



The Official Newsletter of the SENECA NATION



January 15, 2021 - www.sninews.org



A message from President Matthew B. Pagels



Nya:wëh sgë:nö' swagwë:goh,

So long, farewell...2020, an unforgettable, turbulent year! I welcome 2021 with high hopes and well-being for our Nation! Then we see six days later the President of the United States of America insight and provoke what he called a protest. That protest quickly turned into riot, just think if those were brown or blacks what the result would have been? But, with a new year come new beginnings, resolutions and reflection here in our Nation.

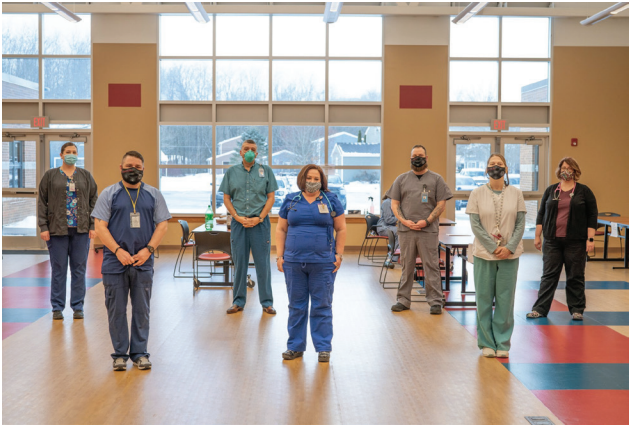
Since the beginning of March 2020 we entered a different world starting with travel restrictions and school closures. Little did we know we would continue to be under strict Covid-19 protocols with social distancing and mandatory mask wearing as we enter 2021. We can fight together as a collective rather than in isolation to contain the spread of this virus. Our resilience has historically sustained us and we will continue to beat adversity by staying vigilant in protecting each other.

The Seneca Nation Health Systems (SNHS) began administering the Moderna vaccine to front line workers at both LRJ and Cattaraugus Health Centers on December 29th. The Moderna is proposed to be 94.5% effective against the coronavirus and we must have at least a 70% vaccination rate to have an impact in combating the spread of the virus. As I write this article, SNHS will have provided more than 350 vaccines to front line workers and the first phase of elders (74+ with underlying health issues). As we are allocated more doses, the continuance of vaccinations will proceed. Please consider accepting the vaccination when approached for the safety of your family and community. If you have questions or concerns about the vaccination, contact SNHS for more

information. Also, please update your contact information with SNHS so you may be contacted directly with pertinent news.

As a reminder, community testing will continue through January scheduled for the 11th, 18th, and 25th at the Cattaraugus Fire Hall and on January 12th, 19th and 26th at the Allegany DPW building. Pre-registration is recommended to ease the time in line.

As I mentioned in a previous public statement, the Seneca Gaming and Entertainment facility in Irving, NY experienced a small electrical fire which significantly damaged the system. This is currently being repaired causing the facility to remain closed for weeks, maybe months. Two starlings flew into the transformer and have caused serious downtime and closures.



As cases of COVID-19 increase in our area, remember that you or someone you encounter may have the virus and not know it or display symptoms. There are many ways to prevent infection and stop the spread. Whether you feel healthy or not- stay home, wash your hands often, and avoid close contact with people outside of your household (stay 6 feet apart). If you experience symptoms of COVID-19 including fever, dry cough, or shortness of breath, 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.

IN THIS ISSUE

President Pagels' Message	1-2
Treasurer's Message.....	2
Clerk's Message	3-4
Councillor's Circle.....	5-6
Department Updates	7-12
Sports.....	13-17



Community News	18-21
Notices & Announcements.....	21
AOA Menu.....	21
Health.....	22-23
Learn Seneca.....	24

IN THIS ISSUE

CAR. TR.
MKTG MAIL
US POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 244
BRADFORD, PA

We are working closely with our insurance providers to get the facility open soon and safer than before.

I'd like to congratulate the Buffalo Bills on an exciting season as AFC East Conference Champions! I have to Billieve they will go on in the playoffs!! Go Bills!

President Pagels statement on Irving Bingo Hall fire 12/28/20

On Monday December 28 the Seneca Gaming and Entertainment bingo hall in Irving had a power surge from an outside transformer at approximately 7:11 PM. The cause appears to be a bird hitting a grounding wire and the transformer blowing a fuse. The building was evacuated without any injuries. It remains closed for cleaning and maintenance, but will reopen on Wednesday as soon as it is safe to do so. [Update 12/30 11am: Due to electrical issues being more substantial than expected, the

facility will remain closed until further notice.]

The excess power into the building caused some electrical systems damage and smoke. Verizon has restored phone services and work is ongoing to get everything back up and running as soon as possible. We are taking every precaution that our facility is a safe and clean environment. This is our commitment to our patrons and employees that they have a quality experience and safe environment to work and game in.

Most importantly we are very thankful that there were no injuries to our patrons and staff, who make our SGE locations the great places they are. We:so nya:wëh for Seneca Fire who responded very quickly and were supported by SNI Marshals and Seneca EMS!

President Pagels updated statement on Irving SGE Facility

12/31/20

While we did not have a full out fire at any point, there was a power surge and then a brown out. Due to the length of time of the brown out, a lot of electrical equipment was damaged. The HVAC unit motors burned up and smoke was being pumped into the building through the vents.

In consultation with our insurance company, Mazza HVAC and Disaster Relief, it is apparent It could take as long as a month for 8 HVAC units to be replaced. Additionally, the entire building and gaming machines must all be very thoroughly checked and cleaned for any soot or smoke residue.

Our hard-working staff are diligently continuing to assess equipment losses and maintenance needs for restoring the facility back to normal. Unfortunately, we will not be reopening the building until further notice.



FROM THE DESK OF THE TREASURER



Greetings,

Heartfelt condolences go out to all of those in our community who are grieving the recent loss of loved ones. We are such a small, close-knit community and it is at these times - when a single loss is felt the most. Please continue to be there for one another - to help friends and loved ones through these difficult times.

While the Council and Executives continue to stay focused on our communities' needs and managing our assets

during this pandemic, we are also always mindful of our future. Mainstream media continues to report we may be dealing with the COVID-19 Pandemic for the better part of 2021. As the CARES Act recovery funds reached its deadline at the end of December of 2020, the program was extended to December of 2021. All funds received from that program have been obligated, with a portion being spent to stockpile PPE (masks, hand sanitizer, gloves, etc.) as well as a good supply of Bluestone COVID-19 tests, which are being used for our community testing program.

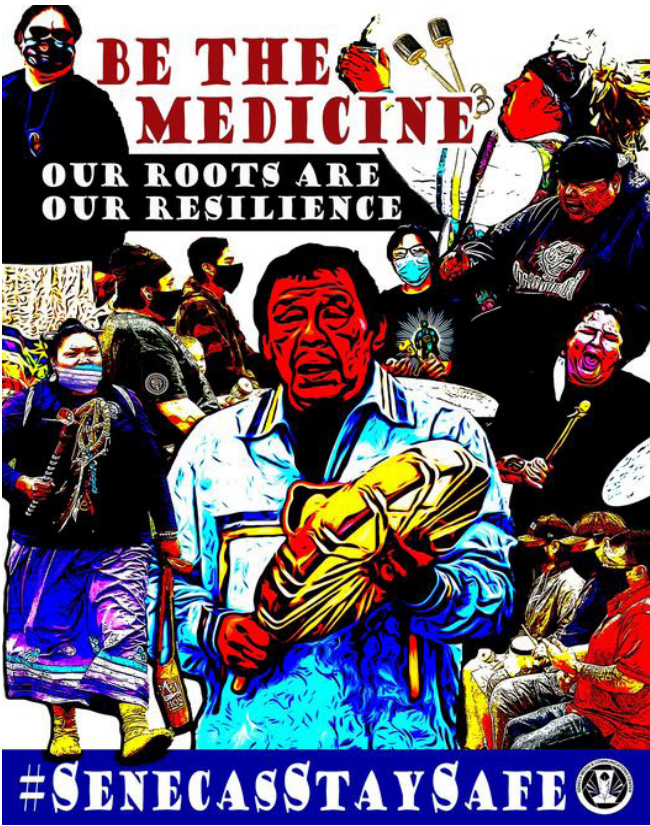
When our Seneca Emergency Medical Services Department was developed, we intended for the ambulance service to become billable, similar to how this service operates off-territory. I'm glad to report that we are very close to finalizing those billing procedures and will soon be able to bill an individual's private health insurance company or Medicaid, for the service. I highly commend our Councillor and Seneca Fire Chief, Presley Redeye,

and our Fiscal Department staff, for making this become a reality.

The year 2020 really proved to be a year of unprecedented circumstances, which required unprecedented decisions on how to best maintain day to day services and operations of our government. When planning for the 2020-21 fiscal year budget, we decided to operate on a five month budget; and re-evaluate our financial position as we approached the end of 2020. We are now preparing for in depth discussions on our seven month budget and will proceed with optimism for our future financial stability. This seven month budget will begin on March 1st, and carry us through to the end of the fiscal year, September 30th, 2021.

I hope everyone had a good New Year, in spite of COVID-19. I realize it is difficult at this time of year to not gather with friends and family; but, staying apart for the time being is the only way to ensure everyone's health and safety from this global pandemic, which we continue to do battle with. Please stay safe.

Respectfully,
Rickey L. Armstrong, Sr.





Marta Kettle, Clerk
CATTARAUGUS TERRITORY



Bethany Johnson, Deputy Clerk
ALLEGANY TERRITORY

Please stay Safe & Healthy
We hope everyone had a good Christmas & Happy New Year under the COVID circumstances. Hoping for a better year for all and as we continue to monitor the current pandemic we will continue to practice safety measures that protect the Staff and Community as a whole.

CLERK’S OFFICE UPDATE
Due to concerns with the rise of COVID-19 cases on and near our territories, the Clerk’s Office will be closed to the General Public. We will remain open with a walk-up window for limited services. Our hours will be Monday through Friday; 8:00 am – 4:30 pm, on both territories. **The Clerk’s Office will no longer be open on second Saturday of the month until further notice.**

We encourage members to bring their own pen if needed, as a safety precaution.

NYA:WEH FOR YOUR PATIENCE AND UNDERSTANDING!

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

Cattaraugus Clerk’s Office Staff

- Marta Kettle – Clerk
- Geraldine Huff, Executive Assistant (Notary Public)
- Kelly Mohawk, Deeds Recorder
- Leslie Cooke, Executive Secretary (Notary Public)
- Tammi Stafford, Administrative Assistant (Notary Public)
- Ashley Warrior, Administrative Assistant
- Lori Waterman, Administrative Assistant / Receptionist
- Dana Maybee, Business Permit Officer

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

Allegany Clerk’s Office Staff

- Bethany Johnson, Deputy Clerk (Notary Public)
- Charisse Ground, Executive Secretary
- Sue Case, Enrollment Officer
- Leslie R. John, Enrollment Assistant
- Kathleen “Yomie” Hill, Administrative Assistant
- Olivia John, Administrative Assistant
- Ryan Mohr, Receptionist

The Buffalo Office Staff & Location - (716) 845-6304 or (716) 951-7555

Buffalo Office works in Conjunction with the Clerk’s Office

- Ramona Marion – Director
- Stephanie Maybee – Administrative Assistant
- Judson Logan - Tutor

533 Amherst Street
Buffalo, NY 14207
Monday-Friday: 8am-4:30pm

ANNUAL IN PERSON REGISTRATION EXTENSION DUE TO COVID - 19

At the Regular Session of Council on January 9, 2021 Council approved a Resolution *Extending the In-Person Registration Requirement due to COVID-19.*

WHEREAS, the Seneca Nation Council established a general registration requirement for enrolled Nation members to qualify for annuity distribution; and

WHEREAS, the Seneca Nation’s Council has since acted on several occasions to amend the in-person appearance and registration requirement; and,

WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of public health and safety of the Nation and its members to extend the In-Person appearance registration requirement for the period of January 1, 2021 through June 30, 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic; and,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that all members who completed their 2019 & 2020 registration requirement, will be eligible to mail-in their completed registration form regardless if they are required to appear in person or mail in; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that effective January 1, 2021, members who did not meet the registration deadline of December 31, 2020 for the 2021 direct benefits distribution will be eligible for the January – June 2021 payment.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, this resolution will expire on July 1, 2021 and will revert back to Council Resolution R-02-11-17-06, accordingly, all members who have not registered by December 31, 2020 must register by June 30, 2021 to continue receiving direct benefit payments for July 2021- December 2021.

SNI ID Cards

We will NOT be taking pictures for SN Identification Cards. However, if you already have a picture on file, you will be able to purchase a card. Cost: \$7.00 and Seniors (60 & up) \$3.00. Our staff will be happy to assist you with your visit to the Office. Please practice social distancing if there is a line outside the door and always wear a mask/face covering.

CLERK’S OFFICE FORMS

Completed forms can be mailed 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.

- 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).

-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.

-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.

-RELEASE OF MINORS TRUST FUND

In order to begin receiving Minor Trust Fund disbursements. A member must be at least 18 years old and submit the following documentation:

- Application for Release of Minors Trust
- High School Diploma / GED
- Financial Literacy Certificate

If you need to obtain a Financial Literacy Certificate please contact the Seneca Nation Education Department for details.

Welcome and Congratulations to the newly enrolled members of the Seneca Nation!

If you would like your baby featured in the newsletter under new enrollments you can submit the name and baby picture to Bjohnson@sni.org.

FIFTEEN (15) ADDITIONS TO THE SENECA NATION ROLL – DECEMBER 12, 2020 REGULAR SESSION OF COUNCIL

- Warren Matthew Beaver – Wolf
- Charlotte Avery Carol – Deer
- Mazie Jayne Daily Powell – Wolf
- Acel E. George – Wolf
- Luka Norwood Hepner – Wolf
- Hudson James Hewitt – Bear
- Rosallise Carol-Ann Jimerson – Wolf
- Mia Harper Johnson – Bear
- Zeppelin Layne McCannon – Turtle
- Halaya Mae Pierce – Turtle
- June Louise Scanlon – Wolf
- Savannah Jean Seneca – Wolf
- Victor Elliott Stahlman – Wolf
- Arius Owen Whipple – Wolf
- Marcella Saraphine White - Turtle

Seeking Invocators

The Seneca Nation Clerk’s Office is seeking individuals interested in Invocating/ Opening with Ganö:nyök for Council each month.

Anyone interested may contact Leslie Cooke at leslie.cooke@sni.org or (716)532-4900 ext. 5038.

SENECA NATION CLERK'S OFFICE ANNOUNCEMENT

December 3, 2020

Due to concerns with the rise of COVID-19 cases on and near our territories, the Clerk’s Office will be closed to the General Public.
(Except Essential Personnel)

The Office will remain open with limited services

We will NOT be taking any new pictures for SNI Identification Cards during this time. If you already have a picture in the system, you will be allowed to purchase an ID Card with the picture on file.

Sorry for any inconvenience
Please stay safe and healthy!

Marta Kettle, Clerk
Seneca Nation of Indians

On behalf of the Seneca Nation we send our heartfelt condolences to the families and friends that have lost their loved ones.

FOUR (4) DELETIONS TO THE SENECA NATION ROLL – DECEMBER 12, 2020

- Julie Ann Jemison – Wolf
- Barbara Ann Klimowicz – Turtle
- Leslie M. Nephew – Bear
- Darren Keith Stevens - Turtle

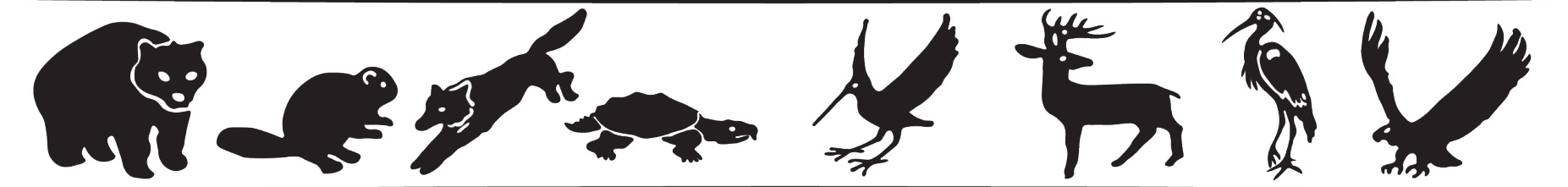
Total Enrollment as of December 12, 2020 is 8,487 and the Clan Count:

Bear	786	Heron	623
Beaver	620	Snipe	676
Deer	613	Turtle	2440
Hawk	798	Wolf	1861
		Unknown	70

Seeking Non-Profit Organizations

The Seneca Nation Clerk’s Office is seeking non-profit organizations to serve refreshments and/or dinner during Council each month.

Any organization interested may contact Leslie Cooke at leslie.cooke@sni.org to request a form. Forms are also available at Clerk’s Office. Any questions may be directed to Leslie Cooke at (716)532-4900 ext. 5038.



‘Skilled Union Workers transform your driving experience’ - billboard on State Thruway that runs through Seneca Nation Territory ‘recognizes quality work’ performed by four Buffalo Building Trades Unions

Published January 4, 2021 by WNYLaborToday.com Staff & Local News Services

Councillor Eliot Jimerson is interviewed in this article about the new billboard on the Cattaraugus Territory along the Thruway in tribute to union workers

(SENECA NATION TERRITORY/ WESTERN NEW YORK)

– It isn’t often that you see a billboard erected to proclaim that it was skilled Union Workers who’ve transformed your driving experience - but it’s nice to see four Member Unions of the Buffalo Building & Construction Trades Council get their due recognition for the fine work their Members did on the New York State Thruway that runs through Seneca Nation of Indians Territory in the Southern Tier.

A four-mile stretch of the I-90 that cuts through the Seneca Nation's Cattaraugus County Territory had been neglected for more than 15 years and at once point got so bad the New York State Thruway Authority had to reduce the 65-mile-per-hour speed limit to 45 miles per hour.

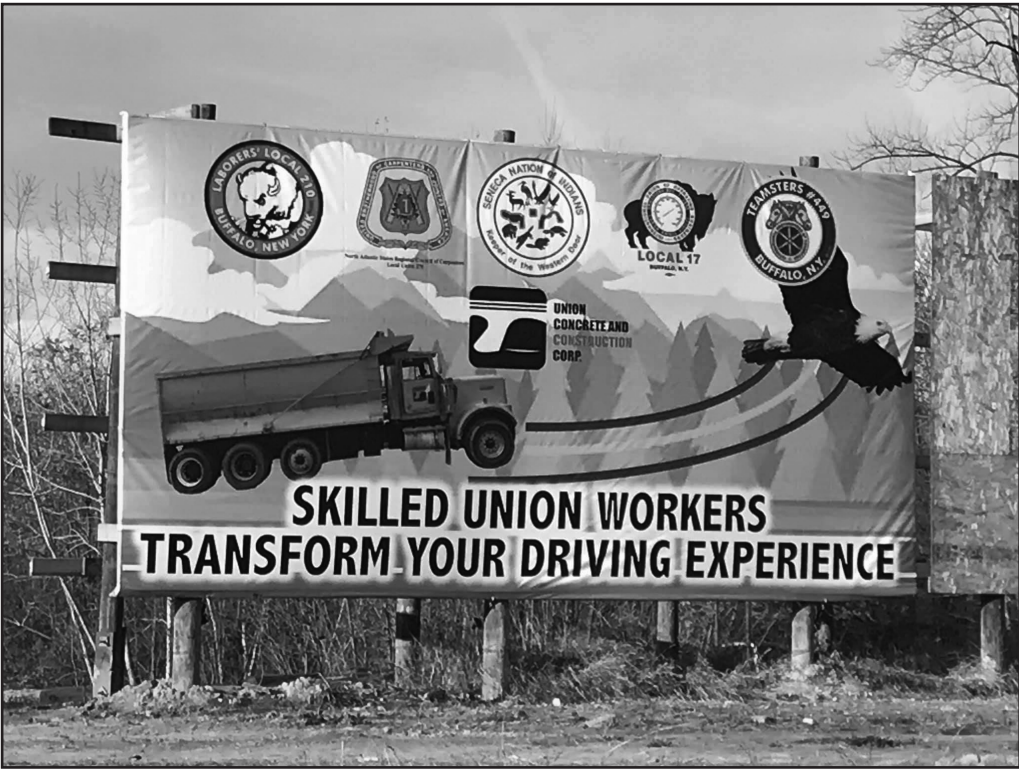
A full rehab of the roadway - where some 14 lane miles were repaired and replaced, carried a price tag of \$20.8 million.

It was completed in June, with crews of 50 Construction Workers, including some members of the Seneca Nation, working in 24-hour shifts, six days per week.

When the dust cleared, the project was finished on budget and ahead of schedule -

despite the problems brought about by the

carries the tag line: Skilled Union Workers Transform Your Driving Experience.



WNYLaborToday.com Editor’s Note: Pictured above, the Union logos of Laborers Local 210, the North Atlantic States Regional Council of Carpenters Local 276, the International Union of Operating Engineers (IUOE) Local 17 and Teamsters Local 449 - along with Union Contractor Union Concrete and Construction Corporation, are featured on a billboard that appears on the New York State Thruway that runs through Seneca Nation land in the Southern Tier. It carries the tag line: Skilled Union Workers Transform Your Driving Experience, which is a public tip of the hat to the fine work performed by Union Members on the 14-mile, \$20.8 rehabilitation project. (Photo Courtesy of IUOE Local 17 Via the Social Network Facebook)

Original artwork of an eagle in flight, leading a very large dump truck, is also part of the billboard.

“Part of me ‘doesn’t like’ Labor advertising, ‘but if you don’t make people aware of what we do - nobody else will, so it is absolutely important to do these kind of things,’” IUOE Local 17 Business Manager Gary Swain told WNYLaborToday.com.

“This work was done by ‘good, quality’ Union Trades Members. ‘Now it’s a road that’s smooth and a breeze to drive over.’ ‘The feedback I’m getting from the people who’ve seen it is that it’s pretty cool.’ ‘We’re just trying to make people aware of the quality of work our Members do.’ ‘People

need to pay attention to that, because when it’s all said and done - (now) it’s smooth sailing,’” Swain said.

George Harrigan, who serves as Teamsters Local 449 Officer/Secretary-Treasurer and Business Agent, told Your On-Line Labor Newspaper: “It’s ‘absolutely great.’ It’s (Marketing 101) - ‘if you don’t say it, who knows about it.’ ‘That’s why you’ve got to market it because people take (the work) for granted.’ ‘It was a good move because safety is number one.’ ‘It also opens the doors to our Apprenticeship Programs and our (Union) Organizing efforts.’ ‘Hopefully this opens a lot of eyes.’”

Newly-elected Seneca Nation Cattaraugus Councilor Eliot Jimerson, a retired Member of IUOE Local 17, has been working as a Seneca Nation liaison to the Building Trades Unions in an effort to build a better relationship with the Trades and

Coronavirus Pandemic.

The work followed a September 2019 agreement between New York State and the Seneca Nation that allowed some temporary repairs to proceed after a years-long impasse over regional casino revenues.

Union Concrete and Construction Corporation of West Seneca won the contract, which included removing five inches of the existing asphalt, repairing the concrete base of the road, reconstructing roadway shoulders, replacing guiderails and performing other safety upgrades.

Laborers Local 210, North Atlantic States Regional Council of Carpenters Local 276, International Union of Operating Engineers Local 17 and Teamsters Local 449, along with Union Concrete, are featured on the large billboard, which



– at the same time - work to make more young people within the Seneca Nation aware of the Labor Organization’s many Apprenticeship opportunities and the benefits of being a Union Construction Trades-represented Worker.

“We’re ‘working together’ (to build a bridge for the Seneca People) ‘to get career jobs,’” Jimerson tells WNYLaborToday.com. “There ‘were quite a few’ Senecas who worked on the (State Thruway rehab project), including some female Apprentices.”

Jimerson, who retired in 2016 after 35 years as an active Member of IUOE Local

17, comes from a Union Family. His father was a Union Ironworker and his uncles were also Ironworkers and Roofers, he told WNYLaborToday.com.

“I ‘want our people to be part of this’ (working in the Unionized Trades). That’s why I had a banner put up in our community center that says: ‘Invest In Yourself.’ I tell people, ‘trust me – you’re worth it.’” (Photo Below/Courtesy of Elliot Jimerson)

To build on that positive message both IUOE Local 17 and North Atlantic States Regional Council of Carpenters Local 276 have taken out advertising space inside the

Seneca Nation’s ice rink and field lacrosse facilities.

“It was a ‘good way to start a conversation,’” Jimerson said.

“To me, the billboard on the thruway and the messages at the ice rink and lacrosse field ‘are important’ because I’m ‘Union Strong.’ I see guys going to work Non-Union (and how they are being shortchanged on wages, benefits and safe working conditions). I ‘hope this (message) takes off and that more of our people seek access to the training (programs) offered by the Building Trades Unions.’ ‘We just have to continue speaking loudly about it.”

GAMING



THE INSIDE SCOOP
WITH DR. LORI QUIGLEY



JAN 2020

On a Personal Note...

Nya:wëh Sgë:nö'! As we ring in 2021 (and wave good-bye to 2020), I go into this new year with plenty of hope and for a very good reason.

Our 2020 journey, while challenging, confirmed what we’ve known all along: Our company’s greatest strength is our resilient team. Kevin Nephew, SGC’s President and CEO, emphasized this message to Team Members during our December Town Hall, and I couldn’t agree more. Our people have shown they can adapt to change with smiles on their faces and can-do spirits. They’re innovative to the core, continually bringing forth ideas to help us make the most of this temporary “new normal.”

Our team is why we can all hope for good things to come in 2021 and beyond. We just marked our 18th year in business and, thanks to their hard work and dedication, I see many more successful years ahead of us.

Happy New Year! May the promise of a better 2021 ring true for you and yours!



Chairwoman, Board of Directors
Seneca Gaming Corporation



INSIDE DEAL

Who puts the WIN in winter? Seneca Resorts & Casinos, of course.

Blackjack fans can compete for up to \$1000 in Free Table Bets in our Head to Head Tournaments every Tuesday at Buffalo Creek.

For those Guests who prefer “reel” fun, every Thursday is a chance for them to win their share of \$21K in cash and prizes at Niagara.

Add in other exciting giveaways and promotions, and it’s a winning start to a brand new year.

INSIDE 8

Team SGC stops at nothing to bring on the fun and excitement for our New Year’s Eve revelers. While our Guests were thrilled with the celebrations we planned at each property, they especially noticed the extra effort we made to ensure our properties were clean and safe. Ja:goh to everyone who helped our Guests ring in 2021!



THE BILLS MAKE US WANT TO SHOUT:

As the Official Casino of the Buffalo Bills, we’re absolutely thrilled to see our hometown team reclaim the AFC East Division Championship after 25 years! You can feel the energy and excitement building, especially in

our Sports Lounges where fans know they can get in on the action. Our Team Members are also hoping for a Super Bowl win so they can celebrate in their Bills jerseys throughout February. Let’s Go, Buffalo!

WE’RE ON A ROLL!

The next time you visit our casino floors, take a look at our gaming tables. In November, we added plexiglass dividers between seats and our Guests and dealers. Now everyone can stay healthy as they enjoy their favorite table games. It’s one of the many ways we’re playing it safe here at Seneca Resorts & Casinos. Ja:goh!



SENECA GAMING CORPORATION STAKEHOLDERS MEETING

JANUARY 23, 2021 • 10 AM

Enrolled Seneca Nation members are invited to join the SGC Board of Directors and members of the Corporation’s management team to discuss updates of the gaming facilities and ongoing financial health and well-being of the Corporation.

JOIN US VIRTUALLY! RSVP REQUIRED

To participate, interested enrolled members will need access to a computer, tablet, or smartphone, as well as have a valid email address to sign up. Enrolled members must send an email to request access by **Thursday, January 21, 2021 at 10 AM** to SenecaStakeholders@SenecaCasinos.com as follows:

I would like to register to participate in the January 2021 SGC Quarterly Stakeholders’ Virtual Online GoToMeeting.

My information is: Name: _____ Enrollment #: _____ Telephone #: _____

Check your email for final instruction.



TAKE YOUR PRO FOOTBALL
PLAYOFF PICKS TO A SPORTS
BETTING WIN



Date Night
Wednesdays • \$60

Cannot be combined with any other discount or offer.

CHOOSE A SALAD
Caesar Salad or WD House Salad

ENTRÉE FOR TWO
14 oz. Prime Rib with
Roasted Garlic Mashed Potatoes,
House Vegetables, & Au Jus

Seneca Nation

Head Start

Head Start classrooms are completely virtual until Further Notice due to the Covid 19 virus

NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS

For the 2021-2022 School Year

(January 4-June 30, 2021)

YOUR CHILD MAY BE ELIGIBLE IF:

- They are/will be four (4) years by December 1, 2021
- They will be three (3) years old by December 1, 2021
- Not eligible for Kindergarten in Fall 2021

PRIORITY ENROLLMENT TO:

- Children with disabilities
- Children in Foster Care
- Homeless or on TANF/SSI
- Below Income

*Income eligibility is based on 2020 federal poverty guidelines

Any Questions feel free to call 716-532-0505

Tamara Piskoroski at Ext: 5323 or Cindy Sanford at Ext: 5304



THE FOLLOWING DOCUMENTS ARE NEEDED WITH APPLICATION:

Incomplete applications will not be accepted.

- Birth Certificate
- Custody Papers (if applicable)
- Tribal ID of child or parent/guardian (if applicable)
- Proof of income (1)
 - 4 consecutive pay stubs
 - W-2
 - Income tax return
 - Zero income worksheet
 - Employer letter on company letterhead
 - Public assistance award letter

Applications available at:

Cattaraugus Early Childhood (ECLC) Learning Center

2016 Henodeyesta' Drive

Irving, NY 14081 (716) 532-0505

And/or

Seneca Arts and Learning Center (SALC)

25 Center Street

Salamanca, New York (716) 945-5035

Or on the SNI.org WEBSITE

APPLICATION DEADLINE: JUNE 30, 2021

Seneca Nation Official Newsletter Commemoration Edition

The Seneca Nation Official Newsletter would like honor members we have lost in 2020 in a commemorative edition. With a Covid-19 protocols in place, many community members did not get to attend services for loved ones, family members and friends.

If you lost a loved one this past year and would like provide information for the commemorative edition, please send information to **sninews@sni.org**. Information can in the form of an obituary, a photo, or any information about your loved one that you would like printed.

Please provide their name, DOB, and clan or any other information you would like to send.

Please call 716-945-1790 ext. 3029 (Stephanie), ext. 5495 (Megan), or ext.3030 (Tami) for assistance.

REMINDER from Emergency Management

Submitted by Dawn Stevens

The Seneca Nation Emergency Management Department’s mass notification messaging service called Regroup is intended to provide SN Employees and Community Members with broadcast services in the event of emergencies, closings, delays, and health/safety messages. This service allows fast and reliable communications via mobile devices, landlines & email.

If you are interested in being placed on the call list, or if your contact information has changed, please contact the Emergency Management Office to update your profile.

We are available:
Monday – Friday
8:00 am – 4:30 pm
(716) 532-8178 (Cattaraugus)
dawn.stevens@sni.org

Reverse Call Back Number: 1-716-351-3013
(This number will allow those users that missed the call, to call this number and hear the last message that was sent out. Please save this number to your contacts.)

All Call Lists are confidential and will be solely used for the intended purpose.

Social Security Announcement from Disabilities Services

Submitted by Leanna Leroy, SN Disabilities Services

Are you receiving Social Security and or Disability from the Social Security Administration?
Are you between 18-59 years Old?
Are you currently living ON Territory?

Then you are qualified for Seneca Nation Disability Services Program.

Please call our office to set up an appointment. We can also do a home visit to assist you in any way we can.

We also assist with transportation.

Give us a call
716-532-4900 Ext. 5152

#SENECASSTAYS SAFE
Please be safe & stay healthy!

8

Area Office of Aging Activities

There are a lot of different rules due to COVID-19 on our territories that must be followed in order for the elders to stay healthy and safe.

Our sites are closed to the public but our services still go on; such as snow plowing, emergency home repair, home delivered meals, etc... Just call (716) 532-5777 and we will point you in the right direction.

I have returned back to work to distribute activities, put craft kits together and help start and finish of some projects.

What I have ready:

- 1. Lap Robes for elderly. You can hand sew or use a sewing machine. I have the backing cut and ready also.
- 2. Quilted Christmas bulbs. The instructions are simple. No cutting and uses common pins.

- 3. Safety pin angels are also available for your tree or just to put in your window.
- 4. Banners with pony beads kits. We did these years ago and the elders who can't see well are able to do this project.
- 5. How many enjoyed the word search puzzles that I sent out? Would you like more or some different kinds? We also have jigsaw puzzles that can be delivered.

I need to hear from you. Call (716) 532-5777 or my cell phone (716) 801-0525.

I sent out a project for a door decorating contest and received only one response. I'll try again next year and start earlier this time.

Karen Bucktooth, AOA Activities Coordinator

Women's Ceremonial and Culture Presents

After School Culture

Monday and Wednesdays

WCC is offering 10 girls, ages 6-10, to come spend afternoons with us to learn cultural games, cooking, language and history. Program will run for 6 weeks. Contact WCC @ 716-354-2141

starts January 11 3pm-5pm

Nya:wëh Sgë:nö',

In an effort to make shopping with us more affordable for the off-territory Seneca's. We are happy to offer a 20% off coupon for our online store which is valid from now until February 28, 2021. At the checkout, use promo code: sni

Visit <https://shop.senecamuseum.org/> to see more of what we offer!

And, as a friendly reminder to local residents, we are still running our in-store sale as well. Come visit the gallery and/or enjoy select items on sale.

We are open 10am-4pm, Monday- Friday.

Lastly, we are going to be holding virtual instructions on corn husk doll making, soapstone carving and antler carving. Details will be forthcoming.

To stay up to date on upcoming classes and events, follow us on Facebook, Instagram or sign up for our e-mail list at: <https://www.senecamuseum.org/>

Nya:wëh, -SINM

GRADUATING CLASS OF 2021!!!

Women's Ceremonial and Culture Dept. is offering a sewing class for you to make your very own outfit for graduation!

A meeting is scheduled to discuss materials needed;

Tuesday, January 19, 2021 @ ACC Multi Purpose Room

RSVP TO: Carrie Abrams @ (716) 354-2141



Seneca Elders Holiday Drive Thru

The Seneca Nation Council Office in Allegany sponsored a prime rib dinner drive thru at the Allegany Community Center on December 23rd from 11:30am-1:30pm. Executives handed out more than 150 free meals and reusable bags with social distance protocols in place. Staff from various departments aided in preparations and youth groups provided clean up. Nya:wëh to all whom made the day a success! We hope everyone enjoyed their

holiday season.

The Seneca Nation Council Office in Cattaraugus sponsored the Seneca Elders Holiday Drive Thru on Wednesday, December 23rd from 11:30 - 1:30. They gave out dinners and handed out Turkey and Ham while supplies lasted.



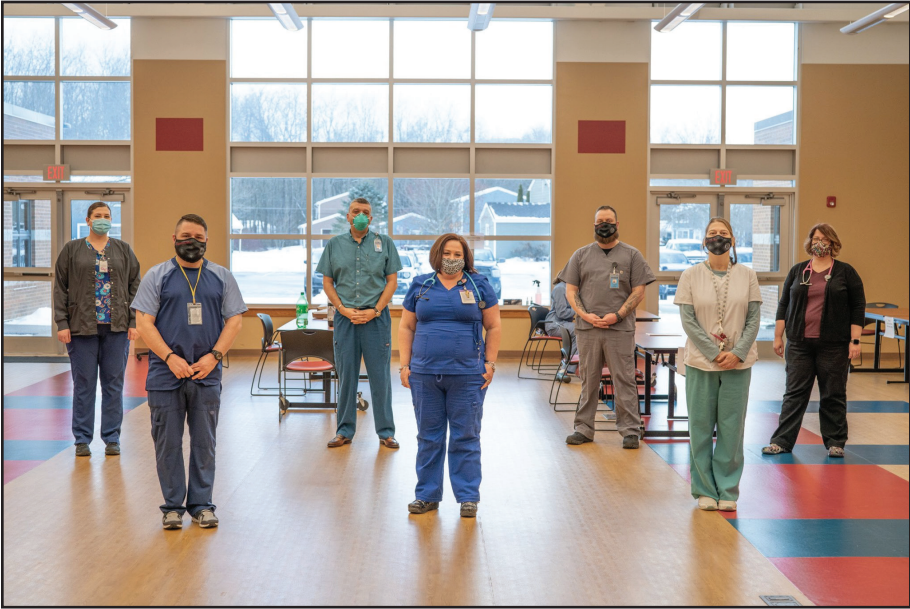
H.E.R.O. Committee helps families ring in the New Year

Seneca Media

Health, Education, Recreation and Other (H.E.R.O.) Committee distributed 300 New Years Eve party packs on December 30th during an organized social distance drive-thru event held at the Allegany Community Center. Packs came with favors and snacks to ring in the New Year safely from home. All 300 party packs were given out within 20 minutes! We hope everyone had a safe and happy holiday season!



Seneca Nation Health System Begins Phased COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution to Frontline Healthcare Employees and High Risk Elders



The Seneca Nation Health System (SNHS) announced an employee vaccination clinic for Lionel R John Health Center (LRJHC) staff in priority and front-line departments who have direct patient contact in a patient care setting; including Optical, Dental, Pharmacy and Medical. Many healthcare personnel have a high risk of exposure to COVID-19. SNHS makes every effort to reduce the risk of exposure for our patients and employees in our facilities. Early vaccine access is critical to ensure the health and safety of health care workers and the Seneca Nation community as a whole.



Individuals whom took the first dose consented to a photo and shared their reasons as to accepting the Covid-19 vaccination. Kim Granata, RN, stated "her choice was based not only on her safety, the community she works with, her family but also because she

believes in the science of it."

Seneca Nation Health System (SNHS) vaccine distribution plan was developed in accordance with the recommendations of the ACIP, CDC, IHS and in consultation with the Seneca Nation Executives and Council. The plan includes a phased approach to vaccination, directing initial supplies to the most vulnerable populations.



As there is a limited supply of vaccine doses available, scheduling is performed by SNHS staff making outgoing phone calls. At this time, incoming requests for vaccinations will not be scheduled.



The Seneca Nation Health System, as the Seneca Nation Health Department, began serving the Seneca community April 1, 1976 providing health care and a variety of dental services through two health centers located on the Allegany Territory and Cattaraugus Territory. The SNHS serves as a role model in the health care field for Native American tribes and is dedicated to providing the best quality health services available to all members of the Seneca Nation and Native Americans eligible for services.



Gakwi:yo:h Farms hosts meat giveaway

Gakwi:yo:h Farm staff processed 15 pigs, 7 deer, 1 cow and 1 bison in order to hold a 2 day drive-thru, 1 on each territory. Allegany Territory distributed approximately 75 meat packages and approximately 140 packages on Cattaraugus Territory



Construction Program graduates 5 more students

The Steamburg Training Center celebrated the graduation of Construction Technology Program students today in the Allegany Council Chambers. The graduating class is the 15th cohort to complete the program since its inception.

The graduates of this class were: Elliot Bowen, Bryce Lichy, Tristan Jimerson, Lindzy Buffalo and Riki Johns



SNHS COVID-19 Vaccination Clinic FAQ

How long does it take to go through the vaccination clinic?

30 minutes total in most cases, 15-30 minutes of supervision is needed after someone receives the vaccine when someone likely to have a reaction or side effect receives the vaccine they will likely be onsite for around 45 minutes with the increased observation time.

Does the Moderna Vaccine protect against the new COVID strain?

In a statement Moderna said it continues to test the vaccine against mutations.

"The Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine expresses the full-length Spike protein of the SARS-COV-2 virus, allowing for the generation of neutralizing antibody responses to multiple domains of the protein," the statement reads in part."The full-length Spike protein is 1,273 amino acids long, so while recent variants involve multiple mutations, for instance up to 8 amino acid changes in the spike protein of the B1.1.7 strain, these represent less than a 1% difference from the spike protein encoded by Moderna's vaccine."

They say that they will continue to test the vaccine against variants of the virus, such as the one found in the United Kingdom.

"We continue to test the Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine against new SARS-CoV-2 variants, and our expectation is that the vaccine's effectiveness will hold against them as well," the statement reads.

What does the tentative schedule look like?

Monday 1/4 at LRJ - 40 patients
Tuesday 1/5 at CHWC - up to 50 individuals
Wednesday 1/6 at LRJ - up to 50 individuals
Thursday 1/7 at CHWC - up to 50 individuals

What is the process for the outgoing calls to schedule?

We are making phone calls to elders with 3 comorbidities of focus over the age of 74. Once a patient is called, whether they decline or are unreachable via phone, we move on down the list. We will accept these patients as the schedule allows, if they change their mind or return our call/contact us to request an appointment. At this time the priority levels are absolute, we will not be able to accommodate anyone outside of the criteria set or accept incoming requests outside of those already contacted.

Based on an initial limited supply, how was the priority list was developed?

Limited supply based on the allocation from IHS and distributed to the Nashville Area. At this point we are not able to order vaccines. Vaccine ordering system training is next week for VPOP. Priority list was developed by referencing IHS, CDC, and ACIP recommendations. Priority list detailed below.

- o Seneca Nation Health System priority/frontline employees (complete)
- o First responders: Seneca Fire, SNI Marshals
- o SNHS high risk patients, 74 years of age and older
- o SNHS patients, 74 years of age and older
- o SNHS high risk patients, 64-73 years of age
- o SNHS patients, 64-73 years of age

Why is the schedule so important? Why are appointments limited in groups of 10's only? The schedule is key to the COVID-19 vaccination process. In order to have a safe, effective vaccination clinic and utilize the vaccine itself, without any waste, the scheduled must be strictly adhered to. At this time, scheduling is done by SNHS staff performing outgoing phone calls from the priority lists. The schedule then affects how many vials are thawed and prepared for the vaccination clinic. Once punctured, all doses must be used within 6 hours. Each vial contains 10 vaccine doses.

Why is it important to have patient data current (i.e. phone numbers, contact info)? Patients must have up-to-date phone numbers on file in order to be contacted in an organized matter. Patients may miss the phone call to have their vaccination scheduled if we have incorrect phone numbers, if they do not return our phone call, or if their voicemail is not setup. Patients may update their phone number with Patient Registration.

What part of the clinic controls vaccinations per hour? Time consuming process of inputting data. There are up to 4 locations for documentation: EMR, VAMS, NYSIIS, and VAERS.

Why is there only Health System patients initially receiving the vaccine? At this time, for scheduling purposes, staff are calling patients of the Health System. In the future we may have criteria for target populations outside of the Health System patient population to call in and request being put on the schedule.

What is the location of the vaccination clinics? Vaccination clinic in Allegany at Lionel R John Health Center is in the Grand Room. Patients may park in the back parking lot, orange road cones will designate the entry to the vaccination area. Vaccination clinic in Cattaraugus at the Community Health and Wellness Center is in the Grand Room. Patients may park in the Optical Parking lot.

Is any information distributed while getting the shot? Packets include vaccine information and fillable documents, packets are filled out when the patient arrives the vaccination clinic. The vaccine is not fully effective after the initial dose. Universal precautions, whether vaccinated or not, will need to be practiced: social distancing, hand washing, wearing a face covering, etc.

How quickly are we going through the age brackets (i.e. over 74) and once people decline or don't answer do you get to the next bracket (i.e. over 70) and so on? This varies depending on the number of patients in the priority group. Once a patient is called, whether they decline or are unreachable via phone, we move on down the list. We will accept these patients as the schedule allows, if they change their mind or contact us to request an appointment. At this time the priority levels are absolute, we will not be able to accommodate anyone outside of the criteria set. While there are such limited quantities of vaccine, we cannot accept the incoming calls and requests for vaccinations.

Will SNHS be open additional days and hours to get vaccine out? Dependent on the need, interest, and doses available, considerations for additional days could be entertained.

When will the next priority get vaccinated when there is no inventory left? The second shipment of vaccines is expected in the near future- we are awaiting notification from the Nashville IHS area on quantity and shipment date.

What goes into planning the booster vaccine (dose 2)? Individuals make their second appointment, for their booster vaccine/dose 2 during their observation period after receiving their 1st dose of vaccine.

Scotia Snyder (Seneca): Signed to Play NCAA DI Lacrosse at Coastal Carolina University

By Dan Ninham | December 18, 2020 | Reprinted from ndnsports.com

Two teammates from the Gowanda lacrosse team in New York signed to play collegiate lacrosse at the NCAA DI level. Miya Scanlan will play at Jacksonville University. Scotia Snyder and her family made the decision to attend Coastal Carolina University.

Scotia Snyder, 18, lives on the Cattaraugus Indian Reservation in western New York State.

“I compete for my family and my ancestors that weren’t allowed to play and those who did,” said Scotia. “I’m a senior in high school.”

“I am part of the Seneca Nation and I am beaver clan,” added Scotia.

“I started competitively playing lacrosse outside of school since the fifth grade,” said Scotia. “Lacrosse is my passion and part of my culture so it stood out more to me when I played in school.”

Scotia’s main athletic achievement was winning MVP and Character Athlete of the Game in the Sectional Championship her sophomore year. Another achievement was making the varsity team in eighth grade at the private school Nichols School.

“Lacrosse in my culture is known as the medicine game,” said Scotia. “When playing with that tradition in a clear mind allows peripheral vision of the game. Most women are not supposed to play or even touch a stick. I naturally believe the lacrosse stick guided me to bigger places like playing and studying at the collegiate level, keeping tradition alive, and continuing growing the game.”

“My positive influencers who have pushed me to where I’m at would have to be my family members,” said Scotia. “My older cousins mastering their game at collegiate and pro level



include Shayla Scanlan, Chase Scanlan and Clay Scanlan. They have paved a way to prove the point. My younger cousin, teammate, and lefty teammate Miya Scanlan also influenced me to continue to follow that paved path with her by my side.”

“Scotia has always showed compassion and always offers help to her fellow teammates,” said dad Scott Snyder. “Scotia has a big heart and always offers to help. She has the talent and smarts to excel in any sport she desires to play. She played soccer when she was six years old. I was her coach and she always offered assistance. She was a very good swimmer when she was eight years old. She achieved her yellow belt after two years of karate.”

“Scotia has played basketball for seven years for our team Native Thunder. She’s started varsity basketball at Nichols her freshman year. She is always offering help to improve,” added Scott.

Mom, Marie Williams talked her daughter the athlete: “Scotia is somewhat of an only child. She is my only child. I had her at 34 years old and she was my miracle baby, as I didn’t know if I would be able to have children. When I got pregnant, everyone in our families were beyond ecstatic. Scotia had tons of attention! Birthdays and holidays she would have lots of presents. She was three years

old and I remember watching her open her birthday presents but after about the third one she was done. I thought what’s wrong with my child? Most kids would tear through everything and look for more, but not for her. As an only child and having older parents she received all our attention. That would have it pits and peeks.”

“Her dad has always been into sports especially basketball,” said Marie. “I was more ‘find your passion.’ At three, we had Scotia in soccer for a few years. There isn’t much for sports especially a girl at that age. She also did Mixed Martial Arts and learned several kata and weapon techniques, and dance, tap and ballet. That was more my doing. She hated it and we would fight constantly and I would bribe and beg her to finish it out. She hated the tights, they were too tight and itchy she’d say. We made it through a few recitals that seemed to always be on Father’s Day.”

“I would tell her once you start something you finish it, even if you don’t like it. She did gymnastics and swimming. She was a natural when it came to swimming. I would say it’s your athletic build or her native build, broad shoulders, no hips and long legs, why she was so good. But now she was around eight years old and she could play basketball and lacrosse and that was when she decided that

lacrosse was her passion,” added Marie.

“We started all Seneca Girls travel teams and had the best times going to tournaments and competing,” said Marie. “Scotia was one of the youngest girls on the teams. We would have to enter them in higher grade because we didn’t have enough girls on the Rez for grad year teams. Playing up helped her skills and confidence. Eventually we had to sign her up with Lady Roc, a travel team in Rochester, NY for her grad year.”

“Most recent and proud moment was at the last high school game,” said Marie. “They were playing in the Class D championship game against Eden. They beat them once in the regular season but knew it would be tough and the other coach knew what to do to counter them. Gowanda was down by seven goals at halftime and the one girl who Scotia would feed to was off and seemed like she gave up. Scotia came back in the second half and scored six goals in a row and brought them to a one goal difference with seconds left on the clock to send them to overtime.”

“She got the ball and passed it to another girl who wasn’t as skilled and she shot and missed. They lost. Her cousin ran over to her and said, ‘why didn’t you take that shot? You should have never passed to her.’ Scotia said, ‘because she was open and had a clear shot.’ Scotia is good, really good. But she’s the type of person that if someone fell she was racing she wouldn’t run by them to win. She would stop and pick them up and carry them to the finish line. And that’s what makes her an extraordinary person and player,” added Marie.

“When we met with Coach Kristen Selvage from Coastal Carolina, I asked her ‘why

Scotia?’ said Marie. “she said ‘because she is smart and an unselfish player and that’s what she is building her team around.’ At a recruiting camp we attended she noticed that in Scotia and after meeting her she knew she would do what she could to get Scotia.”

Kristen Salvage has a 48-31 career record and was named 2015 National Coach of the Year leading the team to the national championship game. Her coaching experience includes leading Lock Haven University

to eight NCAA DII tournaments. “During this pandemic I am currently doing full remote classes online,” said Scotia. “This is a mental challenge to adapt to that is crucial in college. I also have been trying to be self-disciplined to work out at home with social distance.”

Scotia reflected on one of her early highlight moments: “I was playing lacrosse with my two younger cousins in fifth grade and we were all on the same travel team from Rochester,

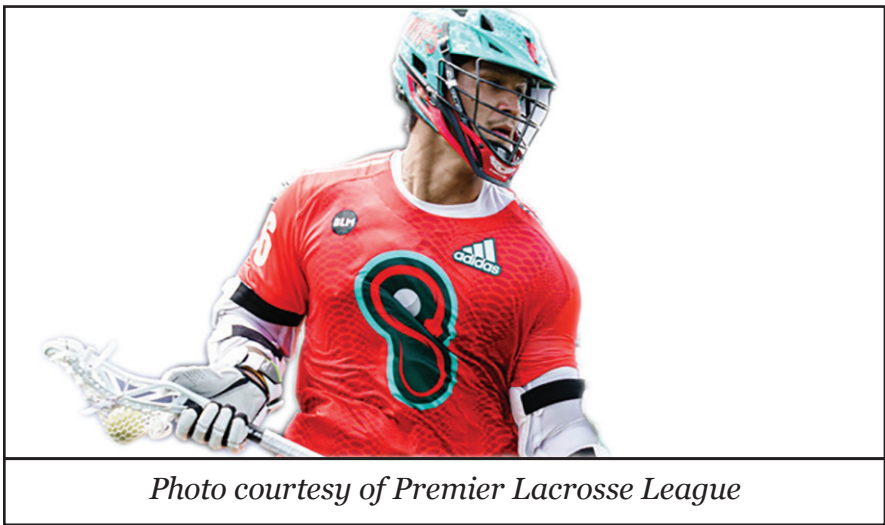
NY. Rochester is two hours away from our reservation and we would go to practice Tuesday and Thursday’s. We were at the Battle at the Capital Tournament in Albany, NY. Cleats were a struggle for me when I was younger so I wore running sneakers. Our team made it to the championship game and the final score was a tie so there was a brave heart. This is where the coaches pick one player and goalie from each team and whomever scores first wins. My coach chose me and shocked me but I accepted the

challenge. I ended up winning and the whole team came running on the field after the ball went in the net.” “I will never forget that moment because I ended the tournament throwing my shoes out because of the holes I ran in them,” added Scotia. “We had a t-shirt with ‘Champions’ on it.”

Source:
<http://www.ndnsports.com/scotia-snyder-seneca-signed-to-play-ncaa-di-lacrosse-at-coastal-carolina-university/>

Unassuming star: 2020 was Zed Williams’ finest year

By Matt Spielman | January 2, 2021 | Reprinted from [observertoday.com](#)



2020 was a difficult year for many. For Zed Williams, it couldn’t have gone much better.

For the opening three months of the year, the Silver Creek graduate was enjoying the greatest season of his three-year National Lacrosse League career.

In August, the University of Virginia graduate was named the Most Valuable Player of the Premier Lacrosse League’s Championship Series.

And on Thanksgiving Day, he welcomed his second daughter to the world.

That is why he does what he does.

Drafted No. 4 overall in the 2017 draft by the Georgia Swarm, Williams was enjoying his best season for Atlanta-based team this spring when

the coronavirus pandemic prematurely ended the NLL season. “I thought our team had a really solid chance of winning it,” he said when reminiscing Thursday afternoon. “A lot can happen in the playoffs, but I thought we had a really good team. Unfortunately, that’s just the way it goes.”

Sent home full of unknowns, Williams returned to Williamsville to hunker down with his wife, Amanda; daughter, Dani; and stepchildren, Noah and Portia.

Then came news that the Premier Lacrosse League would become one of the first professional leagues to play in a COVID-19 world with its Championship Series set for late July and early August at Zions Bank Stadium in Salt Lake City, Utah.

“The PLL did an awesome job of

communicating with everyone. They told us the whole plan from the start,” Williams said. “I felt good as they were talking, keeping us up on everything and how it was going to go down.”

Williams joined the defending champion Whipsnakes in the seven-team league and became familiar with his new teammates through Zoom calls in the months and weeks leading up to arriving in Utah.

“I knew once I met them over Zoom calls and going through X’s and O’s ... that I was going to join a great group of people.”

Once there, the Whipsnakes took off — led by Williams.

They powered through the group stage with a 4-0 record, outscoring opponents, 67-33, in the process.

“I was blessed to go to an awesome team with some awesome players,” Williams said. “I was able to play my position at a high level. I’m confident in myself and know that hard works pays off. I work

hard to prepare myself so when the game starts, I’ve already put in the hard work to be there.” Whipsnakes earned a bye into the semifinals and outlasted Redwoods, 13-12, in overtime to advance to the final.

There, Williams’ team trailed 4-2 at halftime and 6-3 after three quarters before a six-goal fourth quarter led Whipsnakes to a 12-6 victory and their second straight league championship.



Photo courtesy of Premier Lacrosse League - Zed Williams was named the Most Valuable Player of the PLL Championship Series this summer.



Photo courtesy of Premier Lacrosse League Silver Creek graduate Zed Williams flies through the air en route to scoring a goal during round-robin play this summer at the Premier Lacrosse League’s Championship Series in Salt Lake City, Utah.

“Team-wise, our defense and goalie were keeping us in it. Our offense wasn’t playing up to par, but one goal got us on a roll,” he said. “Me personally, I was upset with myself for not being able to bury a couple of opportunities in the first half. I was mad at myself and lit a fire under my (butt) at halftime.”

A lot of it was credited to Williams, who led the league in goals with 20 and was second to teammate Matt Rambo in scoring with 23 points.

“He’s an awesome dude to be around. He’s one of those guys who brings the whole mood up no matter where you are — eating lunch, in the locker room, on the practice field,” Williams said about Rambo, the 2019 Most Valuable Player. “He has so much confidence in himself and in me and my teammates. He reeks of confidence. ... My confidence had a lot to do with him rubbing off on me.”

Broadcast to the world on NBC Sports Network, Williams choked up postgame when he was presented the MVP trophy, which he dedicated to his father Dan, who passed away during Zed’s senior season at the University of Virginia.

“I didn’t know that was going to happen,” he said. “In my opinion, that’s why I play the game I love and try to do it at the highest level I can.”

It’s no surprise Williams became emotional because he does in fact play professional lacrosse not for himself, but for his family.

“Those moments are worth it to me and for my family,” he said. “It felt like it brought my dad back, even if it was for that moment. ... If I can do that for my mom and my family, all the hard work is definitely worth it for me.”

After returning home from Utah, he rejoined his family in Williamsville and is now fresh in the middle of the longest period of time in years of not playing competitive lacrosse.

He continues to work out daily — either in his home or at a local gym when it’s allowed to be open — and runs on a treadmill to stay fit. It’s hard to find much turf time to practice lacrosse, but says he keeps on top of his stick work around the house or in the basement just waiting to get back in a competitive setting.

“The hardest thing with lacrosse is being in game shape,” Williams said. “It really doesn’t happen until you play it.”

His return to the game will likely come in March or April when Williams joins the Colorado Mammoth of the NLL. The Swarm traded Williams and a draft pick to the Mammoth in early July and the 6-foot-2 attack generously listed at 185 pounds is looking forward to joining his new team when the time comes.

“They are trying to plan on a training camp in March with the season in April,” he said. “A lot of it depends on the border and with hockey season since we share arenas.”

For now, he’s enjoying a prolonged stay at home with his family, who welcomed new daughter Everli on Thanksgiving Day.

“It’s always a blessing. I can’t really describe it. To have one of your own brought into this world is a feeling I’ll never get sick of,” Williams said. “I just want to be better for them in any way and provide for them. It fuels me every time I get to spend time with them.”

A brother to six and half-brother to three more, family is everything to Williams and he cherishes every moment he has at home with them.

He misses them every time he leaves for a weekend on the road and gets the same feeling inside every time he sees their faces when he returns home.

Family is why he wouldn’t let go of his stick following the PLL championship game in August.

“It’s more than a lacrosse stick. It’s a connection to the Earth and beyond, it’s a connection to his late father,” Matt Kinnear wrote for insidelacrosse.com in August after an interview with Williams. “It’s a conduit to a better life, to support a family and to win championships and to graduate college.”

And it’s for his community.

Just last month, a pair of Gowanda seniors signed national letters of intent to attend NCAA Division I colleges to play women’s lacrosse. Frank Brown, Chase Scanlan, Lyle Warrior and others have followed in Williams’ footsteps and made names for themselves in the lacrosse world after growing up on the Cattaraugus Reservation.

“It’s such an amazing experience for kids and for people in general. You gain so much knowledge going off to college ... I can’t even describe it,” he said. “It’s important for kids to strive toward education and wanting to go to college.

“I can’t be any more proud of kids moving on,” Williams added, “and pursuing their dreams of playing lacrosse.”

Those are the ones for whom Williams plays, not himself.

Source:

https://www.observertoday.com/sports/local-sports/2021/01/unassuming-star?fbclid=IwAR3wKjSjAUKZXa8ZeV9ttUWxMAaDUQrh_efioSULNN-5egURx7Y3Hts7Wac

Ivy Santana (Seneca): Former Tewaaron Award Winner Plays for University of Albany

By Dan Ninham | December 17, 2020 | Reprinted from ndnsports.com | Photo credit: Bill Ziskin



Ivy Santana garnered major accomplishments along her lacrosse competition journey. She was named the female recipient of the Tewaaron Award, as the top high school lacrosse player in the country. She was named a two-time US Lacrosse All American. Ivy currently plays for the University of Albany.

“I’m from the Seneca Nation located in Irving, NY,” said Ivy. “I’m wolf clan.”

“I’m 20 years old. I play at the University of Albany and am currently halfway through my junior year,” added Ivy.

“Honestly, sports have always been a huge part of my family’s life long before I was on the earth,” said Ivy. “When I was a little girl, I would go to my father and brother’s lacrosse games all the time. My younger sister and I, Beretta, joined our community’s local lacrosse program. Which was Seneca Girls. We fell in love with the game instantly. My dad always says that when he first saw my sister and I pick up a stick, he knew we were in it for the long run.”

“Eventually, others had started to notice our potential and dedication,” said Ivy. “We first learned how to play the game back at home, with our local girls’ team the ‘Seneca Girls.’ Claudia Jimerson started the Seneca Girls and told my dad about travel teams and how they could help get us recruited for college. We played for ‘Lady

Roc.’ My father would drive my sister, Beretta, and I an hour and forty minutes to go to practice two days out of the week for only an hour practice in Rochester, NY. Sometimes we would have to leave school early by 30 minutes to get to practice on time. Eventually, other girls from our territory also joined the travel team so our parents would rotate for who was driving. I remember sometimes getting home at midnight after everyone was done getting dropped off at home, but it was always worth it.”

“I was very grateful to be able to play for ‘Lady Roc,’ said Ivy. “The coaches taught us more than how to score goals. They taught us discipline and respect.”

“With the help of ‘Lady Roc,’ I started getting recognized by colleges,” said Ivy. “It was crazy to think that I actually had a shot at getting a scholarship. My father started researching and asking my coaches about the recruitment process because he was relatively new to it.”

“I was going to camps and visiting colleges,” said Ivy. “I never imagined I was even going to financially be able to afford it. On top of that I got the chance to be able to travel almost every other weekend throughout the year, just to compete against some of the best lacrosse players my age.”

Indigenous student-athletes tribal core values define who their identity is.

“Growing up there was one thing I was always taught,” said Ivy. “To always be thankful. Everyday I’m thankful for the opportunities this game has given me and the places it has taken me too.”

“Respect and giving back are also a huge value to my people. I have taken these two concepts and implemented them into my game. When walking off the field I want to be able to feel good about myself and feel like I’ve grown as a person,” added Ivy.

“Although the women’s game is completely different than the men’s game, it still helps clear my mind,” said Ivy. “I can never really be upset going and playing lacrosse. Being able to step on the field every day reminds me of home.”

“Without my father, David Santana Sr., I wouldn’t be here without him,” said Ivy. “He worked constantly all the time then would drive for hours on the weekends to get us to a camp or tournament. He never once showed us that he was tired, or anything less than excited to watch us play lacrosse. He once pulled an all-nighter to get me to a lacrosse tournament after my Junior Prom, then watched me play lacrosse the whole afternoon after.”

“If I’m being honest, I have no idea how my dad was always ready for the next weekend. What I love most about my dad is that he not only supported us but he also critiqued us. Whether it was that I should’ve passed the ball instead of shooting or keeping my head up even after making a mistake or working harder to get the ball back after losing it. His goal was to only take me to the next level,” added Ivy.

“Ivy is unique,” said dad Dave Santana. “At a young age I knew she was into athletics and competition. I saw her swing a bat and throw a softball, and I

said to myself ‘this girl can ball!’ Whether it was cheerleading, basketball, softball or lacrosse she was just a tough kid. Always willing to do the dirty job that most kids shied away from. That ‘can do attitude’ is what stands out to me as a father. She loves assists more than goals, rebounds in basketball even though she played guard, and motivating teammate’s even when losing was the outcome.”

“Lacrosse became important to her at an early age,” said Dave. “So early that I remember the day she asked if she could play fall lacrosse instead of little loop football cheerleading. That summer Ivy began showing some traits on the lacrosse field that took notice of other coaches on some competitive travel teams. The rest is history as her growth on and off the field began to flourish. I wouldn’t change those long trips to tournaments or the talks we had after a win or loss for anything.”

“As Ivy got older she began to find herself,” said Dave. “That showed up one time when a travel coach asked Ivy to play for his team. Here is the thing, they wanted Ivy to come and play goalie for them. Our local ‘Seneca Girls Team’ needed someone to play goalie for a couple of games. Ivy jumped right in and was a wall. Stopped all kinds of shots with her body and stick. Off the shin’s, arm, and helmet. Another coach asked Ivy if she would come and play goalie for his team at a couple of tournaments. Ivy played the attack position but this coach told Ivy ‘we have enough attack players but could really use a goalie.’ She politely told the coach thank you but she plays attack.”

“What I was impressed with that day was her ability to speak up for herself and know what she wanted,” said Dave. “She took a chance by not joining that team because they were really good. I told her she should have taken the offer, but at that age she was focused. The next

season she tried out for another travel team, made the team and every tournament that she played that guys team she made it a point to dish out a couple extra assists and score one or two goals.”

“Ivy tore her knee up really bad recently,” said Dave. “The way she tackled the rehab and mental obstacles of this setback I have no doubt as a father my little girl will be just fine out in the real world. She makes me proud on and off the field each day.”

“Being an older sister, Beretta Santana kind of added pressure to wanting to set a good example,” said Ivy. “My sister continuously influenced and pushed me to this day. She’s a defender, which means we butt heads a lot since I’m an attacker. My sister and I have always talked about how we wanted to play in the World Games together in the summer 2020. For a while it was true, until I tore my ACL freshman year. I went from being the captain of the U19 Haudenosaunee team to having to watch my sister, cousins, teammates and my college coaches’ coach and play while I watched on the sideline. To this day, she helps motivate me to want to get better physically and mentally. Whether it’s stick work or her playing defense on me, we constantly push each other.”

“My sister Ivy, is an extraordinary leader,” said Beretta Santana. “She’s able to push and motivate people to the next level. From when we were eight to nine years old and to this day, people look up or come to her for advice.”

“In high school, our lacrosse team had so many talented players,” said Beretta. “Our coach wanted the team to be able to play other teams that were going to push us. Our coach started scheduling Rochester teams, because those were the teams we had to beat to get to states.”

“I remember one of the first Rochester teams we played,” said Beretta. “I remember our team being down by 5 at halftime. Ivy stood up and said ‘the scores 0-0, let’s go guys.’ She almost ignored the fact that we were down by five goals. We finished the game winning by three points, and Ivy had eight points that game. Everyone was jumping around, and Ivy just stood still trying to catch her breath. When the assistant coach walked up to Ivy and told her she had eight goals, she smiled and kept walking. Just by the way she walked to the locker room you could tell that Ivy gave her all during that game.”

“Having an older sister that would give her all like that in a game and barely be able to

walk to the locker room, that’s a different kind of leader,” said Beretta. “Knowing our captain was struggling to simply walk to the locker room after games because she just went 100% the entire game, only made our team want to work just as hard. She made sure our team had rides to and from practices. A lot of times she even offered her money if someone didn’t have money at the time to eat. She didn’t only care for us on the field but she also watched out for us off the field too.”

“A mentor I’ve had the chance to work with was Sandy Jemison,” said Ivy. “I’m not even sure how long she has been coaching me because she’s been there since I was a little girl just starting off to learn the game. She always pushed and supported the girls back at home as if we were one of her own. To this day, she is still cheering for me.”

Top athletes need to balance the holistic areas of performance during the pandemic to be at the elite level of their game: physical, emotional, mental and spiritual.

“For a while it was hard for me to adjust to a schedule,” said Ivy. “Honestly, I’ve been taking advantage of this time to really work on myself. I’ll spend the morning going on a run and workout, then in the afternoon I usually go to work, and at night I would try to do something

that focused on myself. After tearing my ACL, I’ve learned so much about how important your mental health is. Physically, you can be the strongest but when going against someone just as strong it comes down to the mental strength. ‘Your biggest opponent is yourself.’ That’s one of my favorite quotes.”

“Physically, I make sure to take an hour and a half to two hours being active every day,” said Ivy. “With that comes fueling myself right and getting enough sleep.”

“Emotionally when I feel myself feeling down, I try to do something that will cheer me up,” said Ivy. “Whether it’s going and shooting around or running around with my dog.”

“Mentally and spiritually, I make sure to spend at least 30 minutes to myself before going to sleep. Whether it’s reading a book, stretching, breathing or just watching my favorite TV show.”

Ivy shared a moment when she knew she was going to improve to a high level: “Recovering from an ACL tear. Not only working to get back to where I was before but to be better than before.”

Source: <https://www.ndnsports.com/ivy-santana-seneca-former-tewaaraton-award-winner-plays-for-university-of-albany/>

Halftown Lacrosse brings professional expertise for kids to Finger Lakes community

Reprinted from [fingerlakes1.com](https://www.fingerlakes1.com) | December 30, 2020

For the Halftown’s lacrosse runs in the family and is all about giving back.

Lee, Kori, and LeRoy Halftown have been playing the game since they were young kids, and the passion they have for it hasn’t faded. Kori and LeRoy followed in their father, Lee’s footsteps in caring deeply about the game they grew up with. Growing up in a small town called Versailles, near the Cattaraugus Indian Reservation, Kori and LeRoy picked up



lacrosse around three years old.

The Reservation had a youth club team that was called Newtown Minor Lacrosse. This Organization traveled and played other native reservations and communities in New York and Canada.

LeRoy was even drafted into the National Lacrosse League in 2018. He was picked by the Georgia Swarm in the 2nd round of that draft. He’s currently signed with the New



News From The Four Corners United Methodist Church

Rte. 438 and Versailles Plank Road, Cattaraugus Territory
Pastor – Rev. David Rood | 941-5703, dgrood62@yahoo.com
Submitted by Marilyn Anderson

2020 is history!! 2021 will bring us new challenges – continuing to cope with Covid 19, finding the new “normal”, deciding to vaccinate or not and keeping our New Year’s resolutions to lose weight, exercise more, save money, go to college, keep in touch with friends and family, etc., etc. This year why not add – renew my spiritual life? You will be surprised at what a difference faith can make in your life. “Behold I make all things new” (Revelations 21:5). We wish everyone a Happy and Safe 2021.

You may have heard of the term “epiphany” which means a moment when you suddenly feel that you understand, or suddenly become conscious of something that is very important to you or a powerful religious experience. It is an “a ha” moment!! We are accustomed to celebrating Christmas on one day but in Christian tradition the Christmas season lasts from sundown on December 24 (Christmas Eve) through January 6 and is referred to as Epiphany of the Lord.

Epiphany is popularly referred to as "the twelve days of Christmas" and signifies the arrival of the Three Wisemen at the birthplace of Jesus.

Please pray for our communities: those who are affected by Covid 19 or other illnesses, those who are experiencing mental health problems, those who are battling addictions and those who are experiencing the loss of loved ones. Pray for our families.

Pastor Dave serves the Methodist churches at Four Corners, Versailles, and Gowanda. Unfortunately, some members of those churches have been affected by Covid 19. Therefore, services are being suspended until it is safe to gather again. If you need spiritual guidance feel free to contact Pastor Dave by phone or e-mail. **Peace.**


Shirley Mae Lyons (Goode)

October 29, 1936 - December 19, 2020
Submitted by Michelle Cronin

Shirley Mae, 84, of the Onondaga Nation passed away on Saturday, December 19, 2020 after a brief stay at Upstate Hospital. She was a citizen of the Seneca Nation Wolf Clan. Her traditional Haudenosaunee name was Gaeñhyaweñthwa.

Gaeñhyaweñthwa is survived by her children David "Marty" Krigbaum of Solvay, NY; Nikki (David) Judd of El Cajon, CA; Kelly Edwards of the Seneca Nation; Jacqueline Foster of Jacksonville, FL; and Daryl (Raquel) Krigbaum of the Onondaga Nation. She is also survived by her brothers Oren Jr., Lyle, and Kingsley (Gale) Lyons, all of the Onondaga Nation; as well as 16 grandchildren and 23 great-grandchildren who loved their "Gammies" dearly.

Gaeñhyaweñthwa was predeceased by her youngest son Daniel W. Krigbaum; her parents Oren & Winifred (Gordon) Lyons; and her brothers Lee, Wayne, Irving, and Loren, all of the Onondaga Nation.



HALFTOWN LACROSSE

York Riptide for the upcoming 2021 season.

Beyond playing the game, they are teachers of it, too. In 2018, LeRoy Halftown was approached by Mike Kurdziolek about the possibility of running local camps. All four have roots in the Finger Lakes area, and after that conversation they got to work. Halftown Lacrosse LLC was officially launched in June 2019.

“Halftown Lacross has been growing faster than expected,” the Halftown’s told FingerLakes1.com. The spring lacrosse season was shut down due to COVID-19, but they focused on keeping players active and

safe. “It has been challenging but we know we are not the only ones affected by the pandemic,” they added. “We have gone from monthly camps to weekly training sessions.”

Looking ahead to the spring – all four are excited. “We don’t plan to stop any time soon,” the Halftown’s added.

Kurdziolek said that from his experience with the Halftown’s – lacrosse is more than a game. “They live it,” he said. “They are a great resource to have around the lacrosse community here in the Finger Lakes. Not every town has local professionals willing to give back to the youth. The goal is to see our

local players have success on- and off- the field. It’s still a small enough sport to offer great opportunity and Halftown Lacrosse is here to help in any way for young people.”

To stay up to date with the latest from Halftown Lacrosse visit their website:

<https://halftownlacrosse.sportngin.com/home>

Source:
<https://fingerlakes1.com/2020/12/30/halftown-lacrosse-brings-professional-expertise-for-kids-to-finger-lakes-community/>

Agwadeyësta’ Do:gë:h Receives Esther Martinez Initiative (EMI) Grant

Submitted by Flip White

Agwadeyësta’ Do:gë:h is happy & humbled to announce that we were awarded an Administration for Native Americans (ANA) Esther Martinez Initiative (EMI) grant. The following are the objectives of this 5 year comprehensive, long term language grant:

To serve children up to the age of twelve and in preparation for the upcoming expansion at Ganöhsesge:kha He:nödeyë:stha:

- Two teachers will earn their Montessori certification in Elementary 1 and 2 in years one and carrying over to year two of the grant.

To gain a greater proficiency of the Seneca language:

- Beginning in year one, all Ganöhsesge:kha He:nödeyë:stha language teachers and support staff will participate in daily Seneca Language Immersion sessions.

To move closer to 100% Seneca Immersion Instruction:

- Ganöhsesge:kha He:nödeyë:stha teachers and support staff will incrementally increase the amount of time Seneca is spoken in the classroom.

To influence more Ganöhsesge:kha He:nödeyë:stha adults and community to participate in language learning with their children:

- Innovative language learning materials will be produced enabling Ganöhsesge:kha He:nödeyë:stha students & parents to learn together, to reinforce language instruction from classroom to home, and to gain the comfort and confidence to speak Seneca in and outside of school.

EMI provides financial assistance to **community-driven projects** designed to preserve Native American languages through Native American language nests. EMI also provides support for projects that are **based in teaching and building language instruction capacity**. The grant work plan reflects **measurable outcomes and specific strategies** for achieving intended objectives. We will evaluate and measure the degree of learning taking place frequently. EMI grants perpetuate language preservation by **identifying opportunities for the replication or modification** of projects for use by other Native communities; we will use our experience to help and assist others. Our work plan includes a component to create, store, & catalog language reference materials for future use.

A strategic plan to implement and achieve the project goals has been established; Agwadeyësta’ Do:gë:h will be held accountable to follow the plan and see it through to successful completion.

Moving forward, we have a tremendous opportunity to significantly impact the language instruction and staff development



Esther Martinez

Esther Martinez, Ohkay Owingeh, (1912–2006) a storyteller, linguist, and teacher who dedicated herself to preserving the Tewa language in the northern pueblos of New Mexico. Through her work, Esther became the “keeper” of the language central to Pueblo expression and identity. In 2017, the Esther Martinez Native American Preservation Act was passed in the New Mexico Senate, aiming to extend and update two grant programs. The Native American Languages Preservation and Maintenance (P&M) grant program and the Esther Martinez Initiative (EMI) grant program to provide opportunities for tribal communities to assess, plan, develop, and implement projects that ensure the survival and continuing vitality of Native languages.

at Ganöhsesge:kha He:nödeyë:stha.

This grant was organized and written with the help and assistance of many individuals; to all of them we express our sincere gratitude and thanks. Our organization will make every effort to insure our community remains aware of the grant’s progress.

Nya:wëh for your time and consideration.

This announcement is supported by Grant # 90NB0034-01-00 from ACF. Its content are solely the responsibility of Agwadeyësta’ Do:gë:h and do not necessarily represent the official view of ACF.

Working together to help protect our Steelhead

By Robbie Jimerson

I hope this writing finds you and your family healthy and in good spirits. I thank you for taking the time to read this and I am writing in an effort to bring to light and educate others about the concerning situation that faces the Steelhead that travel and spawn in our river system. Steelhead are lake or ocean run Rainbow trout, meaning that they spend the Summers in the cold water depths of a lake or ocean and run into river systems to make the trip to their spawning grounds. In the case of the Steelhead that we fish on the Cattaraugus Reservation, these particular Steelhead spend their summers in Lake Erie and enter what we call the “Big Creek” (Cattaraugus Creek) and Clear Creek in the Fall. Some



fish hold over in these waters all Winter and Spring until the water temperatures warm up and they return back to Lake Erie.

Unfortunately every Fall for the past few years the number of Steelhead that enter our river has declined. No one really knows the reason why, but possibilities include

pollution, increasing lake temperatures, increased fishing pressure, and even our own spearing practices could contribute to the decreasing returns.

Unfortunately this problem is not unique to our river. Steelhead numbers are declining in many other rivers across the world. In an effort to protect these fish some of the decision makers on these other rivers have increased regulations and rules to decrease the number of steelhead caught. Research shows that as catch rates decrease the number of Steelhead increases. Research also indicates that the mortality rate of practicing catch and release is about 5%. Meaning that if 20 fish are caught and

released, 1 fish will still die. So lowering the number of fish caught, lowers the number that die. Lowering the catch rate can come in many forms: shutting down all fishing on a river for an extended period of time, shortening the fishing season, restricting productive fishing methods, etc. These are proven methods as shown by the Yurok tribe that shutdown commercial fishing for 3 years to decrease catch rates and allow the fish population to increase. As you can imagine there was backlash from some of the fishermen but I applaud the decision to put the fish first.

I have been lucky enough to travel our area as well as the West Coast to fish for Steelhead. During these times I’ve talked with a lot of other people concerned with the challenges facing Steelhead. I’ve fished the Sandy River in Oregon where all wild fish are strictly catch and release. Also there are places in the state Washington that has made it harder for fishermen to catch fish by restricting the ability to use productive methods of fishing such as not being able to utilize floatational devices or the use of live bait. There are many other rivers that are more restrictive.

There are essentially no such restrictions to the Non-Native fishermen that frequent

our territory to fish. There is also no limit on the number of licenses sold each year to Non-Native fishermen. This past Fall season was the busiest that I’ve ever seen with an increased number of fishermen coming from Ohio and Pennsylvania (States listed on the Seneca Nation Restricted Travel List). Non-Native fishermen are also able to keep up to 3 fish a day. While not all fishermen keep the fish that they catch some do and with a rate of keeping 3 fish every trip, it can lead to a large number of fish being taken from our territory.

I’d like to see more restrictions placed on Non-Native fishermen visiting our territories as well responsible harvesting practices by Senecas (i.e. number of fish harvested spearing). Some of the restrictions I’d like to see enacted are, but not limited to, only catch and release, no live bait or scent, barbless hooks, no fishing when the water temperatures are too warm for lake run fish and to forbid the use of lead.

As Senecas and Native Americans we hold the responsibility to be the stewards of our Mother Earth, the environment and all that she holds. We understand that we are part of and understand our place within this delicate and beautiful system and that we

must work together to protect it.

I have talked with some officials and employees about this matter and while nothing has yet come to fruition I am confident that we all will take up our duty and help protect these great creatures. It is time to put the Steelhead first before concern of any possible financial loss or backlash that might ensue from the fishing community. Like so many challenges facing the environment this is an issue that is within our control to address and protect and must be acted on now.

Admittedly I don’t have all the answers in this matter but my goal is to start the conversation on how we can work together to protect the Steelhead. I welcome any and all discussions in this matter.

In closing I’d also like to voice my support for the First Nations fishing club. A club started last year by my fishing buddy and Seneca Josh Van Aernam. The goal of this club is to get other Senecas into fishing our great waters. It is a non-profit organization and has operated out of Josh’s generosity. Josh is also a great example of a fisherman who recognizes the situation and has made changes to how he fishes in an effort to help in this matter.

Smith looks back on 4 years in the mayor’s office

By Kellen M. Quigley | Dec 28, 2020 | Reprinted from salamancapress.com

SALAMANCA — Four years ago, longtime city resident Michael “Smitty” Smith approached his new role as mayor with one uniting message: “Salamanca Pride.”

At the Common Council’s final meeting of the year Dec. 17, Smith’s own Salamanca Pride was beaming as he thanked dozens of colleagues, friends and family members for their support of and dedication to the city.

“You managed to convince the people of Salamanca to take a chance and elect a big-mouth radio DJ,” he said to his family — his only election committee, he noted. “I hope you’re happy with the results.”

Smith thanked the Seneca Nation executives and members of the city council, noting the loss of Ward 2 councilman Tim Flanigan. “I wouldn’t have made it through the first six months without Tim Flanigan,” he added.



On Dec. 31, Salamanca Mayor Michael “Smitty” Smith will complete his four-year run in office. During the Common Council’s final meeting of the year Dec. 17, Smith reflected on his time as mayor while looking forward to his next chapter.
Press photo by Kellen M. Quigley

The mayor recognized and thanked each of the city’s department heads who “made my life so easy by being really great at their jobs” and the staff in their offices. He also thanked retired city clerk April Vecchiarella for getting him started and outgoing city

attorney Eric Weyland.

Smith thanked other area government officials from the surrounding towns, villages, county, state and federal representatives for working with the city and his assistant in the mayor’s office, Glenda Taylor.

“I begged her to come take this job. I thought it would be a great move to have a Native assistant working with the first Native mayor,” he said. “She has made such a difference in every aspect of this administration.”

The mayor also thanked the local organizations in Salamanca including the theater, chamber, senior center, museums, school district and many clubs for being “the heart and soul of this city.”

IN A LOOK back over the past four years, Smith asked everyone to recall what they’ve accomplished as a team. In no particular order, the mayor noted repairing the steps at Jefferson Street Park, renovation of the Nies Block and demolition of the Torge building both on Main Street, starting Celebrate Salamanca Day, approving the Veterans Memorial Park renovations, repairing the damaged senior center roof and the beautification of Main Street

with lights, benches and plants.

“The demolition of how many eyesores across the city that we dug in, spent money and tore down,” he said. “The city clean-up day ... that we can fill up the city transfer station.”

Smith noted holding the biggest Falling Leaves festivals in many years, creation of the Christmas parade, bringing back the flag program on the main thoroughfares, the Hometown Heroes banners, building a new playground at Highland Avenue and cracking down on collecting overdue takes and bringing the list down to a more manageable amount.

“A big one on my list: we rebuilt the team at city hall. Four years ago, departments didn’t speak to each other, doors were locked and you couldn’t get in,” the mayor said. “We have greatly improved the morale here. I’m just the cheerleader.”

The mayor said there are several new businesses at either end of the city as well as on Main Street, the DOT paved routes 219 and 417 in the city after three years of vehicle-damaging conditions, the Pennsy Trail was cleaned up and paved by the Nation and there is increased safety and security in city hall.

Smith said the city is continuing to survive through the ongoing state of emergency during the coronavirus pandemic. Because city hall is an emergency shelter, a new generator was installed for the first time in over 30 years, and a new HVAC system was installed for energy efficiency.

“We did fire inspections across the city, and if you remember, that was a heck of a fight,” the mayor said. “We inspected every business in this city to make it fire safe to protect our people.”

Six months after Smith was elected, the city stopped receiving casino compact funds from the state and Nation. Three-and-a-half years later, he said the city departments

continue to work together to keep the city alive.

“We did not cut staff or services, we continued to grow and we did not panic,” he said. “We did not bankrupt the city.”

LOOKING AHEAD, Smith said he plans to learn how to play piano, will continue to coach the varsity baseball team and wants to hold a world-record marathon kickball tournament at Crowley Park.

“I also want to host an outdoor concert behind the Holy Cross Club as soon as COVID goes away,” he added. “And I want to be involved in Falling Leaves, Celebrate Salamanca and the Christmas parade if you’ll have me.”

Finally, Smith said he wants to accomplish something that “has been pulling on my heart for four years now,” offering shelter and a second-chance to refugees at the country’s southern border. He said there are city-owned foreclosed properties that could be fixed up for families and plenty of resources to get them started on a new life.

“We have room in this city and we have pride in this city,” he said, “and we have housing and jobs. We can make all this happen.”

Smith said Salamanca is the most giving city he has ever been involved with and asked everyone to help him accomplish this plan. And he wished the new administration and council good luck in the new year.

“Thank you for making this a really good job,” he added. “I’ll be forever in your debt. You make me proud.”

Source: http://www.salamancapress.com/news/smith-looks-back-on-4-years-in-the-mayor-s-office/article_ef7413f8-4922-11eb-be82-6bb7080dd089.html?fbclid=IwAR1zK85cG-viP3ODFQe9cdreECbz26IvwFpoOrg2zHzPYeHYgPa7JI21oY

NOTICES & ANNOUNCEMENTS

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF CYNTHIA J. MOHR

Executor: Brian A. Mohr,
8100 Breed Run Rd., Salamanca, NY 14779
~ Allegany Territory - 2nd Notice ~

ESTATE OF HELEN BEAVER

Executor: Brandon Beaver,
1737 Seneca Rd., Lawtons, NY 14091
~ 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.

JANUARY

HUMAN TRAFFICKING AWARENESS MONTH

January is Human Trafficking Awareness month, the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe Social Services Division in partnership with 3 Sisters Program, Seven Dancers Coalition and the Seneca Nations Crime Victim Services are hosting a month long series on Thursdays. Each Thursday we will have ZOOM activities with your families to bring awareness of Human Trafficking.

JAN 7 5:30 PM

We will kick off with Traditional Support worker Katrina Herne talking about the story before the Creation Story that ties into trafficking and DV

JAN 14 5:30 PM

We will have Steven Thompson-Oakes and Olivia Cook doing a family Yoga Session right in your very own home

JAN 21 5:30 PM

We will be coordinating a family painting session with Barbara Benedict from Akwesasne

JAN 28 5:30 PM

Seven Dancers Coalition will be doing a family decorating ribbon challenge and MMIWG video challenge

ZOOM

MEETING ID: 958 8748 1273

PASSCODE: 286573

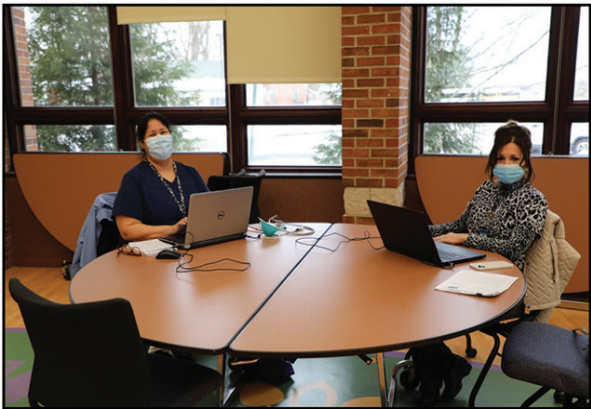
PLEASE GRAB A BLUE RIBBON ON ANY BUSINESS COUNTER OR DRIVE THRU WINDOW IN AKWESASNE AND WEAR ON YOUR COAT FOR TRAFFICKING AWARENESS.

PLEASE SHINE YOUR BLUE LIGHTS!

Seneca Nation Health System Begins Phased COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution to Frontline Healthcare Employees and High Risk Elders

On the afternoons of Tuesday 12/29 and Wednesday 12/30, a total of 60 staff from frontline departments including Medical, Dental, Optical and Pharmacy were provided with the first dose of the Moderna vaccine. On 12/31, 20 vaccinations were given to high-risk patients over the age of 74. Vaccination clinics were scheduled for the following week at both Cattaraugus and Allegany Territories.

Many healthcare personnel have a high risk of exposure to COVID-19. SNHS makes every effort to reduce the risk of exposure for our patients and employees in our facilities. Early vaccine access is critical to ensure the health and safety of health care workers and the Seneca Nation community as a whole.



Seneca Nation Health System (SNHS) vaccine distribution plan was developed in accordance with the recommendations of the ACIP, CDC, IHS and in consultation with the Seneca Nation Executives and Council. The plan includes a phased approach to vaccination, directing initial supplies to the most vulnerable populations.

As there is a limited supply of vaccine doses available, scheduling is performed by SNHS staff making outgoing phone calls. At this time, incoming requests for vaccinations will not be scheduled.

You may visit the www.cdc.gov website to learn more about COVID-19 and the vaccinations.

#StopTheSpread

How to use a mask?

Source: World Health Organization



Before Putting on a Mask:

Clean hands with **alcohol-based hand rub** or **soap and water** before and after you take it off, and after you touch it at any time

Don't use masks with valves.

While Wearing a Mask:

1. **Cover your nose, mouth and chin.** Make sure there are no gaps between your face and the mask.
2. **Avoid touching the mask.** If you do, clean your hands with alcohol-based hand rub or soap and water.
3. Replace the mask with a new one as soon as it is damp. **Do not re-use single-use masks.**



To Dispose of the Mask:

When you take off a mask, store it in a clean plastic bag, and every day either wash it if it's a fabric mask, or dispose of a medical mask in a trash bin.

1. Remove the mask from behind using the strings. **Do not touch the front of mask.**
2. Discard the mask **immediately** in a closed bin.
3. **Clean hands with alcohol-based hand rub or soap and water.**



THE 14-DAY QUARANTINE: HOW TO PREPARE


When someone is quarantined, that doesn't mean they are infected. Quarantines are meant to restrict the movement of people who may have been exposed but haven't tested positive. The CDC recommends 14 days to see whether symptoms develop (fever, dry cough, and difficulty breathing). It is recommended that you stay in your bedroom, use a separate bathroom if possible, wear a face mask around others, and don't share dishes, towels or bedding.

QUARANTINE VS. ISOLATION

- Isolation: separates sick people with a contagious disease from people who are not sick.
- Quarantine: separates and restricts the movement of people who may have been exposed to a contagious disease to see if they become sick

IN CASE OF QUARANTINE, BE SURE TO HAVE:

- Food With Long Storage Life
 - Canned goods (beans), frozen food (vegetables), pasta, rice, dried fruits/vegetables, peanut butter, nuts and oatmeal.
- Water and Liquids
 - The CDC suggests you have plenty of fluids on hand, such as bottled water, Pedialyte or Gatorade.
- Medicine
 - Have a 14-day supply of any prescription medications for those in your home.
 - Also have an extra stock of over-the-counter pain relievers, antacids, cough and cold medicines, and vitamins.
- Other Supplies
 - Make sure you have toothpaste, toilet paper, feminine supplies, diapers, and laundry detergent as well as cleaning and disinfecting supplies.



SNHS Employee Spotlight



Anthony J. Rovito Jr. is a prevention and aftercare specialist located at the Lionel R. John Health Center. He has been at the health system for over 10 years.

His job duties include presenting school programs about high risk behaviors like smoking, drinking, and using illicit drugs. He also teaches ASIST and safeTALK suicide prevention programs along with community and health education in various settings.

We asked what he likes best about his job and he said “I enjoy being with both students and community members.” What is the most beneficial/inspirational part of his position? He said “Watching our effort make a difference in the lives of the people in the Seneca community.”

Anthony says he grew up in Bradford, Pa. and Olean, NY and we asked about his

educational background. He says “I’ve been to Alfred State College, Jamestown Community College, Houghton College and Penn. State University. I have an associate degree in humanities and a bachelor degree in management of organizations.”

We asked what he likes to do in his spare time. He said “Read, cook, and do metal-working projects for automotive and motorcycle jobs.”

We asked if he has a favorite quote or words/advice that he lives by? He says “It is easier to build strong children than to repair broken men.”

We asked him: Please tell something interesting or extraordinary about yourself that you would like people to know: His reply was “I have been a credentialed gambling addiction counselor and quit smoking counselor.”

Thank you Anthony for sharing some of your background with us and for being a part of the health system team!

Simply HR ~ November

New Hires

Amber Hannon
Family Counselor, LRHC
November 9, 2020

Ryan Gustafson
RN Case Manager—Psychiatric
CIRHC & LRJHC
November 9, 2020

Katherine Gordon
Medical Case Manager, CIRHC
November 9, 2020

Deborah Jimerson
Elder & Disability Case Manager
CIRHC & LRJHC
November 30, 2020

Transfers

Heather Ward
Health Planner, CHWC
November 11, 2020

Krisie Cooper
CFS Case Manager, CHWC
November 16, 2020

Congratulations on your new positions!

Handwashing 101

The first line of defense in preventing illness is having clean hands. Dirty hands can become a vector for viruses and bacteria which makes it easier for them to spread. It is important to remember this if you are working around elders, kids and immune-compromised individuals. Handwashing is one of the most effective ways to prevent the spread of germs. Clean hands can stop germs from spreading.



1
Wet your hands before applying soap



2
Rub soap all over your palms, the backs of your hands, and in between your fingers



3
Do this process for at least 20 seconds before rinsing



4
Wipe your hands with a clean towel or paper towel and avoid rubbing too vigorously.

Source: World Health Organization, Centers for Disease Control & Prevention

Visit our website:
www.senecahealth.org



Tele-Medicine Notice:



For the health, safety and well-being of our patients, employees and communities, tele-medicine, or virtual appointments are available on a case-by-case basis.

Please call your primary care provider to be assessed whether a telemedicine appointment is appropriate for your care.

Nya:weh!



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.



Sa:yë' onegaji:h?	You have coffee--dark water?
Ė:h. Onö'gwa', owä:nö' koh dëšyes?	Yes. Milk sugar too you will mix?
Onö'gwa' shö:h.	Milk just/only.

Onödowa'ga' Gawë:nö'
Pronunciation Key

a.....f <u>a</u> ther	ä.....c <u>a</u> t	e.....th <u>e</u> y	ĕ.....m <u>e</u> n	i.....pol <u>i</u> ce	o.....n <u>o</u> te
ö..... <u>o</u> wn	u.....t <u>u</u> ne	w..... <u>w</u> ash	n..... <u>n</u> ot	y..... <u>y</u> es	d..... <u>d</u> og
t.....t <u>a</u> il	g.....g <u>i</u> rl	k.....k <u>i</u> te	s.....s <u>i</u> t	j.....j <u>o</u> b	h.....h <u>a</u> t
š.....sh <u>o</u> w	tš.....ch <u>a</u> lk	dz.....ad <u>z</u> e	:long vowel	'glottal stop	

The purpose of the Allegany Language Department, *Ögwaiwanösde' Ögwawënö'*, is to promote conversational Seneca language use at the Seneca Nation.

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HAPPY NEW YEAR!!

2021

B E R E S I L I E N T

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FOLLOW US ON TWITTER!

The Seneca Nation now has an official Twitter account. Follow it for regular updates from the President’s Office on governmental and community matters. This administration is committed to increasing communication with our members, as well as the general public.

<https://twitter.com/TheSenecaNation>