



The Official Newsletter of the SENECA NATION



June 12, 2020 - [visit us @ sninews.org](http://sninews.org)

A message from President Rickey L. Armstrong, Sr.



Greetings!

I hope everyone is taking time to enjoy our nice spring weather. I heard Cattaraugus and the surrounding areas had quite a thunder and lightning show recently. I've noticed people are planting their gardens, walking, riding bicycles and just getting outside more. It's good to see our communities getting back to some normal routines and soaking up the sun. Please, remember to continue to cover your face,

practice social distancing and be safe.

Generally, this time of year is usually filled with graduation ceremonies and graduation picnics. Unfortunately, due to the Covid-19 Pandemic, we are seeing some major changes in how those events will be taking place. It won't be the same, but there will be plenty of celebrating going on, in spite of the necessary adjustments.

With the school year coming to a close, right around the corner, it's more important than ever to encourage our school age children to continue with summer learning. It's a proven fact that they lose information during their summer breaks. Think about it, by the time students return back to school in the fall, they will have essentially been without formal, in- person, classroom instruction for more than five months. Included in there, is the last couple of months where they were being taught virtually or remotely. Two very important skills, which may sometimes get overlooked, are reading and writing. Please encourage your children to read something every day. They could read two or three books, cover to cover, over the summer. If they do, they could even write a few paragraphs and describe for you - what the book is about.

For elementary age students, there are several fun learning apps that are available to be downloaded on a cell phone or laptop or any computer, for that matter. High school age students could commit to free on-line learning courses and learn about some topics they are interested in; or take an interest in educational documentaries. There is an endless supply of information and resources available on the internet to help keep our students' minds sharp, over the summer.

I'd like to mention that my staff has worked very hard to produce an "Elder Services Information" booklet, which has been delivered to all on-territory elders. The booklet was designed to inform our elders about services available, as we continue to operate within the parameters of the Covid-19 Pandemic. I'm sure everyone is aware, several departments have been operating with a limited staff and have not been functioning at 100%, for the past few months. The booklet is user-friendly, large print and we hope it is helpful.

On Wednesday, June 3rd, 2002, my staff delivered a new van to the Seneca Nation Buffalo Office. This had been in the plans for quite some time and I'm so glad we were

SENECA NATION COVID-19 HOTLINE: 945-8153 EMAIL: SNIINFO@SNI.ORG
(24/7 for non-medical questions or information)

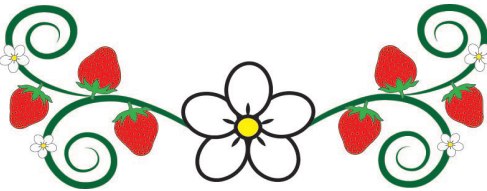
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Ron Kenjockety, President's Office, and Ramona Marion, Acting Director, Seneca Nation Buffalo Office, June 3rd, 2020

finally able to acquire a van for our Seneca membership, who live in the city. Ramona

sure all of our families and community

Marion, the director of our Buffalo Office, was so pleased to have the van for her routine visits to check on elders and do errands for them. It's going to be a great help to her and her staff!

Again, with profound sadness, I'd like to ask everyone to continue to keep our Allegany family and their loved ones, who have lost two matriarchs, in our thoughts. I'm

members who have been battling this terrible virus can use all our good energy, positive thoughts and prayers. We will get through this!

In closing, please encourage your students to read and write, while they enjoy their anticipated summer break. Let us continue to put one foot in front of the other, behave accordingly and we'll make our way to better days ahead. I'm very proud of how strong and resilient we are, as a people. Continue to stay strong, continue to look out for one another and continue to stand united.

**Respectfully,
Rickey L. Armstrong, Sr.**



FROM THE DESK OF THE TREASURER



Nya:wëh sgë:nö,

How do I start this article? There is much going on around the world today and I hope you are well and staying healthy during these abnormal times. We are watching how these events affect our Nation's Treasury. Covid-19 was quickly replaced by rioting and racial injustice nationwide. These situations create inconsistency in the world and markets each day. The Nation must use these markers to make decisions moving forward.

We've been able to respond to the health and financial crisis by doing many things. Six-month financial reports with supplementary schedules through March 31, 2020 were reviewed and showed a strong year was in the works but as we all know that changed; swiftly and sharply when the Coronavirus struck. We've been able to revise the 2020 general, indirect, and distribution surplus fund revenue and

expenditure budgets to create a "path" to get to September 30, 2020, the close of our fiscal year.

Working with the fiscal department we have created a five month concept budget for the period (October 10/1/2020 – 2/28/21). These numbers are estimated and uncertain as no-one is able to forecast the demand of gaming and resort operations, especially with NYS moving through the reopening phases.

Part I Treasury funding provided in response to the COVID-19 pandemic for Tribal entities was received and an allocation policy is in draft to the Council. Part II funding is unknown at this time, but when it is received we will have the policy set to allocate at that time.

The Seneca Nation has received Payroll Protection Program funds or small business loan grant funds if spent correctly. We've received \$1.5 Million which will be spent at SG& E, One-Stops and Highbanks. We've also been granted BIA funding which we're able to allocate the entire costs of the three weeks the Nations was "furloughed" due to COVID-19. Also tee'd up, a final true up of the Wells Fargo line of Credit following the June Council. All these efforts have and will help the nation come out of the financial hole dug by the pandemic.

As we move into summer, many more people will be out and about doing their business. The Nation continues to use cautionary measures within our Administrative buildings and Health centers for the protection of employees and

community members. With rioting and large gatherings occurring more often we need to stay mindful of how serious this disease continues to be. We have recently lost some prominent members of our Nation to this pandemic, it is crucial that we continue to follow the recommendations for social distancing, face mask use and sanitizing of hands to keep into the future. Stay safe.

Also, be reminded that we have a millings project underway. Staff are working tirelessly creating a plan and mapping, which will be the most efficient way for DPW and others to deliver millings to homeowners. To date the team has completed 128 driveways with 157 remaining. The list continues to grow daily. Please be patient with this process as there are a limited number of drivers and laborers (to spread). We anticipate it could be a month from when the request comes in to when the work begins.

To end on a happy note, I hope the stay home order has created many ideal opportunities for families to spend time together enjoying family activities and helping children with their homework. These are definitely unprecedented times. I know it's been especially difficult for High School and College Seniors to not have the highlights and memories afforded to others in their senior year. My hope is that we can make it extra special for them, they deserve the recognition!

**As always stay healthy, stay strong,
Matthew Pagels**



Since the onset of Covid-19, the Clerk’s Office has had to adjust staffing and how things operate within the Office. There have been some changes that we are all adjusting to and learning along with the rest of you.

The Clerk’s Office is responsible for the Enrollment of new members to the Seneca Nation. They were required to appear at the Council Session in which they were to be enrolled, the Enrollment Appearance has been waived due to Covid-19 starting with the March 14, 2020 Council Session. We have decided to reach out to the new enrollees and request a picture for the Newsletter since we don’t have the normal group photo of all new enrolled members. As the pictures come in they will be added to the next newsletter.

Starting with the May 9, 2020 Regular Session of Council members had the opportunity to register for the Virtual meeting. It was the first time in Seneca Nation history that we held a Council Session virtually. We had 182 members register for the Council Session and the audience participated via phone and chat.

I want to thank all those that registered and participated. It has been a learning experience for myself and staff as we had a brief training on the registration process so members could participate. We appreciate your patience as we navigate this unknown path ahead of us. Together we can get through this, continue to social distance, stay safe & healthy.

Welcome new enrollments!



Journee Becker, Bear.
Daughter of Keely Watt & Joshua Becker
Enrollment Date: 5/9/20



Vara R. Bomberry, Heron.
Daughter of Kristen Sedar & Jacob Bomberry
Enrollment Date: 3/14/20



Luca S. A. Casas, Heron.
Son of Jasmine Smith & Omar Casas
Enrollment Date: 5/9/20



Otelia Cook, Turtle
Daughter of Stevie Bucktooth & Regis Cook
Enrollment Date: 3/14/20



Bexley A Fulks, Snipe
Daughter of Tiffany Daly & Morgan Fulks
Enrollment Date: 5/9/20



Rhiann George, Beaver
Daughter of Darra Lichy & Reggie George
Enrollment Date: 5/9/20



Evelyn L Lewis, Heron
Daughter of Brandy & Michael Lewis
Enrollment Date: 5/9/20



Roman R. Square, Wolf
Son of Chantel Garlow & Johnny Square
Enrollment Date: 3/14/20



Dakota Wohfehrt, Snipe
Son of Mikaylah Hart & Dylan Wohfehrt
Enrollment Date: 3/14/20

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. We are providing limited services, please call our office for more information.

Allegany Territory – (716) 945-1790 ext. 3000

Allegany Clerk’s Office Staff:

- Bethany Johnson, Clerk (Notary Public)
- Geraldine Huff, Executive Assistant (Notary Public)
- Sue Case, Enrollment Officer
- Alana McClune, Enrollment Assistant (Notary Public)
- Kathleen “Yomie” Hill, Administrative Assistant

Cattaraugus Territory – (716) 532-4900 ext. 5000

Cattaraugus Clerk’s Office Staff:

- Marta Kettle – Deputy Clerk
- Kelly Mohawk – Deeds Recorder
- Ashley Warrior – Executive Secretary
- Leslie Cooke – Administrative Assistant (Notary Public)

Business Permit Office

Dana Maybee is in office on Tuesdays 8:00am - 4:30pm

CLERK FORMS

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 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.

How to participate in virtual Council sessions-GoToMeeting

To Participate in Virtual Online GoToMeeting for Council Session The Seneca Nation will be utilizing the virtual online platform GoToMeeting for enrolled members to have safe access and be able to participate in a Council meeting.

- To participate, interested enrolled members will need access to a computer, tablet, or smartphone, as well as a valid email address, to sign up.
- Enrolled members must send an email to request access to: SNGotomeet@sni.org

I would like to register to participate in the (month/yr.) Council Session.
My Information is:
Name
Enrollment #
Telephone #

- An email will be sent to you for registration purposes upon verification.

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. Nya:weh for your patience and understanding during this time and please watch for updates as this may change unexpectedly. Any changes will be posted online.

- Please follow the instructions and fill in all requested information when registering online.
- The registration link will also include a system requirement check to ensure that your device is compatible with GoToMeeting.
- Once registered, another email will be sent with a link to the online Council session, which will go live at the scheduled time.
- A download may be required to install the GoToWebinar app for a more interactive experience.

Please check your system compatibility ahead of time and follow the directions in the Help/Support section of GoToMeeting’s website for any technical issues with the platform. Contact your internet service provider for any connectivity issues you might experience.

By using this platform, you are agreeing to follow any rules of conduct or protocols established by the Seneca Nation Council. You are also agreeing to be recorded for the official minutes and transcripts required by the Seneca Nation Clerk’s Office.

GAMING

Seneca Nation Announces Reopening Dates for Gaming Operations

Seneca Niagara to reopen June 18, followed by Buffalo Creek and Seneca Allegany; Class II facilities will reopen June 18

ALLEGANY TERRITORY, SALAMANCA, N.Y. – The Seneca Nation has approved reopening plans for its Class II and Class III gaming operations, clearing the way for thousands of local employees to begin returning to work and contributing to Western New York’s economic recovery.

Seneca Gaming Corporation will reopen Seneca Niagara Resort & Casino on Thursday, June 18. Seneca Buffalo Creek Casino will reopen the following week on Thursday, June 25. Seneca Allegany Resort & Casino will then reopen on Thursday, July 2. Seneca Gaming & Entertainment will reopen the Nation’s Class II gaming properties in Irving, Salamanca and Cuba on Thursday, June 18. The Nation ordered the temporary suspension of all gaming operations on March 16 as part of the widespread response to the novel Coronavirus pandemic undertaken across all Seneca territories.

“After being closed for nearly three months, we are now ready to move forward with the safe, responsible and systematic reopening of our gaming facilities,” said Seneca Nation President Rickey Armstrong, Sr. “This is a signature moment in our region’s economic recovery from the circumstances that arose as a result of this unprecedented public health crisis.”

All of the facilities will open at reduced capacity, with strict protocols in place to protect the health and safety of guests and workers. Seneca Niagara Resort & Casino will also reopen at reduced capacity and will initially operate with a curtailed schedule. Seneca Buffalo Creek Casino and Seneca Allegany Resort & Casino will follow the same procedures upon their reopening. The Seneca Gaming & Entertainment facilities in Irving, Salamanca, and Cuba, which offer video gaming machines, will also begin operations with a reduced number of available machines.

Seneca Gaming Corporation is expected to announce operational details for the reopening process tomorrow – including specific hours of operation, comprehensive safety measures and protocols, and information on which areas of the operations will initially reopen to guests.

The Seneca Nation’s decision to reopen will provide a significant and much-needed boost to the local economy. The Seneca Nation and its enterprises are among the largest employers in Western New York. Combined, the Nation’s gaming operations employ approximately 4,000 workers from across the region and generate hundreds of millions of dollars in local payroll and economic

activity with vendors both locally and statewide.

“The Seneca Nation’s economic role extends far beyond just our territories,” President Armstrong added. “We are unique in that, as a government, we inhabit an important and impactful business and economic position locally, regionally and statewide. Our business enterprises directly employ thousands of people throughout Western New York, many of whom are non-Senecas, and impact thousands more through the hundreds of millions of dollars we spend with vendors, suppliers and business partners. Those dollars are pumped right back into the local and regional economies, in addition to the crucial support they provide to our Nation and the Seneca people.”

SENECA NATION HEMP PRODUCER APPLICATIONS OPEN

On Monday, June 1st, 2020, the application period opened for Hemp Producer Licensing.



This will be open on a rolling basis for the remainder of 2020 to expedite outdoor growing and accommodate for the development of indoor growing operations as well.

For those interested in more information, please contact Jessica Crouse, Hemp Compliance Administrator at: Jessica.Crouse@sni.org; (716) 945-1790 extension # 3039; or via mail at 90 Ohiyo Way, Salamanca, NY 14779.

Salamanca Farmer’s Market Opening Day May 26th!

We cannot wait to see you for another great season.

We are open 11am-5pm. Please use hand washing station, wear masks, and let the vendors help you pick out your products so there is less contact during this time. Also please be aware that produce and plants may be delayed for a few weeks due to weather conditions making it hard to plant on time.

FRUITS • VEGGIES • CRAFTS • FARM FRESH EGGS • BAKED GOODS • FLOWERS • PLANTS

Location: Allegany Bingo Parking Lot



JOIN US FOR A

Drive-By Chicken Dinner



Allegany Tribal Advocate Giveaway

Friday, June 12, 2020
11:00AM-4:00PM (or until gone)
983 R C Hoag Drive Salamanca, NY 14779

For more Info contact: Rae Lynn George @ 716-945-2655

Community Service Announcement

Do you have Covid-19 questions or need information?

SENECA NATION COVID HOTLINE (716) 945-8153 EMAIL: SNINFO@SNI.ORG

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.

Free millings for Cattaraugus residents

By Treasurer Pagels

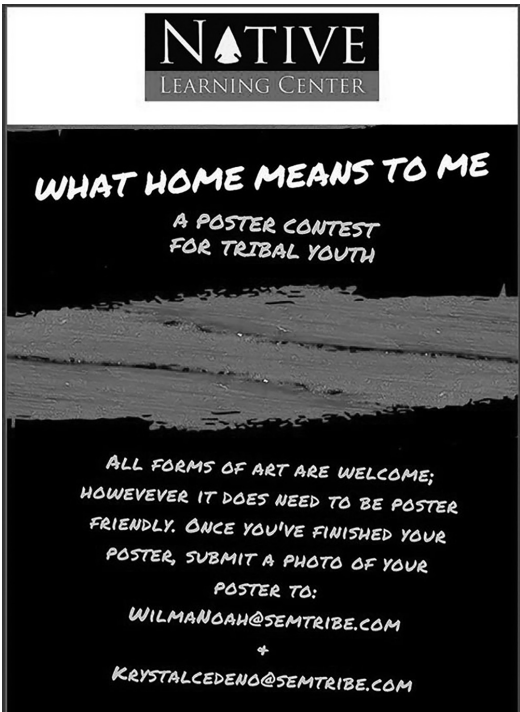
If you are a Cattaraugus resident and would like millings delivered to your property, please call the Treasurer's Office at 716-532-4900. Residents will need to provide their name, address, and phone number.



Attention Aspiring Young Artists: Youth poster contest offered by the Native Learning Center

‘What Home Means To Me’ is a tribal youth poster contest offered by the Native Learning Center.

Submissions accepted through June 30, 2020 in 3 age categories: 5-10 yrs old; 11-13 years old; 14-18 years old. All tribal communities and forms of arts are welcome, however submissions need to be original artwork and poster friendly. You may use: markers, paints, crayons, colored pencils, beads and fabric. Get as creative as you'd like and show what home means to you!



Disability accepting paperwork only

By Leanna Leroy

Seneca Nation Disability Services will now be accepting recertification paperwork only. We will begin accepting paperwork starting **JUNE 1ST** with all necessary precautions in place!

FIRST: Call the office to arrange a pick up or to let us know if you are coming:

Cattaraugus- 716-532-4900 Ext 5152
Allegany- (FRIDAYS ONLY 10am-2pm) 716-945-8163

PLEASE DO NOT ENTER THE BUILDINGS!
They are both closed to the public PLEASE CALL FIRST.

SECOND: When we are either picking up or you are dropping off please WEAR YOUR MASKS! We have gloves and sanitizer for extra protection.

THIRD: If you need a Notary for the paperwork Leanna LeRoy will be able to do those. Please call and let us know if you need that as well, so we can arrange for her to be where needed.

PLEASE STAY SAFE. STAY HOME. NYA:WĒH!

HEAP accepting applications for a second emergency benefit

By Kerry Kennedy

The Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) is accepting applications for a second emergency HEAP benefit. This benefit will run until June 24, 2020 or the funding runs out, whichever comes first.

Also, The Advocate Program is accepting applications for Electrical Shut-off Notices only, the HEAP Furnace replace/repair program and for anyone who has an extreme medical need for an Air Conditioner.

These programs will end on September 30, 2020 or if the funding runs out, whichever comes first.

You may pick up an application at the Tribal Advocates Office located on the Cattaraugus (532-4900) or Allegany (945-2655) Territories.

Documentation Requirements:

- ~Doctor's Note (Air Conditioner Only)
- ~Tribal I.D.
- ~Social Security Card
- ~Proof of Address
- ~Current Utility Bill
- **Oak Tree Residents must provide a current rent receipt
- ~Proof of Income
- ~Deed or Home Ownership (Furnace repair/replacement Only)



A Note from Joe Stahlman, *Museum Director*

Nya:wëh Sgë:nö',



June has finally arrived. Summer is almost here. The Seneca-Iroquois National Museum continues to be closed, but we continue to honor Seneca and Haudenosaunee cultures.

Since the dramatic life changing events from March to now, we strive to remind our community the resilience of all of our communities through frequent posts of Seneca and Haudenosaunee culture, contemporary arts and crafts, and publications. 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 some of our exhibits. We will do our best to upload a new tour every week. We have also updated the On-line store. And in closing, if you would like to see something posted or added to our website please reach out to us. We will keep you posted as our closing status changes and eventual reopening.

Ėgö:gë'

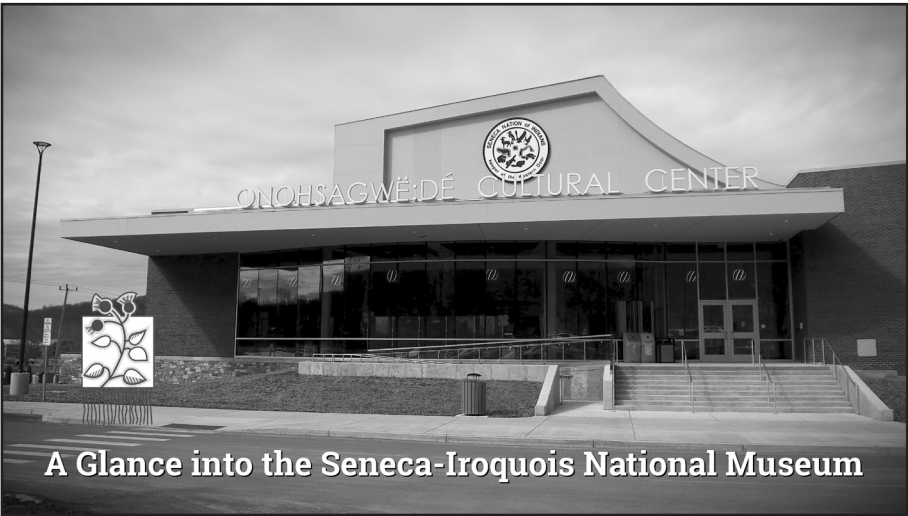
We are continuously making it easier for you to enjoy some of the things we offer by adding content and resources to our website.

We have added tons of new items into our online store. We have everything from educational resources, natural foods, natural

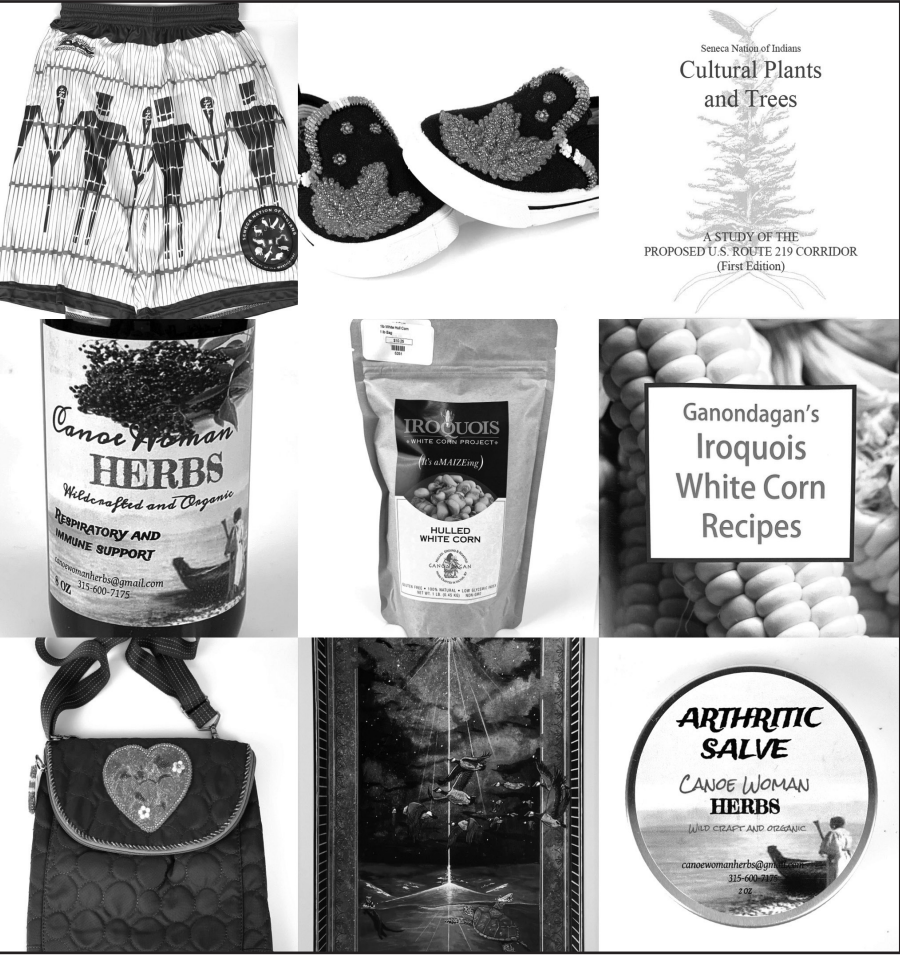
medicines, kids and adult apparel, medicinal plant resources and health and wellness items. In addition, we have over 40 items on sale.

Also, on our website: A link to a free book "A Woodland Creation Story". (Refer to the image shown at the bottom of the page when you are searching for the link)

We added a free virtual mini-tour to our website. Visit our website as Cultural Interpreter Breezy Crouse guides you on an engaging tour to see the unique Codetalkers wampum belt and historic Cornplanter pipe tomahawk. She gives an overview of the On the Mother's Side exhibit, highlighting the matrilineal bird and animal clans, and ends with a look at the traditional and contemporary pottery exhibit.



A Glance into the Seneca-Iroquois National Museum



Enjoy a short time-lapsed video of Seneca citizen Nicole Passerotti, a Program Associate at UCLA, repairing a pair of moccasins from the Seneca-Iroquois National Museum

To stay connected to upcoming news and events; like us on Facebook or follow us on Instagram @seneca-iroquoisnationalmuseum or sign up to be on our email list by visiting www.senecamuseum.org



Nya:wëh and stay safe.

-The Seneca-Iroquois National Museum Staff

visit us on-line
@sninews.org

Connecting youth to the changing weather

Reprinted from <https://www.climatehubs.usda.gov/hubs/northeast/news/connecting-youth-changing-weather>



Top Photo: The Tribal Soil Climate Analysis Network (TSCAN) supports natural resource assessments and conservation activities through its network of automated climate monitoring and data collection sites. Photo by USDA Northeast Climate Hub. Pictured: Mike Gates

The Tribal Soil Climate Analysis Network (TSCAN) supports natural resource assessments and conservation activities through its network of automated climate monitoring and data collection sites.

You can watch the weather from your window and learn about these natural patterns. You can feel the weather from being outside and learn how it impacts the land. You can collect data from a weather station and learn to calculate the patterns and impacts. You can now connect to tools to help you make informed decisions about working the land.

Tue, 05/12/2020 - 12:00
During the summer of 2019, several young farm workers studied the weather at Seneca Nation of Indians' Gakwi:yo:h Farms.

They learned about soil, rain, crops, and how to manage a farm using weather as a guide. This resulted from a joint project between the Seneca Nation and the USDA Northeast Climate Hub called, "Connecting Youth to the Changing Weather." The vision for this began when leaders of Seneca Nation Emergency Management Department noticed a disconnect between youth and the land. A grant from the USDA Forest Service helped encourage youth to engage with an on-site weather station provided by Natural Resources Conservation Service. Guest scientists, teachers, and land management professionals helped the students discover ways that changing weather patterns impact the land. Seneca Nation youth were encouraged to be environmental stewards as they learned about the impact of the changing climate on natural resources.

The Seneca Nation installed the weather station in 2018. This was made possible through a partnership with the USDA Northeast Climate Hub, Natural Resources Conservation Service, and Bureau of Indian Affairs. The national-level weather station project is called TSCAN, or Tribal Soil Climate Analysis Network. Managers of the

newly created Gakwi:yo:h Farms use the weather data to make climate-based decisions for crop management. This knowledge helps them determine which crops and planting strategies may result in better harvest yields. Hosting the TSCAN weather station helps meet the Seneca Nation's educational goal to engage youth in creative science programing and hands-on outdoor learning.

Throughout the summer, the farm hosted learning opportunities that linked to the weather station. Cultural traditions were incorporated to raise the youth's sense of land stewardship.

The youth were engaged with the natural world around them as they learned; about planting specific crops, required care, harvesting, and lastly, cleaning and storage methods for the crops. This shared project brought together many agencies and organizations. As youth worked on daily farming operations, they made use of lessons from their guests. They walked out to the weather station and learned about the monitoring components that collect data, how they work, and how the information can be used. A nearby professor shared how to observe clouds as part of GLOBE protocols. GLOBE is an educational program that contributes measurements to a global database. These local weather observations are important for making decisions around a shifting climate. The group learned about tools that nearby organizations use to manage ecosystems and local watersheds. The youth and farm workers went into the field plots and took several measurements to determine the health of their soils. They also used online tools that made use of the on-site

weather data. This process of discovering ways to use weather data integrates traditional practices into more recent farm management techniques. Through meeting professionals and hearing presentations, the youth also learned about careers in natural resources that exist right in their own backyard.

Gakwi:yo:h Farms was established with the mission to address food security and food sovereignty through community engagement and wellness.

Gakwi:yo:h Farms was established with the mission to address food security and food sovereignty through community engagement and wellness. Photo by USDA Northeast Climate Hub.

With climate change, much of western New York is experiencing more intense rainfall. When lots of rain comes all at once, it can wash away soil or erode the land.

Developing healthier soils with better infiltration throughout the farm provides more resilience to heavy rainfall. Healthy soil, especially when covered, is less likely to erode. Soil Scientists from the Natural Resource Conservation Service visited the farm as part of this program. They shared a series of soil health demonstrations. Using the tools brought by the NRCS scientists, young farmers at Gakwi:yo:h Farms discovered that previous tillage methods had created compacted soils. Another visiting scientist helped the youth evaluate soil characteristics. They discussed the conditions that impact crop growth and disease. Gakwi:yo:h Farms was experiencing a poor pepper crop at the time.

Using their new tools, the youth were able to determine that soil compaction and water deficiencies had both played a role. Data from the weather station feeds directly into an online water deficit calculator tool that estimates soil water content. The tool teaches users about the current and forecasted water deficits by using historical climate data, forecasted rainfall, and site-specific data (soil type, crop type, planting dates and irrigation). The online tool showed that soil moisture had sometimes been limiting crop growth. Farm managers and youth in the program at Gakwi:yo:h Farms consulted with the Natural Resource Conversation Service to create a two-way learning opportunity. This collaborative relationship may lead to establishing an

Weather continued on pg 9....



Gakwi:yo:h Farms was established with the mission to address food security and food sovereignty through community engagement and wellness. Photo by USDA Northeast Climate Hub.

irrigation system at the farm. Data inputs from the weather station can help with future irrigation scheduling.

To cap off the summer of learning, the youth took a field trip to nearby Allegheny National Forest. There they discovered how climate change is influencing land management practices on the trail systems, at gas drilling sites, and with forest cultivation harvests.

The trip through the forest showed the youth physical evidence of these practices in the actual way the forest had grown, with and without proper management. US Forest Service staff talked about how they found their way into a career in forestry and the many angles of opportunity in such careers.

Funding from this youth engagement and conservation education program was used to hire 6 summer youth as farm workers. The educational program was combined

with other youth programs at the Seneca Nation to bring learning opportunities to over 20 Seneca youth. The youth developed knowledge and skills to interpret weather and soil data, and observed how these translate into harvest numbers and making decisions about how to manage their land. Through this learning, farm managers have increased use of weather tools and traditional ecological knowledge. A sense of stewardship to our natural environment has grown among the youth. They gained exposure to multiple career paths in natural resource management. Throughout this project, collaborators learned about how to incorporate traditional Seneca ideas, thought and knowledge. These concepts are central to a deep appreciation of, and reverence for, the natural world. Seneca youth and, by association, the broader community learned about the current state of the climate. This prompted discussions about the ways in which we can all be social and cultural agents for climate adaptation.

Acknowledgments: Erin Lane, Mike Gates, Michael Snyder, Suzanne Baker, Michael Jabot, Barbara McGuinness, Nicole Kubiczki, Richard Hatfield, Amy Langner, Elizabeth Buck, Shannon Dougherty, Paula Pichon, Art Degeatano, Matt Havens, Zachary Warning, Susan Cox, Gerry Fisher, Jennifer Bourgeault, and all the Seneca youth and Farm staff who participated in the learning adventures.

Gakwi:yo:h Farms hosts Plant Give-A-Way

Seneca Media

Seneca Nation Gakwi:yo:h Farms Agricultural Department held a community drive-through distribution of flowers, veggies, and herbs seedlings to Seneca Nation members of the Cattaraugus and Allegany territories on June 4th at Cattaraugus Community Center and June 5th at Iroquois Museum parking lot.

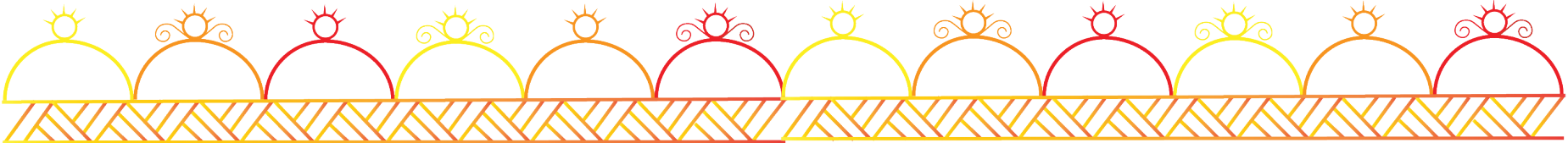
Nya:wëh to Gakwi:yo:h Farms and everyone who helped make this important event happened!

Catt Advocate distributes fresh produce via drive-thru

Seneca Media

Cattaraugus Territory Advocate Program held a drive-thru produce distribution on May 21st and June 8th outside their office. 300 households received a box with 22 pounds of fresh produce.

This is an ongoing program. The next scheduled date is June 18th. Please check www.sni.org or Senec Media Facebook for updates.



Gakwi:yo:h Farms aims to harvest 25+ acres of corn

By Tami Watt, Editor



Onëögä:n field in Ohi:yo' located on Eugene's John Sr. old farm. Photo by Newsletter staff.

Despite the COVID-19 pandemic Gakwi:yo:h Farms is aiming to plant and harvest 25+ acres of corn that will encompass four sites.

Traditionally, onëögä:n or white corn has been used by the Hodinöhsö:ní for over a 1,000 years in ceremonies and for nutritional value. Onëögä:n part of the Three Sisters (Johegoh, life givers); corn, beans, and squash. These three plants can grow together and provide all the nutrients to sustain life.

The Seneca Nation aims to bring back this Hodinöhsö:ní staple to daily life while providing a safe and healthy way to interact with our community. Gakwi:yo:h Farms has found a way to bring a nutritious non-GMO, gluten-free traditional food back into our lives. According to Michael Snyder, Director, the farm will harvest two varieties of corn at four sites including three fields on the Cattaraugus Territory (Ga'dä:gësgë:ö) and one on the Allegany Territory (Ohi:yo'). One field across from the Cattaraugus Community Center will grow sweet corn while the three remaining fields will grow onëögä:n.

The field in Ohi:yo' is located at Eugene John Sr.'s pre-Kinzua homestead. John was an avid farmer before the forced removal around 1964. This land has not been farmed for over fifty years. It holds a special place for Snyder as this was his grandfather's property prior to the removal. Growing up, he recalls family members sharing stories about the old farm and fun times had in the warmer months along Ohi:yo'. "The seed that we are planting is my great-grandfather Leland John's that he got from Tyler and George Heron and kept it going. This seed is over 100 years old and to see it come back to Allegany, in the same fields, is a good feeling for me and nya:wëh to Ed John for allowing us to use his land," shares Snyder.

Prep work for each season includes discing, plowing, fertilizing, testing the soil for proper fertility levels and, this year, implementing a new comprehensive irrigation system with help from USDA. The farm was able to dig up two wells to install the

system.

The fields will yield three separate harvests for each type of corn that was planted. The first harvest is in August for Green Corn ceremonies. Every year, Snyder and staff welcome the community to come pick and harvest the corn to donate for ceremonies, social events, and, unfortunately, the occasional funeral. After all the hard work is done, the farm hosts a Roasting Party for all volunteers for their time and effort. "If they put the sweat equity in, we give the volunteers whatever they ask for. Their dedication makes it easy to say yes," says Snyder.

The other two harvests are staggered between September and October when the corn is fully mature and ready to be picked. Snyder, again, counts on the community to come aid at harvest time as onëögä:n should be hand picked to get the most from each yield.

"We need all hands on deck. What we cannot pick, we will have to



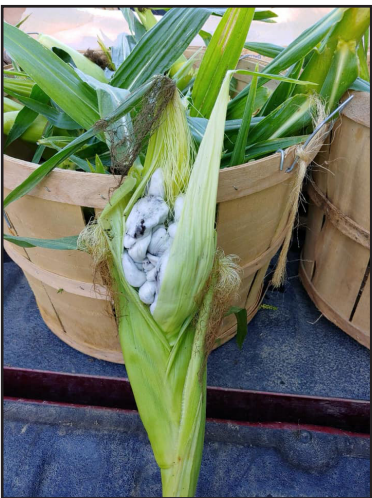
Results from the yearly husking bee



use the husker but it damages the corn It can damage up to 30% of the corn it picks. It comes to a threshold when we have to make a choice- let the community pick it and take it or lose it to the husker,” explains Snyder.

Growing onëögä:n is labor intensive agriculture. Once the corn is hand picked, the real work begins. It needs to be braided, dried, and hung. Gakwi:yo:h Farms hosts a yearly husking bee and invites the community to join in. Members from both territories gather to braid ears of corn together by the husks which, hopefully, result in 100 - 200braids. The love, the laughter, and labor is a nostalgic nod to our aboriginal customs when women would gather to plant and harvest the fields.

Onëögä:n is a high moisture corn. It comes off the field at a 35% moisture level, it needs to be dried down to a 10% level moisture for cooking use. It is hung up in a dry facility with natural air flow to keep from molding for about four months, however, this year Snyder and crew will be utilizing a new heating unit that can dry it faster. He expects the process will take one to two weeks versus the four month period.



After it is dry enough for cooking, it needs to be processed; the hull must be removed, then boiled, ground, and packaged. Ashes or lye are used to push the hull out and the corn is washed in a traditional splint basket to aid in removal. Onëögä:n is now ready to use in mush, corn soup, corn wheels, cookies, cakes, and other baked goods. Different varieties of dried corn are used for different recipes. Ground flour is used for mush, white corn flour is used for corn bread wheels, and the

dehydrated hull is used for soups and salads. Gakwi:yo:h Farms offers all three variations packaged and ready to sell.

Gakwi:yo:h Farms sends their harvest to Ganondagan to be processed for commercial packaging to sell at our Seneca Nation One Stops and The Seneca-Iroquois National Museum. The Ganondagan White Corn Project has aided the farm in processing and distributing onëögä:n over the last few years.

The Ganondagan White Corn Project was reignited in 2011 by Peter Jemison (Seneca) after the untimely death of original founders Dr. John C. Mohawk (Seneca) and wife Dr. Yvonne Buffalo from the Cattaraugus Territory. “Corn is one of those plants that cannot

survive in the wild. It has to have humans, it has a reciprocal relationship,” explained Dr. Mohawk.

Snyder is pleased to announce the Seneca Nation has invested in a cannery for the farm. The cannery will allow Gakwi:yo:h Farms to process their own corn to distribute and sell. Snyder is excited to develop new products. He’s eager to test out various ways to process corn and could potentially replace wheat flour with our own white corn flour, a big step for the Seneca Nation, not only toward food sovereignty but also in taking back our health with our own traditional foods and recipes. “I appreciate the opportunity to provide a food system for the Seneca Nation. I am truly honored and grateful that the Nation has entrusted us to reestablish agriculture in our community,” shares Snyder.

A farmer’s work never ends, in the off season, staff tediously sorts seeds from the previous harvest to plant for next year. In an effort to grow large full ears of corn, staff will sort the best seeds out by hand and grade them. Snyder says takes one hour to sort one pound of seeds making for a long monotonous process for his dedicated team. Snyder insists everything is easier with a good team.

Over the years, Snyder has collected seeds from Hodinöhsö:ni’ farmers, gardeners, and seed exchanges to start a bank. The farm holds various types of corn seeds yet to be planted. Strawberry popcorn, black sweet corn, Seneca chief, are some of the strains Snyder would like to get in the ground. He envisions more land for more corn fields.

Gakwi:yo:h Farms also encourages the community to plant at home. They offer tilling services for on territory members and host a seed give-a-way in the early stages of growing season. The farm provided seeds to fifty four members who called in. Seeds were mailed or hand delivered to homes. A successful plant give-a-way was hosted on both territories as another means to get started at home.

Growing onëögä:n is only one of the numerous projects in development at the farm. Gakwi:yo:h Farms is home to a commercial operation maple tapping initiative, a growing bison farm, and harvests many other crops throughout the year.

For more information, please check out <https://sni.org/departments/gakwiyoh-farms>, the Seneca Nation Gakwi:yo:h Farms Facebook page, or call (716)532-3194.



Gowanda plans unconventional commencement ceremony: Drive-in graduation

By Mary Heyl | June 02, 2020 | Reprinted from www.observertoday.com

GOWANDA – How can Gowanda honor a decades-long tradition of hosting an in-person commencement ceremony at Hillis Field while also abiding by executive orders that call for social distancing and gatherings of no more than 10 people? That is the question that Gowanda High School Principal Rebekah Moraites has been grappling with for months. During the last school board meeting, she was pleased to share her answer, which involves Hillis Field, a drive-in movie theater, and more!

Interestingly, this year is only her second commencement ceremony with the district since her hiring in the fall of 2018. Over the past few weeks, she surveyed the 85 seniors and their parents to learn their preferences for graduation in light of COVID-19 restrictions. In a school board meeting over Zoom, she explained to board members that the majority of respondents wanted an in-person commencement that allows more than two family members to attend. She noted



that most were strongly against having a Zoom/internet-only graduation due to unreliable or unavailable internet. Additionally, most wanted to keep the original June 26 date instead of moving it to August, as many students are leaving for boot camp or college.

“We want to provide closure to our seniors in June; we believe that they deserve that,” Moraites explained. Ideas she considered include a parking lot graduation, which violates executive orders; a virtual ceremony, which students did not want; a drive-through graduation on Hillis Field, which would damage the grounds; and a student-only ceremony (spaced six feet apart) at the field, which also violates executive orders. The solution?

“We’ve decided on a staggered in-person ceremony for 10 minutes at a time,” Moraites announced. She added that this “degree conferral” is part one of a two-part ceremony that would also include a video component. During the degree conferral portion, students and their families are invited to individual commencement ceremonies to be scheduled the

week of June 15.

“What we like about this is that we would do it in 10-minute appointments for our graduates so that that student has the opportunity to walk through Hillis Field,” Moraites explained.

“They can have their immediate families there, and they will be in their cap and gown or in traditional Native American dress.” Moraites, Superintendent Dr. Robert Anderson and Mark Nephew, school board president, would be in attendance to give students their diplomas.

“I feel this is a dignified approach and respectful of the Hillis Field tradition. The plan would be socially distant and safe. The only person approaching an employee would be the student,” said Moraites. She said that currently, the class of 2020 is working on creating graduation face masks for the occasion.

There will be photo opportunities at Hillis Field, and Moraites has also ordered banners with the Gowanda mascot and logo for photos. Commencement programs will be mailed home to students, too.

Moraites said, “This will take us over 20 hours to do this, so Dr. Anderson and I will be spending almost the entire week handing out diplomas. Certainly this is not the easiest thing for us to do, but we think that it is the most respectful to tradition and what our families

deserve.”

Significantly, the degree conferrals are scheduled a week before the original graduation date. Moraites said that this will give her and the district’s technology staff time to create a video for part two of commencement.

She explained, “The second component is that they will celebrate together but apart on June 26. We will have a class of 2020 car parade in downtown Gowanda ... to culminate in a video celebration of images from degree conferrals and all the traditional elements of commencement speeches.”

Moraites said this celebration montage will be viewable by all students, as they can watch together in their cars at the Big Indian drive-in movie theater in Irving. “Thank you to Eric White, who graciously donated his facilities to us, and we’re really excited to work with him, especially considering all our families who don’t have internet and can’t stream

it.” She added that those who can’t attend the drive-in event can livestream the pre-recorded video through the school’s social media pages. Board members were thrilled with the idea. Lynn Guzzetta said, I think it’s beautiful. My heart breaks for these kids, and I think it’s a great idea. Thank you.”

Board member Janet Vogtli agreed. “I think you really knocked it out of the park with this one,” she told Moraites. “That had to be really tough to come up with something, but it’s a really great idea for what you’re going through. I appreciate all you’ve done for that.”



WE LOVE OUR TEACHERS!!!!

Salamanca Administrators drove all around WNY surprising teachers with some awesome lawn signs in recognition of Teacher Appreciation Week! This year, Teacher’s Appreciation Week was officially celebrated from Monday, May 4, 2020 to Friday, May 8th. **Salamanca Schools and the Seneca Nation are proud of our Education Heroes!**
#TeacherAppreciation #Sccsdwarriors #WarriorNation



Top row L to R: Abigail John, Brittany Jimerson, Larry Wheeler

2nd row L to R: Amy Crowley, Kerry and Mindy John

3rd row L to R: Kimberly McClarney, Andrea Cooke, Michala Redeye, Rachael Wolfe

Bottom row L to R: Brooke Kennedy, Melanie Ross

Ja:goh to the Class of 2020 (High School Graduates)

Cattaraugus Territory, Allegany Territory,
Buffalo and Surrounding Area

Submitted by Cattaraugus Education Department, Allegany Education Department & Buffalo Office

Lake Shore

Efrain Barreto
Ethan Button
Savanah Clear
Rosetta George
Hailey Haynes
Coby Jimerson
Jilleah Jimerson
Hogaiyo: John
Riley John
Ryiely Johns
Jadyn Jones
Hayleih Kennedy
Robert Keyes
Baylee Locke
Yanenowi Logan
Quincey Lyle
Eliese Maybee
Koby Parker
Kaden Porter
Sophie Snyder
Amaya Tallchief
Josh Thies
Carter Thompson
Holly Weston
Talynn Whitney
Aryana Williams
McKenzy Gonzales - Graduated
August 2019

Silver Creek

Alexis Balestrieri
Cooper Gates
Zorya Geiogamah
Morningstar Halftown
Waylon Jones
Julia Kennedy
Haylee Mohawk-Patterson
Nia Nephew
Nathaniel Parker
Leland Snow
Layla White Pigeon
James Memo

Gowanda

Morgan Baird
Jeorgia Benton
Vanessa Cooper
Savannah Emery
Michael General Jr
Everette Golden
Mark Grundhoefer
Terrance Haring

Alexander Henhawk
Jaylin Henhawk-Marr
Ashlyn Hise
Hannah John
Olivia John
Kimberly Jumper
Quentin Kennedy
Tyee Nagel
Rayne Nephew
Autumn-Raine Pierce
Lily Redeye
Clay Scanlan
Marleah Stevens
Tia Thompson
Mia Torres
Emagin Warrior
Ayla White
Clair White
Lucinda White
Tear-lyn White
Madison Williams
Tanner Bennett

Other Districts

Siomara Caballero - Byron Bergen HS
Grace Gregoire - Hamburg HS
Blaze Henhawk - Blossom Garden

Archbishop Walsh

Zain Maybee
Zaya Maybee

Randolph

Emma George

Salamanca

Aisha Armstrong
Madalynn Armstrong
Alex Bennett
William Boon
Leo Capron
Dennis Cogley Jr * TOP 10
Elijah Cook
Carter Crane
Alyssa Dille
Jonna Dowdy
Kylee Dowdy
Aaron George
Kaihalla George
Hudson Hoag
Anna Isaac
Gracie John
Emily Johns

Breena Kawamura
Kaylynn Kawamura
Nizhoni Kennedy * TOP 10
Coby Ledsome
Carmen Mason
Marshall Patterson
Jordan Ray *TOP 10
Mitchell Richardson *Graduated in
January 2020
Jacob Rozler *TOP 10
Ira Snyder
Jazlynn Snyder
Kawliga Stahlman
Alexis Wiles
Abraham Wilson

Nichols

Elliott Porter

Allegany Limestone

Margaret Ronolder

Buffalo and
surrounding area

Phillip Andrew
Health Sciences Charter school

Johnny Dietz
Lockport High School

Nasseer Mclaurin
Hutchinson Tech High School

Brian Smith
Niagara Wheatfield High School

Gage Smith
McKinley High School

Damian John
Fort Erie High School

Gage Stevens ***

Mason Rose ***

Ta'nija Tyes ***

Destiny Collado ***

Allix John ***

*** School unconfirmed at the time of print

Congratulations on your graduation and best wishes for your next adventure!

Please note: This is an unofficial list of graduates due to the issues related to COVID-19. If there are any revisions or updates to these lists we will post an update in the next edition. Ja:goh to ALL the 2020 graduates. You make your nation proud.

Salamanca graduation ceremony set for June 13th at Seneca Allegany Casino

Reprinted from www.salamancapress.com | June 02, 2020

SALAMANCA — The Salamanca City Central School District plans to hold its senior graduation ceremony at 3 p.m. June 13, high school principal Chris Siebert announced last week.

The Seneca Nation and Seneca Allegany Resort & Casino have offered and allowed the district to use its events center at the casino to host the graduation.

“We are currently working with the Casino personnel to organize this event,” Siebert wrote in a letter to students and families. “There will be a lot of behind the scenes preparation and planning to ensure we have proper social distancing and a focus on the health and wellness of everyone in attendance at the ceremony.”

To maintain required social distancing, tickets to the ceremony and seating capacity will be limited.

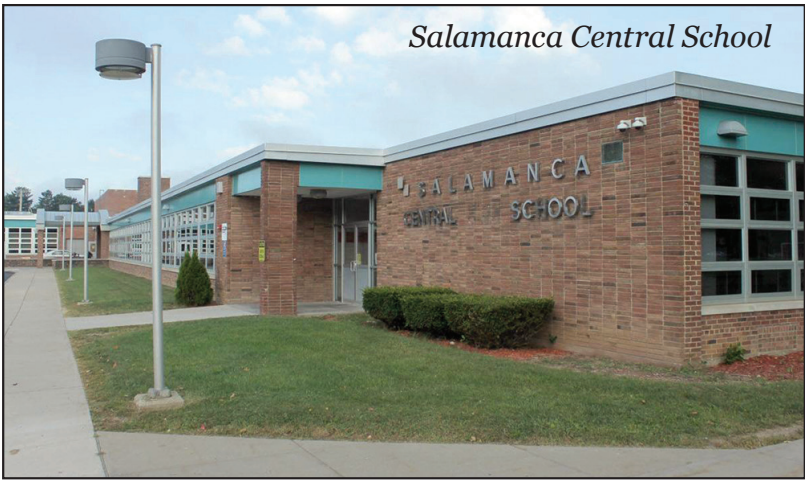
“There will be strict parking, entrance, exiting and safety protocols in place to comply with all aspects for safety protocols,” said Robert Breidenstein, district superintendent.

The district is looking into options to live stream the ceremony for family and friends who do not have a ticket to enter.

The ceremony will include customary speeches and choral numbers. Siebert said the district is planning to hold a graduation rehearsal with all seniors in attendance as a way to plan and prepare for appropriate social distancing.

“As the plan unfolds I will keep members of the Class of 2020 and their families informed,” Siebert wrote.

For more information, visit www.salamancany.org.



Tewaaraton Foundation Announces Recipients of 2020 Native American Scholarships, Presented By Us Lacrosse

Ja:goh Yanenowi Logan!

Submitted by Sarah Aschenbach, Executive Director, The Tewaaraton Foundation

WASHINGTON, May 28 — The Tewaaraton Foundation has announced the recipients of the 15th annual Tewaaraton Native American Scholarships, presented by US Lacrosse. Awarded to male and female students each year, the scholarship honors high school students of Haudenosaunee / Iroquois heritage who exemplify high character, leadership, and academics both on and off the lacrosse field. Applicants are asked to submit an essay describing what the sport of lacrosse means to them as Native American student-athletes and members of their community, as well as two letters of recommendation and a high school transcript.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Tewaaraton Award annual ceremony that was scheduled for May 28 will not be held, and no college awards will be presented in 2020. The Foundation will also postpone



recognition of the Legends and Spirit honorees until 2021, but continues to annually award the Tewaaraton Native American Scholarships, presented by US Lacrosse.

The 2020 scholarship recipients are Yanenowi Logan of the Seneca Nation and Cobie Cree of the Mohawk Nation.



Yanenowi Logan, Seneca, Deer Clan

Yanenowi Logan is a member of the Deer Clan and a citizen of the Seneca Nation, located in Western New York. She is an exceptional leader, having been captain of her high school lacrosse, soccer, and basketball teams. She has been on the Dean’s List throughout her high school years, was a multi-year Academic All-Northern team selection and is a member of the National Honor Society. As a volunteer and student leader on both the Cattaraugus (Seneca) and Akwesasne (Mohawk) territories, Yanenowi has strengthened her communities

in many ways and is also passionate about giving back to the Earth. She will study Environment and Sustainability at Cornell University starting this fall.

Cobie Cree, who resides in Hogansburg, NY, is a member of the Bear Clan and a citizen of the Mohawk Nation from the Akwesasne Territory, which straddles the US-Canada border along the St. Lawrence River. He started playing box lacrosse at age four and says the box skills helped develop his field lacrosse game. He was twice 1st Team All-Northern and was an Academic All-Northern team selection for four years. He also won multiple Science Fair awards. Captain of his high school lacrosse team and assistant captain of the hockey team, Cobie also volunteers with the Akwesasne powwow and other tribal activities. He feels that his lacrosse experiences have prepared him well for future challenges. Cobie is a member of the Iroquois Nationals team that will compete in the World Lacrosse U20 Men’s Lacrosse Championships in Limerick, Ireland in 2021. Finally, he will attend SUNY-Potsdam this fall, where he intends to play lacrosse.

“We’re proud of our partnership with the Tewaaron Foundation, as well as the opportunity to provide college scholarship support to Iroquois student-athletes,” said

Ja:goh Madison Williams & the Class of 2020

Submitted by Lisa Longboat

Shout-out to Gowanda High senior **MADISON APRIL JEAN WILLIAMS**, pictured with her Class of 2020 lawn sign.



Steve Stenersen, CEO of US Lacrosse. “We hope that more high school players of Iroquois descent will aspire to this opportunity in the years to come.”

A 10-year commitment by US Lacrosse established the scholarship program, which annually recognizes two outstanding Native American high school seniors for academic achievement and lacrosse excellence. One of the primary goals of the

scholarship program is to honor the sport’s Native American roots. Students must be members of the Haudenosaunee / Iroquois community, enrolled in a secondary school and represent the highest ideals of sportsmanship to be eligible for this scholarship. Each scholarship recipient is awarded \$10,000 for education — \$5,000 for each of their first and second years in college.

More information on the Tewaaron Award and previous scholarship winners can be found at www.Tewaaron.com.

For more information on the Tewaaron Award, how to donate to this non-profit or to attend this exciting event, visit Tewaaron.com. Like and follow The Tewaaron Foundation at Facebook.com/Tewaaron, Twitter.com/Tewaaron and Instagram.com/Tewaaron.

About The Tewaaron Foundation

Founded at the University Club of Washington DC and first presented in 2001, the Tewaaron Award is recognized as the preeminent lacrosse award, annually honoring the top male and female college lacrosse player in the United States. Endorsed by the Mohawk Nation Council of Elders and U.S. Lacrosse, the Tewaaron Award symbolizes lacrosse’s centuries-old roots in Native American heritage. The Tewaaron Foundation ensures the integrity and advances the mission of this award. Each year, the Tewaaron Award celebrates one of the six tribal nations of the Iroquois Confederacy – the Mohawk, Cayuga, Oneida, Onondaga, Seneca and Tuscarora – and presents two scholarships to students of Native American descent. To learn more about The Tewaaron Foundation, please visit www.tewaaron.com.

About US Lacrosse

US Lacrosse, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation, is the national governing body for men’s and women’s lacrosse. US Lacrosse has more than 450,000 members in 68 regional chapters around the country. As the sport's national governing body, US Lacrosse provides national leadership, structure and resources to fuel the sport's growth and enrich the experience of participants. To learn more about US Lacrosse, please visit www.uslacrosse.org.

June 2020 Gai:wanohge' available at sni.org Seneca Language Newsletter

This month features a language lesson, traditional story & a tasty recipe.
You can view this edition at:

<https://sni.org/media/874942/langnewsletterv12i6.pdf>



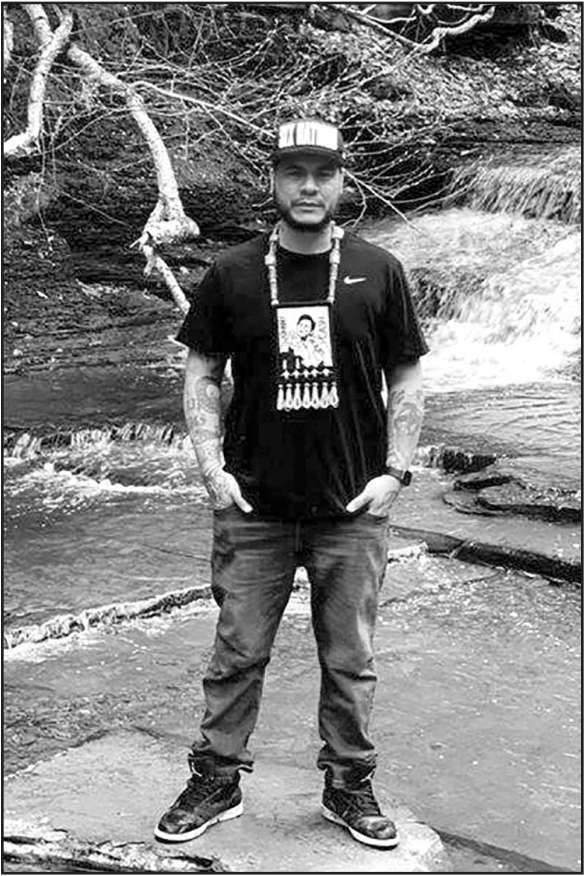
Gai:wanöhge'

Gai:wanöhge' V12I6

Oyaikneh Sga:d 2020

Daswöndio:go'

Hayden Haynes and his artwork featured on the Native American Artists, Musicians and Writers Facebook Page



This Facebook page is dedicated to Native American artists, musicians and writers. Its purpose is to give an insight into their works.

Hayden Haynes is a Seneca artist from the Cattaraugus Reservation. He has been carving antlers for over 10 years. Hayden Haynes creates unique antler works ranging from earrings, beads and necklaces to large carvings. He enjoys working with antlers because it gives the antlers of animals that have passed a new life. His aim is to advance the art of antler carving to new and innovative heights. The artist strives

to create one of a kind, highly detailed works with meanings rooted in his Iroquois culture.

Please visit Hayden Haynes' Facebook art page <https://www.facebook.com/haydensantlercreations> or his Instagram ([haydens_antler_creations](https://www.instagram.com/haydens_antler_creations)) to see more of his stunning work. Enjoy Hayden Haynes' impressive and thrilling pieces of art and have a lovely weekend.



In Memoriam of June Crouse Jones

She would have been 87 on May 30th, 2020

Submitted by Greta Crouse Kettle

We didn't know how difficult losing you would be, that there would be a void that no one else can fill. It was impossible to know how much we'd miss your life stories, your stern advice, or all the wonderful meals you prepared. We didn't hear it out loud, but we know now more than ever, just how much you loved your family. You were always there, sharing special moments with us. We will forever be comforted by the lifetime of memories we have to look back on.

Never forgotten & always missed by your children, brother, sisters, grandchildren & all your nieces & nephews.



Seneca Nation Offices & Buildings will BE CLOSED:

Monday, June 15, 2020 for President's Day.



Next Newsletter Deadline:

DEADLINE:
Tuesday, June 16, 2020
The next issue will be dated June 26, 2020.

Seneca Nation Hemp Producer applications are open, here are some Hemp FAQ's

Submitted by Jessica Crouse, M.F.A.L.P., Seneca Nation Hemp Compliance Administrator

Hemp FAQ's:

Is industrial hemp the same as marijuana?

No. Even though they are both Cannabis sativa L., Industrial hemp is the non-psychoactive, low-THC, oilseed and fiber varieties of the Cannabis sativa plant. Hemp has absolutely no use as a recreational drug.

Where in the world is industrial hemp grown?

Hemp is grown in ... Australia, Austria, Canada, Chile, China, Denmark, Egypt, Finland, France, Germany, Great Britain, Hungary, India, Italy, Japan, Korea, Netherlands, New Zealand, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Turkey, Ukraine.

Is hemp legal to grow in the United States?

YES! Thanks to the 2018 Agricultural Improvement Act (Farm Bill) hemp is no longer a controlled substance. However, hemp will still be regulated and can only be grown with a permit.

How can hemp be used as a food?

Hemp seed is a highly nutritious source of protein and essential fatty oils. Many populations have grown hemp for its seed — most of them eat it as ‘gruel’ which is a lot like oatmeal. The leaves can be used as roughage. Hemp seeds do not contain any THC and they do not get you ‘high.’

Hemp seed protein closely resembles protein as it is found in the human blood. It is fantastically easy to digest, and many patients who have trouble digesting food are given hemp seed by their doctors. Hemp seed was once called ‘edestine’



and was used by scientists as the model for vegetable protein.

Hemp seed oil provides the human body with essential fatty acids. Hemp seed is the only seed which contains these oils with almost no saturated fat. As a supplement to the diet, these oils can reduce the risk of heart disease. It is because of these oils that birds will live much longer if they eat hemp seed. With hemp seed, a vegan or vegetarian can survive and eat virtually no saturated fats. One handful of hemp seed per day will supply adequate protein and essential oils for an adult.

What are the benefits of hemp compared to other food crops?

Hemp requires little fertilizer, and grows well almost everywhere. It also resists pests, so it uses little pesticides. Hemp puts down deep roots, which is good for the soil, and when the leaves drop off the hemp plant, minerals and nitrogen are returned to the soil. Hemp has been grown on the same soil for twenty years in a row without any noticeable depletion of the soil.

Using less fertilizer and agricultural chemicals is good for two reasons. First, it costs less and requires less effort. Second, many agricultural chemicals are dangerous and contaminate the environment — the less we have to use, the better.

Hemp has been used to feed many populations in time of famine. Unfortunately, because of various political factors, starving people in today’s underdeveloped countries are not taking advantage of this crop.

How can hemp be used for cloth?

The stalk of the hemp plant has two parts, called the bast and the hurd. The fiber (bast) of the hemp plant can be woven into almost any kind of cloth. It is very durable. In fact, the first Levi’s blue jeans were made out of hemp for just this reason. Compared to all the other natural fibers available, hemp is more suitable for a large number of applications.

Here is how hemp is harvested for fiber: A field of closely spaced hemp is allowed to grow until the leaves fall off. The hemp is then cut down and it lies in the field for some time washed by the rain. It is turned over once to expose both sides of the stalk evenly. During this time, the hurd softens up and many minerals are returned to the soil. This is called ‘retting,’ and after this step is complete, the stalks are brought to a machine which separates the bast and the hurd. We are lucky to have machines today — men used to do this last part by hand with hours of back-breaking labor.

Why is it better than cotton?

The cloth that hemp makes may be a little less soft than cotton, (though there are also special kinds of hemp, or ways to grow or treat hemp, that can produce a soft cloth) but it is much stronger and longer lasting. (It does not stretch out.) Environmentally, hemp is a better crop to grow than cotton, especially the way cotton is grown nowadays. In the United States, the cotton crop uses half of the total pesticides. (Yes, you heard right, one half of the pesticides used in the entire U.S. are used on cotton.) Cotton is a soil damaging crop and needs a lot of fertilizer.

How can hemp be used to make paper?

Both the fiber (bast) and pulp (hurd) of the hemp plant can be used to make paper. Fiber paper was the first kind of paper, and the first batch was made out of hemp in ancient China. Fiber paper is thin, tough, brittle, and a bit rough. Pulp paper is not as strong as fiber paper, but it is easier to make, softer, thicker, and preferable for most everyday purposes. The paper we use most today is a ‘chemical pulp’ paper made from trees. Hemp pulp paper can be made without chemicals from the hemp hurd. Most hemp paper made today uses the entire hemp stalk, bast and hurd. High-strength fiber paper can be made from the hemp baste, also without chemicals.

The problem with today’s paper is that so many chemicals are used to make it. High strength acids are needed to make quality (smooth, strong, and white) paper out of trees. These acids produce chemicals which are very dangerous to the environment. Paper companies do their best to clean these chemicals up (we hope.) Hemp offers us an opportunity to make affordable and environmentally safe paper for all of our needs, since it

does not need much chemical treatment. It is up to consumers, though, to make the right choice — these dangerous chemicals can also be used on hemp to make a slightly more attractive product. Instead of buying the whiter, brighter role of toilet paper, we will need to think about what we are doing to the planet.

Because of the chemicals in today’s paper, it will turn yellow and fall apart as acids eat away at the pulp. This takes several decades, but because of this publishers, libraries and archives have to order specially processed acid free paper, which is much more expensive, in order to keep records. Paper made naturally from hemp is acid free and will last for centuries.

How can hemp be used to make bio-fuel?

The United States government has developed a way to make this automobile fuel additive from cellulosic biomass. Hemp is an excellent source of high-quality cellulosic biomass. One other way to use hemp as fuel is to use the oil from the hemp seed — some diesel engines can run on pure pressed hemp seed oil. However, the oil is more useful for other purposes, even if we could produce and press

enough hemp seed to power many millions of cars.

Why is it better than petroleum?

Biomass fuels are clean and virtually free from metals and sulfur, so they do not cause nearly as much air pollution as fossil fuels. Even more importantly, burning biomass fuels does not increase the total amount of carbon dioxide in the Earth’s atmosphere. When petroleum products are burned, carbon that has been stored underground for millions of years is added to the air; this may contribute to global warming through the ‘Greenhouse Effect’, (a popular theory which says that certain gases will act like a wool blanket over the entire Earth, preventing heat from escaping into space.) In order to make biomass fuels, this carbon dioxide has to be taken out of the air to begin with — when they are burned it is just being put back where it started.

Another advantage over fossil fuels is that biomass fuels can be made right here in the United States, instead of buying them from other countries. Instead of paying oil drillers, super-tanker captains, and soldiers to get our fuel to us, we could

pay local farmers and delivery drivers instead. Of course, it is possible to chop down trees and use them as biomass. This would not be as beneficial to the environment as using hemp, especially since trees that are cut down for burning are ‘whole tree harvested.’ This means the entire tree is ripped up and burned, not just the wood. Since most of the minerals which trees use are in the leaves, this practice could ruin the soil where the trees are grown. In several places in the United States, power companies are starting to do this — burning the trees in order to produce electricity, because that is cheaper than using coal. They should be using hemp, like researchers in Australia started doing a few years ago. (Besides, hemp provides a higher quality and quantity of biomass than trees do.)

What other uses for hemp are there?

One of the newest uses of hemp is in construction materials. Hemp can be used in the manufacture of ‘press board’ or ‘composite board.’ This involves gluing fibrous hemp stalks together under pressure to produce a board which is many times more elastic and durable than hardwood. Because hemp

produces a long, tough fiber it is the perfect source for press-board. Another interesting application of hemp in industry is making plastic. Many plastics can be made from the high-cellulose hemp hurd. Hemp seed oil has a multitude of uses in products such as varnishes and lubricants.

Using hemp to build is by no means a new idea. French archeologists have discovered bridges built with a process that mineralizes hemp stalks into a long-lasting cement. The process involves no synthetic chemicals and produces a material which works as a filler in building construction. Called Isochanvre, it is gaining popularity in France. Isochanvre can be used as drywall, insulates against heat and noise, and is very long lasting.

‘Bio-plastics’ are not a new idea, either — way back in the 1930’s Henry Ford had already made a whole car body out of them — but the processes for making them do need more research and development. Bio-plastics can be made without much pollution.

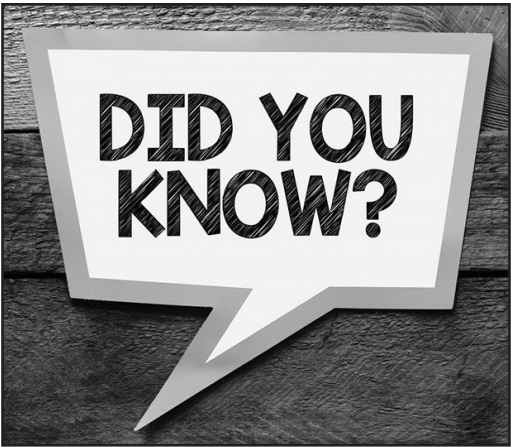
Source: National Hemp Association

Hemp Facts and Statistics

Here is a short list of general facts about hemp

Submitted by Jessica Crouse, M.F.A.L.P., Seneca Nation Hemp Compliance Administrator

- Hemp is thought to be the first domestically-cultivated plant, with evidence of hemp fabric dating to 8,000 years ago found in Turkey (former-day Mesopotamia). Other evidence suggests cultivation further back by two or more thousands of years.
- The word hemp has been used in the past to Europe to describe other fiber plants, including sisal and jute.
- Beer hops (*Humulus* genus) are a close cousin of genus *Cannabis*, both of which fall under family *Cannabaceae*.
- Hemp was not always treated as the same as marijuana by the U.S. government.
- The word “marihuana” (now marijuana) was coined in the 1890s, but not used until the 1930s by the U.S. Bureau of Narcotics



- (replaced by the DEA) to refer to all forms of cannabis.
- According to the documentary “The Union: The Business Behind Getting High” (available at YouTube), the first marijuana law in the United States was enacted in 1619, in Jamestown Colony, Virginia, and actually required farmers to grow hemp. Benjamin Franklin used hemp in his paper mill – one of the country’s first – and the first two copies of the Declaration of Independence were supposedly written on hemp paper.
 - In parts of the Americas, hemp was legal tender and could be used to pay taxes.
 - Hemp paper is stronger than wood-based paper, and can withstand more folding. In general, hemp has strongest natural

fiber of any source.

- Hemp paper hundreds of years old (found in museums) has not yellowed, and is thus a high-quality paper of archival quality.
- Marijuana plants cannot be hidden amongst hemp plants. The former grows wide and less tall (5-10 feet), whereas the latter is grown more densely and taller (10-15 feet), to produce maximum stalk fiber lengths.
- Hemp can grow nearly anywhere in the world, in many types of soil — even in short growing seasons or in dry regions.
- Hemp can grow without pesticides. The crop also kills some weeds, purifies soil, and is suitable for rotation use, due not only to its short harvest cycle (120 days).
- Hemp is a high-yield crop. One acre of hemp produces twice as much oil as one acre of peanuts, and nearly four times as much fiber pulp (for paper) as an acre of trees.
- Hemp paper is naturally acid-free and does not yellow as quickly as tree pulp-based paper.
- Hemp has the strongest (and longest) plant fiber in the world, resistant to rot and abrasion, and was in long use before DuPont patented nylon in 1937. It was used for ship rigging, military uniforms, parachute webbing, baggage and more.
- Because of its strength, hemp fiber can be used for composite materials that could be used to make anything from skateboard

decks to cars and stealth fighter bodies.

- A hemp composite material (with limestone and water) forms a type of concrete (hempcrete) that can be used for home building, at 1/9th the weight. It also acts as insulation and repels some vermin.
- Levi jeans were originally made from hemp sailcloth (and rivets), for goldminers in California, who would fill their pockets with gold.
- By the 1800s, the state of Kentucky produced about half of the industrial hemp in the U.S. The first hemp crop there was planted in Boyle County in 1775.
- Henry Ford, founder of the Ford Motor Company, created a plastic car in 1941 which ran on hemp and other plant-based fuels, and whose fenders were made of hemp and other materials. Ford had a plan to “grow automobiles from the soil.” (Note: a company in France is experimenting with a similar vehicle in current day.)
- Despite the active Marijuana Tax Act and the official federal government stance on hemp and marijuana, the U.S. Army and the Dept of Agriculture jointly produced a 1942 film, “Hemp for Victory,” encouraging farmers to grow hemp for the country’s effort in World War II — particularly for textiles and rope, imports of which had been cut off by war. Over 100,000 acres of hemp was growing in the U.S., but all related permits were canceled when WW II ended.

Source: National Hemp Association

Remember When?

Below are some pages from the Seneca Nation Head Start Yearbook (1980-1981)
Nya:wëh to Daryl Post for sharing this with the readership.



MARY ANN COOPER
Administrator



MARGARET REPICCI
4 year old Teacher



JEANNE PATTERSON
4 year old Teacher Aide



CINDY COOPER
Family Assistant I



STAFF

LEFT: MYRNA SNOW, Nutritionist;
CENTER: STEVE LOGAN, Health
Aide; RIGHT: MARILYN MILLER,
Supervising Teacher.



PAM PARKER
3 year old Teacher Aide



LEFT: HARRIETT JIMERON, Family
Assistant; RIGHT: BARBARA
FLEMING, Speech Therapist.



MARY JOHN - BRIAN SENECA
Floating Aide - Home-Base Teacher



LU ANN JAMIESON
3 year old Teacher



LEFT: BERNICE HART, Senior Aide;
CENTER: DELO STAFFORD, CETA Aide;
RIGHT: BERT MAYBEE, Senior Aide.



TINA LAW
Executive Secretary

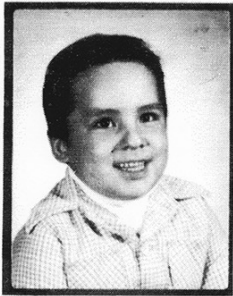


ED LAW - DOUG TINGUE
Bus Drivers



LE ANNA CARABELLO
Substitute Bus Driver

4 YEAR OLD A.M. CLASS



Aaron Johns



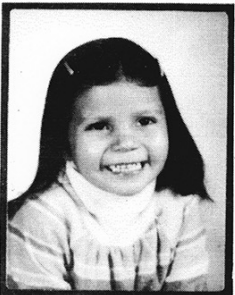
Brenda Ashcroft



Orrin Kennedy




Heather John



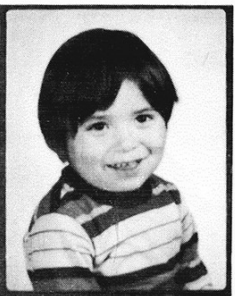
Shannon John



Eric Henhawk



Georgianna Spruce



Aaron Elliott



Amy Huff

Rally in support of Black Lives Matter and Ending Police Brutality

Seneca Media

On Friday June 5, community members held a rally in support of Black Lives Matter and ending police brutality. They marched from the Gil Lay Arena to the Route 5/20 roundabout on the Cattaraugus Territory and back. A 9 minute vigil was held blocking traffic in the roundabout to acknowledge George Floyd. Many cars and trucks honked their horns in support while giving a thumbs up all throughout the march. The rally ended with a few social dances and everyone expressing their commitment to stand up for justice.



Baseball still isn't back, but we can enjoy the feel of summertime in these photos from Seneca Nation in 1934

The Coldspring team is getting ready to play at Newtown, whose players would have to face the intimidating stare of starting pitcher, Adelbert John

Reprinted from the American Philosophical Society Facebook Page



NOTICES & ANNOUNCEMENTS

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

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

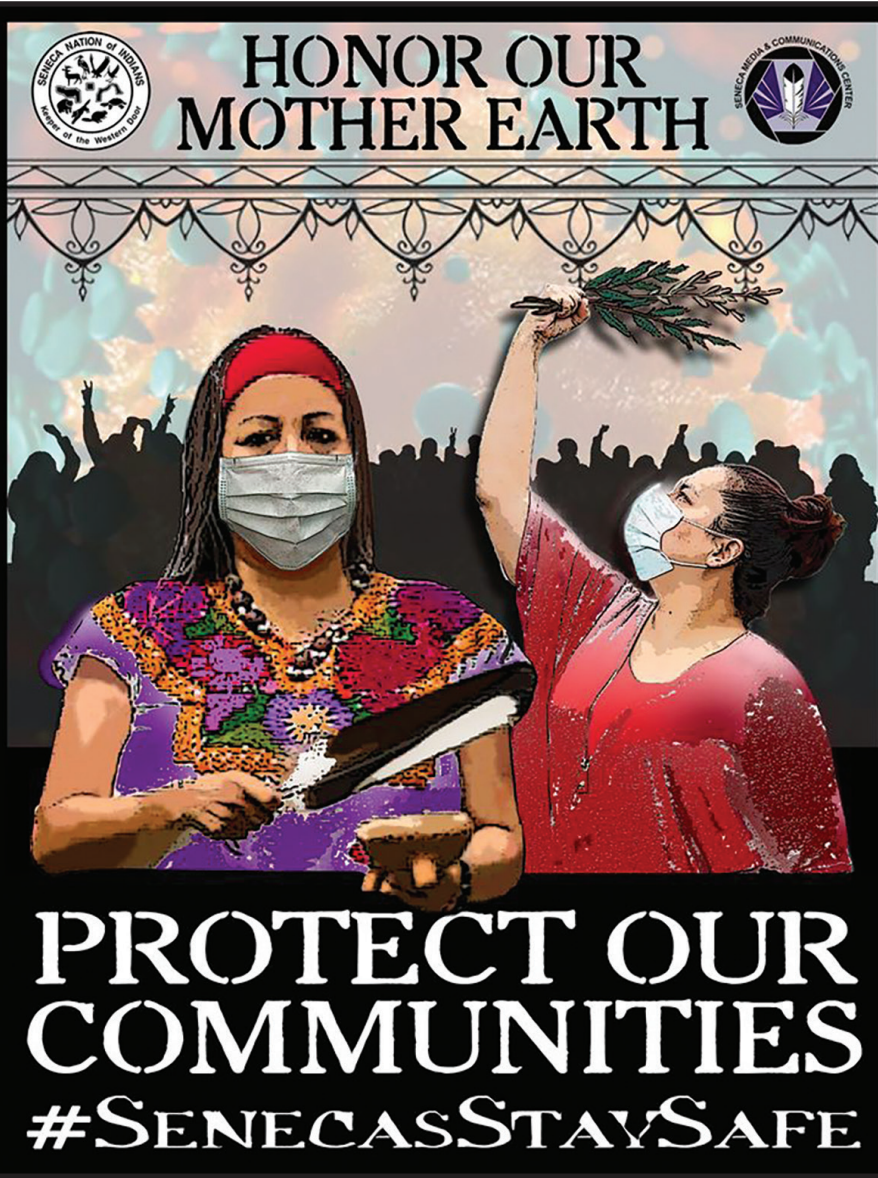
Mailing List Update

Attention Members 35 years of age & under:

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.

Upcoming Holiday

Seneca Nation Offices & Buildings will be closed
Friday, July 3, 2020 for Sovereignty Day (Observed).



June is National Men’s Health Month

Submitted by Robin Crouse, HOPE Unit, LRJHC

Most men need to pay more attention to their health. Compared to women, men are more likely to smoke, drink alcohol, make unhealthy or risky choices, and put off regular checkups and medical care.

Men, how can you take charge of your health? First of all, see a doctor for regular checkups even if you feel fine. This is important because some diseases don’t have symptoms at first.

You can also take care of your health by getting important screening tests and making sure you are up to date on recommended immunizations.

Get your blood pressure and cholesterol checked. If you’re over 50, you should get checked for colorectal cancer. If you feel stressed, anxious, or depressed for more than 2 weeks, talk with your doctor about a screening for depression. These screenings can find diseases early, when they are easier to treat.

It’s important for men (and women) to understand their family health history. Don’t be embarrassed to talk about your health. Start talking to family members to find out which diseases run in your family. Share this information with your doc-

tor. It’s not too late to start healthier habits. Make eating healthy and getting physically active part of your daily routine. A healthy diet and regular exercise can help lower your blood pressure, blood sugar, cholesterol and weight. By keeping these numbers down, you can lower your risk of serious health problems like diabetes and heart disease.

You can also help prevent health problems by quitting smoking and limiting your alcohol consumption.

Make small changes every day. Small changes can add up to big results. Take a walk instead of having a cigarette, try a salad instead of fries, drink water instead of soda or juice and lower your salt intake.

Take action to be healthy and safe and encourage other men and boys in your life to make their health a priority.

For more information on any of these topics, please contact your provider or health educator. LRJHC – Robin Crouse at 945-5894 or CIRHC – Traci Wind at 532-8223.

*Source: U.S. National Library of Medicine – Medline Plus

SNHS Provider Spotlight



Mallory Ward is a physician’s assistant, located at the Cattaraugus Indian Reservation Health Center. She has held this position since December of 2019.

We asked her what she likes best about her job and she said “I love the staff I work with! Everyone has been amazing at welcoming me and making me feel at home. I love helping others and love what I do.”

She grew up in Silver Creek and attended Buffalo State College and earned a bachelor’s degree in early childhood education. She then attended D’Youville College earning a master’s degree as a physician assistant.

We asked what she likes to do in her spare time. She said “Swimming, softball and playing board games.”

We asked her to tell us something interesting or extraordinary about herself that she’d like people to know. She says “I’m married and have two wonderful kids.”

Thank you Mallory for sharing some of your background with us and welcome to the health system team!



REMINDER:

Seneca Nation Health System
will be closed:

Monday, June 15 ~ President’s Day

Please make sure to schedule your appointments and order prescriptions ahead of time.

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.

You can reach us here:

Lionel R. John Health Center
716-945-5894

Community Health and Wellness Center
716-532-8223

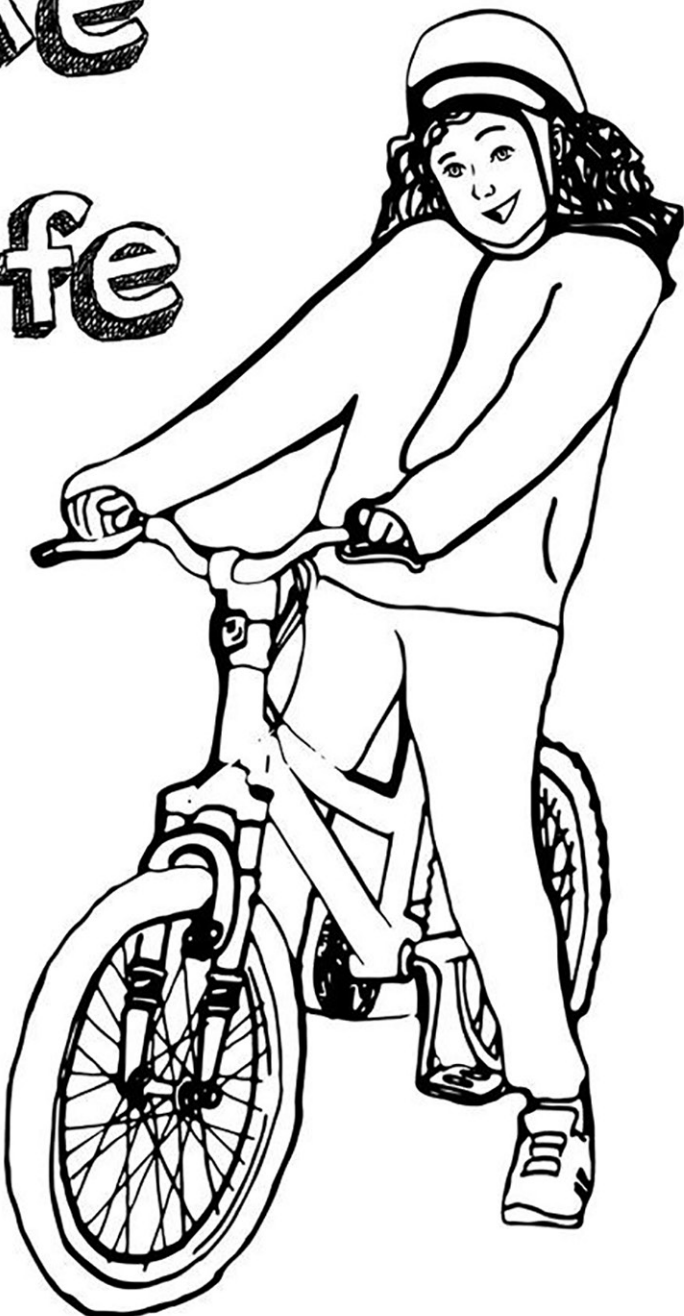
Cattaraugus Indian Reservation Health Center
716-532-5582

Looking for activities to do with the family?

Enjoy this coloring activity related to bike safety.

Be sure to check the Seneca Media & Communications Center Facebook Page Saturday mornings for the next couple of weeks for fun coloring pages, available for download! You can share them using the hashtag #SenecasStaySafe

**Bike
Safe**



Bike Safe.

Wear a Helmet.

