



# The Official Newsletter of the SENECA NATION



April 30, 2021 - [visit us at www.sninews.org](http://www.sninews.org)



## A message from President Matthew B. Pagels



**Nya:wëh sgë:nö' gagwe:göh, I'm thankful you are well,**

As we observed Earth Day this year I'm mindful of the bounty and beauty of Mother Earth, especially during the change of seasons. The weather can also be unpredictable from one day to another and keeps us on our toes.

Again, with warmer weather approaching and many people traveling we must keep our guard up with Covid -19 protocols. We continue to offer the vaccination clinic to all enrolled eligible members and have the

ability to assist our local school districts with access to the vaccinations. For more information please contact the health centers in Cattaraugus at (716)-532-5582 and Allegany at (716)- 945-5894. The message remains the same as Covid-19 cases continue to rise throughout the country. Only our conscious efforts can create change in the spread.

Recently, the Seneca Nation made a statement regarding the compact revenue share obligation to the State of New York. We've held that we are not obligated to pay during the seven-year renewal period. I have asked that we invoke the provisions provided within the Canandaigua Treaty of 1794 to seek assistance from the US government to review the compact provisions. The Nation received a letter from the Department of Interior that raised concerns about the legality of the payments and if they are consistent with the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act, which states all compacts are required to be reviewed and approved by the Secretary of the Interior. We share these concerns.

The Department of the Interior has requested both the State and the Seneca Nation resubmit the compact for a 45-day process which may bring finality to the

issue. The Department of the Interior will review the compliance with Indian Gaming regulations and the lawfulness of the payments as part of the previous arbitration. The Nation respectfully requested that the State heed the Interior's request to review.

The Nation also filed a Court motion to effectively freeze previous court decisions and delay any payment enforcement until the legality of the payments can be considered. In fairness to the legal process we have asked State and local officials to support our request and urge the Governor to submit the compact for review. The State should stand behind their argument and let the Interior weigh in on the provisions of the compact and the payment obligations.



**Make sure to check out the UPDATED COVID-19 Response Hub!**

**<https://covid19.snigis.org>**

The COVID-19 Response Hub has been updated with a new look for better viewing on mobile devices and computers. It has the latest on testing events and statistics, as well as video PSAs and other important information

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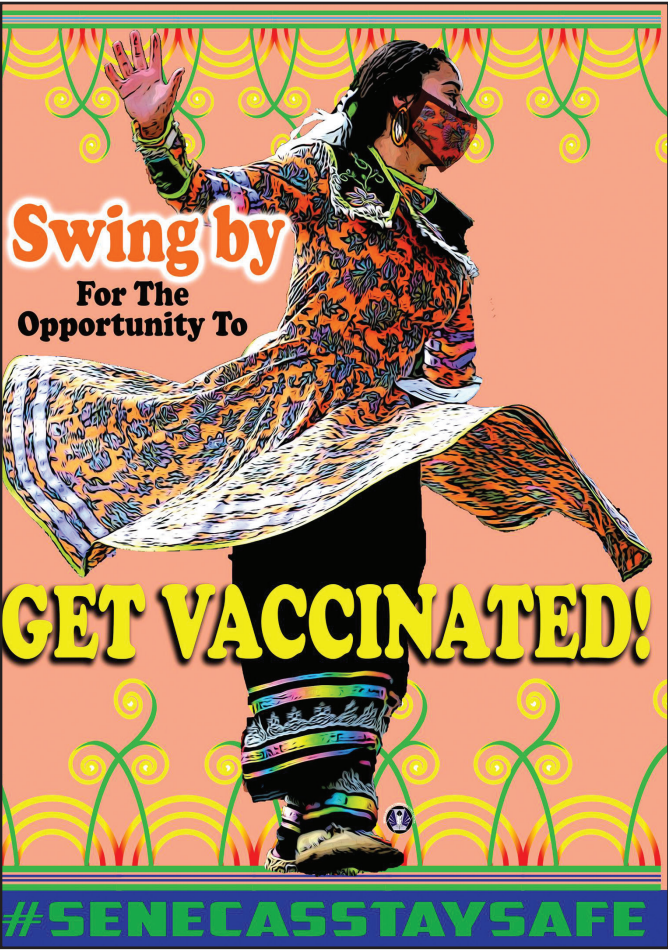
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CAR. TR.  
MKTG MAIL  
US POSTAGE  
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BRADFORD, PA





disagreement and is in the best interests of the Nation, New York State, and the local communities we support. Look for more details in the following weeks.

Stay safe, stay strong Dah ne’hoh dih ae’  
Matt

We feel it is imperative the Secretary of the Interior review any and all gaming compacts as this decision could set a dangerous precedent for other Gaming Nations. We cannot and will not allow this to happen.

We strongly believe that the Department of Interior review is the quickest possible resolution to this long

## Presidential Updates

Don’t forget to follow & subscribe to the Seneca Media & Communications Center YouTube Channel to watch President Pagels’ up-to-date virtual messages!

President Matthew B. Pagels has been addressing important Nation news, the status of all things COVID-19 related on our Territories and everything in between over the course of the last few months via short video clips that are posted to the Seneca Media & Communications Center YouTube channel and other SNI media outlets. So, if you’re looking for the most up-to-date Nation news, make sure to tune in!

**You can also access the Presidential Updates here:**

- SNI Official Newsletter website: [www.sninews.org](http://www.sninews.org)
- The Nation’s main website: [www.sni.org](http://www.sni.org)
- Seneca Media Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/senecamedia](http://www.facebook.com/senecamedia)
- Seneca Nation COVID-19 Response Hub [covid19.snigis.org](http://covid19.snigis.org)
- Seneca Nation Twitter account [@theSenecaNation](https://twitter.com/theSenecaNation)

## FROM THE DESK OF THE TREASURER



### Greetings,

I only thought we had our last snow! Well, at least now we know – the rain will be next and spring really is right around the corner.

Our Fiscal staff successfully conducted their virtual Fiscal Work Session for Department Directors and Budget Monitors on April 22nd. Several departmental fiscal topics were discussed and solutions to questions provided. Our

FY2022 budget season will begin in May, when the Comptroller will begin the process of consultation and planning with Directors, Executives and Council. It is still unknown when the remainder of the temporarily laid off employees will be able to be recalled, but this will be addressed as we move through the FY2022 budget process. There are plans in the works to implement DocuSign, an electronic document management system, which will streamline paperwork flow for all sectors of the Nation operations. It is important to Fiscal, the Executives and Council and to the Nation as a whole, that our Departments have the fiscal resources to operate their programs effectively and efficiently. Great job to all those who attended the Fiscal Workshop and helped make it a success!

I would like to acknowledge and personally thank all of our Directors for their patience and understanding while operating

with unprecedented budget constraints during the last year, as we navigated through the COVID-19 pandemic. Our Directors stepped up and engaged in inter-departmental teamwork, sometimes at a moment’s notice. Most Directors took on additional duties, with less staff. Your hard work, dedication and perseverance has not gone unnoticed, and is very much appreciated.

My staff continues to prepare for the forthcoming “Special Edition” newsletter, which will focus on the drug epidemic that continues to ravage our people and our communities. It’s not too late if you would like to make a suggestion for content or submit an article. If so, please contact Millicent Proud, on my staff, at: millicent.proud@sni.org or (716) 945-1790, X5108. Myself, along with our Comptroller, continue to hold our bi-monthly Budget & Finance meetings and my office continues to support the President, Council and Clerk in any way needed.

Another of our large projects is a mask and refrigerator magnet mail-out to all enrolled Seneca members, aged 15 and older, residing within New York State. Be on the lookout for that in your mailbox in the coming weeks. I don’t mean to sound like a broken record; but, if you are eligible for your COVID-19 vaccines, I hope you are taking advantage of those and helping to keep yourself, your families and our communities as safe as possible. The virus is still very active and our Seneca Nation Health System folks are staying on top of the latest information and providing guidance every step of the way. Please stay safe!

Respectfully,  
Rickey L. Armstrong, Sr.





Marta Kettle, Clerk  
CATTARAUGUS TERRITORY



Bethany Johnson, Deputy Clerk  
ALLEGANY TERRITORY

Please Continue to stay Safe & Healthy!

YAY, Spring has finally arrived! The Clerk’s Office will continue to monitor the current pandemic & practice safety measures that protect the Clerk’s Office staff and Community as a whole, please watch for changes. Nya:wëh

**CLERK’S OFFICE UPDATE -**  
Due to concerns with the COVID-19 cases on and near our territories, the Clerk’s Office continues to 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. 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 UNDERSTANDING!**

**SNI ID CARDS**  
The Clerk’s Office is now scheduling appointments for

members who need to update their picture or address for their Nation ID Cards. Please call the office to schedule your next appointment.

**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 Sanford, 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

**NEWS FLASH – PLEASE READ – DEADLINE APPROACHING SOON!**

**REGISTRATION**  
There is approximately 537 adults and children who have NOT completed their annual registration and must do so by June 30, 2021 to continue receiving benefits. If you have any questions about the Annual In-Person Registration please feel free to call the Allegany or Cattaraugus Clerk’s Office and we will be happy to assist you.

**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.

**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](http://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](http://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:

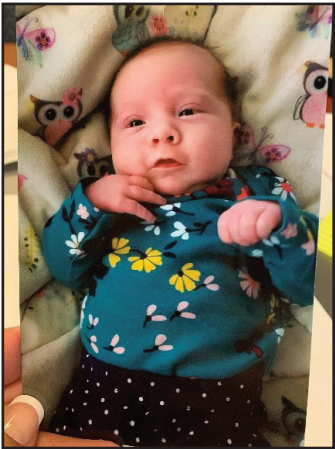
- Application for Release of Minors Trust
- High School Diploma / GED
- Financial Literacy Certificate (<http://seneca.cm3solutions.com>)

If you need to obtain a Financial Literacy Certificate please contact the Seneca Nation Education Department for details. Contact Info: Allegany Territory - Seneca Nation Education Department (716) 945-1790, [traci.pacini@sni.org](mailto:traci.pacini@sni.org); Cattaraugus Territory - Seneca Nation Education Department (716) 532-3341, [barbara.weston@sni.org](mailto:barbara.weston@sni.org).

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

TO APPROVE ADDITIONS TO THE SENECA NATION ROLL / ENROLLMENT APPEARANCE / WAIVER (April 10, 2021)

- |     |                             |   |        |
|-----|-----------------------------|---|--------|
| 1.  | Olivionna Lynn Burch        | - | Snipe  |
| 2.  | Raeya Helen Crouse          | - | Turtle |
| 3.  | Vanessa Madeline Jimerson   | - | Wolf   |
| 4.  | Maeva Nora Miller           | - | Deer   |
| 5.  | June Aspen Ray              | - | Bear   |
| 6.  | April Kay Schindler         | - | Heron  |
| 7.  | Lucas Shane Sherr           | - | Turtle |
| 8.  | Bradley Joel Thompson, Jr.  | - | Beaver |
| 9.  | Johnathan Tre’Davious White | - | Turtle |
| 10. | Elias Miguel Ydrogo         | - | Hawk   |



Ellery Rachel Jaraczewski (Heron Clan)  
Daughter of Michelle Lyn Kozuch  
Enrollment Date: February 13, 2021



Elias Miguel Ydrogo (Hawk Clan)  
Son of Ashley and Miguel Ydrogo  
Enrollment Date: April 10, 2021

Welcome our recent enrollments to the Seneca Nation!  
Due to Covid-19, the in person requirement for enrollment has been temporarily suspended, therefore we are asking parents who recently have or will be having their child(ren) enrolled and wishes to have their child(s) pictures included in future editions of the SN Newsletter, please email a picture to: [Leslie.john@sni.org](mailto:Leslie.john@sni.org) or [Bjohnson@sni.org](mailto:Bjohnson@sni.org)

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

TO APPROVE DELETIONS TO THE SENECA NATION ROLL (April 10, 2021)

- |    |                        |   |        |
|----|------------------------|---|--------|
| 1. | Bernard A. George      | - | Turtle |
| 2. | Christina R. Jimerson  | - | Beaver |
| 3. | Michael L. John        | - | Wolf   |
| 4. | David P. Leroy         | - | Wolf   |
| 5. | Charles D. Nephew      | - | Hawk   |
| 6. | Nancy Caryl Sutton     | - | Beaver |
| 7. | Lawrence Wilford Titus | - | Turtle |
| 8. | Paul D. Whitepigeon    | - | Wolf   |

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Seneca Nation of Indians is currently accepting letters of intent for those interested in serving on the:

SENECA NATION TRAILS COMMISSION (8)  
4- Allegany Territory Community Members  
4- Cattaraugus Territory Community Members

(This is a non-paid voluntary committee and will meet outside of standard business hours)

Purpose:

The purpose of the Trails Commission is to establish a formal mechanism for coordination and implementation of trail planning and development throughout the Seneca Nation.  
Coordinated by the Seneca Nation Community Planning and Development Department and Department of Transportation

Qualifications:

Must be a current resident of either the Cattaraugus or Allegany Territory

If interested, please submit your letter of intent no later than 4:30 p.m. on May 28, 2021.

Mail To:  
Seneca Nation of Indians Clerk’s Office  
Attention: Marta L. Kettle, Clerk  
12837 Rte. 438  
Irving, NY 14081

Looking for a cozy getaway?

Look no further!  
Book your cabin now at Highbanks Campground Away From It All, But Easy To Find!



Highbanks  
CAMPGROUND

1370 West Perimeter Road, Steamburg, NY 14783  
OPEN YEAR ROUND!!! \*\*Winter rates apply now  
[camphighbanks.com](http://camphighbanks.com) I Check us out on Facebook & Twitter



# Senecas: Clean water a human right they'll fight to defend

By *TINA ABRAMS and PRESLEY REDEYE* Special to Olean Times Herald Apr 14, 2021

Fresh, clean water is the very foundation of all life. Without it, nothing — human, plant or animal — can survive.

For far too long, our neighbors both up and downstream of our Territories have turned a blind eye to the sanctity of preserving this basic human right, flagrantly dumping sewage and other pollutants into the tributaries that flow through our land in clear violation of the federal Clean Water Act.

We have tried to address this problem through the standard diplomatic channels, to no avail. The Nation can no longer stand idly by while the waters that have for centuries provided our people with life-sustaining fish and plants are poisoned.

A handful of communities in Western New York and Pennsylvania are to blame for this systematic environmental misconduct. But the worst actor in recent years has been the Village of Portville. Its wastewater treatment plant has, from 2015 to the present day, consistently discharged both storm and wastewater far in excess of the limits of its state permit into Dodge Creek at the confluence of the Allegheny River.

We call the Allegheny River “Ohi:yo” — meaning the good or beautiful river in our language — and we must ensure the it lives up to its name in perpetuity.

The Nation recently notified Portville’s leaders of our intention to take legal action under the auspices of the Clean Water Act in response to their persistent refusal to abate these harmful discharges. Our notice of intent to file civil action gives the village 60 days to rectify this dangerous multi-year pattern of dumping.

If this situation is not rectified within that time frame, the Nation will sue for all Clean Water Act violations and seek civil penalties for any additional violations discovered in the future — including during the course of litigation. We will also seek an injunction in an effort to halt these ongoing illegal discharges.

But Portville is just the beginning. This is a warning to the communities both upstream and downstream of our Territories:



The Nation intends to use every available tool in its effort to protect and preserve our waterways — an effort for which we have been laying the groundwork for many years.

Just last month, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) notified the Seneca Nation that its application to be treated in the same manner as an “affected state” under the Clean Water Act had been granted, further broadening our ability to protect and restore the waterways on our land. This significant designation has been achieved by only a handful of the 574 federally-recognized American Indian and Alaska Native tribes, and is the culmination of four years of hard work by our environmental team.

It is unforgivable that in this modern era, members of vulnerable communities across the U.S. lack safe and clean drinking water — despite the fact that this is the richest country in the world. Nearly one in four Americans’ drinking water comes from a system that is either untested or contaminated by federal standards, according to a 2019 study. And the statistics are even worse for Native people, who are more likely to have trouble accessing clean water than any other group.

To pollute our natural resources — especially something as precious, life-giving and essential as clean water — is nothing short of an insult to Native populations. The Seneca take seriously their role as the Keeper of the Western Door and as a steward of the land, water and air to which we have been inexorably connected for generations. We stand ready to do whatever is necessary to assure that our people do not have to question whether their water is safe to drink, fish in or even merely touch.

As water is important to all people, we hope that communities across New York and Pennsylvania will support this important effort.

*(Tina Abrams and Presley Redeye are co-chairs of the Seneca Nation Council.)*

## PUBLIC NOTICE

The Seneca Nation of Indians is currently accepting letters of intent for those interested in serving on the:

### SENECA NATION LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES (5)

- 2- Allegany Territory Representatives (term: 2020-2025)
- 2 – Allegany Territory Representatives (term: 2021-2026)
- 1 – Cattaraugus Territory Representative Vacancy (fulfill a term 2017-2022)

Purpose:  
The library shall be managed by the Board of Trustees.  
Qualifications:  
Must be at least 18 years of age

If interested, please submit your letter of intent no later than: May 28, 2021  
Mail To:  
Seneca Nation of Indians Clerk’s Office  
Attention: Marta L. Kettle, Clerk  
12837 Rte. 438  
Irving, NY 14081

Posted 04/13/20



# New York State Legalizes Recreational Marijuana: *What this means for the Seneca Nation*

On March 31, 2021, New York State legalized “adult-use marijuana.” The new law legalizes the possession and use of marijuana within the State for adults 21 and over, will create a regulatory structure for the sale of recreational marijuana for adults, and will expunge the records of people previously convicted of marijuana possession.

The legalization of recreational marijuana raises questions as to how recreational marijuana will be treated on the Territories of the Seneca Nation. While substantial uncertainty remains in this industry, the FAQs below aim to provide some guidance to Seneca Nation members residing on or visiting the Nation.

## Can adult Seneca Nation members now possess and use recreational marijuana on the Territories?

No. The production, sale, and possession of recreational marijuana remains illegal on the Seneca Nation’s lands pursuant to Nation Law. It also continues to be unlawful to use or consume recreational marijuana on the public lands of the Seneca Nation, including public highways, bridges, Seneca Nation property, parking lots, driveways, and grounds surrounding Seneca Nation buildings. These laws currently remain in place and are not affected by the State’s recent legalization of recreational marijuana. The Seneca Nation also prohibits the sale of drug paraphernalia, including equipment, product, or material intended or designed for use with a “a controlled substance, for which possession of such controlled substance is unlawful under federal law.” This includes paraphernalia intended for use with marijuana, including pipes, water pipes, roach clips, bongs, and other drug-using mechanisms. In addition, the Seneca Nation continues to operate Drug Free Workplaces, which prohibit the use of recreational marijuana in the workplace by Nation and Nation-owned entities’ employees.

## Can private businesses now sell marijuana on the Territories?

No. In addition to Nation laws prohibiting the sale or possession of marijuana, the Nation has not adopted regulations governing the growing, manufacturing, distribution or sale of recreational marijuana. The sale of recreational marijuana remains illegal on Seneca Nation Territory, and no current regulatory structure exists to govern recreational marijuana within the Seneca Nation. The Nation does not condone, permit, or allow the private cultivation, distribution, or sale of recreational marijuana on its lands, nor the manufacturing or sale of any products which contain marijuana for recreational use.

The State’s regulatory structure governing marijuana sales will not apply on the Seneca Nation’s land. This does not make the sale of marijuana legal on the Territories. Instead, sales of marijuana remain prohibited by both Nation law and the laws of the United States.

Finally, the Biden administration has not issued guidance on how it will treat the marijuana industry in states that have legalized marijuana, or on Indian reservations that are neighbors with states that have legalized recreational marijuana. Marijuana remains illegal under the United States’ Controlled Substances Act. Any attempts to grow, distribute or sell marijuana on Seneca lands have a substantial likelihood of drawing attention from federal law enforcement agencies, including the United States Drug Enforcement Agency.

## Can businesses located on Nation Territory participate in the State’s licensing program for marijuana retailers?

Seneca businesses and individuals can participate in the State’s recreational marijuana program so long as that participation takes place entirely outside the territories of the Seneca Nation. The State’s licensing program does not apply on the Seneca Nation territories, and therefore no State-licensed marijuana facilities may be located within the Seneca Nation.

## Does the Nation intend to create regulations allowing for a private marijuana economy?

The Nation has no current plans for creating a regulatory structure that would allow for a private marijuana growing and sales economy on the Nation lands. As an extremely highly regulated industry, the Nation currently does not have the enforcement abilities required to provide the oversight necessary to ensure that a private marijuana growing and sales industry would be operated safely and legally.

## Does the Nation intend to participate in the marijuana industry?

As you are aware, the COVID-19 Pandemic of 2020 has had a devastating impact on the economy of the Seneca Nation and the Nation government’s ability to provide public services and general welfare assistance to our people. We have recognized that reliance on gaming revenues for governmental funding does not provide the financial security necessary to ensure that we can continue to provide these benefits.

As part of a larger effort to diversify the sources of revenues required by the Seneca Nation and our people, the Nation is exploring investment in a Nation-owned recreational marijuana program, the revenues of which would be used to support government programs. These discussions are in their initial phases, and will require that the Nation revise its existing laws concerning marijuana.



Seneca Nation

Head Start

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

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 Henodestyta’ 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

Any Questions feel free to call 716-532-0505

Tamara Piskoroski at Ext: 5323 or

Cindy Sanford at Ext: 5304

Head Start



# Seneca Nation Offers Vaccine To Neighboring School Districts - Press Release

Seneca Nation Health System scheduling appointments on target dates

With Western New York possibly facing a third wave of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Seneca Nation is reaching out to neighboring school districts near its Cattaraugus and Allegany territories to help make vaccines accessible for eligible students and staff.

The Nation recently notified district leaders at Gowanda, Silver Creek, Lake Shore and Salamanca that eligible students and staff can make vaccine appointments with the Seneca Nation Health System on target dates over the next two weeks.

“The recent rise in cases in the region, particularly among people 19 and younger, makes the urgency for everyone to get a COVID vaccine even greater,” said Seneca Nation President Matthew Pagels. “Keeping our children and are schools safe has to be a priority, and we know that vaccine access in rural communities has been a challenge. The Seneca Nation is proud to work with our school district partners to do what we can to help get the vaccine to as many people in our community as possible.”

In Salamanca, the Seneca Nation Health System is scheduling appointments for the Pfizer vaccine during the week of April 19, and appointments for the Moderna vaccine during the week of April 26. “The Salamanca City Central School District is grateful for the vibrant partnership with the Seneca Nation and the Seneca Nation Health System,” said Superintendent Robert Breidenstein. “Throughout the course of the pandemic, the Seneca Nation has collaborated with the distinct to ensure the safety of our students

and community. Allowing Salamanca City Central School District staff and students to have access to the COVID vaccines at the Seneca Nation Health System demonstrates the strength of our relationship and the support of our community. We are safer today because of our mutual commitment to public safety.”

For eligible students and staff in the Gowanda, Silver Creek and Lake Shore districts, the Seneca Nation Health System in Irving is scheduling appointments for the Pfizer vaccine on select during the week of April 19, and appointments for the Moderna vaccine on during the week of April 16 and the week of May 3.

“Strong partnerships like the one our district enjoys with the Seneca Nation are paramount in building strong, healthy schools and communities. This has taken on added importance throughout the coronavirus pandemic,” said Dr. Robert Anderson, Gowanda Central School District Superintendent. “We are grateful to the Seneca Nation for making this outreach and helping us protect our community’s health and well-being.”

“Seneca students are an important part of our school community, and we have always enjoyed a strong working relationship with the Seneca Nation,” said Lake Shore Superintendent Dr. Charles Galluzzo. “Having the opportunity for our Lake Shore students and staff to access the COVID vaccine so nearby is a tremendous benefit. This outreach is another important step in helping to protect our students, our staff and our entire district community.” “Silver Creek Central School continues to work and partner with the Seneca Nation of Indians on promoting vaccinations,” added

Silver Creek Superintendent Todd Crandall. “We strongly urge all eligible individuals to be vaccinated. We believe that vaccination is an essential element to the fight against the coronavirus for our students, staff and community.”

Native American communities have been among the most impacted by the coronavirus. Federal statistics show that the COVID-related death rate among American Indian and Alaska Native people is nearly twice that of white people. The Seneca Nation Health System began receiving vaccine doses for Nation members from the federal Indian Health Services in January. To date, the Health System has administered nearly 3,200 primary doses on the Nation’s territories and more than 2,300 Nation members have been fully vaccinated.

The schools partnership is the latest effort by the Nation to help make the vaccine accessible to residents in neighboring communities. Last month, the Nation worked with Cattaraugus County officials to conduct a series of primary and second dose vaccine clinics for County residents at the Seneca Allegany Events Center inside Seneca Allegany Resort & Casino. In all, approximately 1,500 Cattaraugus County residents were fully vaccinated at the Seneca Allegany clinics.

“The battle against COVID-19 doesn’t begin or end at the borders of our Nation,” President Pagels said. “We are one community, and we can only win this together. Helping our neighbors who live, work and go to school alongside us is part of that effort. We continue to urge everyone to make a vaccine appointment as soon as they are eligible and able to do so.”

## ATTENTION

# 2021 High School Graduates

*Preparing for upcoming recognition event*

The Cattaraugus Education Department is preparing for their recognition event in June.

If you are graduating from a high school **OUTSIDE OF OUR TRI-DISTRICT AREA** (outside of Gowanda, Lake Shore or Silver Creek school districts), and you are an enrolled Seneca Nation member and you would like to be included in our event, please contact our office by **April 30, 2021**.

**Please call (716) 532-3341 or email Assistant Director K-12 Education, Amy White at amy.white@sni.org.**





### Red White and Blue Giveaway!

Looking for a new ride or some extra cash in your pocket? Then Bingo is the place to be, join us every Thursday from May 13 to May 27 at the 7pm session. One lucky winner at Each session will win a vehicle of their choice with a value up to \$25,000 or the option to take \$20,000 in Cash.

Again that's Thursday, May 13th, 20th and 27th at 7pm

All Regular Games will pay out \$500 with a Jackpot up to \$3,000



# Seneca Nation Requests Court To Stay Or Vacate Judgment In Light Of Key Interior Department Statement —

Interior Department Letter Expresses Concern About Legality of \$1 Billion in Revenue Sharing Payments During Renewal Period

The Seneca Nation today requested that the federal district court stay all proceedings for 45 days in response to the United States Department of the Interior’s declaration that it has yet to review the legality of the payment provisions of the Nation’s Class III gaming compact with the State of New York.

The Department– which is empowered under the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act to ensure lawful gaming agreements – expressed “serious concerns” about the lawfulness of any renewal period payments in an April 15, 2021 letter issued by its Office of Indian Gaming. The letter explains that in 2002 – when the Compact commenced – the Department did not review whether revenue sharing during the 7-year renewal period was lawful because the Compact terms did not provide for any payments beyond the original 14-year term. The Department “caution[ed] the parties about their reliance on the [payment] terms because [the Department has] not determined that they are lawful.” The Department invited the Nation and the State to submit the Compact for review to specifically determine whether revenue sharing payments to the State during the 7-year extension period are justified by any economic benefits provided by the State

to the Nation, or whether they instead constitute an impermissible tax. The Nation has asked the State to cooperate with it in obtaining the Department’s assessment, but the State has thus far refused to do so.

The Nation’s Rule 60 motion to the court seeks to stay further proceedings to enforce an arbitration award against the Nation while the Department conducts its review, or to vacate the court’s prior judgment if the State refuses to cooperate with that review. While the parties agreed under the Compact that arbitration could be used to interpret the meaning of Compact terms, only the federal government has the authority to determine whether the terms themselves are lawful. The arbitration panel inferred that the Department of the Interior had reviewed and approved renewal period payments. The Department’s letter now makes clear, however, that it never did so, a critical fact that was not previously before the federal District Court and Court of Appeals in considering the validity of the arbitration award.

Seneca Nation President Matthew Pagels issued the following statement in response to the State’s refusal:

“For the past several years, the Seneca Nation has fought against New York State’s effort to obtain an additional \$1 billion in revenue sharing payments despite the clear language of our Compact that no payments

are required. Such payments would violate federal law because the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act is crystal clear that no state shall impose a ‘tax, charge, fee, or other assessment’ without a meaningful benefit to the Indian tribe. The State has done nothing to justify any additional payments. Indeed, it has made a mockery of our ‘exclusivity zone’ with its three racetrack casinos and a new state-licensed facility five miles from our zone in Seneca County.

Last week, the Interior Department expressed support for the Nation’s position that further payments to the State must be reviewed for conformity with federal law and invited the parties to submit to a 45-day regulatory review. Unfortunately, and unreasonably, the State rejected that approach. The Nation remains committed to seeking an authoritative determination by the Interior Department as to the legality of the payments the State seeks from the Nation. And if the State does not so agree, the Nation believes there is a legal basis to invalidate the Nation’s payment obligation. The best course right now would be for the State and the Nation to jointly request Interior Department review so that this matter can be resolved quickly and with legal certainty for the benefit of the Seneca people, our employees and the local communities that we support.”

## HEAP Cooling Assistance

*Submitted by Briana Snyder, AOA*

### Did you know there is HEAP Cooling Assistance?

The 2020-2021 Cooling Assistance benefit will open on **May 3, 2021**.

**To be eligible for a Cooling Assistance benefit the applicant or somebody in the household must have a documented medical condition that is exacerbated by extreme heat.**

If you are eligible, you may receive one Cooling Assistance benefit per applicant household for the purchase and installation of an air conditioner or a fan to help your home stay cool.

Only one air conditioner or fan, not to exceed \$800 with installation, will be provided per applicant household. No additional HEAP cash benefits are available.

**You may be eligible for a Cooling Assistance HEAP benefit if:**

- Your household's gross monthly income is at or below the current income guidelines for your household size, or
- You receive Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)

- benefits, or
- You receive Temporary Assistance (TA), or
- You receive Code A Supplemental Security Income (SSI Living Alone), and
- You and your household members are United States Citizens or qualified aliens, and
- Includes an individual with a documented medical condition that is exacerbated by heat, and
- You received a Regular benefit greater than \$21 in the current program year or reside in government subsidized housing with heat included in your rent, and
- You currently do not have a working air conditioner or the air conditioner you have is five years old or older, and
- You did not receive a HEAP funded air conditioner within the past five years.

Your household eligibility requirements include filing an application with your local department of social services, providing all necessary documentation, and the household must reside in an eligible living situation.

**Contact AOA Options Counselor, Briana Snyder at (716)945-8991 if you have any further questions.**



# ATV, Motorcycle & Vehicle Slow Roll

Please Join Us for  
A Stand Against Drugs &  
Drug Dealers!

Raising Awareness! We will not stop the fight against DRUGS!  
Take Our Territory Back! Stop Drug Dealers!

All Are Welcome - Line Up @ Iroquois Post 1587

**Saturday, May 8<sup>th</sup> - 11AM**

**Slow Roll Starts @ 12PM**

**Guest Speakers**

**Informational Booths**



**NarCan Training Demo**

**Refreshments**



**Poster/Sign Contest**

**Food & MORE!**




For more information, to help with this event or to make a donation, please contact Sharon Patterson (716) 997-0904, Gloria Gordon (716) 560-6859, Valerie Marr (716) 200-6093 or Veronica Cook (716) 392-5283. Nya:wēh.

# PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

SENECA HIGH SCHOOL  
JUNIORS & SENIORS

SPONSORED & PRESENTED BY



To sign up, email Hanna Sheridan  
hsheridan@senecaholdings.com  
no later than May 21, 2021.

These sessions are open to all current Seneca high school juniors and seniors. The program will provide professional skills training that is indispensable for anyone entering the workforce.

Commitment to attend all 4 sessions is required. Topics will include:

- Professional writing
- Social media usage
- Financial literacy
- Public speaking
- Team building

Transportation will be provided for anyone traveling from Cattaraugus. Refreshments will be provided.

**Thursdays 4-6pm**  
**June 3, 10, 17, 24**

**Onöhsagwë:de' Cultural Center**

**82 W Hetzel St,  
Salamanca, NY  
14779**



**Seneca Myths & Folk Tales**



Shop Our Online Store

Museum hours are Monday-Friday, 10am-4pm.


RESERVE YOUR EVENT AT THE  
OUTDOOR AMPHITHEATER



• Seats up to 100 people  
• SN member 20% discount  
• Great for weddings, family reunions, school graduations, conferences, etc.



# SENECA IROQUOIS NATIONAL MUSEUM



# ANNUAL MEETING

## Annual SNIFCU Member Meeting!

Join us for the 2021 Annual Membership Meeting of the Seneca Nation Credit Union

Our meeting will be held virtually. Please email [info@snifcu.org](mailto:info@snifcu.org) for details.

**Wednesday, May 26<sup>th</sup>, 2021 - 4:00 pm**

**Virtual Meeting with GoToMeeting**

All attendees must register to attend by **4pm Tuesday, May 25<sup>th</sup>**. This meeting is open to Credit Union members only. Each year we host an annual meeting to give all our members the opportunity to come and learn about what is happening at the credit union. This year, in light of the COVID pandemic we will be hosting this event entirely online. There will be a review of the past year's financial information, and an election of directors.

**Irving Office**

12837 Route 438  
Irving, NY 14081  
(716) 532-8179

**Hours**

Mon - Fri  
9am - 4pm

**Salamanca Branch**

90 Ohi:yo Way  
Salamanca, NY 14779  
(716) 945-8510



# News from TERC Youth Program: After-School YES Program (Youth Employment Services)

Submitted by Patti Brisley, TERC



YES Participant Kenzie Luke assisting with inventory at Seneca-Iroquois Museum gift shop

TERC has implemented an after-school work program for high school students back in November 2020. Four youth worked 2:30 – 4:30 in Seneca Nation departments 4 days a week and then attended workshops on Wednesdays. It will be winding down during the month of May, so we wanted to share the great time we had with the youth!

One placement for two youth was with the Seneca-Iroquois National Museum/O nöh sa gwë:de’ Cultural Center. The two youth enhanced their knowledge of their history and learning of all the Haudenosaunee nations beginning from the Creation Story to European contact, to the formation of the Seneca Nation government to the 20th century and current events such as the Kinzua Dam, the re-location to today’s dealings with New York State and the United States government relations. They also had the wonderful opportunity to work in the Collections Department downstairs in the SINM! Such remarkable artifacts from documents, to paintings and pottery to jewelry and beadwork, collected ever since the museum opened, but dated way back to 100’s of years ago! Lastly, they also learned day-to-day operations of the Gift

Shop and became certified 3-D Printer Operators (Makerbot model)!

Another youth was placed at the Tribal Advocate Office where he learned how important is not only to offer a helping hand but to see how much our nation is there for our families in a time of need. It was of particular importance because of the times we are in = this covid pandemic had really impacted everyday life for the majority of the world, and this youth saw it on a first-hand account, i.e. people laid off, needing food, clothing, housing appliances, etc. He was able to assist with some of the drive-through food distributions and mask/sanitizer distributions that allowed him to witness the ingenuity of still carrying out a goal but revising the way of getting it done. The youth even shared how he was surprised that he liked it so well at the tribal Advocate, being he had wanted a different worksite, but due to some departments still leery about having youth in their office, he chose to give Tribal Advocate a try.

Another youth was placed at the Allegany Community Center/Allegany Education Department – because each department was not operating 100%, they agreed to split the time for the youth 50% in each. Under the ACC, the youth learned how to answer and handle incoming phone calls, direct patrons to their destination, work as a team member when community events were planned, and more. Under Education, the youth learned of all the functions our Education Department does, and assist with accommodating their students and parents to their department.

The workshops were designed to teach the youth about interviewing and other job-seeking skills; employment success; career exploration; career readiness; workplace safety; financial literacy – banking, credit cards, credit scores, and budgeting; to name a few. Each participant received

Certificates for each workshop helping them to build a portfolio to add to their resume’ and list of references. Being academics was stressed as the most important, the youth also had a ‘4-Year High School Plan’ which outlined what they should be doing each year starting with 9th grade working their way up to 12th grade, ideas like meeting with your Guidance Counselor at school, taking the right courses in high school, taking the PSAT’s and SAT’s, taking interest assessments, visiting colleges or workplaces, getting involved in the community, building relationships with mentors – make a list of references, and more!

All in all, the School-Year YES Program was a success! Nyaweh to the departments who participated! We know it was a challenging time with the pandemic going on, but rest assured, the youth and the YES Program followed all safety protocols set in place, from temperature checks and the employee survey, wearing face masks and using sanitizer, disinfecting the desks, chairs and room after each use, washing hands after punching in and out, staying 6 ft. social distancing, and the like!



Cultural Interpreter Tristan Jimerson training Kenzie Luke in sales

## Check out Gaëno'! The national syndicated podcast hosted by Brett Maybee from Seneca Media!

Gaëno’ is a one hour, weekly show produced by Brett Maybee from the Allegany Territory for Native Voice One: The Native American Radio Network. The newly syndicated podcast focuses on the various genres of contemporary music created by talented artists from the numerous Indigenous Nations of Turtle Island. Gaëno’ seeks to not only entertain audiences with great music but to also educate listeners who may not be familiar with, or are new to the modern Native American music scene. Nearly every episode is accompanied by a 15-20 minute interview with a featured artist,

where you get to know the person behind the music.

**There are a number of ways to check out the latest episodes! Head to <https://www.gaenomusic.fm/> or search Gaëno’ on Apple Podcasts!**





PUBLIC NOTICE

The Seneca Nation of Indians is currently accepting letters of intent & resumes for those interested in serving on

SENECA GAMING AUTHORITY COMMISSION

The Seneca Nation established a Seneca Gaming Authority to regulate gaming. The Nation Council established a Commission to oversee the regulatory efforts.

Overview

The Seneca Gaming Authority Commission consists of three (3) persons, appointed by the Nation Council, who will receive a stipend as set by the Nation Council. They will serve for a period of three (3) years and may be reappointed at the end of each term.

They are not employees of the Seneca Nation.

One of the Commissioners shall be designated as the Chairperson and shall be additionally responsible for chairing and calling meetings of the SGA Commission and other duties as assigned by the Commission

Commissioners are responsible for actively participating in the Gaming Commission to fulfill their oversight responsibilities; comply with applicable laws and bylaws; conduct Commission business effectively and efficiently; and take such actions that ensure the integrity of the gaming operations. Commissioners must be able to thoughtfully review decisions made by the Executive Director in case of any hearing or appeal.

Commissioners are not responsible for the day-to-day regulation of the Nation's gaming operations. Rather they are responsible for ensuring that the Executive Director performs his or her duties as outlined in the SGA rules, policies and procedures and applicable laws; for ensuring that the SGA has adequate legal representation to achieve SGA goals; and for ensuring that SGA internal audits are conducted to identify inadequacies in the SGA's systems.

Minimum Qualifications:

Five years financial, legal, commission, gaming or law enforcement experience. Board of Directors and gaming experience preferred. Bachelors Degree Preferred. No Felony, theft or stealing convictions Current valid driving license or ability to obtain one within thirty days is required Must be able to successfully pass a pre-employment drug/alcohol screen and background investigation. Must be able to be certified as meeting the requirements of Nation Key License. Seneca Preference

The SGA Bylaws and Commissioners duties and responsibilities & rules of conduct are available in the Clerk's Office.

Interested individuals are invited to submit a letter of interest and a resume to the Nation's Clerk at: Seneca Nation of Indians, Attention: Marta L. Kettle, Clerk 12837 Route 438, Irving NY 14081 no later than May 28, 2021.

Import Export Meeting

Open to the Public w/ limited availability

When: May 20, 2021 at 1pm  
Where: Allegany Council Chambers

Social distancing will be practiced and a mask is required!

Next Newsletter  
Deadline for submissions:  
May 4th  
Issue to be dated:  
May 14th



Do you have ideas about the future of Seneca's roadways, trails, sidewalks, and more?


# WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!




**REVIEW & PROVIDE FEEDBACK ON THE LONG-RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN**  
Check out the current Long-Range Transportation Plan and contribute feedback on how you think the future transportation system should look. The L RTP can be found here: <https://sni.org/departments/departments-of-transportation/>



**TAKE THE ONLINE SURVEY**  
Go to [www.surveymonkey.com/r/JTH6RXX](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/JTH6RXX) or scan the QR code with your phone's camera to fill out the survey and make your voice heard!



**USE THE MAP TO IDENTIFY TRANSPORTATION NEEDS**  
Go to <https://bit.ly/3rKS5oQ> to drop pins and leave comments about specific problem areas that could use improvement.



# Get a gift for Mom

## Vendor Event

Stanley "Sully" Huff  
Heritage Center,  
12857 Route 438, Irving, NY  
**MAY 14**  
10am - 4pm  
Hosted by the Seneca Language Department  
To reserve a vendor space, call Samantha  
Jacobs at (716) 532-4900 ext. 5120

## Seneca Nation Training and Employment Resource Center T.E.R.C. - VR Program

If you or a family member struggle to maintain employment due to a documented disability, or think you may benefit from our services but not sure if you qualify we invite you to meet with our staff members.

The Vocational Rehabilitation program will be available at the Buffalo Native Resource Center on a monthly basis. Meet with our Intake Specialist and/or VR Counselor to learn more. Our goal is to help remove all barriers so you can be successfully employed.

We will be at the BNRC: 533 Amherst St., Buffalo, NY 14207 on the following Mondays and Fridays: 9am-4pm

**\*April 5th (Mon) & April 23rd (Fri)**  
**\*May 3rd (Mon) & May 21st (Fri)**  
**\*June 7th (Mon) & June 25th (Fri)**

Bring any documentation you have from your medical provider, 3 forms of ID including a proof of address.  
RSVP to 532-1033 or 845-6304  
Walk-ins Welcome

# WE ARE HIRING

## JOIN OUR TEAM

### Job Announcement

Check out Seneca Nations website for job postings at:

**[www.sni.org](http://www.sni.org)**  
**Submit applications/resume for Allegany Territory to:**

Human Resources Department Phone: (716) 945-1790 ext. 3526  
Attn: Shelly Rivas  
P.O. Box 231  
Salamanca, NY 14779 Fax: (716) 532-8235  
Email: [shelly.rivas@sni.org](mailto:shelly.rivas@sni.org)

# WE WANT YOU



# Seneca Nation Fish Hatchery has another successful year, will open new classroom soon

By Tami Watt, Editor



Newly built classroom the dept. hopes to open by fall time

The Seneca Nation Allegany Fish and Wildlife Department’s Fish Hatchery was established in 2012 to raise and stock the waters of Ohi:yo’ with walleye that have been in decline over the last 30 years due to habitat erosion, affects from the construction of the Kinzua Dam in the 1965.

Since then, the walleye population has made a tremendous come back in the reservoir with an abundance of females that were once scarce. As Fishery Manager Shane Titus explains, “We were soliciting females from fisherman on the banks, asking them to trade one female for five males, just so we could get the eggs from the female.” Public awareness and social media have aided the hatchery’s efforts in preserving females for egg collection and release.

Through a grant with the US Fish and Wildlife Service, the Fish Hatchery operations run exclusively on renewable energy which requires minimal maintenance and financial stress. All electrical requirements are provided to the hatchery by use of solar panels. By using solar power we are able to remain “off the grid.” The hatchery was constructed entirely by staff starting in 2010, it took 2 years to complete facility and

operations started in 2012.

Years of hard work and perseverance have paid off. The hatchery now has an abundance of females running through the waters of Ohi:yo’ and the challenge of securing eggs to fertilize are far gone. The Seneca Nation Fish and Wildlife successfully replenishes our waters with walleye each year in an effort to promote self- sufficiency and a healthy environment on our Territories.

This season, the walleye that were caught were larger in size than any year before and were hooked miles off our Territories, some as far up the river as Hinsdale, NY and as far down as Eldred, PA.

All females are tagged by the Seneca Nation Fish and Wildlife Department and data can be entered online at **www.senecaconservation.com**. This helps the staff retrieve stats and aids in operation.

Fishery Managers Shane Titus and Larry Becelia are responsible for current system of mating fish, fertilizing eggs, and releasing fry. The Department anticipates being able to produce 2.5 million fry, between 15,000-25,000 walleye fingerlings and 1,000 -1,500 juveniles into the Allegheny Reservoir annually.

The set-up is almost an exact replica of the state’s massive operation but on a smaller scale and with well water. Water ran at the hatchery is provided by gravity fed natural spring wells located on site, with a backup ground well (electric) to be used for emergency purposes. Using well water saves staff the extra step of sanitizing the eggs from dirt and debris compared to other fresh water sources.

With almost 10 years of success under their belt with the Fish Hatchery, the Fish and Wildlife Department were awarded another grant to build a cabin that will hold classes that focus on wildlife and outdoor safety. The classroom will house a full kitchen for farm to table style food preparation which aids in food safety, food freshness, food seasonality, and self-sufficiency. The farm to table model promotes acquiring food directly from the producer with less preservatives, less pollution to deliver goods, and benefits the local farmers and economy.

The staff has plans to host another instructional session on preparing a deer for processing and consuming. A large hanger is setup for dressing wild game. Fish and Wildlife also plan to host hunter safety courses for members that hunt off territory.

The Fish Hatchery also has a catch and release pond for the community to enjoy at their site off I-86, Red House, exit 19 that is open from April 1st - November 1st. The gate is open until dusk.



The current system at the Seneca Nation Fish Hatchery operated by Shane Titus and Larry Becelia

## Home Gardens 2021

FREE COMMUNITY TILLING

The SNI Agricultural Dept. is offering free tilling for the upcoming garden season to Cattaraugus Community members.

Please remember follow Covid 19 Protocols.

Registration starts 4/12/21 until 5/7/21

Tilling will start 4/26/21

12’ x 12’ max. garden plots

Must stake out your 12’ x 12’ plot on your property that you want tilled.

Call to Register

For more info & register  
Call or text Leroy at  
(716)244-0493



## GAKWI:YO:H FARMS 2021

# PLANT SALE

Saturday, May 15

Cattaraugus Territory at The Taylor Hollow Farm. 11-2pm

Sunday, May 16

Allegany Territory at Iroquois Museum parking lot. 11-2pm

The 2021 growing season is upon us. We, at Gakwi:yoh Farms would like to assist you with our plant sale. We have a variety of Vegetables, Herbs, and Flowers to get your garden going for the season. All of our plant are started organically for the best health benefits possible for you and your family.

Please follow Covid 19 Protocols.

Additional Info: Call or Text Leroy (716)244-0493



## NY Connects is Here to Help!



We are providing essential supply bags for people with disabilities and their caregivers while supplies last!

Each bag contains the following: toilet paper, paper towels, hand sanitizer, dish soap, and a bar of soap. We also have gift cards for essentials as well!

Bags and gift cards are available for distribution at each of our three centers: Buffalo, Niagara Falls, and Batavia. Please call the following to see if you qualify:

Genesee, Wyoming, & Orleans Counties - (716) 548-3955

Niagara County - (716) 495-2562

Seneca Nation - (716) 578-4679 Erie County - (888) 564-5171

NY Connects is an information and referral service for people of all ages needing information about long-term supports and services.

AVAILABLE WHILE SUPPLIES LAST!





# FEMA Assistance to Help Pay Funeral Costs for COVID-19 Related Deaths

Submitted by Emergency Management

During a recent Tribal Nation Conference call FEMA announced it is rolling out a new funding program for Funeral Assistance for individuals who have incurred out of pocket funeral expenses not covered by other sources.

FEMA will begin providing financial assistance for funeral expenses incurred after Jan. 20, 2020 for deaths related to coronavirus (COVID-19) to help ease some of the financial stress and burden caused by the pandemic. The policy was finalized March 24, 2021 (HQ-21-071), and FEMA is now moving rapidly to implement this funeral assistance program nationwide.

FEMA Representative Julie Blanciak, Individual Assistance Branch Chief, presented Region II Tribal Emergency Managers with the following information on how to apply for Funeral Assistance:

- FEMA will begin accepting applications for Individual Funeral Assistance beginning on **Monday, April 12, 2021.**
- The following number will be used for those individuals applying: **844-684-6333** through our dedicated FEMA call center.


•A Funeral Assistance website has been updated to include a YouTube instructional video, pertinent information and FAQ's: <https://www.fema.gov/disasters/coronavirus/economic/funeral-assistance>

•Attached below is the link to the FEMA Funeral Assistance Program Policy:  
[https://www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/documents/fema\\_policy\\_covid-19\\_funeral\\_assistance-updated.pdf](https://www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/documents/fema_policy_covid-19_funeral_assistance-updated.pdf)

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Funeral Assistance

The COVID-19 pandemic has brought overwhelming grief to many families. At FEMA, our mission is to help people before, during and after disasters. We are dedicated to helping ease some of the financial stress and burden caused by the virus.

**FEMA is providing financial assistance for COVID-19-related funeral expenses incurred after January 20, 2020.**



**To be eligible for funeral assistance, you must meet these conditions:**

- The death must have occurred in the United States, including the U.S. territories, and the District of Columbia.
- The death certificate must indicate the death was attributed to or caused by COVID-19.
- The applicant must be a U.S. citizen, non-citizen national or qualified alien who incurred funeral expenses after January 20, 2020.
- There is no requirement for the deceased person to have been a U.S. citizen, non-citizen national or qualified alien.

**Which expenses will qualify for reimbursement?**

Examples of eligible expenses for funeral services and interment or cremation may include, but not limited to:

- Transportation for up to two people to identify the deceased individual
- The transfer of remains, a casket or urn
- A burial plot or cremation niche
- A marker or headstone
- Clergy or officiant services
- The arrangement of a funeral ceremony
- The use of funeral home equipment or staff
- Cremation or interment costs
- Costs associated with producing multiple death certificates

**What information do I need to provide to FEMA?**

Please have the following information before contacting FEMA to apply:

- Your name, social security number, date of birth, mailing address and contact phone numbers.
- The name, social security number and date of birth for each deceased individual.
- The location or address where the deceased individual passed away.
- Documentation and receipts for any assistance already received from other sources, including burial or funeral insurance, donations, voluntary agencies, other government programs or non-profit organizations.
- If you and another person both incurred funeral expenses for the same deceased individual(s), you can also provide that person as a co-applicant — include their name, social security number and date of birth on the application.

**HOW DO I APPLY FOR THIS ASSISTANCE?**


Call FEMA's COVID-19 Funeral Assistance Helpline at 1-844-684-6333 (TTY: 800-462-7585) from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. ET, Monday – Friday and begin the application process.

For fastest service following your application, you can begin submitting documentation online through [Disasterassistance.gov](https://disasterassistance.gov) by fax 855-261-3452.

Documents may also be mailed to: COVID-19 Funeral Assistance P.O. Box 10001 Hyattsville, MD 20782

**FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

You can also visit us online at [FEMA.gov/funeral-assistance/faq](https://www.fema.gov/funeral-assistance/faq). Information is provided in several languages both by telephone and the website.



# Child Abuse Awareness Drive-Thru

Hosted by Allegany Child & Family Services



April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month and in honor of that, Allegany Child & Family Services held a “Child Abuse Awareness” Drive-thru on Tuesday, April 20, 2021.

For those who stopped by the LRJHC back parking lot that chilly spring afternoon, Nya:wëh for your support. Participants were greeted by staff members from several departments including the Behavioral Health Unit, HOPE (Health, Outreach, Prevention & Education), Diabetes Program, SALC (Seneca Arts & Learning Center), Community Action, and of course, Child & Family Services.

Each department passed out goodie bags filled with items such as hand sanitizer, coloring books, child abuse awareness info/handouts, frisbees, water bottles, sunflower growing starter kits and much more! Attendees were also treated to a delicious boxed lunch.

To conclude the event, the SALC raffled off some amazing prizes. AND. THE. WINNERS. ARE:

- Adrianne Cook



- (Buggy)
- Gina Hill (Wagon)
  - John Parker (Sand table)

To claim your prize, please contact the SALC at 716-945-5035.

Support Services are offered at the Community Health and Wellness Center (CHWC) and at the Lionel R. John Health Center (LRJHC).





# Allegany Education Department Spring Break Program

*Submitted by Tracy Pacini*

During Spring Break, the Allegany Education Department held a small day program with six kids. They took part in numerous activities such as a tour of the SNI Fire Hall, Community Spring Clean-up, SNI Dental flouride treatment & education and SNI Behavioral Health Unit bullying awareness. The children also enjoyed some playground time and chalk art!



# Annual ECLC Child Abuse Awareness Walk

*Photos by Seneca Media & Communications*

On Friday, April 23, 2021, ECLC held their Child Abuse Awareness walk through the Nation complex. CHWC staff, Language Department & AOA stood along the route in support. ECLC staff handed out blue wind flowers along the walk. #ECLCagainstChildAbuse





# ‘I play to represent my family and myself’

Seneca Nation member Summer Hemphill embraces her heritage, on- and off-the-court. *Ja:goh Summer!*

By Hunter Skoczylas | April 12, 2021 | [ubspectrum.com](#), SPORTS



Summer Hemphill had an interesting path to the sport. She didn't play competitive basketball until she was 12 but dabbled in nearly everything else, including tee-ball, softball, volleyball and track and field. Photo: Thomas Atehortua | The Spectrum

Sports history is full of “famous firsts.”

Jackie Robinson became the first African American to play in the major leagues, in 1947.

Brazilian soccer player Pelé became the first player to score 1,000 career goals, in 1969.

And the UConn women’s basketball team became the first club in sports history to win 90 straight games, in 2010.

But when UB graduate student and women’s basketball player Summer Hemphill became the first member of the Seneca Nation to receive a full Division I athletic scholarship back in 2016, she made history in her own right.

Hemphill, who is half-Black and half-Native American, is a member of the Seneca Nation, a sect of the Haudenosaunee Six Nations Confederacy and the largest of six Native American nations in New York State. She says that while she loves playing basketball, her biggest source of pride is being able to represent her community on a bigger stage.

**“I play to represent my family and myself, the university that gave me this opportunity, and**

**this city where I’m from,”** Hemphill said. **“And to just be a great player. I’m thankful to be in this position today and I’m going to continue to get better.”**

As a freshman in 2016, Hemphill says she didn’t have much exposure to Native American studies or students at UB, so she went to the Native American Resource Center in Rochester to learn more about her heritage.

But now, in her sixth year at UB, she says she is seeing “progress” — albeit slowly — from the school and was finally able to

enroll in a Native American course, AMS 197, about the Seneca language.

“This semester, I’m actually enrolled in a Seneca language learning course through UB,” Hemphill said. “I feel like UB has made some progress since I first came here, and I feel like we aren’t done yet. As a university in Western New York, I feel like we have a long way to go to honor the tribes that live here.”

UB operates on land that originally belonged to the Seneca Nation and is covered by *The Dish with One Spoon Treaty of Peace and Friendship*, a compact to share and care for the Great Lake resources. The region is still home to the Haudenosaunee people to this day.

Hemphill’s grandfather was a fluent Seneca speaker. The traditions flow through the elders, and her grandfather’s passing in 2012 inspired her to educate herself of her heritage and pass it on to younger generations.

Since 2018, the number of enrolled Native American students at UB has hardly

increased — from 12 in 2018 to 15 in 2019 to 16 in 2020 — but Hemphill is glad to have the chance to see fellow Native Americans on campus.

“You go to campus and see all types of different people, and with Native Americans being such a small minority, I feel like we’re often ignored,” Hemphill said. “If I could see another Native while on campus, I would feel joyful, especially because of my major.”

Hemphill, a graduate student, majored in sociology for her undergraduate studies and has learned extensively about racial and ethnic disparities. She says disparities exist in all facets of life for minorities, but especially when it comes to quality education.

“I see so many disparities with schooling regarding minorities,” Hemphill said. “Our chances of being college and high school graduates is not the highest, and to see the progress that we’ve made and UB has made, it’s amazing and means the most to me.”

Native Americans often have to deal with negative racial stereotypes and myths. Hemphill says she has never felt ostracized for being a member of the Seneca Nation, but that she prides herself in educating others on her heritage every chance she gets.

“I take it upon myself to educate others on who I am and where I come from,” Hemphill said. “People don’t really know what’s offensive to us or what isn’t. I take pride in that and for the people who choose to ignore us still, that’s on them. I can’t blame people for something they don’t know.”

Hemphill, a six-foot-one forward, had an interesting path to the sport.



Coming out of high school, Hemphill was rated a three-star recruit with an 88 scout grade by ESPN, which caught Legette-Jack's attention. Photo credit: Thomas Atehortua

(Continued on page 16)





*“I play to represent my family and myself, the university that gave me this opportunity, and this city where I’m from,” Hemphill said. Photo credit: Jack Li*

She didn’t play competitive basketball until she was 12 but dabbled in nearly everything else, including tee-ball, softball, volleyball and track and field.

As a kid, she even begged her father to let her play football and was able to play quarterback in the neighborhood streets with her brothers.

But, once she picked up a basketball, everything changed. The more she practiced, the better she got, both offensively and defensively. In her senior year of high school, Hemphill

averaged a double-double — 16 points and 10 rebounds — to go along with 3.1 steals per contest. She led Tonawanda’s Cardinal O’Hara Hawks to a 23-3 record and the Monsignor Martin Association Championship.

Hemphill was named All-Catholic Player of the Year and the Pastor Cooper Tournament MVP for her efforts. Coming out of high school, she was rated a three-star recruit with an 88 scout grade by ESPN, which caught the attention of UB women’s basketball head coach Felisha Legette-Jack.

“I saw her in the gym while I was watching my son finish up his game and I just stopped and stared,” Legette-Jack said. “You could just tell she was an athlete. There was something about her focus that drew me in and I’m blessed to be the recipient of her blessing and that we were able to offer a scholarship.”

After committing to UB, Hemphill had a big decision to make: what jersey number she would wear. Jersey numbers stick and people tend to remember the legacy associated with that number.

Hemphill, long an underdog, chose the number ‘zero’.

“When I got out of high school, zero was not a popular number. The only major athlete at the time was [NBA star] Russell Westbrook, but I didn’t wear it because of him,” Hemphill said. “I liked zero because no one really cared about it. People always forget the fact that when you start counting, you never mention zero. It’s always ‘1-2-3’ not ‘0-1-2-3.’”

Legette-Jack says Hemphill is the ultimate teammate and that her duties as head coach are lighter when Hemphill is on the floor.

“She’s a great teammate,” Jack said. “She’s like a mother hen that sits back and watches her babies. If someone around her needs help, she’s there. She’s the caretaker and if someone needs somebody to talk to, it’s her.”

It’s easy to lose focus in big moments, even for Hemphill. But Legette-Jack believes her passion and fire makes her a stellar teammate and a terrific competitor.

“She has this calm tone where everyone knows she’s locked in,” Legette-Jack said. “She plays with so much passion and ferocity. She wants to win and will call out any areas of improvement the team can make. But when you get someone like her out there on a consistent basis, winning is inevitable and that’s what we’ve done these past few seasons.”

Source: <https://www.ubspectrum.com/article/2021/04/i-play-to-represent-my-family-and-myself>

# Bandits’ Brown signs with Whipsnakes

*Ja:goh Franky! Reminder: The upcoming Premier Lacrosse League Season will kick off on June 4.*

*By Jay Young | April 20, 2021 | Reprinted from observertoday.com*



*Photo credit: Bill Wippert/ Buffalo Bandits photo*

Silver Creek graduate Frank Brown’s already extensive professional lacrosse resume has continued to grow in recent weeks.

On April 4 the Whipsnakes Lacrosse Club announced via Twitter that they had signed Brown for the upcoming Premier Lacrosse League Season, which will kick off on June 4.

“I’m very excited,” Brown said of the signing. “I think it is an opportunity that I have worked for for a long time. Without getting too far ahead of myself, training camp starts May 28 so I’ve got a lot of work to do between now and then. It was awesome but at the same time

it is all the more reason to focus up, you know?”

Hailing from Red House, Brown had a standout collegiate tenure at Hobart, and has spent time in the National Lacrosse League with the Buffalo Bandits, Rochester Knighthawks, Philadelphia Wings and Georgia Storm.

The midfielder recently agreed to a two-year extension with the Bandits, and helped the Boston Cannons claim the 2020 Major League Lacrosse Championship.

Now Brown will have the opportunity to make his mark in a new type of league designed to help grow the sport across the country.

In 2020 the PLL and Major League Lacrosse merged under the banner of the former. The 2021 season will be played using a tour-based schedule for the eight-team league, in which games and practices are hosted at different hub cities throughout the year.

After training camp and the first week of play is held at Gillette Stadium in Foxborough, Massachusetts, the PLL will travel to Fifth Third Bank Stadium at Kennesaw State University in Georgia for Week 2.

Also on the schedule are stops in Baltimore, Long Island, Minneapolis, Colorado Springs and Albany.



FRANKY BROWN

“When the PLL and the MLL merged they had an entry draft, three rounds and each team got a pick,” Brown said. “I was not taken in that but after that was a waiver-wire period with all of the players from MLL, some from NLL. Basically if you played professional lacrosse in recent years you went into this waiver-wire pool. That is when the Whipsnakes ended up picking me up.”

After the draft, some of Brown’s former teammates helped facilitate his signing. “I have a few former teammates on the Whipsnakes,” Brown said. “They had reached out and said the head coach (Jim Stagnitta) had contacted them

about me, and asked for my contact information. They just kind of gave me the heads up there. Then I ended up talking to coach maybe two or three days later. Our training camp will be May 28-June 3. First games start that same weekend at the same location where we are playing in Boston.”

Among those former teammates is Brown’s longtime friend and fellow Silver Creek graduate Zed Williams. At this point, the two former Black Knights stepping onto the turf together is nothing new.

“We played together at Silver Creek. We were drafted to the Georgia Swarm in 2017

together,” Brown said. “We were drafted to the Rattlers in 2017 for the MLL. Zeddie and I have been teammates since I was 12 or 13. I’m kind of numb to it now because this is what I have worked for basically my entire life. Zeddie, I don’t think I ever imagined Zeddie not playing at this level. The best part for me is just to be his teammate again. I’m really looking forward to that.”

Lacrosse has been a source of more than just personal achievement for Brown this year.

2020 marked the first-ever Cousin Brownie Holiday Give Back, a charity drive started by

Brown to help Seneca families in the Allegany and Cattaraugus Territories through a partnership with Seneca Nation Child and Family Services.

“Everything went well,” Brown said of the campaign. “It generated more support than I really could have imagined. We ended up raising over \$15,000 in cash and then I think like over \$2,000 in purchases from our Amazon Prime list.”

Source: <https://www.observertoday.com/sports/local-sports/2021/04/bandits-brown-signs-with-whipsnakes/?fbclid=IwARoKMoirNNVeaq7fJPvPo8id6MHCVV0502kmk6hI8UfUBsgaT-OKGo46Cn8>

Ja:goh Senior Lineman Jarod White (Allegany Territory), who was nominated for the Trench Trophy for 2020-2021

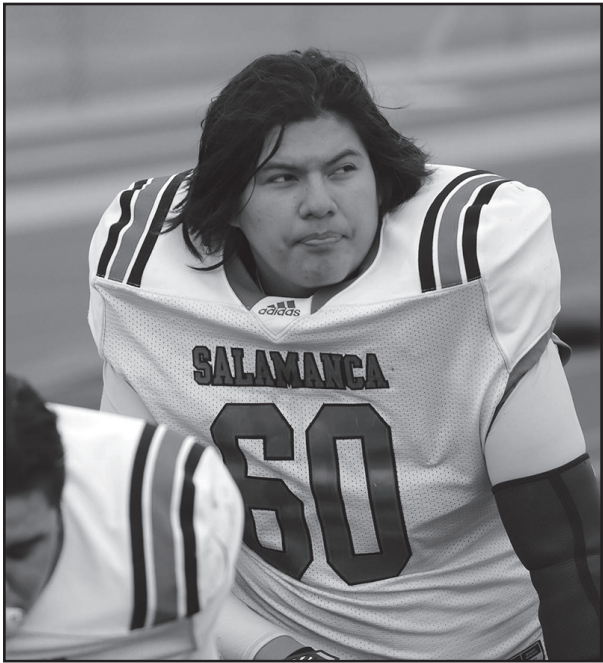
Credit: SCCS FB page | April 20, 2021

Congratulations to Senior lineman Jarod White who was nominated for the Trench Trophy for 2020-2021.

"We would like to acknowledge and recognize the following senior lineman for their efforts as determined by our scouts, coaches, and via video review"...**from Inside High School Sports**

Congratulations Jarod!

The Trench Trophy Award, Inc. provides recognition to football players who predominately play the position of offensive or defensive line in WNY.







# News From The Four Corners United Methodist Church

Rte. 438 and Versailles Plank Road, Cattaraugus Territory | Pastor – Holly Brittain  
716-930-4661 | HBRIT37014@aol.com | Submitted by Marilyn Anderson

We had our first Bible study on Wednesday, 4/21/21 and discussed Moses and Exodus. The pandemic interrupted our studies and worship services and so we are happy to be getting back to “normal”. We will have Bible study every Wednesday night at 6:30pm. Everyone is welcome to join us for a lively discussion and fellowship.

**Watch the newsletter for the start date of our Caregivers Support Group.** We realize that caregivers need to share their stories of helping their loved ones. A caregiver is a family member who regularly looks after a child or a sick, elderly, or disabled family member. Being a caregiver requires patience, compassion,

and love. Being a caregiver is stressful and talking with others in a similar situation can be therapeutic. If you are a caregiver, please join us for a confidential hour of sharing.

Please continue to pray for those in our communities who are affected by drug or alcohol abuse, those who are struggling with illness and those who are mourning the loss of a loved one. Pray for their families. We all need healing.

Everyone is invited to join us at Four Corners on Sunday morning 8:30 a.m. for fellowship. Worship service begins at 9 a.m. We look forward to seeing you! **Peace.**

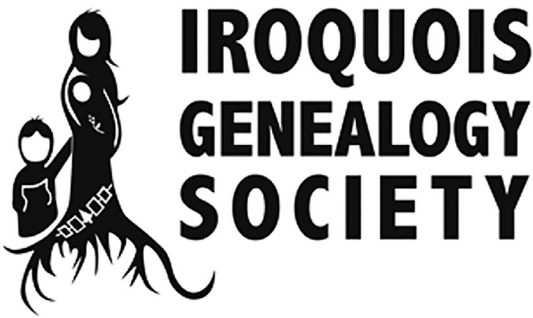
## IGS Monthly Meeting - May via Zoom for 2021

By Leatha Jimerson

Spring is here, time to get outside and enjoy the weather! This is the time of year that I like to visit the cemeteries since you can see the area better. Be sure to wear good shoes and long pants and shirt since deer ticks are out.

We had a good zoom meeting in April. Jare Cardinal did an excellent job describing the early maps on our website. The maps consisted of 1798, 1842 and 1878. There was plenty of discussion too. There were zoom attendees and also some people on Facebook live. The presentation is recorded so you can go back and check it out on our FB page. We have many other maps on the website that we hope to cover at a later date.

We have a new feature on the website named ‘Ask the Researcher’. This is a way for people to submit genealogy questions. When submitting a question, please be specific, eg. Provide a name, birth date or a year and location of where the person was born, died or lived. We will point you in the right direction. We have some great researchers amongst us that will be helping to answer your questions.



Our next IGS Monthly Meeting will be held on **May 13, 2021 at 6:30pm via zoom.** The meeting will cover another area of our website – **SCHOOL RECORDS!** We will show you how get more information regarding Iroquois students who attended: Thomas Indian School, Carlisle Indian Industrial School, Hampton Institute, and Tunesassa (Quaker) School. We will show you how to access other school that students attended.

Please find the event announcement with directions on our webpage by going to the menu and choosing **ZOOM MEETING.** A link for the meeting will be provided. We will be on Facebook Live (Iroquois Genealogy Society) also. In this format, you can watch and listen to the meeting with no interaction. However, we will have a person monitoring the meeting and you can post a question that will be relayed to us.

**We hope to see you! Please stay safe and healthy!**

## Agwadeyësta’ Do:gë:h Installment

By Don "Flip" White

**For this Agwadeyësta’ Do:gë:h installment we want to share this wonderful story about a real experience of a FKS teacher and her student. We hope you enjoy it.**

.....

This year has been hard for all of us. Here at the Faithkeepers School we have managed to figure out how to keep pushing forward, for that we are all grateful. We are also grateful to our children and their families for trusting us in continuing to move forward during this pandemic.

Although we face the everyday obstacles of the ‘new normal’ our language learning and use has been flourishing. As a teacher I can feel myself growing and my ears getting stronger in tune with hearing and understanding the language. Through the Esther Martinez Initiative grant we have been given the opportunity to teach children in the Montessori classroom in the mornings and have Seneca Language classes in the afternoon. We have two great instructors working with the FKS staff on strengthening our Seneca language skills. Our goal is to be able to speak to each other and the students only in the Seneca language here at the school.

Sara Droney and John Block, who are also FKS staff, are doing an amazing job as our language instructors. Sara focuses on daily conversation language and John focuses on the cultural language, stories, and protocol that coincides with our ceremonial cycle.

We have been studying each ceremony along with the appropriate time frames in which they happen according to our seasonal cycle. We recently have gone over Wasa:se’ in our class with John. Wasa:se’ is the ceremony that gives thanks to the Thunders. We include them in Ganönyök (Thanksgiving Address) and talk about their duties with the children. We teach them not to fear them because they help take care of us and the earth. We teach them that they bring the rain and how important water is to keep our bodies and the earth well.

A testimony of how I can see the growth in ourselves as teachers is, while at the actual Wasa:se’ ceremony I could follow along with John as he was speaking. He went through everything he was going to say with us in class before the day of the ceremony. Hearing the words and understanding them hits you harder in your heart. It resonates deep down. **(Continued on page 19)**



# Ja:goh Marlene Johnson (wolf clan), Recipient of the 2020 Distinguished Alumni Award

She was recognized during Alfred State College' 37th Annual Student Honors Convocation Virtual Ceremony (April 19, 2021 | Submitted by Lori Quigley)



*your personal and professional lives & for distinguished service in your community."*

Below is a copy of the speech that President Sullivan read:

B. Marlene (Bennett) Johnson graduated from Alfred State in 1956 with an Executive Secretarial Science degree. While a student at Alfred, Marlene worked as a clerk and typist for the Registrar in order to pay her tuition and room and board. Additional spending money was earned babysitting for faculty and staff. While a student, Marlene lived at the Alpha Beta Chi (ABX) sorority and served as their chaplain.

As a young child, Marlene was placed in foster care and

was eventually transferred to the Thomas Indian School, a residential boarding school for orphaned and destitute Native American children. Considered a “survivor” of the Thomas Indian School, having lived there from 1942-1952, at age 15 Marlene was placed in a wage home and worked as a live-in maid. Today, that home is the residence for the SUNY Fredonia college president.

After graduating from Alfred and getting married, Marlene returned to the Seneca Nation and Allegany territory community. Marlene’s first job with the Seneca Nation was as a tribal advocate. Her responsibilities focused on assisting families in their adjustment to new homes built in the Jimersontown and

Steamburg relocation areas following the construction of the Kinzua Dam. During this time, Marlene worked with the elder faithkeepers to secure HUD grant funding to build the community center that would be used to support longhouse activities, as well as assisting the Nation in procuring the funding to support the building of the two Seneca Nation libraries and the Seneca Iroquois Museum. She was also the Allegany territory newsletter (the Ohi:yo’) editor for many years, and also served as an elected tribal councillor. As tribal councillor, Marlene was selected to serve on the Salamanca lease negotiation team and represented the Seneca Nation as it lobbied Congress for funding owed to the nation. Today, her congressional testimony is used in native studies college courses.

Marlene later worked as the first director of the Higher Education Opportunity Program (HEOP) at St. Bonaventure University establishing several initiatives that specifically targeted Native American college students. One was called “Bridging Two Worlds,” and became an annual gathering for Native college students to share experiences and gain more insights and support to improve their graduation success. To this day, many Native graduates credit Marlene for providing the support they needed to achieve their college degrees.

In the early 1990s, Marlene was chosen by her peers in Indian education from across New York State to serve as a delegate on the first White House Initiative on Indian Education. Later, she collaborated with the National Indian Education Association (NIEA) to garner their support in establishing the Native American Indian Education Association of New York and was recognized as a founding member in 2018.

Post-retirement, she worked as a long-term guidance counselor substitute for Randolph Union Free Academy, whose goal was to provide education to children that other districts could not or would not work with due to behavioral challenges.

Marlene married Gordy in 1956. Gordy is also an Alfred State graduate (1958). Marlene continues to share her wisdom and knowledge of her heritage with five daughters and several grand and great-grandchildren.

View Marlene’s portion during the virtual Honors Convocation at <https://www.alfredstate.edu/honors> - hers starts at 37:56.

Alfred State College recently celebrated the achievements of hundreds of students virtually during the 37th annual Honors Convocation.

ASC President Dr. Skip Sullivan presented the ***Distinguished Alumni Award*** to 1956 graduate B. Marlene (Bennett) Johnson (executive secretarial science) "*In recognition for your significant accomplishments in*

## Agwadeyësta’ Do:gë:h



You can feel the strength of the words and of all the spirits happy to see us continuing. It makes me feel more connected to what these ceremonies really mean and why we must keep them and the language alive.

I saw one of my students at Wasa:se’. She was happy to see me and immediately came over to sit next to me. This particular student has a very good amount of Seneca language in her repertoire. Her mother is also a language learner and teacher. She uses strictly Seneca with her at home and it really shows. When she came to sit next to me she spoke to me in all Seneca and I could follow and respond back to her. This child is completely bi-lingual and at times her Seneca vocabulary is better than mine. For this little girl to come up to me and use exclusively Seneca with me at the longhouse gave me chills. This is our goal coming to fruition right before our eyes and it can only get better. We’re only in our first year of afternoon classes and I feel my brain “thinking in Seneca” and it becoming easier to respond and pull the words out. The child using all Seneca with me tells me she herself can see the growth within her teachers and that our confidence is growing. I left with my heart full and knowing that I am where I am meant to be; on this path to help keep our language and culture alive. Little stories like this keep the motivation strong. We will not let our language die. These kids give me hope.

Nya:wëh, Courtney Crouse



NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF JOHN WATERMAN

Administrator: Rose Guthrie,  
2511 Brighton Ave, NE, Minneapolis, MN 55418  
~ Cattaraugus Territory - Final Notice ~

ESTATE OF DARRYL JOHN

Administrator: Penny John,  
490 Broad St., Salamanca, NY 14779  
~ Allegany/Cattaraugus Territory - 2nd Notice ~

ESTATE OF ELIZABETH WATERMAN

Administrator: Rose Guthrie,  
2511 Brighton Ave, NE, Minneapolis, MN 55418  
~ Cattaraugus Territory - Final Notice ~

ESTATE OF GRACE LOOMIS

Executor: Donald Loomis,  
68 Genet St., Dunkirk, NY 14048  
~ Cattaraugus Territory - 2nd Notice ~

ESTATE OF NORMA ARMSTRONG

Administrator: Kimberly Romine,  
200 Sedgwick Court, Stafford, VA 22554  
~ Cattaraugus Territory - Final Notice ~

ESTATE OF ARNOLD JAMERSON

Executor: Charles Jamerson,  
12841 Route 438, Apt. 249, Irving, NY 14081  
~ Cattaraugus Territory - 1st Notice ~

ESTATE OF VERNON JIMERSON

Executor: John Jimerson,  
40 E. Summit St., Lakewood, NY 14750  
~ Allegany Territory - 2nd Notice ~

ESTATE OF SUZANNE NEPHEW

Administrator: Gloria J. Nephew,  
38 Thompson Ln., Irving, NY 14081  
~ Allegany Territory - 1st Notice ~

ESTATE OF AMELIA WATT

Co-Executors: Stephen Watt / Lana Watt,  
P.O. Box 159, Steamburg, NY 14783  
~ Cattaraugus Territory - 2nd Notice ~

ESTATE OF WINIFRED JOHN

Administrator: Esther Maybee,  
8320 Old Route 17, Salamanca, NY 14779  
~ Cattaraugus Territory - 1st Notice ~

ESTATE OF ARTHUR GORDON

Administrator: Stephen Gordon,  
67 Fawn Ave., Salamanca, NY 14779  
~ Allegany/Cattaraugus Territory - 2nd Notice ~

ESTATE OF ELIZABETH WATERMAN

Administrator: Rose Guthrie,  
2511 Brighton Ave. NE, Minneapolis, MN 55418  
~ Cattaraugus Territory - 1st Notice ~

ESTATE OF STEVEN SCHINDLER

Administrator: Barbara Thompson,  
14163 Route 438, Gowanda, NY 14070  
~ Cattaraugus Territory - 2nd Notice ~

ESTATE OF JOHN WATERMAN

Administrator: Rose Guthrie,  
2511 Brighton Ave. NE, Minneapolis, MN 55418  
~ Cattaraugus Territory - 1st Notice ~

ESTATE OF KENNETH E. WATT

Administrator: Donna M. Eagan,  
903 90th St., Niagara Falls, NY 14304  
~ Allegany/Cattaraugus Territory - 2nd Notice ~

ESTATE OF RAYMOND C. SUNDERLIN

Administrator: Laura Cooper,  
3638 Center Rd., Salamanca, NY 14779  
~ Allegany Territory - 1st Notice ~

ESTATE OF KYLEN JAMES WHITE

Administrator: Carlyn Larkin,  
3602 S. Authority Rd., Kill Buck, NY 14748  
~ Allegany/Cattaraugus Territory - 2nd Notice ~

ESTATE OF SHARON L. JOHN

Administrator: Stephanie L. John,  
44 Seneca St., Apt. 33, Salamanca, NY 14779  
~ Allegany Territory - 1st Notice ~

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

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



**BUILDABLE LAND OR  
EXISTING HOME WANTED!**

Allegany Territory-Not in City  
-Preferably Jimtown-At least 1 acre

Call: 716 378-5618

**Moving?**

Don't forget to notify the SNI Official Newsletter office with your change of address!

Call us at 716-945-1790, ext. 3030 or x3029.

Email: [sninews@sni.org](mailto:sninews@sni.org)





May 2021

AOA Nutritional Menu	AOA Daily Trips Allegany Territory	AOA Daily Trips Cattaraugus Territory	USDA Schedule
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Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<b>3</b> Hot Roast Beef Sandwich with Gravy Cauliflower Raspberries for dessert	<b>4</b> Shepard's Pie Carrot Raisin Salad Fruit cup	<b>5</b> Hot ham and cheese sliders Served with Green Beans Brownie	<b>6</b> <b>Mothers Day</b> Meatloaf Mashed potatoes & gravy Salad Cake	<b>7</b> BBQ Chicken Drumsticks Coleslaw Baked Beans Fig Newtons
	NO TRIPS at this time due to the COVID-19 Pandemic			
	NO TRIPS at this time due to the COVID-19 Pandemic			
<b>Cattaraugus</b> - call to place your order for timely delivery	Delivery to Oaktree & Newtown	Delivery to Indian Hill & Pinewoods	Delivery to Ozarks, Gowanda & Dayton	Delivery to Irving
<b>10</b> Tomato Soup & Grilled Cheese Sandwich Fruit and Yogurt Parfait	<b>11</b> Cheese Ravioli Served with Green Beans Dinner roll Chocolate pudding	<b>12</b> Tuna casserole Peas Mandarin Oranges Oatmeal Raisin Cookie	<b>13</b> Vegetable Pizza Side Salad Fruit cup	<b>14</b>  <b>Sites CLOSED</b> <i>For Onondowa'ga' Day (State)</i>
	NO TRIPS at this time due to the COVID-19 Pandemic			
	NO TRIPS at this time due to the COVID-19 Pandemic			
<b>Allegany</b> - call to place your order for timely delivery	Delivery to Sr. Complex & Salamanca	Delivery to Jimtown	Delivery to Steamburg & Kill Buck	
<b>17</b> Macaroni & Cheese With stewed tomatoes Steamed spinach Blueberries Vanilla Pudding	<b>18</b> Turkey Chili Cornbread Raspberry Jello	<b>19</b> Ranch Chicken Green Beans Rice Blueberries for dessert	<b>20</b> <b>Traditional Meal</b> Indian Taco with toppings Served with Roasted Summer Squashes and Strawberry Juice	<b>21</b> Lasagna Florentine Green Salad Dinner Roll Peanut Butter Cookie
	NO TRIPS at this time due to the COVID-19 Pandemic			
	NO TRIPS at this time due to the COVID-19 Pandemic			
Delivery to Olean	Call-ins ALLOWED 9am - 3:30pm	Call-ins ALLOWED 9am - 3:30pm	Call-ins ALLOWED 9am - 3:30pm	Call-ins ALLOWED 9am - 3:30pm
<b>24</b> Goulash With Cauliflower Side Salad Chocolate Pudding	<b>25</b> Lemon Chicken Green Beans Rice Blueberries for dessert	<b>26</b> <b>Brunch</b> Oatmeal, Peanut Butter Toast, Yogurt with Fresh Strawberry Slices, & Juice	<b>27</b> <b>Birthday Party</b> Ham & Scalloped potatoes Steamed Broccoli Birthday Cake	<b>28</b> Chiavetta's Marinated Chicken Coleslaw Baked Beans Fig Newtons
	NO TRIPS at this time due to the COVID-19 Pandemic			
	NO TRIPS at this time due to the COVID-19 Pandemic			
Call-ins ALLOWED 9am - 3:30pm	Call-ins ALLOWED 9am - 3:30pm	Call-ins ALLOWED 9am - 3:30pm	Call-ins ALLOWED 9am - 3:30pm	<b>No Distribution Inventory Day</b>
<b>31</b>  <b>Sites CLOSED</b> <i>For Memorial Day</i>		<b>AOA Menu:</b>  For Allegany please <b>call 716-945-8414</b> For Cattaraugus call <b>716-532-5777</b> to make a reservation or cancel a meal by 9:30am the day prior to the meal	<b>USDA PROGRAM:</b> <b>Call 716-532-1028,</b> <b>Ext 5446</b> .....  Seneca Nation Area Office for the Aging Menu: <b>SUBJECT TO CHANGE</b>	



# Scavenger Hunt Hosted During Community Fair Week

Submitted by Marissa Haring, Prevention Supervisor, CHWC

On Wednesday April 7<sup>th</sup> Seneca Nation Health System departments including Native Connections/Prevention, the H.O.P.E. Unit, Child and Family Services and Seneca Strong teamed up to offer a family scavenger hunt and seed giveaway as part of Community Fair week. The scavenger hunt was mental health themed, each clue led to a mental health phrase that families had to write down.

When the families found all of the phrases, they returned to the registration

table to be entered to win a prize. All families who participated in the scavenger hunt won a prize; prizes ranged from a bike, a web swing to outdoor games. The first 100 people to participate in the scavenger hunt were offered a food voucher for Coyote Café courtesy of S.N.I. Housing Authority. About twenty-five families and over one-hundred people participated in the scavenger hunt.

AOA also had a table to make cards for elders that would be included in their

meal deliveries, give elders “blizzard boxes” containing shelf-stable food to have on hand in case of an emergency and a cheerful chalk drawing activity.

Nya:weh to everyone for coming out. We all hope you had a fun time and we look forward to offering activities and services to the community in the future!



## Simply HR ~ March

### New Hires

**Hillary Boos**  
Receptionist, CHWC  
March 1, 2021

**Suzanne Pierce**  
Receptionist, CIRHC  
March 8, 2021

**Robin Jacobs**  
BHU Case Manager, LRJHC  
March 22, 2021

### Transfers

**James White Jr.**  
Outreach Coordinator, CHWC  
March 22, 2021

Congratulations on your new positions!

### REMINDER:

Seneca Nation Health System  
will be closed:

**Friday, May 14**  
**Onondowa’ ga’ Day**

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

### COOKING CLASS

ON ZOOM



Veggie Chili

**WEDNESDAY, May 12<sup>th</sup>**  
**4:00 pm**

The first 15 participants that sign up will  
receive instructions & ingredients 2 days  
before class.

TO SIGN UP CALL JODY AT  
945-5894 Ext 3242



# Employee Spotlight—Child & Family Services

My name is Jennifer Evanock, I am a case manager for Child and Family Services located on the Cattaraugus Reservation, and I have been working in the same position for 12 years. I chose to work for Child and Family, as I wanted to be able to help the community and families in need. Since working here, I have come to love what I do, and I have met and built a relationship with the community and its members! A little about me, I'm a wife and mother of a daughter named Riley. We are all animal lovers. As a family we enjoy hiking, fishing, camping, crafting, vacations and spending time with family and friends.



**Jennifer Evanock**  
**Case Manager**

My name is Cynthia Redeye, but I like to be called by Cindy and I have been the Cattaraugus Child and Family Services Administrative Assistant since August 2017. I also filled in as the Wellness Receptionist for a couple years. My duties include answering the phone, any administrative duties needed for the team, processing Indian Child Welfare Act notices. I am in charge of ordering and sorting supplies for the program and families we serve. I enjoy reading murder mysteries, completing word search puzzles, and spending time with my family.



**Cindy Redeye**  
**Administrative Assistant**

The COVID-19 vaccine  
CANNOT give you COVID.

None of the vaccines are made up  
of materials that can cause disease.

Visit our website:  
[www.senecahealth.org](http://www.senecahealth.org)

SENECA NATIVE CONNECTIONS CALENDAR MAY 2021						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>Event Color Codes:</b> Purple: 24 and under and their families Green: Open to the community Teal: Clubhouse event 12-17 Orange: 18 and up Pink: No programming/holiday				1	2	1
2	3 Healthy Living Discussion 3:30 - 4:30 p.m.	4	5 Adult Journaling Class 3:30 - 4:30 p.m.	6	7	8
9	10	11 Virtual Zumba Class 6:00 - 7:00 p.m.	12	13 Live Motivational Poster Making 3:30 - 4:30 p.m.	14 Closed for Onondowa'ga' Day!	15
16	17 Healthy Eating Discussion with: Jody LaMarca 3:30 - 4:30 p.m.	18	19	20 FEP Farm to Table Discussion 6:00 - 7:00 p.m.	21	22
23	24 30	25 Virtual Paint Night 6:00 - 7:00 p.m.	26	27 Vaping Discussion 3:30 - 4:30 p.m.	28	29
Please note that any event that requires material pickup, will follow COVID-19 safety protocol. Please wear a mask and observe the six-foot social distant rule.				<b>Jennifer Stebbins</b> 716.532.5583 ext. 5433 JStebbins@senecahealth.org *Virtual events are hosted on LifeSize. You will receive login info when you register!		



Nya:wëh!

I'm thankful (thanks!)

Ja:göh!

Good job! (encouragement expression)

Jahdë:dih!

Let's go! (you & me)

Sënö'geäd!

Wait! (Hold up)

!s newa'!

Your turn!

Ėgënö'ge:äd

I will wait

Dëhnitaë'

You & I will talk

Ėjidwahö:dë'

We will continue (where we left off)

Jë:gwah sanö:kdo:d

...if you have time

Ėkya:dönyö'

I'll write it all out

Ėgadënye:d

I'll send it (email)

O'gyënë:da't

I finished it

Agya'dä:goh

I'm late

Ėsawënitšiyö:sdë'!

Have a good day! (you)

Sadehsa'öh?

Are you ready?

Dë'ëh na'od ihse:h?

What do you think/want?

Ogwe:nyöh ëgata'dö:h?

Can I borrow it?

Dë'ëh nö'ö:wëh?

What happened?

Do:niyoisda:'e:h?

What time is it?

Dë'ëh wë:nishäde'

në:gëh ne:wa'?

What is the day today?

Dë'ëh nijo:da:h?

What is the date?

Dë'ëh niyoje:ëh asdeh?

What is it doing outside?

Wë:döh ëwöhsawë'?

When will it start?

Onödowa'ga:' Gawë:nö'  
Pronunciation Key

a	.....	father
ä	.....	cat
e	.....	they
ë	.....	men
i	.....	police
o	.....	note
ö	.....	own
u	.....	tune
w	.....	wash
n	.....	not
y	.....	yes
d	.....	dog
t	.....	tail
g	.....	girl
k	.....	kite
s	.....	sit
j	.....	job
h	.....	hat
š	.....	show
tš	.....	chalk
dz	.....	adze
:	.....	long vowel
'	.....	glottal stop



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

CONGRATULATIONS!  
*Bachelor of Arts in History and  
Political Science – Minor in  
Women's Studies*

To my Beautiful, Sweet, Intelligent  
Daughter: **Gina Marie Roselli**

I am sooooo proud of you and this greatest  
accomplishment you've completed in your  
life. You did it!!! You've pushed yourself  
to reach the goals that you set for yourself  
and never gave up. I'm so happy for you  
and that I'm able to see you receive your  
diploma and throw your cap in the air with  
the rest of your classmates.

Best Wishes for all your future endeavors...  
It's truly a Memorable Day!!!  
Love You Always,  
**Mom**



*Suzanne Rea Nephew  
November 16, 1964 – May 16, 2020*

Remembrance  
Gathering for  
Suzanne Nephew

**Sunday May 16, 2021 | 4-8 pm  
@ the home of Gloria Nephew  
38 Thompson Lane, Irving, NY**

A beloved mother, daughter, sister, aunt, and  
friend. Suzi passed away one year ago and  
due to the pandemic we were unable to hold  
a funeral. Please join Suzi's family for an  
outdoor dinner and remembrance gathering  
in her honor.

Happy 1st Birthday!

Wishing our **Somiya June** a Happy First  
Birthday on May 1st! Her infectious laugh  
and smile is sure to make anyone's day.

It is a dream to watch you grow!  
We love you tons sweet baby!

**Love Mom & Dad**

