



# The Official Newsletter of the SENECA NATION



November 12th, 2021 - **visit us at [www.sninews.org](http://www.sninews.org)**



## A message from President Matthew B. Pagels



**Nya:weh sgënö' gagwe:göh,**

I'm very thankful you are well. November is the month we give thanks for many things. I'm thankful we are working together as a community to stay healthy. Our numbers for COVID are elevated this week. We currently have 38 cases indicated on the COVID hub, 31 in Allegany, 3 in Cattaraugus and 4 detected through Blue Stone testing. The holiday season is upon us and we anticipate family gatherings.

Keep in mind COVID protocols even during family time where there are close quarters. Keep family home if they exhibit COVID symptoms. We also are having higher cases of the common cold and flu up from last year which may be attributed to people not following healthy protocols.

Vaccination boosters are now available at our Health clinics. Please contact Kim Bradly at 716-532-5582 or Teri Cowles at 719-345-5894 to schedule an appointment for the shot. Vaccinations for children 5 – 11 years of age will be available later in the month.

November is also Native American month. Many of the school districts are presenting cultural events and activities for students to experience our rich culture. The recent events highlighting boarding school atrocities gave an opportunity to re-energize the commitment to share our history from our perspective with others. If you would like more specific information on any historical events the Seneca Iroquois museum or our Seneca Nation Libraries will have resource materials about our Nation.

The Seneca-Iroquois National Museum

was named Tribal Destination of the Year by the American Indian Alaska Native Tourism Association (AIANTA) at a recent American Indian Tourism conference. The Seneca-Iroquois National Museum houses an extensive collection of historical and traditionally designed every-day-use items and archaeological artifacts. The Seneca Nation Archives Department, also safely keeps historical documents, including articles, special publications, historical and family photographs and various multi-media productions regarding the Onöndowa'ga:' and Hodinöhsö:ni'. Let's continue to share, research and remember our history. Our ancestors were diligent in protecting our sovereignty, and treaties for future generations.



see page 10 for more info

**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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*\*\*Top photo by Patrick Redeye,  
SMCC*

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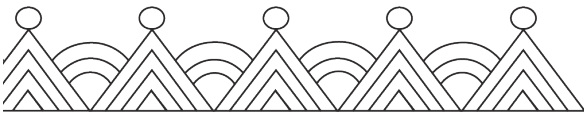


In celebration of National Native American Heritage month Gowanda Central school invites students, families and the community for a free Haudenosaunee song and dance performance at Gowanda’s Historic Hollywood theater on Tuesday, November 23, 2021 at 7:00pm. District students will participate in the night’s events. Reminder COVID protocols will be in place.

We have many employment opportunities listed with the Seneca Nation Human Resources Department. Training opportunities are also available at the Cattaraugus Training & Employment Resources Center (TERC). Simple electrical is being offered on November 17, 2021 from 6:00 – 8:00 for the everyday project in your home. Please register at the TERC office at 716-532-1033. They also have many other programs available for community members.

*As always, stay safe, stay strong.  
Dah ne’hoh dih ae’,*

*Matthew B. Pagels*



## Join us this month for the many Native American Heritage Month events

Native American Heritage Month has evolved from its beginnings as a week-long celebration in 1986, when U.S. President Reagan proclaimed the week of November 23-30, 1986 as "American Indian Week." Every President since 1995 has issued annual proclamations designating the month of November as the time to celebrate the culture, accomplishments, and contributions of people who were the first inhabitants of the United States (from PBS.org). The Seneca Nation is proud to celebrate Native American Heritage Month. Stay tuned all month for our many celebrations and Heritage Month content.

**Events will be posted to the Nation’s website:** [www.sni.org](http://www.sni.org)  
Seneca Media & Communications Center Facebook Page: [www.facebook.com/senecamedia/](http://www.facebook.com/senecamedia/)  
SNI Official Newsletter website: [www.sninews.org](http://www.sninews.org)  
Seneca Resorts & Casinos: [www.senecacasinos.com](http://www.senecacasinos.com)



## FROM THE DESK OF THE TREASURER



### Greetings,

I hope all of our kids in our communities were able to get out and enjoy some of the many Harvest and Halloween celebrations that were put on by various departments and organizations. I managed to stop by the H.E.R.O. Trunk or Treat event and hand out some treats. The weather that night was perfect! Fall weather reminds me to slow down a little and take in the changing colors of the leaves. I may not go hunting as often as I would like to these days, but when I was growing up, that was my activity to do this time of year.

I like this time of year, because it means there will be several community events coming up. COVID-19 interferes, but I know we manage to figure out ways to still get together by doing drive-thru events and maintaining social distances, etc. On October 30th, I had the pleasure of paying a quick visit to a very special lady, Rovenia Abrams, and was able to help her celebrate her 97th birthday. Rovenia is our eldest living Allegany Seneca Nation female member and was the editor of our Seneca Nation Newsletter for over 30 years. She was in good spirits and talked about her sons and how she enjoys her time at Randolph Manor.

Our Fiscal Department is busy with year-end closing tasks, preliminary year-end financial reporting and updating the five year forecast model. They continue to assist with the transition of the Housing Department, with internal controls, procurement and billing processes to ensure that the department runs smoothly. In addition, our Fiscal Department continues to assist Seneca Gaming & Entertainment and Seneca One Stops, as they work their way through their individual transition processes to the LLC’s. Our Fiscal staff is also participating in an automated document management project,



which when completed, will integrate document flow with Human Resources and all Fiscal Department offices.

As our cases of COVID-19 continue to remain relevant, I hope those that are not yet vaccinated are considering to make their appointments and get vaccinated. It is going to take everyone in our communities to get past this. If you test positive, please do not mingle in the community by going to the store or attending any gatherings; as this will spread the virus. Please follow COVID-19 protocols and isolate yourself until you test negative. Remember the 3-W's - Wear a mask, Watch your distance and Wash your hands.

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





**Please Continue to stay Safe & Healthy**  
The Clerk’s Office continues 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**

**MASKS ARE REQUIRED UPON ENTRY TO ALL SENECA NATION BUILDINGS**

The Clerk’s Office on the Cattaraugus Territory has re-opened our doors with safety protocols in place. Masks are required at all times and you must social distance while in the Building.

The Clerk’s Office on the Allegany Territory will be opening soon, we will remain open with a walk-up window for limited services. Our hours are Monday through Friday; 8:00 am – 4:30 pm.

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

Please have your SNI Enrollment # ready when you are visiting or calling the Clerk’s Office.

**CREDIT/DEBIT CARDS ACCEPTED**

We are happy to announce the Allegany & Cattaraugus Clerk’s Office are now accepting Credit/Debit Card as a form of payment for Id’s, utility bills, business & fishing licenses, etc.

**ANNUITY CLOTH**

Annuity Cloth will be available for pick up during regular business hours in both Allegany & Cattaraugus Clerk’s Offices. If picking up for someone else, please have a signed authorization letter.

**SNI JUDICIAL ELECTION**  
**Tuesday, November 2, 2021**  
**9 am – 7 pm**  
**Wm. Seneca Building - Cattaraugus Territory**  
**Seneca Allegany Admin. Building - Allegany Territory**

**REMINDER**  
**IN-PERSON REGISTRATION REQUIREMENT**

Don’t forget your **Annual In-Person Registration** must be completed **before December 31, 2021,**

If you are unsure of your current registration status please contact the Clerk’s Office.

**CLERK’S OFFICE FORMS**

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

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

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

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

• **DIRECT DEPOSIT OF ANNUITY AND/OR ELDERS PAYMENTS**  
If you would like to sign up for Direct Deposit of your Annuity and/or Elders Check, you will have to complete the form. The form is available on the web at [www.sni.org](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).

**Seeking Invocators**  
The Seneca Nation Clerks Office is seeking Individuals interested in Invocating/Opening with Gano:nyok for Council each month. Anyone interested for Allegany may contact Charisse Ground at [Charisse.ground@sni.org](mailto:Charisse.ground@sni.org), 716-945-1790 ext. 3036 and for Cattaraugus you may contact Leslie Cooke at [Leslie.cooke@sni.org](mailto:Leslie.cooke@sni.org), 716-532-4900, ext. 5038.

**Seeking Non-Profit Organizations**  
The Seneca Nation Clerk’s Office is seeking Non-Profit Organizations to serve refreshments and/or dinner during Council each month. Dinners are to be prepared in “to go” containers. Any Organization interested for Allegany may contact Charisse Ground at [Charisse.ground@sni.org](mailto:Charisse.ground@sni.org), 716-945-1790 ext. 3036 and for Cattaraugus you may contact Leslie Cooke at [Leslie.cooke@sni.org](mailto:Leslie.cooke@sni.org), 716-532-4900, ext. 5038 to request a form.

Forms are also available at the Clerk’s Office. Any questions can be directed to Charisse Ground or Leslie Cooke.

We would like to say Nya:wëh for your patience and understanding during this time and please watch for updates as this may change unexpectedly. Any changes will be posted online.

Seneca Nation of Indians

Underground & Above-Ground Storage Tank Act

30-DAY PUBLIC COMMENT

Please be advised that the following business located within the Seneca Nation Territories, more particularly on the Cattaraugus Territory, has submitted an application to operate an Above/Under Ground Storage Tank for the purpose of petroleum products. This notice will allow for a 30-day public comment period in accordance with the Above/Under Ground Storage Tank Ordinance, enacted by Tribal Council on September 22, 1997

**Heron’s Landing Smoke Shop**  
**Christina M. Schindler**  
**11186 Southwestern Blvd.**  
**Irving, NY 14081**  
**Cattaraugus Territory**  
**Irving Community**

All comments must be submitted in writing to the Clerk of the Nation at the following address:

**Seneca Nation of Indians**  
**12837 Route 438**  
**Irving, NY 14081**  
**% Marta L. Kettle, Clerk Seneca Nation of Indians**

**Begin – October 29, 2021**  
**End – November 29, 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: **Kathleen.Hill@sni.org or Bjohnson@sni.org**

Eleven Additions To The Seneca Nation Roll-September 18, 2021 Regular Session Of Council

1.	Layne Scott Bly	-	Hawk
2.	Rinoa Ayah Chapman	-	Snipe
3.	Harrison Paul Dickson	-	Turtle
4.	Kyle Lawrence Lay	-	Turtle
5.	Jaxon Thomas Luke	-	Turtle
6.	Mayson Lee Sherr	-	Turtle
7.	Danahi Angelo Stafford-Dunn	-	Turtle
8.	Elvera Ruth Stevens	-	Wolf
9.	Ki’ona Mae Thomas	-	Hawk
10.	Ronan Rush Torres-Rivera	-	Turtle
11.	Layton Phillip Wesaw	-	Hawk

Twelve Additions To The Seneca Nation Roll- October 9, 2021 Regular Session Of Council

1.	Rosalie Ann Borden	-	Hawk
2.	Leo Rey Correa	-	Turtle
3.	Leon Santos Correa	-	Turtle
4.	Santana Hayze Edwards	-	Wolf
5.	Aylow Bethany Jimerson	-	Turtle
6.	Kaydence Louise King-McConnell	-	Wolf
7.	Kai Weslon Phanco	-	Wolf
8.	Jared Allen Roode Jr.	-	Hawk
9.	Sonali Ishaani Schindler	-	Bear
10.	Vernon Lawrence-Virgil Seneca	-	Heron
11.	Sosi Rue Williams	-	Turtle
12.	Stella Ann Marie Williams	-	Wolf

**Kai Weston Phanco (Wolf Clan)**  
Son of Nami Shurin Owens & Tyler Phanco  
Enrollment Date: October 9, 2021



**Kaydence Louise King-McConnell (Wolf Clan)**  
Daughter of Ashley Leigh King & Khalil McConnell  
Enrollment Date: October 9, 2021



**Stella Ann Marie Williams (Wolf Clan)**  
Daughter of Carla Marie Jemison & Curtis Williams  
Enrollment Date: October 9, 2021



Five (5) Deletions to the Seneca Nation Roll – September 18, 2021, Regular Session of Council

1.	Laurie Kay Cooper	-	Beaver
2.	Anita Marie Coronado	-	Turtle
3.	Marjorie C. Curry	-	Bear
4.	Elouise Kennedy	-	Beaver
5.	Michael Francis Stafford	-	Wolf

Eight (8) Deletions To The Seneca Nation Roll – October 9, 2021 Regular Session Of Council

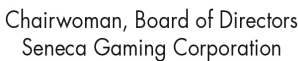
1.	Hobart Nolan Cooper	-	Snipe
2.	Lynn Phillip Jackson	-	Beaver
3.	Louis Sidney Leroy, Jr.	-	Hawk
4.	Maxwell F. Martinez	-	Bear
5.	David Robert Montemage	-	Bear
6.	Ann Louise Roum	-	Bear
7.	Stephen David Roum	-	Bear
8.	Christy Marie Spicer	-	Turtle





*On a Personal Note...*

I invite everyone to visit Seneca Resorts & Casinos in November as we honor our past and celebrate our future.

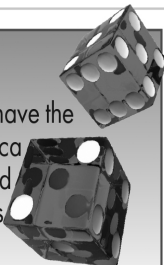


Seneca Allegany is offering a massive \$30,000 Black Friday Sweepstakes, where 30 lucky winners will receive a \$1,000 Amazon gift card, just in time for holiday shopping.

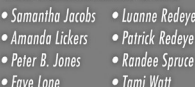
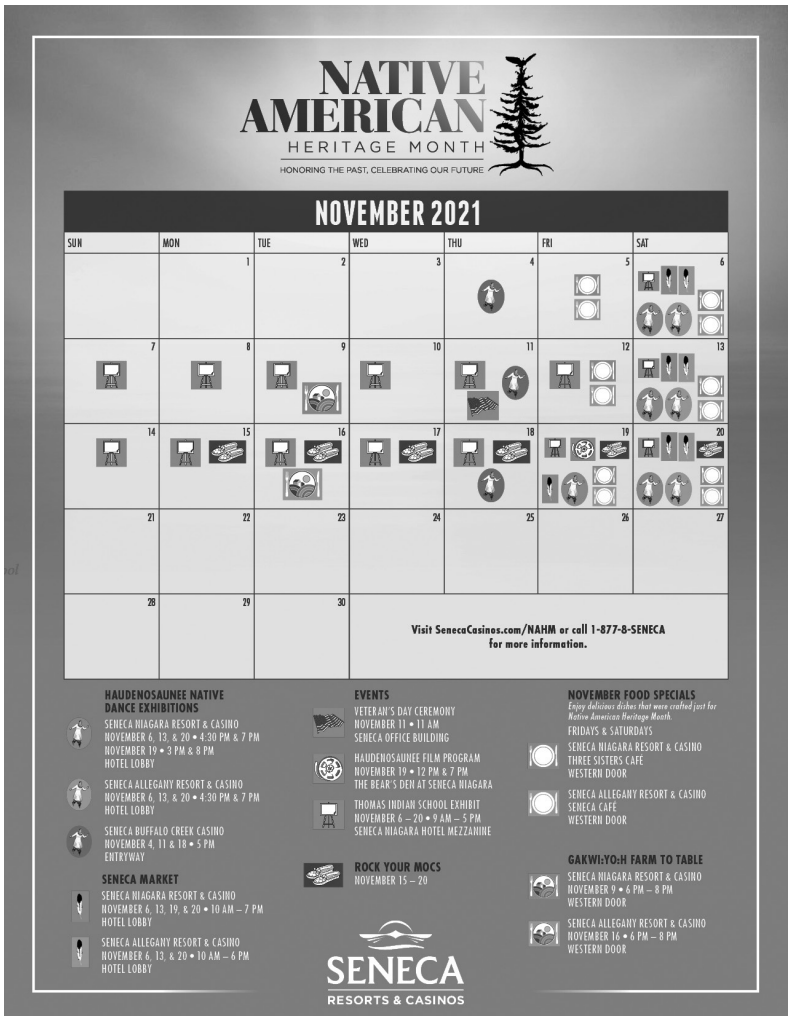
Native American Community Services (NACS) has just been added to the many charities our Team Seneca Cares program supports. The organization serves Native and non-Native communities in Erie and Niagara counties.

career, our benefits and perks are incredible. Visit [TheBest8Hours.com](http://TheBest8Hours.com) to browse all the opportunities, or contact our Leadership Seneca Outreach Specialist, Nikki Seneca, at (716) 807-2704.

Seneca Resorts & Casinos are world class destinations and we have the awards to prove it! In October, our Hotel teams at both Seneca Niagara and Seneca Allegany were once again crowned with the coveted AAA Four Diamond award. This prestigious distinction is reserved for hotels offering upscale style and amenities with impeccable service. Ja:goh to both properties!



*\*Check our website for the full list of films and filmmakers*



## ABOUT ROCK YOUR MOCS

This worldwide Native American & Indigenous peoples' social media movement began in 2011 when Jessica "Jaylyn" Atsye recognized an opportunity to spread awareness and encourage participation with a simple post. Her goal was to honor and celebrate her ancestors and Indigenous peoples on a global basis with a unifying campaign that anyone could join. National Red Dress Day is observed annually on November 15 during Native American Heritage Month.



See SenecaCasinos.com details





NOTICE - HEAP

The Seneca Nation Advocate Program will be accepting applications for the Regular Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) benefit starting on October 1, 2021. This benefit will run until March 2022 or if the funding runs out, whichever comes first.

Also starting on October 1, The Advocate Program will be accepting applications for the LIHEAP Furnace replace/repair program, as well as the LIHEAP Weatherization program. These programs will end on September 30, 2022 or if the funding runs out, whichever comes first. The Weatherization program includes: Caulking, Insulation, Windows, Doors, Skirting etc...

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

- Documentation Requirements:**
- ~Tribal I.D.
  - ~Social Security Card
  - ~Proof of Address
  - ~Current Utility Bill
  - \*\*Oak Tree Residents must provide a current rent receipt
  - ~Proof of Income
  - ~Deed/Home Ownership (Furnace repair/replacement/ Weatherization)

CATTARAUGUS TERRITORY ADVOCATE PROGRAM  
210 Thomas Indian Building – Ext.  
Irving, NY 14081  
716-532-4900

**Dont' miss the next deadline:  
November 16th, 2021**

**To be dated:  
November 26th, 2021**

**Address change? Don't forget to call us at 716-945-1790 ext. 3029, 3030, 5495**

ATTENTION HUNTERS

With the changing seasons, autumn brings out the colors of fall along with hunters. The Seneca Nation Conservation Fish & Wildlife Department would like to remind Hunters to be safe and be responsible. Please be respectful to other community members.

- Please remember these ethical hunting tips:
- Respect public and private property
  - Practice safe and ethical behavior - Target and beyond
  - Appreciate Nature and respect the game you are taking - use what you kill
  - Support conservation efforts, inform the CFW Department of any wrong doing
  - Be an example of a responsible hunter/sportsman and a role model for future youth sportsman

**REMINDER:** In accordance with SNI Executive Order - No person shall discharge or intend to discharge a firearm, crossbow, or bow:

- I. Over any part of a public highway or road; or
- II. Within five hundred (500) feet of any school, playground, public building, or occupied church; or
- III. Within five hundred (500) feet of a residence or place of business, unless permission is obtained from the landowner.

Conservation officers will be patrolling all Seneca Nation Territories. Officers will be pulling over vehicles spotting on territory to conduct enrollment checks and hunting law enforcement.

If you have any questions or concerns please contact:

**Seneca Nation  
Conservation Fish & Wildlife Department  
Allegany (716) 945-2779  
Cattaraugus (716) 532-3040**

SN Disability Services

**SOCIAL SECURITY ASSISTANCE**


**\*Allegany Territory\***

ALLEGANY RESIDENTS CAN NOW CALL FOR AN APPOINTMENT FOR A PHONE CONFERENCE FOR NEW CLAIMS, APPEALS, RETIREMENT & ALL OTHER BUSINESS


A SSI Rep. will be available on the following dates:

NOVEMBER 17, 2021  
DECEMBER 15, 2021  
JANUARY 19, 2022  
From  
9:00AM - 3:00 PM

Due to the COVID 19 pandemic, the Social Security Administration is still closed to the public. The appointments will be through phone conference ONLY until such time it is safe to open back up to the public. Please feel free to contact our office for details.



Phone: 716-532-4900, ext. 5152  
Email: Ashley.kennedy@sni.org  
leanna.leroy@sni.org



SN Disability Services

**SOCIAL SECURITY ASSISTANCE**


**\*Cattaraugus Territory\***

CATTARAUGUS RESIDENTS CAN NOW CALL FOR AN APPOINTMENT FOR A PHONE CONFERENCE FOR NEW CLAIMS, APPEALS, RETIREMENT & ALL OTHER BUSINESS


A SSI Rep. will be available on the following dates:

NOVEMBER 24, 2021  
DECEMBER 22, 2021  
JANUARY 26, 2021  
From  
9:00AM - 3:00 PM

Due to the COVID 19 pandemic, the Social Security Administration is still closed to the public. The appointments will be through phone conference ONLY until such time it is safe to open back up to the public. Please feel free to contact our office for details.



Phone: 716-532-4900, ext. 5152  
Email: Ashley.kennedy@sni.org  
leanna.leroy@sni.org





# Medicare Annual Enrollment Period: October 15th-December 7th

Submitted by Briana Snyder, Options Counselor

With the Medicare open enrollment period beginning on October 15, we encourage Medicare beneficiaries to choose carefully between traditional Medicare and joining a private Medicare Advantage plan. This is particularly important, as consumer marketing protections have been reduced and public promotions of Medicare Advantage are increasing – including on TV and in the mail. Here are some pros and cons regarding traditional Medicare and Medicare Advantage to consider:

**Traditional Medicare** allows access to all doctors, health care providers, hospitals and facilities that accept Medicare nation-wide.

- All people in traditional Medicare have access to similar benefits, which are available to them wherever they are around the country
- People in traditional Medicare usually do not require prior authorization to see specialists
- People with traditional Medicare can choose whatever Medicare prescription drug plan best serves their needs
- People with traditional Medicare often have better access to home health care, nursing homes, and rehabilitation
- People with traditional Medicare often need to purchase a “Medigap” policy to pay for Medicare cost-sharing.
- Lower-income people can get help paying for Medicare cost-sharing

**Medicare Advantage** plans are private

plans, like HMOs. They usually limit your choice of doctors, health care providers, hospitals, and facilities to a “network” of certain providers within your local geographic area. (Unless the needed care is an emergency or “urgent.”)

- Medicare Advantage plans can cut doctors and other health care providers from the plan network during the year
- Medicare Advantage requires “prior authorization” from the MA plan for many health care services
- Medicare Advantage often includes a prescription drug plan and some additional “supplemental” benefits such as help with dental care, gym memberships, and other

- benefits for some participants
- Medicare Advantage cost-sharing can be less than traditional Medicare, and MA plans are required to have a cap on out-of-pocket expenses. However, they also sometimes include co-pays not in traditional Medicare (for example – for home health care).
  - Lower-income people can get help paying for Medicare cost-sharing

*\*Information from Centers for Medicare Advocacy*

**For further information please reach out to Briana Snyder, Options Counselor (716) 945-8991.**

## CLIMATE CHANGE TASK FORCE SCHEDULE OF EVENTS 2021

These workshops are FREE to the public

IN RESPONSE to our climate change survey and in an effort to better inform and connect our community on issues arising from the ongoing climate crisis, Seneca Nation departments are teaming up to offer workshops to teach our community members useful and sustainable practices.

### Outdoor Survival Course - 12 participants

Contact | **Allegany Conservation** 716-945-1790  
Allegany Fish Hatchery Campus, **Salamanca, NY**  
Date and Time TBD  
In this course participants will learn basic outdoor survival skills and learn how to prepare an emergency survival bag consisting of how to create emergency shelter, fire, water, communication, and basic first aid systems.

### Inspect Your Home - 12 participants

Contact | **Allegany TERC Office** 716-945-8120  
STC 10189 Old Rt. 17, **Steamburg, NY**  
October 6 | 6:00pm - 8:00pm  
October 20 | 6:00pm - 8:00pm  
This workshop will cover the importance of conducting an annual inspection of your home. Weather, insects, rodents and even household members can cause damage to your home. Some damage may not even be noticeable. Using an inspection template will help you assess damage, presence of insects/mice damage, & wear and tear. The usefulness of conducting an inspection will be covered and the next steps following your inspection

### Eco-Friendly DIY Beeswax Wraps - 15 participants

Contact | **Jessica Crouse** 716-945-1790 x3039  
ACC Multi-Purpose Room, **Salamanca, NY**  
November 4 | 6:00pm - 7:30pm  
November 8 | 6:00pm - 7:30pm  
During the “Eco-Friendly DIY Beeswax Wraps” demonstration, participants will learn how to make do-it-yourself beeswax wraps as a re-usable alternative to single-use plastic wrap.

### Household Energy Saving Steps - 12 participants

Contact | **Allegany TERC Office** 716-945-8120  
STC 10189 Old Rt. 17, **Steamburg, NY**  
November 3 | 6:00pm - 8:00pm  
November 17 | 6:00pm - 8:00pm  
This workshop will cover the many ways a home can lose energy and costs you more in energy expenses. Extreme changes in the weather affects the house. Learn how the weather does this and steps you can take to lower the impact. This workshop can be a second step to the home inspection workshop. Types of energy efficient lighting will also be covered.

### Tools for the Home - 12 participants

Contact | **Allegany TERC Office** 716-945-8120  
STC 10189 Old Rt. 17, **Steamburg, NY**  
November 17 | 6:00pm - 8:00pm  
December 1 | 6:00pm - 8:00pm  
Learn what every homeowner should have on hand to handle little fixes. Also learn about specialty tools for bigger jobs that you can rent locally to save yourself from buying equipment and using it once. The purpose and use of tools will be covered and some practical demonstrations.

### Household Plumbing - 12 participants

Contact | **Cattaraugus TERC Office** 716-532-4900  
23 Thomas Indian School Drive, **Irving NY**  
October 6 | 6:00pm - 8:00pm  
October 19 | 6:00pm - 8:00pm  
Learn the basics of plumbing in your home, how it works, and how to rectify common issues that may arise. From the water supply coming in, to the drain going out. You will learn how it works. Gas and propane plumbing will also be discussed.

### Simple Electrical - 12 participants

Contact | **Cattaraugus TERC Office** 716-532-4900  
23 Thomas Indian School Drive, **Irving NY**  
November 3 | 6:00pm - 8:00pm  
November 17 | 6:00pm - 8:00pm  
Learn how to safely replace certain electrical components in your home. Learn about different lighting, switches and outlets. Learn how to identify projects you can do, and when you should call a professional.

### Fixing Damaged Walls - 12 participants

Contact | **Cattaraugus TERC Office** 716-532-4900  
23 Thomas Indian School Drive, **Irving NY**  
December 7 | 6:00pm - 8:00pm  
December 16 | 6:00pm - 8:00pm  
In this segment you will learn how to drywall or how a wall board is hung so that you can make repairs to damaged walls yourself and you have the finished product look like you called in a pro. From nail holes to replacing entire sections, you will learn it all.

### Composting 101 - 15 participants

Contact | **EPD Office** 716-532-4900  
Cattaraugus Community Center, **Irving, NY**  
December 9th | 6pm - 7pm  
Allegany Community Center, **Salamanca, NY**  
December 7th | 6pm - 7pm  
During composting 101, participants will learn the different forms of composting, the benefits to each form, and what is needed in order to effectively compost in various ways.

*\*Please take note of the different locations of the course offerings\**

**\*Times and dates are subject to change\***  
**Contact listed phone numbers for updates.**



## Holiday Loan Special!

Make your family’s Holiday season extra special with a loan from the SNIFCU.

Available Oct 1 – Dec 21<sup>st</sup>

Up to \$1,000 for 12 months



Rates starting at

# 5%


APR\*

Some Restrictions apply. Please see a SNIFCU representative for more information.




\*APR = Annual Percentage Rate. Rate shown is the standard rate for SNIFCU members based on a preferred credit rating. Your savings federally insured to at least \$250,000 and backed by the full faith and credit of the United States Government.

Irving Office	Hours	Salamanca Branch
12837 Route 438 Irving, NY 14081 (716) 532-8179	Mon - Fri 9am - 4pm	90 Ohioyo Way Salamanca, NY 14779 (716) 945-8510



**\*\*We are following COVID-19 guidelines set by the Seneca Nation, classes may change to virtual if necessary.\*\***





# After School Enrichment Program 2021-2022

Submitted by Amy White, Department of Education - Cattaraugus Territory



The Seneca Nation of Indians Department of Education recognizes that parents are primarily responsible for their children's education and that education is essential for the growth and progression of the Nation. To assist parents in providing supplemental educational opportunities for their children, the After School Program is being provided by the Seneca Nation of Indians Department of Education - Cattaraugus Territory to assist students in Math, ELA and completing homework assignments.

- Eligibility:** Students Grades 3-5 & Grades 6-8
- Program Dates:** October 4, 2021 - June 9, 2022
- Program Hours:** Monday through Thursday until 5:30pm
- Location:** Education Department Classrooms (ECLC Building)

Applications must be completed and returned to the Education Department - Cattaraugus.

Bus transportation can be arranged with your school district for your student to be dropped off directly at the program. Parents must notify the school and complete required forms for the school district transportation department.

Program calendar and schedules will be sent home with students after the first day of attendance at program.

Applications are available online at [sni.org](http://sni.org) or at the Education Department.

For more information, please contact Seneca Nation Education Department - Cattaraugus at (716) 532-3341.

## COMMUNITY HEALTH NEWSLETTER



### LUNG CANCER AWARENESS: NOVEMBER 2021

#### What is Lung Cancer?

Lung cancer is a type of cancer that starts in the lungs. Cancer develops when abnormal cells begin to grow out of control and spread to other parts of your body.

There are 2 main types of lung cancer and they are treated very differently (Small Cell Lung Cancer & Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer).

#### What are Causes and Risk Factors of Lung Cancer?

#1 Cause: Smoking & Second Hand Smoke

#2 Cause: Radon, a tasteless/odorless gas that may be in your home and basement. One out of 15 homes has a high level of radon.

Exposure to and/or inhalation of pollution, asbestos, uranium, arsenic, cadmium, chromium, nickel and some petroleum products

Genetics & Genes: A family history of lung cancer may mean you are at a higher risk of getting the disease. If others in your family have or ever had lung cancer, it's important to mention this to your doctor.

**FACT:** Lung cancer is the leading cause of cancer death among both men and women in the United States.

#### What can you do?

- ✓ Quit Smoking and avoid Secondhand Smoke. Smoking causes 80% of Lung Cancers.
- ✓ Have your home checked for Radon levels.
- ✓ Wear appropriate respiratory protection while working with hazardous materials.
- ✓ Try to eat a diet rich in antioxidants found in fruits and vegetables.
- ✓ Promote a healthy lifestyle by exercising daily and getting good sleep.
- ✓ Know YOUR Risk Factors and speak with your Doctor. You may qualify for Lung Cancer screening!

**Lung Cancer Screening Criteria:** 50-80 years old, current or former smoker, and at least a 20 pack-year smoking history. The only recommended screening test for lung cancer is low-dose computed tomography (also called a low-dose CT scan, or LDCT).

\*Sources: [https://www.cdc.gov/cancer/lung/basic\\_info/screening.htm](https://www.cdc.gov/cancer/lung/basic_info/screening.htm)  
<https://www.lung.org/lung-health-diseases/lung-disease-lookup/lung-cancer/basics/what-causes-lung-cancer>  
<https://www.cancer.org/cancer/lung-cancer/causes-prevention/what-causes.html>

## Attention USDA FDPIR Participants

Do you do half of the grocery shopping or obtain at least half of the food supplies for your household?

If so, I would like to talk to you!

I am an enrolled Seneca doing a research study about our food system and traditional values related to food. I am reaching out to participants who would be interested in participating in a 30-minute interview. With support from a grant, each participant will receive an incentive of \$25 in the form of a local store gift card.

Please note that participating in this study will not affect your benefits in the FDPIR Program.

Participation is completely voluntary and anonymous.

Interviews can be held via telephone, Facetime, or Zoom. If you would like more information or would like to participate, please email, call, or text!

Marlene Wakefield [Wakefm23@dvc.edu](mailto:Wakefm23@dvc.edu) 716-515-5262

## HIGH SPEED INTERNET FROM DFT COMMUNICATIONS

### DFT Communications is committed to your future.

To do our part to support the future growth of your community, DFT Communications has partnered with the Seneca Nation to bring fiber-optic internet to homes and businesses in your neighborhood.

Fiber-optic internet transmits your internet connection via light, providing a **faster**, and **more reliable service** than copper-based connections.



### DFT LIGHTSPEED FIBER-OPTIC INTERNET

100   25	200   50	300   100	500   150
100 Mbps Down   25 Mbps Up	200 Mbps Down   50 Mbps Up	300 Mbps Down   100 Mbps Up	500 Mbps Down   150 Mbps Up
<b>\$49.95</b> monthly	<b>\$54.95</b> monthly	<b>\$64.95</b> monthly	<b>\$94.95</b> monthly

\*Above pricing effective as of 05/2021. Wireless speeds may vary. Certain restrictions and geographic limitations may apply. Additional installation and equipment lease fees may apply.

### What are the benefits of fiber-optic internet?

Fiber-optic internet provides a variety of advantages over other broadband technologies, including:

- MORE BANDWIDTH**  
Fiber has the capability to transport virtually unlimited bandwidth. This accommodates for today's increasing demand for high speed connections - the result of multiple users and devices engaged in applications such as streaming. The closer the fiber is to a home or business, the more bandwidth will be available for the end user.
- GREATER RELIABILITY**  
Fiber-optic cables are less susceptible to glitches than traditional copper wires and can withstand the shock and vibration from inclement weather.
- FUTURE FLEXIBILITY**  
Fiber-optic internet is considered "future proof" and offers the flexibility to deliver additional services in the years to come.



38-40 Temple St., Fredonia • 716.532.3131  
[SNI.DFTCOMMUNICATIONS.COM](http://SNI.DFTCOMMUNICATIONS.COM)





# Request for Proposals: Haudenosaunee Sports Museum/Center

The Seneca Nation was awarded funding from the Department of the Interior, BIA Office of Indian Economic Development, Tribal Tourism Grant Program to conduct a professional Economic Feasibility Study including Pro-forma/Market Analysis and Business Plan on the development and implementation of a Haudenosaunee Sports Museum/Center on Seneca Nation Territory.

The Seneca Nation will hire an experienced consultant to perform Objectives One & Two below. Proposals should clearly address the following:

Objective One - Conduct an Economic Feasibility Study including Pro-Forma/Market Analysis.

The feasibility study will include: potential benefits of development, cost vs. benefit analysis, accessibility, public sentiment, infrastructure needs, and regional opportunity/competitive set. The feasibility study will include a comparison of other sports museum/centers, not including Cooperstown, NY.

Objective Two - Develop a Business Plan for the Haundeosaunee Sports Museum/



Center, including SWOT analysis, branding scheme, programming needs, marketing and sales recommendations, and funding/fundraising plan.

The Business Plan will provide the Seneca Nation with the necessary information to transform the concept of the Haundeosaunee Sports Museum/Center into a fully operational destination. The

Business Plan will be the formal document outlining the goals, direction, finances, team, and further planning for the Haudenosaunee Sports Museum/Center.

A Request for Proposal (RFP) to conduct the Economic Feasibility Study, including Pro-Forma/Market Analysis (\$50,000) and business plan (\$25,000) on the development and implementation of an Haudenosaunee Sports Museum/Center.

To view the entire RFP, please visit:

[https://sni.org/media/1087039/rfp\\_seneca-nation-tourism-feasibility-study-and-business-plan.pdf](https://sni.org/media/1087039/rfp_seneca-nation-tourism-feasibility-study-and-business-plan.pdf)

For additional information or questions, please contact:

Seneca Nation Department of Transportation (SNDOT)  
Attn: Sharon Ray, SNDOT Director  
90 Ohi:yo Way  
Salamanca, NY 14779  
[sharon.ray@sni.org](mailto:sharon.ray@sni.org)

## AOA provides Elders with Harvest Food Bags

Photos by Seneca Media

On Thursday, November 4th, the Seneca Nation Area Office for the Aging (AOA) held a drive-thru distribution on both the Allegany and Cattaraugus territories to hand out free Harvest Food Bags.

Each bag contained locally grown products from our very own Gakwi:yo:h Farms such as maple syrup, white corn flour, hulled white corn, potatoes, apples and sweetgrass.



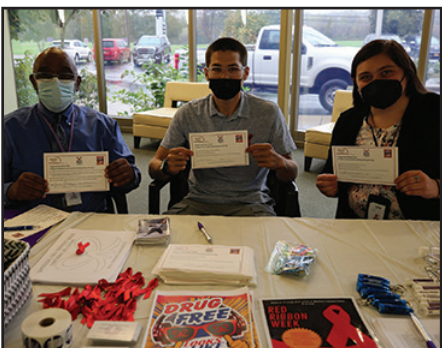
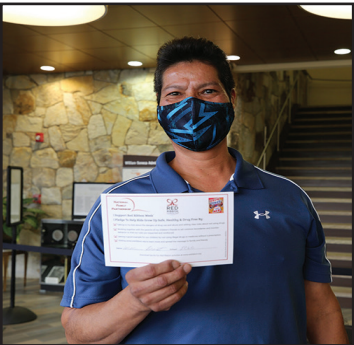
## Red Ribbon Week: Supporting a healthy drug-free community!

Photos by Seneca Media

Red Ribbon Week takes place annually from October 23rd - 31st. This year, Seneca Strong, the Seneca Nation Health System and Seneca Native Connections helped the community celebrate red ribbon week along with this year's campaign theme "Drug Free Looks Like Me!"

Tables were set up at the William Seneca Building in Cattaraugus and at the SAAB in Allegany. Each table provided department information, recovery/prevention information and red ribbons were handed out.

*Nya:weh to all community members who took the pledge to be "Drug Free!"*





# Seneca-Iroquois National Museum named Tribal Destination of the Year

Press Release - Seneca Media & Communications - 11/05/21

**ALLEGANY TERRITORY**  
- The American Indian Alaska Native Tourism Association (AIANTA) recognized the best of Indian County tourism at its annual Excellence in Tourism Industry Awards. Awardees were announced on October 28, 2021 at the 23rd annual American Indian Tourism Conference held at the We-Ko-Pa Casino Resort in Fort McDowell, Arizona.

The Seneca-Iroquois National Museum (SINM) was named Tribal Destination of the Year. The SINM proudly houses an extensive collection of Hodinöhsö:ni' historical and traditionally designed decorative and every-day-use items and archaeological artifacts. SINM, along with the Seneca Nation Archives Department, are the safe keepers of historical documents, including articles, special publications, historical and family photographs and various multi-media productions regarding

the Onöndowa'ga:' and Hodinöhsö:ni'. The Museum's collection includes more than

these distinguished hospitality industry programs and professionals," said Sherry

heritage and culture, and we congratulate all the winners and nominees."



Front L to R: Brenda Kindt, THPO Manager & Councilor Arlene Bova. Back L to R: Councilor Angie Kennedy; Hayden Haynes, Museum Manager; Tristan Jimerson, Cultural Specialist; Art Hill, Records Manager; Dr. Joe Stahlman, Director; Johnna Crouse, Collections Manager & Conservator; Breann Crouse, Inventory Specialist; LaMarr Spruce, Maintenance; Rebecca Bowen, Archives Manager

10,000 cultural objects; 5,000 photographs, and thousands of archaeological materials.

"We are delighted to honor

L. Rupert, CEO AIANTA. "They perfectly exemplify how Native cultural and heritage programs can attract visitors while celebrating their own

org. You can also visit their website at [www.senecamuseum.org](http://www.senecamuseum.org).

Every year, AIANTA recognizes enterprises and individuals in four categories: Tribal Destination of the Year, Best Cultural Heritage Experience, Excellence in Customer Service and Industry Professional of the Year.

Located at 82 West Hetzel Street, Salamanca, NY inside the Onöhsagwë:De' Cultural Center; SINM is open Monday through Friday 10am-4:30pm.

For more information, please contact Dr. Joe Stahlman, Director of the Seneca-Iroquios National Museum at 716-945-1760 or via email at: [info@senecamuseum.org](mailto:info@senecamuseum.org).



The Onöhsagwë: de' Cultural Center

## WINTER ART MARKET

•Free Admission •Open To The Public•  
•Art & Craft Vendors •Food Vendors •Raffles

November 27, 2021  
10:00 a.m.- 4:30 p.m.  
82 West Hetzel St.  
Salamanca, NY 14779



12:00 p.m.  
Dr. Rodney Haring  
(Onöndowa'ga:', Beaver Clan),  
SINM Featured Artist, will  
discuss his Story Stick  
collection. He encourages  
conversation and questions as he  
unveils the collection.

### NEW EXHIBITION OPENING

"We Were At The School. We Were There.  
We Remember."

Hënödeyësdahgwa'geh wa'öki'jö' ögwahsä's.  
Onëh I: jögwadögwea:je'

Exhibit on the Thomas Indian School will be  
opening day of the market and will be on  
display until mid-2022.



For more information call 716-945-1760 or email [snim@sni.org](mailto:snim@sni.org)

LACROSSE TRADITIONS CULTURE



JANUARY 14-16, 2022

Allegany Community Center. Seneca Nation of Indians. Salamanca, NY.

**DIVISIONS:**  
BANTAM: 08/09  
MIDGET: 07/06

**FEE:**  
\$950

\*ACCEPTING: PAYPAL,  
VENMO, DEBIT/CREDIT

**Warrior Games: Keepers of the Western Door** youth lacrosse tournament is the first sanctioned USBOXLA event to be hosted on Seneca Nation lands. An experience filled with Seneca culture, tradition and some of the best of youth box lacrosse in the country!

Teams representing the US, Canada, and Native communities will once compete to see who is crowned 2022 Warrior Games Champion!

Register - **website:** [warriorgamesboxla.wixsite.com/mysite](http://warriorgamesboxla.wixsite.com/mysite)  
Contact us - **email:** [warriorgamesboxla@gmail.com](mailto:warriorgamesboxla@gmail.com)  
Check us out - **facebook:** [Warriorgames2022](https://www.facebook.com/Warriorgames2022)



# Seneca Nation Employee Halloween Parties

By Megan Torres, Reporter

To celebrate Halloween, Human Resources hosted dual Halloween parties for Allegany and Cattaraugus employees on Friday, October 29th. Human Resources from both territories planned great parties. There was a costume contest for scariest, funniest and most original along with games like musical chairs and Halloween movie trivia. Allegany employees enjoyed pumpkin donuts and cider while Cattaraugus employees had apple cider slushies and CJ's kettle corn. Much fun was had by all who attended both parties!



### INDIGENOUS & RURAL PATIENT NAVIGATION

#### COMMUNITY PATIENT NAVIGATION SERVICE

Indigenous & Rural Patient Navigation is a free, non-clinical, service for Indigenous and Rural community members looking for recommended cancer screening and education, additional support and resources for cancer care.

#### HOW TO JOIN

1

Call 1-888-RPGUIDE

2

A team member will fill out a Cancer Screening and Prevention assessment with you to see what cancer screenings are recommended for you and will discuss your concerns.

3

Connect you to the available resources that meet your needs.

Whenever possible we can connect you with a navigator that works in or near your community.

4

A patient navigator will follow up with you to make sure your needs are being met.

#### PATIENT NAVIGATOR LOCATIONS

— VIRTUAL —

1-888-RPGUIDE  
(1-888-774-8433)

— COMMUNITY —

Serving Seneca Nation Communities

Lockport Service Unit

— FEDERALLY QUALIFIED —  
HEALTH CENTERS

Community Health Center of Niagara  
Buffalo, Cheektowaga, Niagara Falls, & Lockport, NY

The Chautauqua Center  
Dunkirk & Jamestown, NY

Universal Primary Care  
Olean, Cuba, Houghton & Salamanca, NY

## 2022 CALENDAR PHOTO CONTEST

Seneca Media & Communications Center is excited to kick-off Native American Heritage Month by welcoming photographers from across the globe to submit single photos to our 2022 Calendar Photo Contest. All submissions should reflect Seneca Nation culture. A Grand Prize Cover Photo Winner will be chosen. All photos submitted will become the property of the Seneca Media & Communications Center and may be used in future multimedia productions.

**Submission deadline is November 30, 2021. Please email files to [senecamedia@sni.org](mailto:senecamedia@sni.org).**

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visit us on-line  
[@sninews.org](mailto:@sninews.org)



# News from SNI Utilities: ATTENTION All Waterline Users on Both Territories

Submitted by Theresa Lay, Utilities Department

Winter is creeping up on us once again, it's time to winterize your waterline pipes! All mobile home owners should have their skirting up and intact. It is in your best interest to protect your pipes against the elements; frozen pipes lead to breakage and leaks. Insulation around pipes along with heat tape is a deterrent against frozen water pipes. We have found that home made wooden boxes to cover the meter and pipes are a big help. **PLEASE DON'T FORGET TO PLUG IN YOUR HEAT TAPE!!!** Be sure your heat tape is in proper working order, heat tape must be checked each year to ensure it is operational. If your heat tape is **not** heating thoroughly, **it must be replaced**- it doesn't last forever! Also, please make sure you know the location of your curb stop, (flag it!) so it will not be disturbed during snow removal. This also deters damage to your plow as well.

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

Due to harsh budget constraints we are incurring, there is only so much we can do to assist you, but we do offer some basic parts and materials at a discounted rate,

**manpower excluded.**

Please contact our offices if you should have any questions/concerns:

Cattaraugus (716) 532-9221  
Allegany (716) 945-0059

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

Please be aware that having a potable water source is imperative to clean living and survival. Do the preventive maintenance NOW, we can't stress it enough. It will save you the trouble and expense of later repairs. Also, please note that if you have to dig near any utilities you must contact DIGSAFELY, which is an underground utility locating service (800-962-7962). This could prevent you from accidentally ripping out dangerous electrical lines, natural gas lines, and waterlines that could interrupt residential services.

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

*Have a safe, healthy, enjoyable winter season! Again, nya-weh for your cooperation!*

**SNI Utilities**



**CRIMESTOPPERS**  
867-6161



**STOP THE SUPPLY  
STOP THE DEMAND**

**TURN  
IN A  
DEALER.**


**EARN UP TO  
\$2500  
CASH REWARD**

**HELP STOP  
THE VIOLENCE**

**GET THE  
"BUFFALO TIPS" APP  
OR CALL 867-6161**

**EARN UP TO \$7500**  
FOR TIPS ON HOMICIDES  
SHOOTINGS & ILLEGALLY POSSESSED GUNS





**Hadigëhjishö'öh  
honëñöhdö'?**  
(Do the elders know?)

**10-digit dialing is in effect for all phone numbers with a 716 area code. What exactly does that mean?**

ALL calls, even local, MUST include the area code.

Phone numbers already saved to your contacts MUST include the area code if they do not already.

Rates or service coverage will NOT change. NO extra charges will be accrued.

Your current number will not change.


Any 3-digit call (911, 711, etc.) will still be available when dialed.

**STS Announcement:**

Our buses are now equipped with AVL or automatic vehicle location devices! You can now track the bus on the PassioGo app on your smartphone.

Simply download the free app and select Seneca Transit System. You will be able to see the bus number and location as well as expected time of arrival at bus stops.

Watch the video and download the app. We hope this will make your trips more convenient and manageable!





# Rovena Abrams turns 97, becomes eldest female on Allegany Territory



On October 31st, 2021, Rovena Abrams turned 97 and became the eldest Seneca member on the Allegany Territory.

October 30th, Treasurer Rickey Armstrong presented Ms. Abrams with a handmade quilt and a bouquet.

Rovena has had an extensive career as the second employee of the Seneca Nation. She first served as the Deputy Clerk and worked out of a three room office located on Main St. in the Dowd Building in the early 1960’s. She went on to serve the Seneca Nation as a Councillor, a Peacemaker Judge, and was the Editor of the Seneca Nation Official Newsletter for over 30 years.

Rovena also served on numerous committees – her efforts have directly effected Seneca Nation history, policies, and government relations. She not only fought for the Seneca women’s right to vote but was also active in gaining the right for Seneca women to be elected to hold office as well. She stood up against the U.S. and the Army Corps of Engineers during the Kinzua Dam removal as the Secretary of the Kinzua Planning Committee. Rovena was instrumental during negotiations with the Seneca Nation – City of

Salamanca Negotiating Committee in the early 90’s and continued with the Salamanca Joint Leasing Commission for many years.



Treasurer Rickey Armstrong & Rovena Abrams. 10/30/21

Rovena has received the Seneca Nation Eagle Award for Public Service for her contributions to the Seneca Nation government and community after years of serving on the Seneca Nation Economic Development Board, Friends of the Seneca Nation Library, the Seneca – Iroquois National Museum Board of Trustees, and the Grandparents Club. She was also awarded the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Seneca Salamanca Chamber of Commerce in 2013.

As a first language Seneca learner, Rovena most recently worked for Seneca Language Department as invaluable resource.

The Seneca Nation would like to wish Rovena a "Happy 97th Birthday" and are grateful for her years of service and dedication! Weso' nya:wëh!

## Welcome New Seneca Media & Communications Center Director



Please welcome Stephanie Timblin, Executive Director, Seneca Media & Communications! Stephanie joined S.N.I. in mid-September with a strong media background.

Stephanie is a former student of the Jandoli School of Journalism and Communication at St. Bonaventure University. Stephanie has a background in all aspects of media and multimedia production.

Working through the merger of large local health care facilities, public health emergency communications, as well as simple print journalism and freelance web design, she is well prepared to lead the Media Departments at SNI into a meaningful and prosperous direction that serves all departments and the people.

Stephanie is a resident of Salamanca, N.Y. and a mother of four. She is a weekly volunteer of local animal rescue E.A.R.S. and enjoys winter sports. “I am honored and thrilled to be here”, she said. “The Seneca Nation has an endless treasure trove of media opportunities that can be promoted globally, and locally. I hope people will see some exciting new material coming their way.”

### Do you want to be a skilled Tradesmen?

*Submitted by Catt. Tribal Employment Rights Office*

If you or anyone you know is interested, apply the 1st Tuesday of the month at the following locations:

**Bricklayers/Finishers: Local 3 1175 William St., Buffalo, NY 14206 from 8am-12pm**

**Carpenters: Local 276 1159 Maryvale Dr., Cheektowaga, NY 14227 from 9am-12pm**

### Are you a certified Flagman?

*Submitted by Catt. Tribal Employment Rights Office*

If you or anyone you know is qualified (male or female), stop into the Cattaraugus location Tribal Employment Rights Office located behind the SN Laundromat on Iroquois Drive.

• Apply in our office • Fill out the Skill Bank Form

• Applications are renewed yearly.

Bring your Tribal ID, Certifications, Licenses and other documents pertinent to your eligibility for preference and job qualification.



# Breaking Barriers: How Scanlan is Making Waves in the Indigenous Lacrosse World

October 22, 2021 | judolphins.com | Jacksonville University Women's Lacrosse



Her long black hair bounces off her shoulders as she rushes down the field with her eyes locked on the goal, her hands gripped tightly around her lacrosse stick. Once she slings the ball with force past the goalkeeper, she erupts into celebration. Miya Scanlan is embraced by her teammates as she has just scored her sixteenth goal for Gowanda High School, shattering the New York state record for goals in a single high school girls lacrosse game. However, it does not come as a surprise to anyone who knows Scanlan that she is already having success in her lacrosse career at such a young age.

Scanlan spent her upbringing on the Cattaraugus Indian Reservation in Irving, New York. She was raised by Jodi and Charlie Scanlan and is the fifth of 11 children, the oldest being 29 years



of age and the youngest three. By the time they take their first steps, Scanlan and her siblings are introduced to the sport and participate in competition, especially against each other.

"There is a lacrosse field on the reservation, and we play against each other or practice together all the time," Scanlan said. "My youngest sibling even has a lacrosse stick to play with, and they all help me learn and grow with the game."

For the Scanlan family, lacrosse serves as more than a passion because it is deeply rooted into their Native American culture as members of the Seneca tribe and the wolf clan. The Seneca were the largest of six Native American nations which comprised the Iroquois Confederacy. Lacrosse is known for contributing to the values of diversity, preparation, creativity, integrity, and generosity. Various indigenous tribes have openly stated that the desire to play is in their blood.

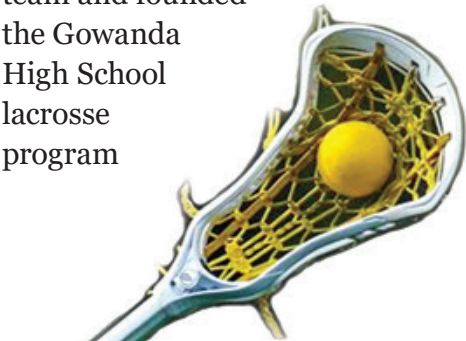
In Native communities' lacrosse is also referred to as the "medicine game." Lacrosse is known as the Creator's Game because it originated to entertain the higher power known as the Creator and was often used to solve disputes and unify communities. The spiritual aspects of the game have always made lacrosse a source of healing, joy and national pride for the

Haudenosaunee people, allowing them to express and maintain their culture, and to share it with the world.

"No one outside of the culture really understands how big lacrosse is and how much our lives involve the sport," Scanlan said. "People are not truly educated about where the game has come from and the background is something I hope to talk more about."

Part of what makes Scanlan's success unique is lacrosse being originally viewed by the tribes as a sport to be played strictly by men. Traditionally in indigenous culture, boys are given their first lacrosse stick quickly after birth, and men are buried with their favorite sticks when they die to be ready to play upon greeting the Creator in the afterlife.

While lacrosse is one of the most rapidly growing sports in the country among men and women, indigenous cultures have only mildly included women in recent years. Growing up, Scanlan had the opportunity to travel with a club team and founded the Gowanda High School lacrosse program



alongside her father.

"There was a point where it was really tough because some of the elders still did not want women to play lacrosse and there were not a lot of opportunities for teams in the area," Scanlan said. "Once the high school program was started all the girls that joined had never played before except for me, so it was all about going back to the basics."

About 75 percent of athletes on Scanlan's high school roster

are from a Native American reservation, and more women are seeking opportunities to continue their careers at the collegiate level.

Lottie Gill, who served as her lacrosse coach during her final high school season, also grew up competing on a reservation. As a member of the Tuscarora Nation snipe clan, Gill understands the struggle regarding opportunities for women to compete and the change that is rapidly occurring.

"It was always frowned upon by our clan mothers to see women playing lacrosse when I was growing up," Gill said. "My mom was a member of the Iroquois Nationals women's team in the 80's, which was forced to disband in 1987 after the team was preparing to play an exhibition game in Syracuse, New York and Onondaga clan mothers threatened to lie down on the field in protest. Rather than go against the wishes of their elders, they disbanded."

Scanlan knew she wanted to compete at the next level as early as junior high. Her older sister, Shayla, spent four years competing at the Division I level for Louisville, while her older brother Clay made a roster in the National Lacrosse League.

"My parents always took me to go watch Shayla play at Louisville when I was younger," Scanlan said. "Consistently watching her has really helped me with my game and really made me want to compete at the next highest level."

Scanlan verbally committed to becoming a Dolphin her junior year of high school and signed her National Letter of Intent in November of 2020, after participating in a JU lacrosse camp and taking an unofficial visit.

Jacksonville's women's lacrosse team has developed a reputation

**Continued on page 15**



Ja:goh Violet Johnson | Submitted by Teresa Pelletier

Violet Johnson, daughter of Jason Johnson - wolf clan, is a sophomore at Tufts University in Boston, Massachusetts. She is double majoring in International Relations with a concentration in Security as well as Russian and East European studies. In high school, Violet was repeatedly on the Honor Roll, inducted to the National Honor Society, elected president/vice president of several clubs, created and ran a walk-a-thon to benefit organizations against child abuse. While maintaining her studies, she was also accepted to the highly competitive Future Law Enforcement Youth Academy or FLEYA, where she spent a week at Yale University learning from Yale Police officers, FBI agents, and other local/state/government law agencies. In her senior year, Violet was accepted to the Nationally recognized Questbridge scholars' program which gives highly academic, 1st generation, low-income students a chance to apply



to highly competitive universities. Even though Violet is now a college student, she continues to be active in this program as a mentor to High School students who are now themselves going through the process.

During her freshman year, Violet was accepted as a student consultant for the largest student consultancy in the world, 180 Degrees Consulting, made the Spring of 2021 Dean's List, and was chosen to take the position of Secretary-General of the Tufts University Model United Nations (or TUMUN) 2022 conference. Recently, Violet has been chosen to be a participant in Princeton University's Prospective PhD Preview or P3 program.

Violet is the daughter of Jason & Amy Johnson, Granddaughter of Teri and Delmar Pelletier, and Great Granddaughter of Marlene and Gordon Johnson.



### Christmas Tree Raffle

*Fully decorated lighted 5 ft Christmas tree with beaded and hand made ornaments* | Submitted by Mary Jacobs

• To benefit Catt. Rez Beaders • **Drawing will be held December 4, 2021** • Ticket Cost: \$10

Catt. Rez Beaders have tickets and will be selling them at local events. OR you can drop by the Sully on Mondays or Tuesdays between 6-8:30pm to view the tree and purchase tickets.

MIYA SCANLAN -- ARTICLE CONTINUED

of being one of the top programs in the country, but it was the support system and atmosphere off the field that factored into her decision.

"I chose JU because it is very family oriented, coming from a large family it was helpful to have that feeling with me here," Scanlan said. "Additionally, I love the program's style of play, plus everyone here was incredibly warm and welcoming,"

Although Scanlan has yet to make her official collegiate debut, she is already making an impression on a national level. She was recently selected as a member of the Iroquois national team and is competing in the World Lacrosse Super Sixes event in Sparks, Maryland, Oct. 23 - 24.

This is her first time representing a national team and she will be listed on the roster alongside her older sister Lauren and some of her cousins.

The super sixes serve as another evaluation for the final roster for The World Games that will take place next July in Birmingham, Alabama. This is the first time that lacrosse will be included in the World Games, and the hope is that lacrosse will then be included in the 2028 Olympics Games in Los Angeles.

"Receiving this opportunity is exciting because it is another chance for me to have a trial to potentially make the Olympic team," Scanlan said. "On top of that it gives me the ability to represent my culture and that is something I will always be proud of."

Though Scanlan has been far from home since making her way to Northeast Florida, her support system is still intact and making sure to follow along with her in every step of the process.

Not only is she serving as a role model for her younger siblings and extended family, but to the girls who are hoping to one day achieve similar accomplishments.

"Miya is a once in a generational talent and the lacrosse players here at Gowanda really look up to her and admire everything she has done for the game and for the program," Gill said. "We are so excited to watch her freshman season and just know she is going to make us proud."

The coaching staff at

Jacksonville has also expressed support for her ability to bring awareness of the game, with the goal of helping Scanlan achieve greatness at the next level and reach all of her goals.

"The game is rapidly growing across the board and it's amazing that she has this platform to advocate and bring awareness to the sport," assistant coach Mike Bedford said. "She is going to be able to look back twenty or thirty years from now and say 'I was a part of that, I was one of the first ones to do that'."

Source: <https://judolphins.com/news/2021/10/22/womens-lacrosse-more-than-a-game-how-the-iroquois-nation-is-embedded-in-lacrosse-culture.aspx>



Indigenous ways on display at NYPA event

Seneca Nation and Tuscarora teach about abundance and tradition at NYPA event

September 27, 2021 | www.niagara-gazette.com

Our nation borders their's but until we take the time to visit, or emissaries come to share in things like the New York Power Authority Wildlife Festival, we don't always think twice about the indigenous people and traditions formed long before we arrived.

Think, for example, of the mystical tradition of maize. There are at least 500 different kinds of corn, according to Tuscarora Turtle Clan member YeKwanihst (Jill Clause), who set up in the indigenous tent at the power authority.

She was feeding anyone who came by simple dishes, Ga Neh Ha' geh hrag (white corn).

Clause showed how the corn is picked from the husk, boiled

with wood ash and rinsed and cooked two more times.

The resulting dish is known to white people as hominy. She was also serving samples of black beans, ham, quail and venison and strawberry drink

The concept, among the ho-de-nau-sau-nee is "one dish, one spoon. There is enough food for everybody" Clause said. "I just love giving away food. Always, there is enough."

At an adjacent table, Marisa Manitowabi was teaching lashings and the intricacies of a longhouse.

"Lashings are very useful," she said. "Most people no longer know how to tie a knot."



Spectators learn about houses and lashing from Marissa Manitowabi of the Seneca Nation. The duo are from Cub Scout Pack 630.

The Seneca Nation member was using inner back she had on display for demonstration purposes.

Source: [https://www.niagara-gazette.com/news/local\\_news/indigenous-ways-on-display-at-nypa-event/article\\_7288f499-d91c-571f-b964-2bb5e6444367.html](https://www.niagara-gazette.com/news/local_news/indigenous-ways-on-display-at-nypa-event/article_7288f499-d91c-571f-b964-2bb5e6444367.html)

SU Indigenous students find Columbus statue ‘offensive and threatening’

October 27, 2021 | www.dailyorange.com

Indigenous students and faculty at Syracuse University have expressed their frustration toward celebrations surrounding the statue of Christopher Columbus in Syracuse.

Syracuse is home to a large Italian American population, including community members who believe the removal of the statue would be disrespectful to the history of immigrants in this country. But other Syracuse community members have called on the city to take down the statue and rename Columbus Circle downtown.

Mayor Ben Walsh announced the city's plans in 2020 to remove the statue. To continue honoring the Italian Americans in the city, Walsh said the city plans on keeping the fountain and monument at the center of the circle.

In May, the Columbus Monument Corporation filed a



Syracuse community members have called for the statue to be taken down and Columbus Circle to be renamed, but the measures have faced opposition. Photo credit: Wendy Wang

lawsuit against the city, saying Walsh had no legal authority to move the statue.

Neal Powless, Syracuse University's ombuds and a leader in the Onondaga Nation, said he's been advocating for the statue's removal his whole life. These conversations need to exist beyond Indigenous

Peoples' Day in October, he said.

"Unfortunately, in order to have compromise (and) collaboration, both parties need to be willing to have a conversation," Powless said. "The group that is fighting the city is not willing to listen."

The statue acts as a direct attack on Indigenous people in the

city and in the greater United States, Powless said.

"It's a pervasive dialogue that pits Indigenous people as not rightfully belonging to the land, and the statue represents that," he said.

**Olivia Porter**, a member of Seneca Nation and a junior in the College of Arts and Sciences, agreed with Powless, saying the statue sends a direct message to Indigenous people.

"(The statue) is offensive and threatening and sends the message, 'You're not welcome here,'" Porter said.

SU has hosted events on campus honoring Indigenous Peoples' Day, as well as honoring the Onondaga Nation and Haudenosaunee Confederacy. SU, which was founded on Onondaga Nation land, now starts events on campus by honoring the land that the university resides on.


Continued on page 17



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

Call us:  
Allegany - 716-945-1790, ext. 3030 or x3029 OR Cattaraugus 716-532-4900, ext. 5495.

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



COLUMBUS STATUE -- ARTICLE CONTINUED

Also, SU has begun flying the Haudenosaunee flag at the National Veterans Resource Center, in the Carrier Dome and in front of Hendricks Chapel. The Barnes Center at The Arch also recently hired an Indigenous healer, Diane Schenandoah, who hopes to offer support to Indigenous students using traditional practices for healing.

But students expressed that they want the university to do more to honor the Onondaga Nation, especially in classrooms.

Mario “Ma’ii” Villa, a graduate student in the School of Information Studies and a member of the Chiricahua Apache, said that many people are not aware of Indigenous students’ presence in Syracuse. Many people, he said, think that they have gone extinct.

Nizhoni Kennedy, a freshman at SU who is Seneca and Navajo, agreed, saying a lot of students she has encountered are unaware of the history SU has with Indigenous people, land and culture.

“A lot of people when they come to Syracuse don’t know it sits on Onondaga land or who the Onondaga are,” Kennedy said. “People don’t understand what colonization did to us. We lost millions and millions of ancestors, and it didn’t stop in 1492.”

It’s the city’s turn to honor Indigenous people, several students and faculty members said.

“I’m just a community member, a leader, in the Onondaga

Nation. It is a part of a larger dialogue I’ve been having my whole life,” Powless said.

Villa said the Columbus statue needs to come down and that governments, both locally and nationally, need to pay attention to Indigenous voices.

“All voices should be heard in making decisions, because it is supposed to be a democracy,” Villa said. “I think it’s important for all of us to realize that the difficult steps are necessary. This will make society a just one, when we can all start working together.”


The statue is not honoring history, but a man who destroyed lives, Villa said.

“The removal of the statue is not a removal of history,” Villa said. “We need to acknowledge that history happened. We need to reconcile.”

This year’s celebrations for Indigenous Peoples’ Day were different after President Joe Biden acknowledged the holiday, but there is much more to be done, Porter said.

“There needs to be an understanding that Columbus does not represent the beginning of North America. He represents genocide and almost complete destruction of Indigenous people ... He marks the beginning of the downfall,” Porter said. “We are still here, we are resilient, but we wouldn’t have to be resilient if it weren’t for him.”

Source: <http://dailyorange.com/2021/10/syracuse-university-indigenous-students-columbus-statue-offensive-threatening/>



GANONDAGAN

# 2021 Hodinöhsö:ni' Art Show

BASKETRY • BEADWORK • 2D FINE ART • FINE ART SCULPTURE • PHOTOGRAPHY • TRADITIONAL ARTS

On exhibit: Saturday, November 20<sup>th</sup>, 2021

GANONDAGAN.ORG

# Fifth Juried Hodinöhsö:ni' Art Show Live, In-Person November 20

*All Six Haudenosaunee Nations Represented in Six Categories*  
*By Amy Blum | November 5, 2021*

Victor, NY—After last year’s online-only exhibit, Ganondagan’s fifth juried Hodinöhsö:ni’ Art Show will go live, in-person for one day on Saturday, November 20 at the Seneca Art & Culture Center before it moves to an online exhibit.

This year, 55 pieces by 40 artists were accepted into the show, representing all six Haudenosaunee Nations from the United States and Canada. Six categories—including a new photography category—and their associated artworks are as follows:

- **Basketry - four**
- **Beadwork - nine**
- **Fine Art 2D - 12**
- **Fine Art Sculpture - six**
- **Photography - nine**
- **Traditional Arts - 15**

The Best in Show winner will receive a cash prize of \$2,500. Additional category awards are \$1,250 (First Place); \$750 (Second Place), and \$500 (Third Place) for a total of \$17,500.

“We are thrilled that this year’s Juried Art Show will feature known Hodinöhsö:ni’ artists and emerging talent, both offering new ideas of cultural expression,” remarked Peter Jemison, Ganondagan State Historic Site manager.

On November 20, the exhibit will be open from 10 am - 3:30 pm, with 30-minute guided tours on the hour at 10, 11, 1 and 2 pm. Tour sign-ups will be at the front desk. The tour and art show are included in the Seneca Art & Culture Center admission. All work is available for purchase.

Ganondagan State Historic Site Curator Michael Galban is excited for an in-person show again, adding “we remain committed to exhibiting the best Haudenosaunee art for the benefit of the artist and for the public. This year’s show is shaping up to be the best yet!” Galban encourages visitors to come to the in-person show on November 20th for “a truly unique art experience.”

The following week, the show will go into an online, digital catalog with the artist’s portrait, the selected work(s) with an artist statement, short biography, and the artist’s contact information. This show is made possible by the generous support of the Thaw Charitable Trust.



# Students learn real history in Indigenous health disparities course | October 13, 2021 | <http://www.buffalo.edu>



*Dean Seneca’s Indigenous health disparities course aims to teach students the real histories of American Indian and Alaska Native people, and how the injustices they faced created many of the health disparities that remain today.*  
*Photo: Meredith Forrest Kulwicki*

As a child, Katherine Connelly loved Disney’s “Pocahontas.” It told a beautiful tale of two people from different cultures who fell in love. Or, so she thought. The reality, however, is that Pocahontas was only about 10 when the European colonist John Smith kidnapped her, raped her, forced her into marriage and then forced her to give up her family’s tobacco secrets.

None of that, of course, is in the Disney film. But when millions of Americans think about Indigenous history and culture, “Pocahontas” and John Wayne movies are a reference point.

That’s why a new course being taught in the School of Public Health and Health Professions is so important, says Connelly, who graduated from the school’s master of public health program last spring and took the course taught by UB alumnus Dean Seneca.

“You can’t focus on moving forward without acknowledging the atrocities of the past,” Connelly says. “And that’s not to guilt anyone. That’s not to shame people. That is to bring awareness and inspire people to make true change, just like

Dean is doing. He changed my life and he changed the lives of many of the students in this class. I wouldn’t be on my path without him.”

Seneca’s Indigenous health disparities course aims to teach students the real histories of American Indian and Alaska Native people, and how the injustices they faced created many of the health disparities that remain today.

“I intentionally created the course to bring my students through a very convoluted and historically misrepresented history of American Indians and Alaska Natives in this country,” says Seneca, who received his bachelor’s degree in planning and environmental design from the School of Architecture and Planning (he received the school’s Distinguished Alumni award in 2019).

“And I really entrench us in that because you can’t change if you don’t know where you were. If my students want to be public health professionals and working in tribal communities, they have to have an understanding of what really happened,” adds Seneca, who in addition to serving as an

adjunct instructor in SPHHP is CEO of the consulting firm Seneca Scientific Solutions+.

The genesis of the course stemmed from a talk Seneca gave on American Indian and Alaska Native health disparities in September 2020 as part of the Department of Community Health and Health Behavior’s Brown Bag Lectures series.

Seneca credits SPHHP Dean Jean Wactawski-Wende with making the course a reality and acknowledging that the school needed to do more to improve diversity and equity. “It’s really through her leadership as a dean and wanting to change that we have this course on Indigenous health disparities for the university,” he says, adding that he’s “so proud that UB has taken this step to create such a course.”

## A deeper dive into injustice

What really happened was a whole host of atrocities that are not taught in American high schools, says Connelly, who now works for Seneca’s consulting firm. “It’s soul-crushing and there was not one week in class where I wasn’t shedding a tear, where my soul didn’t feel the injustice of hundreds of years that I never understood, and I never will understand,” she says. “Even though I can’t understand it, Dean inspired me to be a part of the solution.”

The first several weeks of the course are devoted to the injustices Indigenous populations endured at the hands of the U.S. government. Seneca covers first contact, the Removal Act of 1830 and the many so-called “Trails of Tears,” in which tens of thousands of American Indians were forcibly removed from their homelands in the southeastern U.S. and


**(Continued on page 19)**

## New York Connects Update

### *Nya:wëh Sgë:nö’ To All Seneca Community Members*

*Submitted by Lafayette Williams*

We at New York Connects would like to let you know that we are still operating during this pandemic of the COVID-19. We can help you with your long-term services and supports and needs for people of all ages, any disability, and caregivers. New York Connects can help you apply for Medicaid, find care and support, get answers about Medicare, learn about supports in caregiving, and much more.



**NY Connects**  
Your Link to Long Term Services and Supports

**There are three ways to contact us:**

**By phone:** Call 1-800-342-9871. Interpretation and translation services are free. Individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing can use the Relay System 7-1-1. Western New York Independent Living Inc. 1-888-564-5171

**Online:** Please visit our website: [www.nyconnects.ny.gov](http://www.nyconnects.ny.gov) . Please be safe and healthy, Nya:wëh.

**Personally:** Lafayette Williams NY Connects Independent Living Outreach Specialist: Office number (716) 836-0822 Extension 538 - Work cell phone number: (716) 578-4679 or e-mail address: [llwilliams@wnyil.org](mailto:llwilliams@wnyil.org)



INDIGENOUS HEALTH DISPARITIES COURSE -- ARTICLE CONTINUED

relocated west of the Mississippi River, as well as the Dawes Act of 1887, which allowed the federal government to break up tribal lands.

He also covers the federal government’s attempts to “assimilate” Native Americans into the mainstream American way of life through boarding schools where disease ran rampant. Native American students in these schools were raped and beaten; students who didn’t do as instructed were withheld food.

“These boarding schools were militarized concentration camps, and the abuses there were insurmountable,” Seneca says. “This was a labor force for white America. They didn’t teach the Indians at these boarding schools how to be doctors and lawyers. They taught them to be servants.”

And that’s only a snippet of what Seneca teaches in the class. All of these horrific events serve to form for students a basis of the severity of the health disparities faced by Indigenous populations.

**Toward a path of healing**

“With this whole history are a lot of traumas,” he says. “We as native people are very resilient, we’re very tough, we’re very strong. We’ve survived these traumas, but we’ve never healed from them, and that’s why we have all these health disparities and health conditions that we have today.”

Take, for example, the fact that Indigenous people are at higher risk than the general U.S. population for a range of health conditions, including cardiovascular disease, unintentional injuries, chronic

liver disease and diabetes, among others, according to the Indian Health Service.

“We talk about why we have these addictions, domestic violence problems and alcohol problems,” says Seneca. “Is it the genetic difference of Native people? Well, no. It’s that traumatic history we have that we’ve survived but never healed from. So in the class we talk about things like social determinants of health and intergenerational trauma.”

The class, however, is not all doom and gloom. Seneca also touches on Indigenous role models, invites Indigenous guest speakers to talk to the class, and discusses traditional methods of healing, which are used more to comfort than to cure.

“We talk about how we heal

from this. By then, all the students in the class are pumped up and excited — and then we have to end it and everybody’s depressed because we’ve reached the point where a full understanding of things comes to light,” he says.

Connelly took the course last spring and says it should be a requirement for all UB students.

“It’s only within the past eight months of my life, and I’m almost 28, that I’ve gotten to truly understand the history of the United States of America, and it’s not a pretty picture,” she says. “What Dean did for me, though, was to instill a sense of hope, that yes, these terrible things have occurred, but what can we do to heal now?”

*Source: <http://www.buffalo.edu/ubnow/stories/2021/10/seneca-indigenous-health-course.html>*

Agwadeyësta’ Do:gë:h (We learn together) UPDATE

November 2021 | By Flip White

*An update from the non-profit Agwadeyësta’ Do:gë:h (We learn together).*

We would like to provide a brief description of the Montessori teaching method and try to answer, “What is Montessori and how is it relevant to language learning?”

Dr. Maria Montessori believed that no human being is educated by another person. She must do it herself or it will never be done. An educated individual continues learning long after the time spent in the classroom because she is motivated from within by a natural curiosity and love for knowledge. Dr. Montessori concluded, “The goal of early childhood education should not be to fill the child with facts but rather to cultivate her own natural desire to learn.”

A portion of the Ganösesge:kha He:nödeyë:stha’s Mission statement reads, “We are committed to fostering a child’s love of learning and respect for self, others, and the environment through the methodologies of Montessori.” Continuing along the goals of Montessori include fostering and encouraging natural curiosity within our children and developing and promoting a positive attitude towards school and learning in order to create life-long learners.

**In her writings, Dr. Montessori compared the young mind to a sponge noting the mind literally absorbs information from the environment. She continues, “The most important period of life is not the age of university studies, but the first one, the period from birth to the age of six. For that is the time when intelligence itself is being formed.**

Dr. Benjamin Bloom writes, “From conception to age 4, the individual develops 50% of their mature intelligence, from ages 4 to 8 she/he develops another 30%.

This process is particularly evident in the way in which a two year-old learns his/her native language; without formal instruction and without the conscious, tedious effort

that an adult must make to master their heritage language. Acquiring information in this way is a natural and delightful activity for the young child who employs all his/her senses to investigate his interesting surroundings.

“**Must haves**’ for language learning is the involvement of parents and it Agwadeyësta’ Do:gë:h’s position is that the best start point (strategy) becomes the young from birth to six years of age.

The home environment in combination with parent’s reinforcement is crucial to language learning success.

We strongly suggest parents and others interested in learning take a good look at [senecalanguage.com](http://senecalanguage.com). Here you will find layer up layer of language resources. There are printed resources, Memrise, language posters, dictionaries, audio, and language guides available for use in your home. Kudos to the Seneca Nation Language department and the at-large language community for their hard work, contributions, and dedication.

Language revitalization is a process and will take time and commitment but is within our reach. Do you know that there is a growing number young parents who are





# AOA Elders Corner: Directors Update

From Bethany Lay

## Nya:wëh Sgë:nö'

Happy fall! As it continues to get colder, we hope that our elders are preparing for winter. In October, AOA distributed emergency kits to elders on both territories to help them prepare for possible power outages and emergencies this winter. There is a limited supply left for any elders in need. If you did not receive a kit and would like one, please contact our AOA offices.

I would like to congratulate our AOA staff for receiving a Recognition of Excellence from New York State Office for the Aging for exceptional work, dedication, compassion and commitment serving older adults and their families during the COVID-19 pandemic. Our Elders and community are so thankful for you. Ja:goh!

## Upcoming Elder Entertainment

Upcoming Trips and shows for enrolled Seneca Elders include:

- Nov. 27 Cole Swindell - Country Music Concert at Seneca Niagara Casino at 8pm.
- Dec. 20th Hamilton – Shea’s Performing Arts Center at 7:30pm. Transportation provided.

Please remember, you must sign-up in person at the Wini Kettle Senior Center or the Seneca Allegany Senior Center. Sign-ups sheets are typically available 2 weeks prior to the show. Shows may be added or removed based on the number of Elders that sign-up. For more information, please contact Irma Cortes, Senior Advocate, at (716) 532-5777, ext. 5513.

## Feeling Stretched as a Caregiver?

Powerful Tools for Caregivers is an educational series designed to provide you with the tools you need to take care of yourself. This program helps family caregivers reduce stress, improve self-confidence, communicate feelings better, balance their lives, increase their ability to

make tough decisions and locate helpful resources.

Classes consist of six sessions held once a week. Two experienced Class Leaders conduct the series (many are experienced caregivers themselves, who have successfully applied the techniques they teach). Interactive lessons, discussions and brainstorming will help you take the “tools” you choose and put them into action for your life. You will receive a book, The Caregiver Helpbook, developed specifically for the class. Classes will be FREE, thanks to support from Lifespan.

Sessions are held once a week for six weeks. Time to be determined with participants. For more information or to register, contact Briana Snyder at (716)945-8991, or email [Briana.Snyder@sni.org](mailto:Briana.Snyder@sni.org). Class size is limited and pre-registration is required.

## AGWADEYËSTA’ DO:GË:H -- ARTICLE CONTINUED

using ‘everyday, conversational’ language with their children in their homes? They are proof that language revitalization is ‘way more’ than possible, it is being done!

We will forever continue to encourage others to get involved.

Agwadeyësta’ Do:gë:h is sponsoring a Pendleton Blanket raffle. This beautiful blanket is on display at Nearly New along with tickets for you to purchase. Tickets are \$10.00 each. The drawing will be held December 15th. The blanket has a retail value of \$329 and with the holidays just around the corner and will make a wonderful gift for someone. Agwadeyësta’ Do:gë:h is grateful and

appreciative of the community’s on-going support. We:so nya:wëh.

Almost forgot! **On December 11th from 12 noon to 4 pm, over at Nearly New, we will be hosting our 2nd Annual Soupz and Biscuitz event.** This event is our way of giving back to the entire community, our customers, supporters, and donors. How does it work? Just come on by that day and grab some delicious soups (we will have 6 to choose from) along with ‘mountain high, homemade, ‘oh so good’ biscuits. If interested in baking some of those award winning biscuitz or making an ‘out of this world’ soup, please text and leave a message at 716-244-0431, we’ll get back to you. Everything is no charge and

we will also be having cash prizes. Last year’s event was a tremendous success and we are planning to make this year’s Soupz and Biscuitz event bigger and better. Put the date on your calendar, swing on by, warm up with some delicious soup and do a little shopping at Nearly New. We have something for everyone! What’s that guy say in the commercial? “We’ll leave the lights on for you!” Hope you can make it.

One final word. We are in need of additional volunteers. If interested, please stop by Nearly New and let us know. Nearly New’s service delivery is casual and fun. Come and join our team!



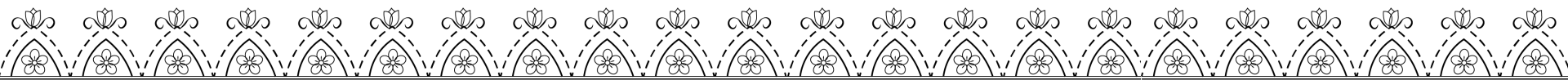
**To all our Veterans:**  
*We Honor YOU on Veterans Day!*

*Nya:wëh for your service and sacrifices. We are forever grateful.*

Visit us on the WEB:  
**[www.sninews.org](http://www.sninews.org)**



**Next Newsletter Deadline**  
*Deadline: Tuesday, November 16, 2021. | Next issue to be dated Friday, November 26, 2021.*





• GANONDAGAN •



Saturday, December 4<sup>th</sup>, 2021


**SAVE THE DATE!**

**12/4 Winter Arts Festival**

*Featuring Iroquois Social Dancing, Storytelling,  
Shopping & more!*

*Visit [www.ganondagan.org](http://www.ganondagan.org) for more information.*

**ROCK  
YOUR  
MOCS**




**NOVEMBER 14-20, 2021**

Post a pic of you Rocking your Mocs during the week to the “Seneca Nation Crime Victim Services” Facebook Page, to be entered into a drawing for a prize on behalf of the Seneca Nation Crime Victim Services Department.

*Drawing will be held on Monday, Nov. 22, 2021*

Contact Information:  
Crime Victim Services 716.532.4900 ext. 5087  
Corbett Seneca, Advocate, C.Seneca@sni.org  
Alyson Brown, Advocate, Alyson.Brown@sni.org



EVERY  
CHILD  
MATTERS

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**

**ESTATE OF ELLEN R. JOHN**  
Administrator: Teresa Redeye,  
587 S. Loop Rd., Steamburg, NY 14783  
~ Allegany Territory - Final Notice ~

**ESTATE OF MELISSA A. BACH**  
Administrator: Lynsey S. White,  
8015 Old Route 17, Salamanca, NY 14779  
~ Allegany Territory - Final Notice ~

**ESTATE OF LOUIS S. LEROY, JR.**  
Administrator: Tawny Kettle,  
94 Newton Farm Rd., Salamanca, NY 14779  
~ Allegany Territory - Final Notice ~

**ESTATE OF CHARLA S. BACH**  
Administrator: Richard Frank,  
118 Frank St., Salamanca, NY 14779  
~ Allegany Territory - 2nd 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 if you have claims against the Decedents estate, please 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 proof of claim notification, you are encouraged to file your claim by certified mail, with return receipt requested.

**Land and House for SALE in  
Salamanca**

*On the Allegany Territory*

Located at **182 Fair Oak St., Salamanca, NY 14779**. Situated on 4.4 acres, all within the Allegany Territory, overlooking the Allegheny (Ohi:yo') River on a quiet street. **Asking \$225,000** or best offer.

Contact Bill via email at [billyono@yahoo.com](mailto:billyono@yahoo.com) or by phone: 716.378.0348 to leave a message.



**Attention - SNI Offices & Buildings  
will be CLOSED:**

**Thurs., November 25<sup>th</sup>, 2021** | *Thanksgiving Day*



**Don't forget to check us out and FOLLOW US ON TWITTER!**

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


<https://twitter.com/TheSenecaNation>



# VEGGIE BUCKS SURVEY 2021

Did you participate in the Veggie Bucks Program this year? The Seneca Nation Health System's SDPI Program is requesting your feedback.

Participants are encouraged to utilize the survey at <https://www.senecahealth.org/vbsurvey> or you can contact Denise Mohawk at 716-532-8223 ext. 5290 if you would like to complete a paper survey.



SENECA NATION HEALTH SYSTEM



# Prediabetes Risk Test

1. How old are you?

Younger than 40 years (0 points)  
40-49 years (1 point)  
50-59 years (2 points)  
60 years or older (3 points)

2. Are you a man or a woman?

Man (1 point) Woman (0 points)

3. If you are a woman, have you ever been diagnosed with gestational diabetes?

Yes (1 point) No (0 points)

4. Do you have a mother, father, sister, or brother with diabetes?

Yes (1 point) No (0 points)

5. Have you ever been diagnosed with high blood pressure?

Yes (1 point) No (0 points)

6. Are you physically active?

Yes (0 points) No (1 point)

7. What is your weight category?

(See chart at right)

Write your score in the boxes below

Height	Weight (lbs.)		
4'10"	119-142	143-190	191+
4'11"	124-147	148-197	198+
5'0"	128-152	153-203	204+
5'1"	132-157	158-210	211+
5'2"	136-163	164-217	218+
5'3"	141-168	169-224	225+
5'4"	145-173	174-231	232+
5'5"	150-179	180-239	240+
5'6"	155-185	186-246	247+
5'7"	159-190	191-254	255+
5'8"	164-196	197-261	262+
5'9"	169-202	203-269	270+
5'10"	174-208	209-277	278+
5'11"	179-214	215-285	286+
6'0"	184-220	221-293	294+
6'1"	189-226	227-301	302+
6'2"	194-232	233-310	311+
6'3"	200-239	240-318	319+
6'4"	205-245	246-327	328+
	<b>1 Point</b>	<b>2 Points</b>	<b>3 Points</b>

You weigh less than the 1 Point column (0 points)

Total score:


**If you scored 5 or higher**

You are at increased risk for having prediabetes and are at high risk for type 2 diabetes. However, only your doctor can tell for sure if you have type 2 diabetes or prediabetes, a condition in which blood sugar levels are higher than normal but not high enough yet to be diagnosed as type 2 diabetes. **Talk to your doctor to see if additional testing is needed.**

If you are African American, Hispanic/Latino American, American Indian/Alaska Native, Asian American, or Pacific Islander, you are at higher risk for prediabetes and type 2 diabetes. Also, if you are Asian American, you are at increased risk for type 2 diabetes at a lower weight (about 15 pounds lower than weights in the 1 Point column). Talk to your doctor to see if you should have your blood sugar tested.

**You can reduce your risk for type 2 diabetes**

Find out how you can reverse prediabetes and prevent or delay type 2 diabetes through a **CDC-recognized lifestyle change program** at <https://www.cdc.gov/diabetes/prevention/lifestyle-program>.



Risk Test provided by the American Diabetes Association and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

# NOTICE:


Seneca Nation Health System will be closed:

**Thursday, November 25<sup>th</sup>**

**Thanksgiving**

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

Nya:wëh




# SENECA NATIVE CONNECTIONS CALENDAR

## NOVEMBER 2021

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 Christmas Cards for Elders Submissions Begin	2 ELECTION DAY NO PROGRAMMING	3	4 Seneca Language Workshop 3:30 - 4:30 p.m.	5	6
7	8	9 Teen Night Seneca Clubhouse Cattaraugus 4:00 - 6:00 p.m.	10	11 VETERANS DAY NO PROGRAMMING	12	13
14	15	16 Quit Smoking Cold Turkey Virtual Event 3:30 - 4:30 p.m.	17	18 Family Thanksgiving Bingo Night 6:00 - 7:00 p.m.	19	20
21	22	23	24	25 THANKSGIVING NO PROGRAMMING	26	27
28	29	30 Photo Submissions Due by Midnight	Virtual events are hosted on LifeSize. You will receive login info when you register!			


Please note that any event that is in-person or requires material pickup, will follow COVID-19 safety protocol. Please wear a mask and observe the six-foot social distant rule.

**Event Color Codes**  
Purple: 24 and under and their families  
Green: Open to the community Ages 12-17  
Orange: Ages 18 and up  
Pink: No programming/holiday



NATIVE connections  
SENECA NATION HEALTH SYSTEM


# There are so many reasons to get to a healthy weight . . .



You are important to many people. We need you to stay healthy.

By losing just 5-7 percent of your weight, you will reduce your risk for diabetes.

See your health care provider today to set your goals and write a plan.



Produced by IHS Division of Diabetes Treatment and Prevention, [www.diabetes.ihs.gov](http://www.diabetes.ihs.gov)

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FAMILY

## FAMILY & FRIENDS PHOTO CONTEST



**DETAILS:**

**What** Everyone has their own special traditions during the holidays and we want to see yours! Snap a photo and submit it to Jennifer and you will be entered to win a special winter prize!

**HOW** Email your photo to [JStebbins@senecahealth.org](mailto:JStebbins@senecahealth.org) by midnight on November 30th. The winner will be drawn on December 1st and contacted that day.



SENECA NATION HEALTH SYSTEM

All in the community are welcome to participate!

**Questions?**

**Jennifer Stebbins**

716.532.5583 ext. 5433

[JStebbins@senecahealth.org](mailto:JStebbins@senecahealth.org)

QUIT SMOKING

## QUIT SMOKING COLD TURKEY



**DETAILS:**

Join Native Connections Prevention Specialist, Tony Rovito, for this virtual event on the dangers of smoking and vaping, and the resources available to help you quit. Start living a healthy lifestyle and honor your journey!

November 16th  
3:30 - 4:30 p.m.  
On LifeSize (get access when you RSVP)



SENECA NATION HEALTH SYSTEM

This event is for youths ages 24 and under and their families RSVP:

**Jennifer Stebbins**

716.532.5583 ext. 5433

[jstebbins@senecahealth.org](mailto:jstebbins@senecahealth.org)

COVID protocols will be in affect so please be sure to mask up and practice the six-foot social distance rule.

COMMUNITY

## Make a Holiday Card for an Elder



**DETAILS:**

Holidays are better when you feel the love of those around you. Help us make our elders holiday a little happier by making them a card. Starting on **November 1st**, Holiday Card Drop Boxes will be out on both territories. Make a card and drop them in the box by **December 10th** and we will deliver them to Elders in our community.

We hope that you will take the time to make a card and show them some holiday cheer. A few words can go a long way!

**DROP-OFF LOCATIONS:**

Cattaraugus Indian Reservation Health Center  
36 Thomas Indian School Drive Irving, NY 14081

Lionel R. John Health Center  
987 R.C. Hoag Drive Salamanca, NY 14779

All in the community are welcome to participate!

Questions? Contact:

**Jennifer Stebbins**

716.532.5583 ext. 5433

[JStebbins@senecahealth.org](mailto:JStebbins@senecahealth.org)



SENECA NATION HEALTH SYSTEM

Please note that any event that is in-person or requires material pickup, will follow COVID-19 safety protocols. Please wear a mask and observe the six-foot social distance rule.

FAMILY NIGHT

## THANKSGIVING BINGO NIGHT



**DETAILS:**

We LOVE Bingo nights!! We'll supply the Bingo dabbers and prizes for the winner of each game. Be sure to RSVP for a fun-filled night of family fun at both of the Seneca Clubhouses.

Bingo night will be at both the  
Cattaraugus and Allegany Clubhouses  
November 18th 6:00 - 7:00 p.m.



SENECA NATION HEALTH SYSTEM

This event is for youths ages 24 and under and their families RSVP:

**Jennifer Stebbins**

716.532.5583 ext. 5433

[jstebbins@senecahealth.org](mailto:jstebbins@senecahealth.org)

COVID protocols will be in affect so please be sure to mask up and practice the six-foot social distance rule.




# ĖSI:WIHSA:K HA'DEYÖSHÖ'

Ogwe:nyö:h i:s, sa:waji:yä' koh Ėswatga:nye:'. Gi'shĖh ĖswashĖ:wi' no:nĖh asde:gwah hĖswe:'.

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Aks 2021

# DĖ'ĖH SA'GWAH SAGA'HAS?







O'so:ön o'wa:'




OnĖö'




Onönö'dä'  
degájisgwáihdöh




Oähgwa'




Dega:hgwä'se:'




Osäe'dä'



O:nyöhsa'



O:yósdä', gaha'ta'  
degayesdöh



Gagá'ö:šö:nis

## Onödowa'ga' GawĖ:nö' Pronunciation Key

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



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

## Gratitude for the Natural World NeogĖ' - (Deer) | Reprinted from Ganondagan November eNews & Updates



"We gather our minds together to send greetings and thanks to all the animal life in the world. They have many things to teach us as a people. We see them near our homes and in the deep forests. We are glad they are still here and we hope that it will always be so. Now our minds are one."

~ excerpt from the  
Thanksgiving Address