing workouts in the house with push ups, sit ups and squats. I'm also doing my schoolwork. But in all honesty, schoolwork has taught me to slow down a little and not be on the go as much as we use to be. I've been spending a lot of the time with my Gram, Dad, and Kaine, so that's the silver lining in the whole situation. It has brought us closer, put our phones down, talk, play games, watch movies. That's the positive I am getting out of this all - FAMILY."

Ja:goh Hogaiyo John

Reprinted from Seneca Media Facebook page

Eagles senior standout lacrosse player Hogaiyo John signed a NLI to play at Genesee Community College. Thank you Hogaiyo for being a positive leader and mentor within our hallways. GCC is lucky to have you.



Ja:goh Efrain Barreto!

Reprinted from Seneca Media Facebook page

Shout out and congrats to Efrain Barreto, from the Seneca Nation, who signed his letter of intent to play lacrosse at Onondaga Community College.



Dakota D. Snyder (Seneca): Leading The CattRez Mentality at the Cattaraugus Seneca Nation Territory

By Dan Ninham | Reprinted from *NDNSPORTS.com* | April 25, 2020 | Photo credit: Dakota Snyder



The Mamba Mentality of the late Kobe Bryant is well known in the media and the impact is global. In its simplest form it is trying to get better at what you're doing. And not only today but each day, you are trying to get better. But not only better but being the best.

There may be a CattRez Mentality happening in the Seneca Nation. The CattRez Mentality is focused on extensive leadership but not followership. As in the Mamba Mentality, the CattRez Mentality makes the ordinary extraordinary. This is an example of not only empowered youth and adult development. It is empowered community development.

The pursuit of greatness is not only for the leader. The continuing and process-driven results are the countless kids and adults that are impacted in an empowerment mode to pursue greatness.

The leader of the CattRez Mentality is Dakota Snyder.

Dakota Snyder is from the Seneca Nation and is a member of the Turtle Clan. His home is in Irving, NY in the Seneca Nation Territory.

Dakota coached youth football for over 10 years and coached an all-native football team for eight years. The youth football team won two youth super bowls. He

has also been the player/coach in basketball tournaments for 12 years.

"As an athlete I was going to the best prep school, St. Francis, in Western NY for football," said Dakota. "18 kids went

to play college football every year ranging from D1 to Junco. I was one of three freshmen on varsity. It was very promising. I transferred out junior year due to academics and was tired of being ineligible for field lacrosse due to religious classes.

"I went to a big public school and had success until I tore three knee ligaments (ACL, MCL and PCL) senior year so college recruiting stopped," said Dakota. "I was set on Brockport University but they told me to call them after my injury."

"I rehabbed my knee and dove into basketball big time," said Dakota. "How much tribal core values turned me from player to coach was understanding that as native people we are survivors. We as a community are built to last. So when I'm coaching football and basketball I let it be known we have been through tough times. We as a whole were set up for failure but we made it out of the swamps and reservations that 'they placed us on'. So I know you got more in the tank to finish these sprints or play full court defense because if not, there's another native on the bench that will."

"Once I saw my basketball or football teams respond to my approach at a young age of coaching, I quickly adopted some techniques that became a part of my repertoire," said

Dakota.

"A true leader makes everyone around him better, he makes sure everyone is accountable and accounted for," said Dakota.

"I'm coaching leaders not followers, this is beyond the turf or hardwood. Step up and command your life, command your daily life and demand the best of your performance on and off the field. The philosophy with football is 10 with 10 guys relying on you. If you're the 11th then you're on the field playing offense or defense. But your responsibility is to not cost your 10 teammates a penalty or get beat by the man across from you. I like to get t-shirts or breakdown huddles saying '10 on me' because 10 guys rely on you to not screw up. You owe it to them to be your best."

In our indigenous traditions we remember and acknowledge the one's who came before us.

"My father was a great quarterback and he grew up in an era before high school football had playoffs," said Dakota. "My dad led his high school team to a 12-0 senior season and lots of his teammates tell how dominant he was as a defensive end more so than a quarterback. I was a 'D-end' as well and he taught me so much with an eye on the ball and firing of the snap."

"My dad would say 'It's not how fast you are...it's how quick you are,' said Dakota.

"My Uncle Scott had a big role in my love for the game of basketball," said Dakota. "He gave me an opportunity to play for his league and tournament team 'Seneca Chiefs'. I learned about native tournaments by playing for him. We would travel to all the local reservations when I was 16-19 years old including Salamanca, Oneida, Onondaga, Cayuga, Cattaraugus, and Six Nations.

It was very popular back in the day. I loved going to places and winning and seeing the scenery. I'm like 'we are away from home and showing up with the team.'

"The name Seneca Chiefs carried some fear into the opposition," said Dakota. "Witnessing that fear made me look forward to the next game and tournament. The best guys from our 'Rez' are winning."

"My uncle had a good philosophy to 'get your shots up, you pass and turn it over,'" said Dakota. "He had a run and gun philosophy but I realized he always had a solid big to rebound so I always made sure to build around a traditional big man to rebound inside."

"Greatness is upon you...act like it", said Dakota. "On a professional level I am a third generation businessman. My grandfather pioneered our industry of smoke shop and gas stations on our reservation. Not my choice and it kind of fell on my lap. Responsibility to my family made me strive to be the best version of myself to provide healthy business. Growth and prosperity for the future kids of our family played every day and weekly through my head. I would constantly think about the next generation of kids in our family to be able to work and learn values of the working environment through Catt-Rez Enterprises, Inc. I was to be their boss to be there to set 'em straight."

"Things may be given in life but it's a lot harder to maintain and succeed your successors," said Dakota. "Along the way you can fail and stumble. As long as you learn and go through those adversities you find yourself and understand where you learned to pick yourself up along the way."

"My advice to kids at our
(Continued on page 15)

banquets is to go after your dreams," said Dakota. "I tell them in front of their parents. You just busted your butt's off for me for three and four months. Now continue to bust your butt for the other eight or nine months into the next sport and our classroom. Be the best version of you. Find yourself because you will never be a good copycat but you will be the best version of you I promise that. Don't be afraid to fail, because without failure I would never know how to be a good coach because I failed a group of men before my first year as a coach. We went 0-8 and I made it a passion of mine to never ever let myself be out-coached or be unprepared again. At 22 years old I was so upset with myself about a winless season that I took it personally and said I had a responsibility to these boys and this community to be better and I came from this football team. I better figure it out or quit. I'm not a quitter. I realized it's not about making friends, it's about the greater goal of learning to win and appreciating the work that goes into winning."

"Coaching an all native football youth team made me a better man," said Dakota. "It prepared me to be a better father, co-worker, friend and man."

"I now coach in a bigger environment at Gowanda with the youth varsity 12-14," said Dakota.

"Coaches and I talk on a weekly basis and I've honestly been working on schemes during the pandemic," said Dakota. "Blitz packages. Making thoughts become a reality. Coming up with drills and a daily practice schedule. 'Football is four months away' my dad would say every first of the month."

"My basketball team 'Catt-Rez' is named after my family business," said Dakota. "We have been traveling locally and nationwide to as far west as Seattle and Miami.

Basketball has given me an opportunity to meet so many

Native American men and women throughout Indian country. I have made legit best friends from all over and many contacts through my travels. I talk to your son Byron Ninham almost every day."

"I am honored to contribute to *niitaawis odibaajimowin* (in Ojibwemowin: my cousin's story)," said Byron Ninham. "Dakota Snyder holds many titles, a proud member of the Seneca Nation, business man, mentor, coach, a brother and the most important of all, father. Our friendship started in 2015, and with a text he asked me to play in a basketball tournament in Cattaraugus, a Seneca community in western New York. I had played in the tournament previously and played against Dakota's team, Catt Rez. Knowing the high level of talent he competes with, I was humbled to be asked to put on the jersey. That specific tournament didn't end the way we had hoped but the game and life can take you to some amazing places and to meet amazing people. Dakota is one of those genuine, one of a kind people. An amazing IQ for athletics, business and communications, Dakota is a gem for western New York."

"Dakota is a bright star in business for his community, and with Catt Rez Enterprises being a family-owned business," said Byron. "He game plans for Catt Rez with the same fire of a championship basketball game or coaching his team during a league football game in the fall. It really is a sight to see and he makes you believe, because he doesn't sugar coat what is the 'real', the 'real' always comes out."

"Dakota is an unsung hero for youth athletics and athletics in general for the community, volunteering his time outside of the general demands of fatherhood and business. He commits to developing young people because if he can make a difference in a young person's life. It is all worth it because he's passing his knowledge and passion on to others. I am

proud to say our conversations will sometimes start with athletics but it turns more into the game of life and how we try to positively affect the people we work for and with. Being a father of two young children, he knows that the time away is a factor for his family but I always see him putting his children in the forefront of his thoughts and love, he does it dutifully and impressively," added Byron.

"Dakota is one of the closest people I have been able to maintain in life and I consider him a brother," said Byron.

"I also was able to witness great basketball players," said Dakota. "Seeing the juggernaut teams like Iron 5, Plainzmen, Lord of the Plains, Big Town, and Desert Horse. Seeing legends out there like Jr. Camel, Lucas Martinez, Michael Linklater, Jess Heart, Wayne Runnels, Damen Bellholter, Joe Burton, and Jerome Davis. I've combined teams with a good friend from Florida, Jay Liotta, and he runs Lord of the Plains. We went to Spokane, WA and won the Spring Fever Tournament hosted by Jerry Ford. He retired the tournament after 25 years. We won cash and nice Pendleton jackets."

"I've known Dakota for nearly eight years," said Michael Linklater, basketball player and friend. "In all the time that I've known him he's been a tremendous leader. Dakota exemplifies great leadership by always having community in heart. Years ago he asked me to play for his basketball team in a tournament. His team carried the pride of his nation. Dakota would always tell me about his ideas he had for the youth in his community and how he wanted to help them see a positive way of life. Dakota always has a smile on his face and is constantly looking to be better. His dedication to his professional life is unparalleled. I am happy to call him my friend."

"Dakota is a stand up guy he treats everyone with respect," said Jerome Rome Davis. "He's

always had a competitive team and he has always took care of his players on and off the court. He and I are like brothers, and our relationship is very strong. If he called me and needed me I'd be there in a second. We will always be brothers."

"Probably my favorite tournament that changed the format and is now called Battle of Nations. You can only enter as a team of players all from the same tribal band. So I take a whole squad from NY to Spokane full of Seneca's. There are 28-32 teams there and it's just a beautiful grand entry. We have placed 5th and I'm very proud of bringing young Seneca men I mentored and coached in youth football and now on the basketball court. Life experiences and it's all through basketball. My mindset is to keep my core of Seneca's playing at a high level. So I enter into big cash tournaments that are open to all races. Rochester, NY hosts "the 25K" and 1st place is \$25,000. I took an all native team there three times and one year we beat the defending champs in overtime and were led by Lucas Martinez, Jerome Davis, Craig Foster, and Lorenzo Bell," added Dakota.

"Getting that respect made my team known not just in native country but being asked to go to Ft. Lauderdale to play in a 10k tournament and playing against NBA players. Having pro level players is a must and it's great to have them native players who play D1, overseas, etc. Justin McCloud was key for us in Florida. Having a shooter to stretch the floor. We beat a Miami Pro-Am League team, and their league is one of the best programs in the country similar to the Drew League. I think they are both sponsored by NIKE."

"My inspiration is to get young Seneca men more involved in playing year-round," said Dakota. "It's such a lacrosse filled area with lots of pro's. But they are very good basketball players. We are known for our big's. Charlie and Scott (Continued on page 16)

Scanlan were big forwards that traveled the country playing basketball and I looked up to them. Snooky Brooks is 6'10" and 50 years old plus and he has two sons the same height that play ball and travel the country. Those guys are well known for being from NY and great in the paint. We have a solid known player who would win a lot of tournaments locally and on the NASA/NAYO circuit. Brad John was a potential MLB baseball player and a fast 5'10" PG that could easily torch a team. He's

all around my favorite Seneca player. He currently runs the CCC (Cattaraugus Community Center) a 25 million dollar facility on territory that has two basketball courts, and ice hockey/lacrosse turf. He has helped and supported me hosting basketball tournaments."

"I currently host the 'CattRez Classic' and we had 16 teams last year," said Dakota. "Every team gets a set of uniforms. It's open to all races. Bringing in

top tier talent from Cleveland, Florida, Boston, and Atlanta for a summer tournament is so much fun. I usually sponsor a group of young guys that don't get picked up just so they can see what it's like to be on the floor with that much talent. To hopefully inspire these kids to get in the gym and see if a basketball can take them as far as their lacrosse sticks did."

"In the past 10 years

lacrosse in NY has been a huge success for college and that's something I'd love to see basketball be one day," said Dakota Snyder.



PERSONALS

From the family of Albert Jacobs

Submitted by Audrey Ray

We would like to thank the Allegany Indian Reservation Fire Hall for the use of the fire hall for the memorial 'celebration of life' for Albert Jacobs. Thank you to all who donated food for this memorial service. Also, thank you to all who offered their heartfelt sympathies.

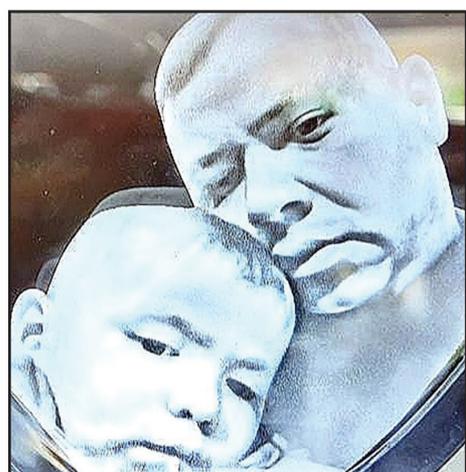


The Jacobs Family, The children of Albert Jacobs and The Audrey Ray Family

From the family of Johnathan Seneca

(January 7, 1981 – May 10, 2019)

Submitted by Vicky Seneca



A year passes by so quickly while we live our lives, yet it also comes with the heaviness of sorrow when grieving the loss of a loved one. The burden of grief slowly transforms to thankfulness for the time spent with the one we lost. Friends and family who knew and loved Johnathan Seneca are thankful that he came into our lives, for giving us joy and love and friendship.

In Loving Memory.

Nya:wëh

Submitted by Audrey Ray

We would like to thank the Valley Christian Assembly for the use of the church for the funeral for Jennifer Howe. Thank you to the Seneca Nation Marshal's for the escort and roadway blockages for the funeral procession. Thank you to the Seneca Nation for food provided for the luncheon following the funeral. Also, thank you to the Merle Watt, Jr. family for providing the Wildwood Grill and for the food for the luncheon following the funeral. Thank you to all those who sent flowers and cards and to all of you just for showing your heartfelt sympathies toward our families during our time of sorrow.

The Ray Family, Gerald Howe and The Jacobs Family

Nya:wëh from the family of James E. Buffalo

"Jimmy – Jim – Uncle Jim"

We would like to say Nya:wëh for all the expressions of sympathy received during this extremely hard time.

Thank you all for the thoughtful calls, text messages, cards, social media posts, and virtual hugs. Your warmth and kindness has made this terrible time a little more bearable. All of your words and gestures have provided so much comfort to our family.

Thank you to all of those who participated in the "last ride" with Jim and our family to the burial site. Thank you for respecting our request for social distancing by remaining in your vehicles.

Nya:wëh to you all for understanding and respecting the way that we have had to privately and safely mourn the unexpected loss of our son, our brother, our uncle due to the coronavirus. Please keep yourself and your loved ones safe.

With much Love and Appreciation, Cathy, Kim, Edward, Danette, Sonny, Cassie, Carli, and all of Jim's nieces and nephews

Handwashing Tips

Submitted by Lisa Thompson, Community Health Nurse, CIRHC

Handwashing is one of the best ways to protect yourself and your family from getting sick. Learn when and how you should wash your hands to stay healthy.

Washing hands can keep you healthy and prevent the spread of respiratory and diarrheal infections from one person to the next. Germs can spread from other people or surfaces when you:



- Touch your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands
- Prepare or eat food and drinks with unwashed hands
- Touch a contaminated surface or objects
- Blow your nose, cough, or sneeze into hands and then touch other people's hands or common objects

Washing your hands is easy, and it's one

of the most effective ways to prevent the spread of germs. Clean hands can stop germs from spreading from one person to another and throughout an entire community—from your home and workplace to childcare facilities and hospitals.

Follow these five steps every time.

1. **Wet** your hands with clean, running water (warm or cold), turn off the tap, and apply soap.
2. **Lather** your hands by rubbing them together with the soap. Lather the backs of your hands, between your fingers, and under your nails.
3. **Scrub** your hands for at least 20 seconds. Need a timer? Hum the "Happy Birthday" song from beginning to end twice.
4. **Rinse** your hands well under clean, running water.
5. **Dry** your hands using a clean towel or air dry them.

*Source: cdc.gov

The Goals of Foster Care

Submitted by Child & Family Services

The right of every Seneca Child to a permanent home and stable family life is a key concept in the Seneca Nation Child & Family Services Foster Care Program. When children cannot be cared by their own families, authorized agencies will intervene to make it possible for children to receive nurturing care from an alternative family.

Children of all ages, after being placed in the custody of the Seneca Nation Child & Family Services Foster Care Program, have one of the following goals:

1. To be reunited with their families or relatives (*Priority and main goal*)
2. To be placed in the Independent Living track (*Age of 16 & older*)

For the child who is to be reunited with his/her own family, the foster parent will be expected to work closely with the supervising agency as well as the biological family, especially in planning visits that help the child to maintain and strengthen the Parent-Child relationship.

For adolescent children who are to re-

main in Foster Care until they are capable of independent living, the Foster parent has a crucial role in helping the child to not only acquire the knowledge and skills, but also the self-confidence that is needed for making realistic decisions and sound judgements.

A child's foster care placement is always monitored and supervised by the approved agency. The Seneca Nation Child & Family Services Foster Care Program strives to develop and maintain a positive working relationship with our foster families to meet the needs of the children in care.

To learn how you can help make a difference in the life of a child in foster care or in kinship care, please contact SNHS Child & Family Services today!

SNHS Child & Family Services
Allegany 716-945-5894
Cattaraugus 716-532-4035



Simply HR ~ March

New Hires

Cindy McGuire
Medical Receptionist, LRJHC
March 2, 2020

Leslie Fafinski
Health Information Assistant, CIRHC
March 2, 2020

Emma Timblin
Health Planner, CHWC
March 9, 2020

Randi Nestell
Driver, LRJHC
March 30, 2020

Transfers

Chris Bomberry
Driver, CHWC (from LRJHC)
March 30, 2020

Congratulations on your new positions!

Every child has a right to a nurturing caring environment as well as protection. Our Native American society believes this should be provided in the child's family setting, preferably the child's own home. If this is not possible, a kinship home, or Native American foster home would be the next option. If parental rights, guardianship or custody of a child has been interrupted, and an extended family placement cannot be secured, then the child will be placed in a Native American Foster Home to provide the nurturing and care needed by the child(ren).

TELE-MEDICINE

If you have an appointment to speak to an outside provider by phone or video-chat, you still need a referral. Tele-medicine is a billable visit. As with any outside provider, you will get a bill if you don't have a referral in place.



If you have any questions, please contact the CIRHC Referral Department at 532-5582 or the LRJHC Referral Department at 945-5894.

How to Put the Mask On

Submitted by Lisa Thompson, Community Health Nurse, CIRHC

1. Wash hands with soap and water for 20 seconds. Dry hands with a clean paper towel, throw it away.
2. Check the mask for defects; a tear, missing tie/ear loop. Throw away any that are defective.
3. Make sure the exterior side of the mask is facing out, away from your face.
4. Place the mask on your face with the stiff, bendable edge at the top by your nose.
5. If the mask has ear loops, place one around each ear.



6. If the mask has ties, secure just the upper ties behind your head with a bow.
7. Pinch the top edge of the mask around the bridge of your nose.
8. Once the mask is fitted to the bridge of your nose, tie the lower ties behind your head with a bow.
9. Make sure the mask is secure and covers your nose and mouth with the bottom edge under your chin.
10. Wash hands.

Removing the Mask

1. Wash hands, remove mask.
2. Do not touch the inside or outside of the mask. It is potentially contaminated from your breathing, coughing or sneezing and coming into contact with others.
3. Untie or remove by the ear loops of the mask.
4. Throw the mask in the trash.
5. Wash hands.

Please Note: Carefully remove a reusable cloth mask, tie it in a pillowcase. Wash it in the washing machine with hot water and completely dry on medium or high heat.

*Source: San Francisco Department of Public Health



COVID-19

UPDATED INFORMATION

PEOPLE WITH COVID-19 HAVE HAD A WIDE RANGE OF SYMPTOMS REPORTED - RANGING FROM MILD SYMPTOMS TO SEVERE ILLNESS. THESE SYMPTOMS MAY APPEAR 2-14 DAYS AFTER EXPOSURE TO THE VIRUS.

COMMON SYMPTOMS

- Fever
- Newly developed cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing

OTHER SYMPTOMS EXPERIENCED

- Chills
- Repeated shaking with chills
- Muscle pain
- Headache
- Sore throat
- New loss of taste or smell

AS CASES OF COVID-19 INCREASE IN OUR AREA, REMEMBER THAT YOU OR SOMEONE YOU ENCOUNTER MAY HAVE THE VIRUS AND NOT KNOW IT.

If you experience symptoms of COVID-19, listed above or have any concerns about your health, call your primary care provider to be assessed. Patients of the Lionel R. John Health Center can call (716) 945-5894 and patients of the Cattaraugus Indian Reservation Health Center can call (716) 532-5582.

STAY HOME

WASH YOUR HANDS OFTEN

AVOID CLOSE CONTACT WITH PEOPLE OUTSIDE OF YOUR HOUSEHOLD (STAY 6 FEET APART)

CLEAN AND DISINFECT FREQUENTLY TOUCHED SURFACES

AVOID ALL NON-ESSENTIAL TRAVEL (LIMIT TRIPS TO THE GROCERY STORE AND SEND ONE PERSON IN WHEN POSSIBLE)

CALL YOUR PRIMARY CARE PROVIDER IF YOU HAVE HEALTH CONCERNS.

Foods and Other Ways to Boost Your Immune System

Submitted by Robin Crouse, Health Educator, LRJHC

Currently, there's no cure or treatment for Covid-19 but there are ways you can boost your immune response and help protect against respiratory infections overall.

One of the main ways to do this is feeding your body certain foods to help keep your immune system strong. Plan your meals to include the following powerful immune system boosters.

- **Citrus Fruits** – Because your body does not produce or store vitamin C, you need a daily dose. Almost all citrus fruits are high in vitamin C. It's easy to add a dose of this vitamin at any meal.
- **Red Bell Peppers** – If you think citrus fruits have the most vitamin C of any fruit or vegetable, think again. Ounce for ounce, red bell peppers contain twice as much as citrus.
- **Broccoli** – Broccoli is supercharged with vitamins and minerals. Packed with vitamins A, C and E, as well as many other antioxidants and fiber, broccoli is one of the healthiest vegetables you can put on your table.
- **Garlic** – Adds a little zing to food and it's a must have for your health with fighting infections.

- **Ginger** – Helps to fight inflammation, which can help reduce a sore throat and other inflammatory illnesses.
- **Spinach** – Made this list not only because it's rich in vitamin C. It's also packed with numerous antioxidants and beta-carotene, which may increase the infection-fighting ability of our immune systems.
- **Yogurt** – Look for yogurts that have "live and active cultures" printed on the label, like Greek yogurt. These cultures stimulate your immune system to help fight diseases. Yogurt is also a great source of vitamin D. Vitamin D helps regulate the immune system and boosts our body's natural defenses against diseases.
- **Almonds** – They are loaded with vitamin E, which is key to a healthy immune system. A half-cup serving which is about 46 whole almonds provides nearly 100 percent of the recommended daily amount of vitamin E.
- **Papaya & Kiwi** – Other great sources of vitamin C, which boosts white blood cells to fight infection.
- **Poultry** – When you're sick, chicken soup is more than just a feel-good food with a placebo effect. It helps improve

symptoms of a cold and helps protect you from getting sick in the first place. Chicken and turkey are high in vitamin B-6, which is vital to the formation of new and healthy red blood cells.

- **Sunflower Seeds** – These are incredibly high in vitamin E, a powerful antioxidant that is important in regulating and maintaining immune system function. Other foods with high amounts of vitamin include avocados and dark leafy greens.

Variety is the key to proper nutrition. Eating just one of these foods won't be enough to boost your immune system, remember variety!

The following are other things you can do to boost your immune system.

- Don't smoke
- Exercise regularly
- Maintain a healthy weight
- If you drink alcohol, do so in moderation
- Get enough sleep – 8 hours
- Take steps to avoid infections by washing your hands frequently!!!

*Source: Healthline

Ways to Promote Children's Resilience to the COVID-19 Pandemic—Part 1

Submitted by Child & Family Services

The COVID-19 pandemic and its associated social and economic stressors can undermine children's development and well-being. Not only must they cope with major changes to everyday life, such as physical distancing and home confinement, but their families may struggle to meet their basic physical and emotional needs. Rates of poverty, unemployment, parental mental health problems and substance abuse, child abuse and neglect, and intimate partner violence tend to rise during disasters. Children may not receive critical supports they need when community services are limited and fewer adults have direct contact with children.

The good news is that over four decades of research on resilience shows that protective factors can buffer children

from harm and increase the chances they adapt positively to adversities such as the COVID-19 pandemic. Families and communities can work together to promote these protective factors.

Protective factor #1: Sensitive, responsive caregiving

The primary factor in a child's recovery from an adverse or traumatic event is the presence of a sensitive and caring adult. To support healthy child development during COVID-19, children and youth need to maintain regular age-appropriate connections to important adults in their lives. For example, young children may need more face-to-face time for connection than older children and adolescents, who are able to connect virtually.

Parents and other caregivers can:

- Spend quality time with children. Even short periods of time playing, reading, going outdoors, and talking can bolster children's sense of safety and security during uncertain or scary times.
- Stay connected even when physical separation is necessary for safety reasons. Set up times for children to talk to distant caregivers using online video chats, telephone calls, emails, texts, or letters. These connections are important in helping children feel secure and supported during the pandemic.

Communities, states, tribes, and territories can:

- Offer strategies and supplies to allow adults who are not living with the child (e.g., biological parents, grandparents, child care providers, teach-

ers) and professionals who work with families (e.g., home visitors, parenting programs) to maintain connections (e.g., activities, equipment, internet).

- Provide resources to families on meaningful, age-appropriate ways to spend time with and talk to children during the pandemic.

Protective factor #2: Meeting basic needs

Meeting the basic needs of children and families—such as food, shelter, clothing, and medical and mental health care—is essential to protecting children’s well-being in stressful times. Actively mobilizing tangible resources for families during the pandemic is especially important for

families experiencing additional risks, such as economic instability, job loss, and health or mental health needs.

Parents and other caregivers can:

- Know that asking for help is a sign of strength and resourcefulness, not weakness.
- Identify helpful local services through a child’s current service provider, school, or early care and education program; or through local agency websites and hotlines, family resource centers, or community resource specialists (e.g., 211).

Communities, states, tribes, and territories can:

- Help families identify community services that are operating through direct outreach to vulnerable families and public awareness campaigns.
- Reduce barriers to accessing services by increasing service delivery options and by conducting targeted outreach to marginalized and vulnerable families, including those affected by COVID-19-related racism and stigma.

SNHS Child & Family Services
Allegany 716-945-5894
Cattaraugus 716-532-4035

* Source: <https://www.childtrends.org/publications/ways-to-promote-childrens-resilience-to-the-covid-19-pandemic>

NOTICES & ANNOUNCEMENTS

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF CAROLINE RALSTON
Administrator/Executor: James M. Ralston,
12218 Route 438, Irving, NY 14081
~ Cattaraugus Territory - 1st Notice ~

**Seneca Nation of Indians
SURROGATE’S COURT,
Cattaraugus & Allegany Territory**

Notice is hereby given to all creditors and contingent creditors of the above-named decedents, that all persons having claims against the decedents are required to file them with the appropriate Surrogate’s Court, at the Allegany/Cattaraugus Territory. You are also required to mail or deliver a copy to the Administrator/Executor. This notice shall serve to notify creditors that they have ninety (90) calendar days from the date of the first publication of the notice to present their claims to the Administrator/Executor or the Clerk, and the estate may pay only those claims presented. For your protection, you are encouraged to file your claim by certified mail, with return receipt requested.

**Reminder:
Mailing List Update**

Attention Members 35 years of age & under:

Currently, the Newsletter is mailed to members age 25 and up. We have begun removing members age 35 and under from the mailing list to help cut down postage costs. We will finish the task within the next couple weeks.

However, if you would prefer to receive your news via print copy, just give us a call and we will gladly add you back to the mailing list.

Call us at: 716.945.1790, x3030 OR x3029.

Help keep our frontline heroes and ourselves safe by staying home. We can all do our part to defeat COVID19. #SenecasStaySafe

**HELP OUR HEROES
SAVE LIVES
STAY HOME**

DEFEAT COVID-19!

#SENECASSTAYSAFE

Next Newsletter DEADLINE:

Tuesday, May 19, 2020

Next issue to be dated May 29, 2020

Marc Straus now represents Marie Watt

Marie Watt is making moves in the art world. She is now represented by one of New York City's leading contemporary art galleries.

NEW YORK, NY.- Marc Straus announced the representation of Marie Watt



Marie Watt uses powerful symbolism, text and group activity to create impassioned sculptural works. Her work is timely, synthesizing mythologies and history from her Native American heritage seamlessly interwoven with current international issues. In her work images of wolves and dogs reference animals as the First Teachers within Iroquois oral tradition and La Lupa Capitolina, the Etruscan she-wolf nursing of the mythological founders of Rome. Watt's sculptures of stacked woolen blankets invoke their daily domestic use as much as art historical pillars like Trajan's Column, Brancusi's pedestals, and the great totem poles of the Northwest US.

Watt is an artist and citizen of the Seneca Nation with German-Scots ancestry, which informs her work and process deeply. Her layered points of influence are reflected in her artwork, particularly text elements featuring language pulled from and discussing Indigenous knowledge and Iroquois protofeminism, the matriarchal structures of certain Native American tribes, the rise of social activism throughout the 20th century, and the anti-war and anti-hate content of 1960s and 1970s music- such as the Marvin

Gaye song, "What's Going On." Messages of both longing and hope from the past that still resonate today.

There is a recurring use of the word "mother". Watt explains "The Iroquois concept of 'mother' is broad, extending from one's mother through a long line of women." In lived experience individuals' relationships with their own mothers are varied and complex, falling across the spectrum from adored and loved to loathed. Instead of exclusively satisfying these expectations, Watt expands the definition, making room for a broader concept. Seeking

a little bit of the caring band of attributes associated with mothers in all of us.

Like Josef Beuys and Wolfgang Laib, her specific choices of materials culled from the everyday are deep with meaning. Watt's symbolic use of textiles, in particular, is a central tenet of her work. Whether a shirt or a blanket, these are the items that protect us against cold and external dangers. We wrap ourselves in it like a second skin. Textiles consistently play a role in Watts' works, but especially in Blanket Stories she deals with them in a special way. She repurposes her materials from pieces that were actually owned and donated by people, embedded with their own histories before even becoming part of her projects. These origins again underline the importance of community and connection over time, reinforcing a link between the object (the textile) and the narrative in the form of writing (the story). A focus in recent years has been sewn tapestries, often produced through collaboration with sewing circles around North America.

Social engagements in which the fellowship and storytelling around the table can be crucial to the resultant object.

Watt deals with history and presents it in a form that is characterized by humanity. One can understand her as a conduit for the past into the present. She forms platforms that are open to new thoughts about the past, present and future.

Watt holds an MFA in painting and printmaking from Yale University; she attended Willamette University and the Institute of American Indian Arts; and in 2016 she was awarded an honorary doctorate from Willamette University.

Watt's work has been on view in 2020 at: The Whitney Museum in the exhibition Making Knowing: Craft in Art, 1950–2019, the Yale University Art Gallery in Place, Nations, Generations, Beings: 200 Years of Indigenous North American Art, the Renwick Gallery of the Smithsonian American Art Museum in Hearts of Our People: Native Women Artists.

Watt was born and raised in Seattle, Washington, and currently resides in Portland, Oregon. Her work is in the permanent collections of National Gallery of Canada, the Portland Art Museum, the Smithsonian, Renwick Gallery, Albright-Knox Gallery, The Whitney Museum in NY, Seattle Art Museum, US Library of Congress, Denver Art Museum, Crystal Bridges Museum, and more.

Source: <https://artdaily.com/news/122357/Marc-Straus-now-represents-Marie-Watt-?fbclid=IwAR25YWHV9jIVrnfaJfmpBoIDL0oQrpCHLc8zDAifk9oNXOgM-5KOihPkyxQ#.XpcMMvZFyUl>



Companion Species (Speech Bubble), 2019, 136 x 198.5 inches

Ganondagan Cancels July's Indigenous Music & Arts Festival

Summer's Juried Hodinöhsöni' Art Show Postponed until October

By Amy Blum

Victor, NY— Ganondagan State Historic Site Manager Peter Jemison (Seneca) announced news about its Indigenous Music & Arts Festival, originally scheduled for July 25-26.

“Nothing is more important to us than the health and safety of our community, and we take our civic responsibility seriously,” said Jemison. “Sadly, this means we have made the extremely difficult decision to cancel our July Indigenous Music & Arts Festival. This decision wasn’t made lightly as we understand the significant and direct effect the cancellation has on many Native American artisans, demonstrators,



musicians, dancers, and storytellers.”

Friends of Ganondagan Program Director Jeanette Miller Jemison (Mohawk) notes that this year’s spring and summer programming and events have been cancelled or rescheduled, including moving the summer’s Hodinöhsöni’ Juried Art Show to October 10–11, 2020.

“We will continue to post updates via

social media and the ganondagan.org website about our open status, programming rescheduling, and new and creative ways we will be engaging with our community” said Miller Jemison.

Although the Seneca Art & Culture Center and the Ganondagan Gift Shop are temporarily closed, the hiking trails remain open and can provide a safe space while social distancing and complying with Governor Cuomo’s “New York State on Pause” Executive Order.

Any questions, email info@ganondagan.org

Nya:wëh for helping promote Ganondagan's vital values of peace, cooperation, and respect for each other and the natural world

Ganondagan partners with nonprofit matching-fund initiative #GivingTuesdayNow.

Submitted By Friends of Ganondagan

Mission Statement

To honor and promote Seneca and Haudenosaunee history and culture and to strengthen traditions through inspirational and transformational programming and other activities at Ganondagan with special emphasis on:

- Encouraging respect and understanding between Native Americans and non-native Americans.
- Collaborating with NYS, Haudenosaunee (Iroquois) and the local community to support and develop Ganondagan State Historic Site.
- Extending values to the public that are alternatives to the popular culture.
- Developing Native American youth and educating them in the wisdom of their elders.
- Collaborating with other indigenous people of the world as well as with diverse religious and ethnic communities to promote the common values of peace, cooperation and respect for each other and the natural world.

Now more than ever, we need Ganondagan's values of peace, cooperation, and respect!

We thank you for helping to promote Ganondagan's vital values of peace,



cooperation, and respect for each other and the natural world.

Friends of Ganondagan partnered with the Nonprofit Matching-Fund Initiative, on May 5 for #GivingTuesdayNow. This global day of giving and unity was created as an emergency response to the unprecedented need caused by COVID-19.

Spring and summer typically are

Ganondagan's busiest seasons for programming. Cancellations—especially our Indigenous Music & Arts Festival that bring in much-needed funds—have a severe impact on us as an organization.

Your donation dollars were stretched even further during #GivingTuesdayNow thanks to the Nonprofit Matching Fund initiative.

We hope you've been enjoying our virtual events on FB Live, including Storytelling and "Ten Minute Teachings" (Wednesdays & Fridays at 11 am). Please follow us on FB & Instagram for upcoming virtual programs.

Ganondagan State Historic Site trails are OPEN. Please respect social distancing rules while receiving the benefits of the natural world.

As always, we wish you and your family health and safety. Nya:wëh



CCA's Victim Services Response to COVID-19

Submitted by Angel Fisher

CCA's Victim Service Department, in partnership with the Office of Victim Services and other founders, is still providing services while following the guidance of health professionals and government officials. Our 24-Hour Victim Services Hotline is 1-888-945-3970.

In partnership with the Olean office of Legal Assistance of Western New York, Inc. victims of crime, including domestic violence in Allegany or Cattaraugus County, can speak with an attorney for no charge, and they can decide as a team whether an order of protection - sometimes called a restraining order - is appropriate, and if it is, most of the work can

be done remotely. Courts are still open for emergencies, including orders of protection, and someone at the law office is available to speak with you Monday – Friday, 9 am - 5 pm at 716-373-4701 or toll-free at 1-888-767-1950.

During these unprecedented health recommendations for social distancing and self-quarantine, some in our community may be experiencing domestic violence that is intensified by increased isolation caused by social distancing measures during the Coronavirus pandemic.

Additionally, our community is facing limited supports while having to ensure childcare,

maintain employment, provide nutrition for their family, and access to healthcare.

These stressors may intensify situations where financial, emotional, and physical abuse is likely already present. These increased burdens do not excuse abusive behavior, and no person ever deserves to be abused.

To those who are not only dealing with the implications of this health crisis, but are also scared or feel unsafe at home due to relationship and/or sexual abuse, please know that Victim Services cares and is here to help. If you are interested in learning more, you can speak confidentially with a specially trained Victim Service Specialist available anytime

day or night about the following services:

- Emergency Domestic Violence Shelter
- Assistance with Sexual Assault Medical Services
- Assistance with Family Court
- Assistance with Orders of Protection
- Assistance with Filing Police Reports and Support Through the Investigation Process
- Legal Assistance and Support Services
- Therapy and Counseling Services
- Case Management and Advocacy Support

Our 24-Hour Victim Services Hotline is 1-888-945-3970.

Ja:goh Siomara Caballero!

Siomara Caballero is the Byron-Bergen High School valedictorian and has accepted admittance to Harvard's class of 2024. Ja:goh Siomara!



COVID-19 Diagnostic Testing Now Open for Anyone Wanting to be Tested Cattaraugus County Health Department

The Cattaraugus County Health Department in partnership with Olean General is further expanding its COVID-19 testing capabilities. In an effort to determine how prevalent the disease is in our community and continue to monitor the health of our residents we have enhanced our capabilities with additional testing locations, days of operation, and access to testing for all of our residents. **Please note, this is a swab test which will determine if someone is currently infected with COVID-19. This is not an antibody test.**

Testing is available for anyone who would like to be tested for COVID-19 regardless if they are symptomatic.

Only symptomatic individuals will be subject to quarantine/isolation. Individuals whose COVID-19 test comes back positive, will be subject to isolation following the County Health Department's policy. Those who meet any of the following criteria are strongly encouraged to be tested:

- **COVID-19 symptoms such as:**
- Fever or chills, Cough, Shortness of breath, Body aches, Headache, Sore throat, Loss of taste or smell, Nausea/Vomiting/Diarrhea
- **Close contact with a known COVID-19 positive person**
- **Healthcare worker, first responder, or other essential workers who directly interacts with the public**



Seneca Nation Offices & Buildings will BE CLOSED:

Monday, May 25th for Memorial Day. Have a safe & happy holiday!

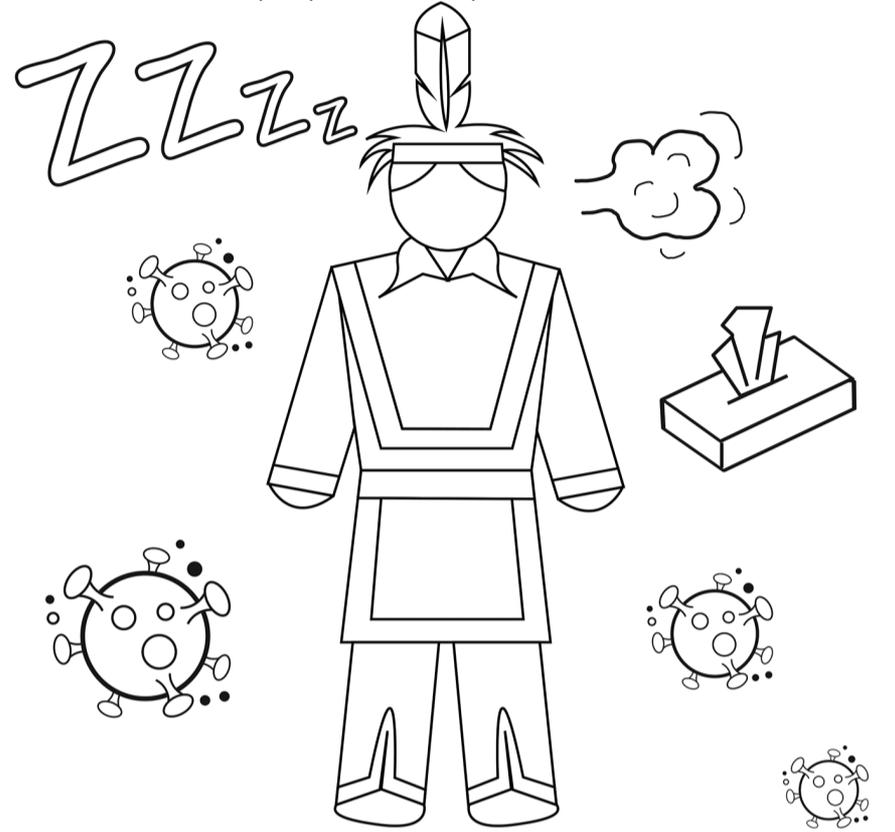
All testing requires pre-registration and an appointment time. Walk-ins will not be accepted. **To register for testing go to www.cattco.org/covid-19-test or call 716-938-9119. After registration, you will be contacted to schedule your testing time and location.** *Testing will be prioritized in accordance with current NYS DOH guidelines and is subject to test availability.

#SenecasStaySafe

Enjoy the coloring activity below and make sure to keep an eye out for the 'Healthy & Safe Families' coloring book that will be available for download/print. Be sure to follow the Seneca Media & Communications Center Facebook Page--Coloring book coming soon!

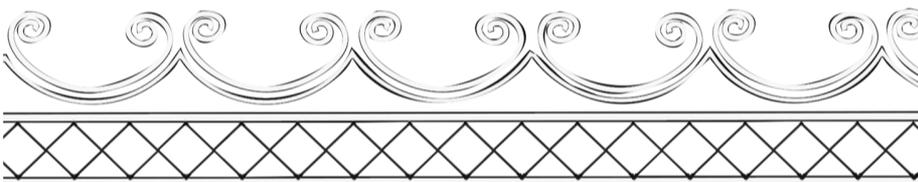
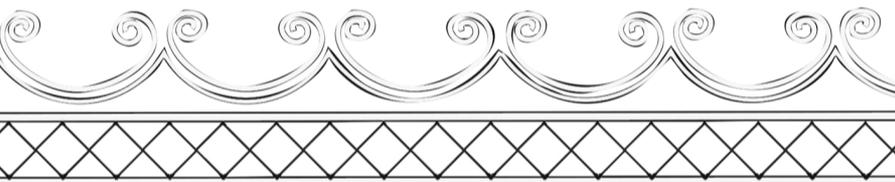
If a person catches the Coronavirus, they usually get a fever. They might also have a dry cough, feel tired, or trouble breathing.

Most people feel only a little bit sick.



Some people can get very sick.

Drink plenty of fluids when you feel sick.



THE DOS AND DON'TS OF MASKS

It is recommended to wear a mask at all times in public spaces, even if you're outside, because we don't know who has the virus and who doesn't.

- ❑ Always wash your hands before and after putting mask on and taking it off.
- ❑ The best material for a cloth face mask is 100% cotton. With two layers and a filter in the middle, they capture particles and are breathable.
- ❑ The coverage area should go from near the bridge of your nose to down under your chin.
- ❑ Do NOT put below your nose, leave your chin exposed, or rest it on your neck.
- ❑ Do NOT touch mask. Use the ear loops or ties to secure your mask and to remove it. Start by removing from chin.
- ❑ Masks should not be worn by children under 2 years of age.
- ❑ Mask or no mask, children should not go with you to the grocery store or to run essential errands.
- ❑ Masks and filters may not be effectively sanitized by UV.
- ❑ To prevent the spread of the virus, place mask in bag to minimize contact between the mask and other surfaces.



HOW TO CLEAN YOUR MASK

It is recommended to wear a mask at all times in public spaces, even if you're outside, because we don't know who has the virus and who doesn't.



- Always wash your hands before and after putting mask on and taking it off.
- Frequent machine or hand washing is recommended.
- Remove filter media and machine wash cloth mask.
- Some filters can be worn multiple times before washing and can be hand washed.
- Rub and scrub the mask for no less than 30 sec. Then, let the mask soak in hot water and detergent for a full 30 minutes and rinse thoroughly.
- Hot dry masks in dryer or using a hairdryer (make sure to keep hairdryer 6 to 8 inches from mask).
- Do NOT put mask in microwave or oven to sanitize.



Wearing a fabric mask **DOES NOT** protect YOU from other people's germs
It **DOES** help protect OTHERS from your germs

Fabric Masks Offer Some Protection
BUT
Additional Prevention Practices are Needed

WASH HANDS OFTEN
 DISINFECT SURFACES
 SOCIAL DISTANCING
 STAY HOME

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