FEBRUARY 2025

### Fill Your New Year with Health and Happiness

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### Fiber Future

\$6.6 Million Grant to Enhance Internet Services PG 6

### Ingredients to Success

Cedar & Sage Grill House Chef Fabian Martinez PG 10



### Layukwilakéhte? (He Carries the Arrows)

Oneida Turtle Clan Manager-Nicholas Metoxen PG 14

### **Winter Gathering Pow Wow**

PG 30

WISCONSIN



**Shekóli Swakwe**•<u>kú</u>. As the Kalihwisaks enters it's 51st year of existence, the editorial staff has managed to maintain a printed archive of every edition since June 1974.

Through the years, it has changed formats several times, most recently going from newsprint to a magazine-type layout. The evolution of these styles can be seen in the June 2024 edition that chronicled the history of the Kalihwisaks' logo, staff, and memorable issues. Prior to this, behind the scenes, work was also being done to convert the printed archive into digital files, as noted in the July 2023 article about by Stephen Kercher, Professor of History at the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh.

Kercher utilized a special Optical Character Recognition (OCR) scanner to transform each edition into a searchable format. From this point, Mitchell Gantz was contracted to begin optimizing each OCR-enabled document to post them online.

Soon, the long-awaited digital and searchable archive of every

Kalihwisaks edition will be available on ExploreOneida.com.

Just like Google or any other search engine, you'll be able to enter your request into the search field and click. It's that easy.

It's been a long and arduous process but also, a very satisfying one knowing that once again, we've developed a way to present the Kalihwisaks to the community in a new and creative way.

A good mind. A good heart. A strong fire.

media

📽 BIG BEAR



Big Bear Media 2701 W. Mason St. Green Bay, WI 54155

**Creative Services/Kalihwisaks** Garth Webster Mia Charnon

Marketing & Tourism Director Michelle Danforth-Anderson

Layout Design Richard Summers III

#### Contributors

Eric Doxtator · Leah Stroobants Leon Webster · Nevada Skenandore Peggy Doxtater · Leah Kuchta Sophia King · Mel Webster Isaiah Powless · Carly Skenandore Kaylee Schuyler



**f** Kalihwisaks



) Oneida-nsn.gov/resources/kalihwisaks



Scan for more Kalihwisaks stories

The views and/or claims of interviewees or advertisers do not necessarily represent the thoughts and sentiments of the Oneida Nation or Kalihwisaks.

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Cross into tranquility over the scenic bridge on Silver Creek Trail between Florist Dr. and Cty. Rd. U in Oneida. *Learn more on PG 16* 

# NATION

# Business Committee Forum

#### By Jonas Hill

#### Oneida Nation Councilman

Hoyan! I hope this new year finds you well. The new year is all about renewal as the earth begins a new cycle and we give thanks to the earth for continuing to provide for us. Renewal in ourselves means that we get to turn that new leaf and begin this year by releasing ourselves of what is weighing us down so we can begin the new year with a fresh slate. I'm happy to share what my office has been working on with all of you as you recall open and honest communication has been central to my goals as an elected leader since the start of the term. It is vital that we build and grow these relationships with local, state, federal, and other sovereign nations to serve our membership to the fullest. We build these relationships through networking, conferences, travel, academies, workshops, and personal invitations.

#### Local Level

As part of the Green Bay Neighborhood Association, I have worked on behalf of the Nation to continue to grow this partnership. We meet bimonthly with the three associations on the reservation to discuss relevant issues and build collaboration with local neighborhoods on behalf of the Nation.

#### **State Level**

I regularly attend various government to government consultation sessions on behalf of the Nation with the state of Wisconsin departments. I also attend events and gatherings with state officials to enhance our relationship with state level governmental departments and officials.

#### **Federal Level**

I have attended the Republican National Convention to build relationships with the Republican party. Our Nation remains political impartial regarding party affiliation. Sovereignty doesn't know or pick a side of the aisle.

#### **Other Sovereign Nations**

Throughout my term, I have established relationships with other Tribal Nations by attending networking events, conferences, trainings, and leadership development programs. These interactions have provided valuable insights into how other Tribes operate, which I have integrated into my work for our membership and community. Each Tribe excels in different areas, and it is beneficial for us to share our successes and learn from one another.

Indian Country is highly developed, with gaming revenues surpassing those of commercial gaming. To achieve our community goals, we must adopt a solution-oriented approach. The key to success lies in sharing information. Last year alone, Indian Gaming generated \$41.9 billion. Each Tribe has its own niche, excelling in areas such as economic development, the hotel industry, agriculture, and cultural preservation. By networking, we can learn from each other's strengths

Annual General Tribal Council (GTC) Meeting Postponed

Original Date: Monday, January 20, 2025 New Date: Sunday, March 16, 2025 at 2pm





Councilman Jonas Hill, Dr. Alicia Moussou, Oglala Sioux Tribe Vice President, and Frankee Hall former Secretary of the Crow Creek Sioux Tribe.



Councilmen Jonas Hill and Jameson Wilson celebrate the first cohort of GED/HSED graduates from the Oneida Community Education Center since the pandemic.

### Strengthening Our Future Welcoming New Directors

#### Laura Laitinen-Warren

Director of Training & Development - Human Resources

The Oneida Nation is proud to announce the position of Executive Director of Human Resources will be filled by Laura Laitinen-Warren, a highly experienced and educated professional. Laura was chosen to fill the position being vacated by Todd Vanden Heuvel. Laura has a PhD in leadership studies and is a certified professional in human resources.

Laura has proven to be a solutionfocused and strategic leader offering over 12 years of management and budgeting experience, three years of frontline supervisory experience, and 18 years in the field of Human Resources. Beginning as a front-line employee, she has gained experience at every level making her way to top management. Throughout her career she has been able to communicate effectively, build relationships and trust within all levels of an organization. Her ability to be creative, resourceful, and flexible with the capacity to adapt to changing priorities and maintain a positive attitude, sense of humor, and strong work ethic will be an excellent fit for this position.

As Human Resource Director, Laura will be responsible for the oversight and management of the human resource department and direct planning and continual development of the workforce programs and policies. The importance of providing direction and guidance of Oneida employee programs and services will



also include evaluation and planning initiatives that are in alignment with our core values. Laura's diverse experience and skills will lead to strengthening the culture and improving the efficiencies in the HR processes.

> Laura Laitinen-Warren LLaitine@OneidaNation.org

#### **Joshua Cornelius**

Director of Child Care - Oneida Child Care

We are thrilled to introduce Joshua, our new Child Care Director at Oneida Child Care. Joshua brings a wealth of experience and a deep commitment to our community. He holds a BS in Communications from Carroll University and a Masters in Organizational Leadership from Gonzaga University, complemented by business certificates from Duke University and Louisiana State University.

Joshua's professional journey is rooted in his passion for education and supporting children with behavioral and cognitive disabilities. Before joining us, he served as the Day School Director of a private therapeutic day school, where he made significant contributions to the lives of many children and their families.

Joshua's dedication aligns perfectly with the mission of Oneida Child Care: to provide a caring and nurturing environment for all families, incorporating Oneida Culture and developmentally appropriate practices. His journey in education began during his undergraduate studies, where he worked as a residential counselor and later as an Instructional Aide, eventually advancing to the administration team and being promoted to Day School Director.

Driven by his desire to support future generations, particularly within the Oneida community, Joshua has returned to contribute his expertise and energy to Oneida Child Care. His primary goal is to increase staffing



to better support more community members, especially during these challenging times. Joshua believes that providing effective childcare can make a significant difference in our community

> Joshua Cornelius 920.869.6860 JCorne10@OneidaNation.org.

# NEWS



### Fiber Future \$6.6M Grant to Enhance Internet Services

#### By Oneida Digital Technology Services (DTS)

The Oneida Nation has been awarded a \$6.6 million grant to implement a fiber-to-the-home (FTTH) project across the reservation from the Department of Commerce's National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) through its Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program (TBCP). This initiative, in partnership with Nsight, a leading provider of telecommunications and technology solutions, aims to provide high-speed Internet access to up to 560 homes within the community.

The project is expected to significantly enhance broadband connectivity, supporting various services such as education. telehealth, and economic development, ultimately improving the quality of life for residents on the reservation. Together, the Oneida Nation and Nsight will work to implement cutting-edge broadband solutions that meet the unique needs of the community, expanding their established partnership. This effort reflects a commitment to closing the digital divide and ensuring that all community members have access to reliable Internet services. The areas impacted by the service include

homes in the southwest, southeast, and northeast corners of the Oneida Nation Reservation.

"Oneida's mission statement, 'A good mind. A good heart. A strong fire.,' fits well with our goal of bringing fiber to people on the reservation," said Nate Villarreal, Senior Network Analyst at Oneida Nation. "With a solid plan and strong partnership with Nsight, we see this project being successful."

"This partnership is about more than technology; it's about connecting people, fostering innovation, and creating new opportunities," said Brighid Riordan, CEO of Nsight. "We look forward to continue working with the Oneida Nation to deliver resources needed for individuals and businesses to thrive in today's increasingly connected world."

The Oneida Nation is excited to have received this grant to allow the expansion of Internet services across the reservation. The DTS (Digital Technology Services) is leading the project and focused on providing the Oneida Nation with secure, safe communication services across the reservation.



### Fiber-to-the-Home (FTTH) Project Details

**Coverage Map:** Exact details coming soon

**Partnership:** Nsight, a leading provider of telecommunications and technology solution

**Service Comparison:** Direct fiber to the home offers faster speeds compared to wireless Internet

**Project Duration:** DTS has been dedicated to this project for 5 years

**Focus Areas:** Up to 560 homes, prioritizing under-served regions



# LOCAL

Greater Green Bay Community Foundation

GREEN BAY PACKERS

# 24 Hours <1 Easy Way to Give

GREEN

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ONE DAY. BIG IMPACT.







noon, feb. 19 hrough hrough beb. 20 Noon, feb. 20 Lasting hou On Tuesday, January 14, 2025, Mark Murphy, President/ CEO of the Green Bay Packers, and Dennis Buhler. President/CEO of the Greater Green Bay Community Foundation, proudly announced the 50 nonprofit organizations selected for this year's Give BIG Green Bay in the Lambeau Field Atrium.

This eighth annual 24-hour giving day is dedicated to learning about and supporting unique nonprofits to create a community-wide impact. Give BIG Green Bay highlights the important work nonprofits are doing in every corner of our community. Each year, a unique group of nonprofits is chosen to showcase the strength, diversity, and dedication of organizations serving Brown County. Spanning 11 cause areas that shape our community's quality of life, these nonprofits-from large institutions to small volunteer-led groups-reflect the collective effort required to build and sustain a strong community.

Over the past seven years, Give BIG Green Bay has raised more than \$13.5 million to support our community. This 24-hour online

giving event provides a simple way for our community to contribute to local charities. Give BIG Green Bay makes it easy to learn more about the work of participating nonprofits and donate, at any level, to support their efforts.

This year, we are thrilled to announce that from the Oneida community, Ukwakhwa (Our Foods), shown middle left, and Wise Women Gathering Place, bottom, have been selected!

Save the Date! Give BIG Green Bay starts at noon on February 19 and continues until noon on February 20. Mark your calendars and help make this 24-hour giving event a huge success for all involved!

### Learn more at GiveBigGreenBay.org

# CHILD HEALTH

### **Stop Thumb Sucking with Handaid** Ken Stevens Develops Product to Deter Destructive Habit

#### **By Garth Webster**

Around 2000, Ken Stevens' son, Michael, who was about 5 at the time, was sucking his thumb. Knowing the dental damage this can cause, Ken worked with his son to develop a wearable device to help his son break this habit. Surprisingly, Michael helped in the development of the product to make it more difficult to remove.

As Michael wore the device at daycare, others started to notice and in turn, they asked Ken to make them one as well. It was at that time that Ken's device, known as Handaid, was born and officially patented. However, the product as Ken mentions, wouldn't officially come to market until about six years later.

"At the time, I was so busy growing my two businesses that I didn't even think much about Handaid." Stevens was a haberdasher, tailoring and selling men's clothing in Florida. But when the economy collapsed in 2008, Stevens says, "I couldn't even sell a pair of socks to my clients." Thankfully, he had Handaid as a backup plan and so he began to focus on marketing and selling it.

Handaid became successful, even garnering sales throughout the European Union (EU). Despite its popularity overseas, Stevens said the recent VAT taxes and tariffs on goods purchased from America added to the price of the Handaid significantly in the EU making the sale of his products cost-prohibitive. Still though, his sales in Germany earned accolades from dentists, pediatricians, and satisfied parents who provided extensive testimonials for Handaid. Stevens used these to market his product here in the US. In fact, most recently, Stevens has made preliminary agreements with the Oneida Comprehensive Health Division to offer his product to Oneida Members. Stay tuned.

Stevens says his inspiration comes from his desire to help children, and their parents as well, to stay healthy both in physical terms as well as financial terms. Often, the damage done by thumb sucking will cost thousands of dollars for parents, not to mention the emotional toll on the child having to go through such dental interventions. Stevens says if you can have the child begin wearing Handaid by 3 <sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>, the chances are good you can avoid permanent damage because the adult teeth probably haven't come in yet. Stevens goes on to say that before 3, his studies show it's much easier to break the habit. Once the child reaches ages  $3\frac{1}{2}$  to 5, the habit grows to become an addiction, which Stevens compares to trying to break a two-pack-per-day smoker. Learn more at KidsHandAid.com or call 920.915.6169.



- Only Handaid has a 99% success rate. No other product even comes close.
- Causes no pain or physical discomfort to your child.
- Stops the spread of germs by keeping your child's thumb or fingers out of their mouth and away from their face.
- Patented design. Your child cannot remove Handaid due to our patented closure system.
- Does not impede the use of your child's hand.

The simple solution to a potentially painful and expensive problem.



# Proudly made on the Oneida Reservation

Some children want to stop this habit but can't. Other children need to stop and won't. Buy yours today to stop your child's unhealthy thumb or finger sucking habit. – Ken Stevens



Learn more at KidsHandAid.com

### From Blueprints to Reality New E/EE One Stop on Track to Open Mid-June

#### By Phil Wisneski

The all-new Oneida One Stop Mobil – E/EE continues construction into 2025. Milestones are checked off each and every week while progress has been substantial since the walls were erected a few short months ago.

The most recent completions in the project include the fuel canopy and the building has been enclosed and is now heated.

Interior work continues with framing of the walls and other structures within the new store. Drywall is also beginning to be put up on the walls.

On the exterior, foam insulation is being sprayed and siding will begin once insulation is completed, and the building is wrapped with weather proofing material.

"We are excited to get to this point in construction," said Oneida Retail General Manager Debra Powless. "This location was one of the original One Stops and we can't wait to give our loyal customers the shopping experience they deserve."

Oneida Retail would like to thank Project Manager, Sam Vandenheuvel for his attention to detail and hard work throughout the entire building process.

The store is scheduled to be completed in late May with an opening in mid-June. There will be a ribbon-cutting ceremony scheduled once the opening date is confirmed. There will also be a grand opening celebration with sales, prizes, and giveaways.





### New Bear on the Block Big Bear Media Welcomes Kaylee Schuyler

She·kú swakwe·kú Kahteli·yó niyúkyats wakeskle·wáke niwakit∧lot∧ okhále? on∧yote?a·ká· niwakatunhutsyot ∧ kata talu?kowanhné teknákehle khále tewásh∧ téken tewakohsliyá·ku. Trina Schuyler yutátyats ne·n aknulhá, Bernadine Schuyler yutátyats ne·n aksótk∧, Audrey Schuyler yutátyats ne·n aksótk∧ khále? Melvin Schuyler luwa·yáts ne·n laksótk∧ o·n∕ tho nu University of Wisconsin-Green Bay waklihuny∧ní·ne?

Hello everyone, my name is Kahteli yó it translates to "Good Root". My English name is Kaylee Schuyler. I am Bear Clan and people of the Standing stone is the land or earth I come from. My mother is Trina Schuyler, my grandmother is the late Bernadine Schuyler, and my great parents are the late Melvin and Audrey Schuyler. I am 22 years old, and I am currently a Junior at the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay. I am majoring in First Nations Studies and Organizational Leadership. I graduated from Oneida Nation High School in 2020.

In my spare time, I love singing and dancing our earth songs. I also love to travel to different pow wows to smoke dance and go fishing. I am happy to share that I have been selected as the Cultural Engagement Specialist for the



Kaylee Schuyler Cultural Engagement Specialist

Oneida Nation. I will be working along side Leah Stroobants and the Big Bear Media team, and can't wait to contribute to Oneida Tourism. I'm so excited for this new chapter and to be part of such a great team! Yaw $^{2}ko'$ !

# FINE DINING

Ingredients For Success Chef Fabian Martinez Invites You to Cedar & Sage Grill House

**By Garth Webster** 

Chef Fabian Martinez has been the head chef at Cedar & Sage (C&S) Grill House inside Oneida Casino Hotel since the venue opened in 2019. He was gracious enough to share his culinary insights as he and his team of seven employees continue to create great dining experiences at C&S.

Cedar & Sque

GRILL HOUSE

Martinez grew up in San Antonio, TX with his parents and two older sisters. His ancestral roots are from Mexico and thus, he has a deep appreciation for Mexican cuisine, including tacos. He reminisced about the array of places back home for great tacos, which he emphasizes must be made with flour tortillas, not corn, "It's so common to see taco joints back home that have been open for 40, 50, or even 60 years." Being in the south, his other favorite sustenance was barbecue, specifically, beef ribs. He says, "You know, those big bone-in, dinosaur-looking ribs. There's nothing like a traditional barbecue plate, especially from places like Franklin Barbecue. You get them on a tray, you get your paper, your meat, some white bread, pickles on the ends so you get your sides and that's it."

As his love of food continued to grow, he decided to head north on I-35 to Austin to attend the Le Cordon Bleu College of Culinary Arts in 2015. Austin, as he describes, is the food capital of Texas. Another culture fully ingrained in Austin is the Music scene. It was an environment that enabled Martinez to excel. After graduating, he had an array of fine dining jobs that provided Martinez the experience he needed to become a head chef. It was also during this time that he would make occasional visits to Green Bay with his former roommate, Joe Schmidt, who currently owns the Voyageurs Bakehouse on N. Broadway in Green Bay. During these visits, Martinez developed a fondness for Green Bay, relating to the small community atmosphere he had while growing up in San Antonio.

After moving to Green Bay in 2019, he worked with Schmidt at Tenet restaurant on W. Mason St. Although the restaurant didn't last long, it's where Martinez both refined his skills and was introduced to White Corn. Like Maza, White Corn resonated with Martinez from its cultural integration with it's growers, "It's a key ingredient I've been able to relate too and it's been my favorite ingredient since moving here." So, when Tenet closed, it was like fate led him to C&S.

It didn't take long for Martinez to fuse southern styles with White Corn, making a cornbread with White Corn flour or using White Corn flour for the breading on one of their more popular items, walleye. Still more menu items feature the use of Frybread for pulled-pork or brisket tacos. If you're new to C&S, he says try the Bison Filet or Bison Pot Roast (made in their high-end charcoal Josper oven) with White Corn polenta and ancho chili demi-glace. The list of Oneida ancestral food infused dishes goes on and on. However, the secret ingredient says Martinez, is the people such as Chef Kevin Taylor, one of his biggest influencers.

"Kevin is hand-down the best quiet motivator and most supportive person in every way. He has high expectations and high standards." Martinez used the people skills he learned from Taylor to run, what he metaphorically describes as his pirate ship. In this

# FINE DINING





2040 Airport Drive Green Bay 920.327.7911 Breakfast: Daily | 6:30am-10am Mon.-Sat. | A la Carte Sat. & Sun. | Buffet LUNCH: Mon.-Sat. | 11am-2pm DINNER Tue.-Thur. | 5pm-9pm Fri. & Sat. | 5pm-10pm

way, his friendly yet assertive and professional mentality he ingrains with his team avoids the dreaded "Mutiny."

Martinez's goal is grow the popularity of C&S, attending as many network events to positively build and market the restaurant, such as Green Bay Artfest, Meatfest, and Botanical Garden events. Along with these events, he also credits Discover Green Bay for serving up a pipeline of VIP customers to C&S. "We just gotta keep connecting," says Martinez.

Martinez also aspires to publish his own cookbook, and someday teach

culinary arts. Although it's rare for him to enter cooking competitions, he does enjoy them. In fact, he recently auditioned to Gordon Ramsay's cooking show, *Hell's Kitchen*, coming up short by one step. They still have his information and application so perhaps we'll soon see Chef Martinez on primetime television.

When C&S opened, Martinez experienced the tobacco burning ceremony. It hit home with him, as he says, "It's about celebration, healing, and love." Martinez flawlessly combines these ingredients, among others, to serve up success.

In the end, apropos to his background, he says, "I've been really grateful for this position, talking with Oneida leadership, and serving this community. It means a lot and I will continue to get better every year." When not in the kitchen, you may find him in his garden or playing in a pinball tournament, which he enjoys attending with his girlfriend and fouryear-old daughter.



# THUNDERHAWK TIMES



### Boys' Basketball Off and Running By Randell Denny

As of this writing, about a third of the way through the 2024-2025 season, the Oneida Thunderhawks Boys' team has a record of 2-2.

Our first game was a tough one ending in a score of 55-37 against Coleman. In our most recent game we beat Bowler 75-31 in the Gresham Holiday Tournament.

After the game, the coaches had us work on passing, shooting, and running drills to improve our offense.

Since the beginning of the season, we have been working on understanding offense and defense.

We have a long season ahead, and we know that our success depends on working together as a team.

### Into the Swing of Things By Saniya Ninham-Clark

The first semester of the 2024-2025 School Year ends January 21, 2025.

As a Freshman this school year, I can say this year has been a mix of ups and downs. Balancing the amount of school work while playing sports has been my biggest struggle.

Positives include the help from my teachers, being introduced to high school sports such as volleyball, having a longer season, and seeing more talent. Another positive would be as a school we went to Polly's Pumpkin patch.

The challenges are staying caught up in all my classes and having more difficult classes. Regarding sports, the challenges are longer practices, having later practices, and finding reliable rides.

My advice to this year's 8th graders who will be freshman next year is to stay caught up in all your classes and join new sports. My biggest advice is don't be afraid to ask questions.

### Traditional Oneida Pottery By Thunderhawk Times Staff



Cindy Thomas

Wileena Big John, a junior at ONHS, proudly displays her pit-fired traditional Oneida pottery. This past autumn, students in Cindy Thomas' Arts and Crafts class at ONHS had the opportunity to experience pit firing traditional Oneida pottery firsthand



Arthur Boyiddle

Here, Wileena tends to the pottery she created along with her fellow students, including Jardina White Eye and Arthur Boyiddle, who are enjoying their time outdoors. The student's pottery sits on cinder blocks, waiting to be pit fired.



Cindy Thomas

**Thunderhawk Times Staff** 

Steven Guzman, Giovani Pocan, Syndee Thayer, Natalia Torres, Angelina Cantu, Randall Danforth, Earth Holder, Gaven Beauprey, Lily Lakehouse, LaDainan Danforth, Joie Gutierrez, Braeven Lakehouse, Saniya Ninham-Clark

### Mariah Cloud's Comeback From Injury to 1,000 Points

#### By Dan Ninham

Contributing Writer

The milestone of being a 1,000-point scorer in high school basketball is rare except at Oneida Nation High School (ONHS). There are two 1,000-point scorers that accomplished this feat this season. Senior Mariah Cloud recently scored her 1,000th point and senior Jaylyn Caldwell not only scored her 1,000 points earlier this season but also recently broke ONHS' all-time scoring record.

Mariah Cloud's major high school athletic accomplishments up to being a 1000-point scorer are being named All Conference her sophomore and junior years in basketball.

Scoring 1,000 points is quite the accomplishment for Cloud since she broke her wrist during freshman year as a varsity starter and was out for half the season.

"It was so mentally draining and hard because I couldn't stand sitting on the bench not being able to help my team," said Cloud. "It was a minor setback that year, but I came back better the next season."

Cloud looks inside her cultural self to help drive her on the court to not only be her best but to make others better too. She pursues immediate goals but also is



looking forward to her future.

"The way my indigenous core values influence me on the court is it makes me really passionate about the game," said Cloud. "I've always wanted to play college basketball and coming from a small 'rez' and a small school you can't get enough recognition unless you really push yourself to be the best player you can be."

"My mentor is my coach Anthony and he started training me in the summer after fifth grade," said Cloud. "He's my main mentor because he put so much time and effort into working with me and made me into who I am today. He's also kind of like a father-figure to me just because he did so much for me."

"From the first time I started training her in fifth grade I knew she had a lot of potential," said Anthony Cornelius, head varsity girls' basketball coach at ONHS. "She has put in countless hours to become the player she is today. Whether it was 5am workouts, two-a-day, or staying after practice to shoot on the 'Dr. Dish' you knew she was always working on her craft to get better."

"One more person that I don't wanna leave out is my old high school coach Lee Laster," said Cloud. "I came into my freshman year mentally unstable, and he really helped me through some of the hardest times and set high expectations for me to be better. He helped me so much emotionally on the court."

Laster was Mariah's Varsity Head Coach at ONHS for her freshman and sophomore seasons. He said, "I have known Mariah since she was in grade school. In Mariah's freshman year she broke her arm and missed a significant amount of games including 13 or 14 altogether with another injury. The way she bounced back in her sophomore year was incredible, she was definitely on a mission, and she was a beast on defense."

"She led the Marinette and Oconto Conference in scoring for the entire season finishing with 19.9 points per game," said Laster. "A real tell-all of the commitment was this time she came up to me and said, 'can I relax on offense a little bit so I can be more dominant on defense?' I laughed so hard and said you definitely can work hard on defense, but we need you to perform on offense as well."



"My coaches Anthony, Derrick (King), and Mariea (King) are coaches I've had since I was in the fifth grade," said Cloud. "Them being there and putting time into me every day shows me they have confidence in me and my team, and when it's game time, I put most of what I got because they do that for me every day."

Derrick King joined the Thunderhawks coaching staff last year and quickly knew Mariah grew her game since elementary basketball and was an exceptional varsity athlete. He said, "Mariah has always been one of our top scorers and continues to be. She has the ability to take over games and be an exceptional teammate."

Artley Skenandore is the ONHS Principal and Athletic Director. He describes how Mariah as well as her teammates matured as student-athletes throughout the years, "Mariah is a student-athlete that has worked hard in the classroom while competing as a multi-sport athlete. Mariah possesses natural ability and always knows how to put herself in position to make a positive contribution toward the success of the team. Her individual accomplishment of 1,000 points early in her senior season also positions her to take a run at her older sister's total career points' mark by the end of the season."

Skenandore adds, "One of the most important attributes of Mariah is that she plays to the finish of each play to either score, always working to always involve her teammates and playing tenacious defense! As her High School Principal and Athletic Director, I look forward to her next chapter of accomplishments, utilizing her talents in the classroom and competing on the court in college.".

# CULTURE



Top: Team Wisconsin hoisting the wrestling championship trophy for the 2023 North American Indigenous Games in Halifax, Nova Scotia. Bottom left: Metoxen with 2024 National Treasure Award (NTA) recipients Karen Ann Hoffman and Scott Hill. The NTA is an Oneida Nation Arts Program project funded by the American Rescue Plan Act. Bottom right: Metoxen with Steve Webster harvesting Black Ash trees for traditional basket-making clases, which Metoxen describes as a learning trip in collaboration with Ukwakhwa in Lac Du Flambeu, WI. Photo-Eldon Powless.

Nicholas Metoxen became the Oneida Turtle Clan Manager in 2021, bringing a wealth of Indigenous advocacy knowledge with him as he continues his effort to ensure Oneida, as well as the surrounding community's interactions with him, are done in a culturally sensitive manner.

After graduating from West De Pere High School (WDP), he continued his education at the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh (UWO) where he contemplated studying Secondary Education or becoming a police officer before finally deciding to double major in Psychology and Spanish Language. Beyond his studies, Metoxen became actively involved in the Inter-Tribal Student Council, an Indigenous organization at UWO, serving as Ambassador, Vice President, and later President. Metoxen worked with a modest budget to bring some great entertainment to the student population at UWO, which was also frequented and highly thought of by both indigenous and non-Indigenous

students and faculty alike. Metoxen reminisced about the Woodland Indian musicians he worked with as well as comedy acts, such as Tito Ybarra and Tonia Jo Hall, better known for her Native alter-ego, Auntie Beachress.

Before graduating from UWO in December 2019. Metoxen interned at Oneida Adventures and at the ONHS Yethiy?atunúnha Program. It was at Oneida Adventures, however, where he felt his future would be. He recalls, "I have a lot of good memories working there. We were doing outdoor programming with Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse (AODA) groups as well as Narcotics Anonymous (NA) participants. There are many outdoor adventure parallels that go along with their recovery journey." He goes on to express how fulfilling it was to apply his psychology studies. His favorite memory, though, was bringing the Elders from Anna John Nursing home on kayaking trips. He jokingly says, "The elder women were much braver

than the elder men on these trips." While waiting for a full-time position to open at Oneida Adventures, the pandemic hit, which brought a period of uncertainty for Metoxen. It was during this time when he was contacted by ONHS to fill a vacant position and later filling the role of Physical Education Teacher.

While working at ONHS for about 1½ years, a new position at UWO was created, Indigenous Student Support & Wellness Coordinator (ISSWC), which Metoxen applied for and received. In retrospect, although he wasn't completely happy as ISSWC, he expresses how important this position was, as well as the support from the Native Recruitment position held by Menominee member, Rodger Wescott.

As he continued working as ISSWC, he refined his administrative skills while working with higher-up administrative policy-makers to bring about more culturally-sensitive ways. He also worked to improve retention

# CULTURE



Nick Metoxen, shown in center above, actively participates in the *Whose Land* project. The project brings community leaders, scholars, and students together to explore, understand, and envision responses to the history and legacies of land dispossession. Learn more at WhoseLand.org.

rates among Indigenous students as well as ensure they were receiving their funding from the Tribes. He worked there for a year. In the end, however, the lack of progress to become a more Indigenous-friendly environment motivated him to seek other employment. "It was an uncomfortable non-Native space and it didn't seem there were enough people fighting the same fight," says Metoxen. Adding to this difficulty was the commute between Oshkosh and Appleton, where his wife worked at the time. In the meantime, as mentioned in the January article about Bear Clan Manager, Tsyosh?aht Delgado, there was a team developing the Clan Manager positions.

Metoxen humbly accepted the Turtle Clan Manager position in 2022, saying, "I just came in trying not to act like I knew everything." Three years into the position, Metoxen said he's mostly focused on staffing and making sure cultural protocols are followed when working with the land, which is the primary role of the Turtle Clan and/or, Keepers of the Land. Hiring positions under his area, such as the Library Director and Tribal Historic Preservation Officer (THPO) have been a rewarding experience. For instance, with the Library position, he says, "I got to immerse myself and put my finger on the pulse of what the library needed." This type of assessment enabled him to hire

Eliza Skenandore, Library Director, as well as Kanani Nunies for the THPO position. He credits his bosses Tina Jorgensen and GM Mark Powless for their encouragement while working with area schools, whose anti-tobacco policies work against carrying Indigenous tobacco pouches. Another example includes ensuring that various organizations wanting to break ground on mother earth first receive cultural clearance from the Turtle Clan, which again, is this clan's traditional role.

In the future, Metoxen plans to do more hiring and continue applying cultural protocols. Other areas he oversees are the Oneida Nation Museum and the Oneida Nation Arts Program, where he envisions rejuvenating cultural art forms, such as water drum making and Lacrosse stick making. One day, he says, perhaps we can revive a traditional economic bartering system rather than cash. "What if our currency is Lacrosse Sticks," says Metoxen.

When not working, you'll find him and his wife Giselle, riding his Harley-Davidson or coaching wrestling at the ONHS. He also coaches wrestling for the Team Wisconsin contingent of Tribes competing in the Indigenous Games, winning the most recent tournament in the Nova Scotia Games. Quoting Dan Gable, Metoxen says, "After wrestling, everything else in life is easy."

### Ceremony Education Nights

Oneida Longhouse W370 Reformatory Rd Oneida, WI

Maple Wed., Feb. 12, 2025 Tradtional Gender Roles

Wed., Mar. 12, 2025 Seed Wed., Apr. 9, 2025

Strawberry Wed., May 14, 2025

Great Law Wed., Jun. 11, 2025

Green Corn Wed., Jul. 9, 2025

Funeral Teachings Wed., Aug. 13, 2025

Kalihwiyo Wed., Sep. 10, <u>2025</u>

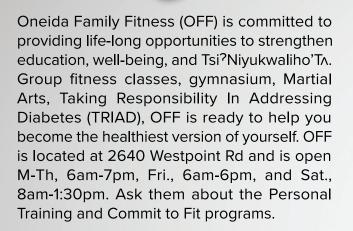
For questions, contact Isis Schreiber at 920.490.3796.

Southeastern Oneida **Tribal Services (SEOTS)** Presentations 5233 W. Morgan Ave. Milwaukee, WI Maple Tue., Feb. 18, 2025 **Traditional Gender Roles** Tue., Mar. 18, 2025 Seed Tue., Apr. 15, 2025 Strawberry Tue., May 20, 2025 Great Law Tue., June 17, 2025 Green Corn Tue., Jul. 15, 2025 **Funeral Teachings** Tue., Aug. 19, 2025

Kalihwiyo Tue., Sep. 16, 2025

For questions, contact Trisha Patton at 414.329.4101.

# HEALTHY NEW YEAR





PRIZE WINNE

To better support your health goals, OFF will be closed Feb. 3-8 as they prepare for a new elevator.

Watch for updates.

#### JUST MOVE IT ONEIDA

Lymp new year wit



Just Move It Oneida is a North American campaign to promote physical activity for Indigenous people. It's coordinated by Oneida Health Promotion Disease Prevention of the Comprehensive Health Division. Open to all ages. Free t-shirt for new registered participants.

#### All JMIO events are held on Wednesdays

**Healthy Heart Kickstart** February 19, 4-6pm Oneida Nation Elementary

Marching Toward Health March 19, 4-6pm Oneida Nation Elementary

**Spring Into Action** April 19, 4-6pm Oneida Nation Elementary

OHP also has a variety of services to help you improve your wellbeing. In the March 2024 edition, these services were summarized.



2025 JMIO Schedule



Health Promotions Services

# HEALTHY NEW YEAR





The updated Natural Areas and Trails Guide was released in late 2024. Explore Oneida with this guide, which includes level of difficulty, time to walk the loop, and medicinal plants & animals found along the way. Above is Silver Creek Trail, one of 12 listed in the guide. It's a 70-minute round trip walk with two access points, Florist Dr. and Cty. Rd. U, featuring the Silver Creek Bridge. Currently, due to high demand, the printed guides are available online only at ExploreOneida.com/TrailsGuide.

SMALL CHANGES MAKE A BIG DIFFERENCE

- Park farther away
- Take the stairs
- Choose water
- Pre-plan meals
- Reduce screen time
- Have walking meetings
- Go dancing
- Declutter
- Take your bike to work
- Walk to coworkers desk

# HEALTH

# Expanding the Physical Therapy Team

**Meet Ruzek and Rao** 



#### By Oneida Comprehensive Health Division (OCHD)

A new physical therapist and physical therapist assistant have joined the team at Oneida Comprehensive Health Division (OCHD). Ryley Ruzek, Doctor of Physical Therapy, and Gina Rao, Physical Therapist Assistant, will be assisting members of the Oneida community with their physical therapy needs.

"We are extremely pleased to introduce Ryley and Gina to the Oneida community," shared Deb Danforth, OCHD Director. "Improving access to care remains a top priority for our division, and we are fortunate to have such high-quality team members dedicated to our community's health and well-being."



#### Ryley Ruzek

Doctor of Physical Therapy

Ruzek specializes in orthopedics and vestibular rehabilitation. His experience and patient-focused approach aligns with OCHD's commitment to providing holistic, culturally sensitive care for community members and patients.

Ruzek, originally from Stevens Point, Wisconsin, earned a Bachelor of Science in Kinesiology from the University of Wisconsin–Madison before obtaining his Doctorate in Physical Therapy from Concordia University in 2018. Prior to joining OCHD, Ruzek worked in outpatient clinics in the Wausau and Green Bay areas treating a variety of conditions.

Physical Therapist Assistant



Learn more about Ryley Ruzek



Learn more about Gina Raok Rao specializes in outpatient orthopedics and is an active member of the American Physical Therapy Association. She holds a Bachelor of Science in Psychology and Human Development from the University of Wisconsin– Green Bay and an Associate of Science–Physical Therapist Assistant degree from Northeast Wisconsin Technical College (NWTC).





# tsi' nihsunhó·tʌ

Health - (gee-knee-soon-hota)

**OCHD** Newsletter

Scan To Read

Gina Rao





# HEALTH

# **Maternal Health Grant Doubles Doula Support**

#### **By Maternal Child Health Services**

In 2023, our department was awarded a grant from the Great Lakes Inter-Tribal Council (GLITC), which enabled us to train four doulas. These doulas have since provided free services to four families. Looking ahead to 2025, we are excited to announce that we will have a total of eight certified doulas, thanks to the Maternal Health Innovation Bridge Grant. This expansion will allow us to offer free doula services to eight Indigenous families.

Please note that, according to funding guidelines, obstetric care must be received at the Oneida Health Center and follow a referral process.

For inquiries regarding Indigenous doula services, contact Oneida Health Maternal Child Health Services:

Candi Cornelius at 920.869.4940 Makenit Gutierrez at 920.869.4885



Maternal Child Health Services

L-R : Jenna Cornelius, Kylene Welch, Karrie Smith, Grace Skenandore-Ott, Tanya Lopez-Martin, Taylor Berg, Jessica House, Jennifer Green.

### Self-Check Month How Are You Really Feeling?

#### By Mari Kriescher

Oneida Behavioral Health Director

February is National Self-Check Month, a time to prioritize your well-being by reflecting on your mental, emotional, and physical health. This self-check helps you recognize areas where you're thriving and identify those needing extra care.

#### **Setting the Tone**

Create a supportive space for honest reflection. Acknowledge difficult emotions and celebrate positives to enhance your mental health.

#### Start with a Simple Question

Ask yourself: "How do I feel right now and how have I been feeling lately?" Notice physical responses like muscle tension, stomach tightness, or heart racing, which can indicate stress, anxiety, or depression.

#### **Recognize When to Seek Support**

If your self-check reveals concerns, remember that help is available. Mental health is as important as physical health, and seeking support is a sign of strength. At Oneida Behavioral Health, we offer compassionate resources to restore balance in mind, body, and spirit. Whether you need individual counseling, substance use support, or wellness programs, our team is here for you.

If you'd like to speak to someone in person, please reach out to us at 920.490.3790.

### **Check-In Questions**

# Have I been worrying lately? What has been on my mind?

Acknowledge your worries and consider if they feel manageable or overwhelming.

## What am I doing for enjoyment and relaxation?

Are you making time for hobbies or activities that bring you peace and joy.

*Am I taking care of my physical health?* This includes eating nutritious meals, staying active and getting adequate sleep.

## How often do I rely on alcohol or drugs to cope with my emotions?

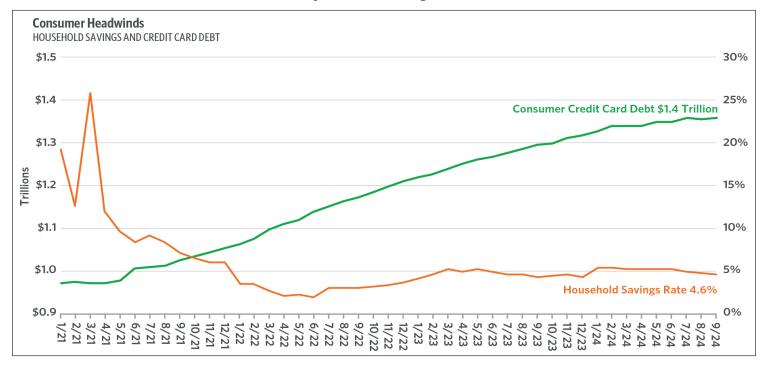
If you notice frequent reliance, it might be time to explore healthier coping mechanisms.

#### Am I afraid to tell someone how I'm feeling?

Fear of opening up can be a barrier to getting help, but sharing your feelings is an essential part of healing.

### **Consumer Headwinds**

#### How Credit Cards Can Be Financially Devastating



#### **By Garth Webster**

Transamerica Asset Management, Inc. recently published their annual 2025 Market Pulse, a document containing key financial metrics affecting today's economy, including the amount of credit card (CC) debt in comparison to personal savings.

As of September 2024, the graph above shows U.S. consumers accumulated \$1.4 trillion in CC debt while saving 4.6% in personal savings, which includes physical cash, checking or savings, Certificates of Deposit (CD), Money Market Accounts (MMA), or retirement accounts like 401(k) or Individual Retirement Accounts (IRA).

Proper use of credit cards can be very beneficial to your credit score. Paying CC debt in a timely manner and using it sparingly and within your financial means will improve your credit score. However, all too often, as illustrated in the graph, overuse of CC's can be a very difficult and stressful situation to get out of.

Typically, CC balances are

unsecured debt, meaning there is no collateral, such as a car or home, that the lender can pledge to the borrower in case of payment default. This increases the lending risk and thus, the reason for the high interest from CC's, which currently average 21.47% Average Percentage Yield (APR). In the event you need to use a credit card, it's critically important to know how CC's work.

The APR is divided into 12 monthly portions. Thus, for a CC with a 21.47% interest rate, each month you'd have to pay a minimum payment of about 1.79% in interest on the current balance. Now, assume you accumulate a \$2,000 CC debt. If you were to make minimum payments (\$35.80) on the \$2K balance until paid off, you'd end up paying \$2,948.

If you have unsecured CC debt, make a plan with your bank or financial advisor to develop a budgetary plan to manage and/or eliminate it.



# ENVIRONMENTAL

# **Indoor Seed Starting**

February's First Steps

#### **By Mia Charnon**

Gardening in Wisconsin offers a unique opportunity to blend modern techniques with traditional practices, creating a vibrant and sustainable garden. Starting seeds indoors in mid-February gives annual flowers and vegetables a boost before transplanting outdoors.

From starting seeds to caring for houseplants and maintaining tools, every step is vital for a successful gardening season. Incorporating native plants attracts pollinators and offers medicinal benefits.

**Houseplant Care** 

**Seed Viability Test** 

seeds are still viable.

**Tool Maintenance** 

gardening experience.

the roots.

Give your houseplants a half turn

every two days to ensure even growth.

Also, give them a monthly shower with

lukewarm water to avoid shocking

Before ordering new seeds, test last

year's seeds for viability by placing them between moist paper towels for

several days. Look for germination and

healthy seedlings to determine if the

Check and sharpen your gardening

tools. Make a list of any new tools

you might need to enhance your

#### **Seed Starting**

Start seeds indoors in mid-February for annual flowers like Impatiens, Vinca, Pansies, Geraniums, and Begonias, as well as vegetables like Tomatoes, Peppers, Broccoli, Cabbage, Lettuce, and Kale. This gives them a head start before transplanting outdoors.

#### **Pest Control**

Use dormant oil, horticultural oil, neem oil, or a DIY mix of canola oil, water, and dish detergent on fruit trees and shrubs to control overwintering pests. Apply when temperatures are above 40°F and won't drop below freezing for 24 hours.

#### **Cultural Preservation**

Gardening goes beyond just growing plants; it's about preserving traditions and connecting with nature. The Oneida Nation has a rich history of sustainable agriculture, especially through the "Three Sisters" method of growing corn, beans, and squash. These crops, known as the "Sustainers of Life," have been central to the Oneida diet for generations.

Incorporating the Three Sisters into your garden honors the heritage of the Oneida Nation and promotes a healthy, symbiotic relationship between the plants. Corn acts as a trellis for beans, beans enrich the soil with nitrogen, and squash suppresses weeds and retains moisture. By including these native plants and traditional crops, you create a beautiful, sustainable space that supports local wildlife and preserves cultural heritage.

otsí·tsya? - flower ka·níhe? - seed óhute? - sapling, sprout, vine, plant tsinuhnéhklis - bee kana·wí - butterfly laolaó - hummingbird

#### Wisconsin's Native Plants

Attracting Pollinators & Healing Herbs

Purple Coneflower Echinacea purpurea

-Attracts bees and butterflies

-Tea boosts immune system and fights cold and flu

#### **Black-Eyed Susan**

Rudbeckia hirta

-Attracts butterflies and other pollinators, and serves as a host plant for the Silvery Checkerspot butterfly -Tea boosts immune system and fights cold and flu

#### **Wild Bergamot**

Monarda fistulosa

-Attracts bees, butterflies, & hummingbirds -Tea treats headaches, colds, flu, and indigestion

#### **Butterfly Weed**

Asclepias tuberosa

-Essential for monarch butterflies as a larval food plant and attracts other pollinators -Tea treats chest inflammations

#### **Prairie Blazing Star**

Liatris pycnostachya

-Attracts long-tongued bees, butterflies, and other pollinators, and serves as a larval host for the Glorious Flower Moth -Tea acts as a pain reliever and treats menstrual problems, upset stomach, and sore throats.

Note: Consult a healthcare professional before using herbal remedies, especially if you have underlying health conditions or are pregnant.

#### ANDREW "ANDY" SUMMERS JULY 30, 1951 - JANUARY 4, 2025



It is with profound sadness that we share the passing of Andrew Peter Summers, 73, who left us on Saturday, January 4th, 2025. Surrounded by his loving family in his

passing moments, he was a man of immense humor and wisdom, cherishing every moment spent with his loved ones. His passion for the Chicago Cubs, softball, sports, fishing, cards, and bowling kept him busy. But the thing he loved the most was supporting his family. He rarely missed a game or event for his children or grandchildren. Andy was also a faithful member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. A pillar of strength and a beacon of love, his absence leaves a void in our hearts.

Andy is survived by Sue, his eternal companion of 54 years. His children, Wendy Summers, Jackie (Gordon) House, Jed (Molly) Summers, Shara Summers (Jeremy Stahl). His grandchildren, Griffin Summers (Haley Dobson), Macy Denny, Janey Summers, and Kale Summers. And brother, Keith Rudesill. Also brothers/sisters in-law and numerous nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents, William and Imelda Summers. His sister, Bette Tousey, brothers, Thomas Rudesill Jr, Henry Rudesill, William Summers, Jr., and Michael Rudesill.

Visitation will be Friday, Jan. 10, at 9 a.m. at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints in Green Bay, WI -651 Pinehurst Avenue. Funeral services will be held afterwards at 11 a.m. Andy would not want anyone to spend money on flowers, but rather donate to those in need. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Humanitarian Aid Fund. Forever our beloved husband, dad, gramps, brother, uncle, and servant of the Lord. Our biggest fan!



#### ELIZABETH A. DENASHA OCTOBER 22, 1969 - JANUARY 8, 2025



Elizabeth Ann DeNasha, age 55, of Lac Courte Oreilles, WI, passed away Wednesday, January 8, 2025, at her home. Elizabeth was born

October 22, 1969, in Chicago, IL the daughter of Irene (Cooper) and Robert DeNasha Sr. She loved listening to music every morning but the 70's were her favorite. Elizabeth liked going to the casino to play the penny slots and loved playing Yahtzee and Cribbage. She is going to be missed by her family and friends.

She is survived by her brothers Robert DeNasha Jr. & Leslie DeNasha; sister Anna Martin; many nieces, nephews & cousins. Elizabeth was preceded in death by her parents Irene & Robert; brother Tommy DeNasha; and sisters Barbara DeNasha, Loretta DeNasha & Kateri Troldahl.

The Funeral Service will be held at 11:00 a.m., Wednesday, January 15, 2025, at Pineview Funeral Service in Hayward. Father David Neuschwander will officiate. Burial will be in St. Francis Cemetery. Visitation will begin at 5:00 p.m. Tuesday, January 14th at the funeral home. Casket Bearers will be Dave DeNasha, Robert L. DeNasha, Thomas DeNasha, Jordan Milam, Jason Martin & Keith Tainter. Online condolences can be made at pineviewfuneralservice.com

#### GERALDINE WELLER APRIL 6, 1942 - DECEMBER 28, 2024



Geraldine "Gerry" (Skenandore) Weller, 82, began her journey in the Spirit World on December 28, 2024, with her children, Sharon and Mike at her

side. Gerry was the fifth child born to Lester and Rose Skenandore on April 6, 1942, and grew up in De Pere, WI. After graduating from West De Pere high school, Gerry moved to Milwaukee, where she remained until retirement. Gerry was very good with numbers, as evidenced by her careers including insurance adjuster, medical bookkeeper, inmate account management, tax preparation, and retirement specialist. Her attention to detail also led to a successful career in medical transcription in both the private and public sector. She also took classes at Milwaukee Area Technical College to enhance her financial management skills. She retired from public service for Milwaukee County.

Gerry was also a very talented seamstress, making one-of-a-kind outfits for both herself and her daughters. She enjoyed traveling, especially going to Las Vegas to see her sister, Dorothy. The biggest highlight of those Las Vegas trips was when she got to see her favorite singer, Elvis, in person. She also visited the Dakotas, Illinois, Hawaii, California, Arizona, Mexico, the Bahamas, and a special trip to Florida to witness the launch of the Mars Pathfinder spacecraft. She also enjoyed spending time with family and friends, playing card games and board games with Scrabble being her favorite. She had an especially close relationship with her eldest granddaughter, Sierra.

Gerry enjoyed sports, whether it was watching her son's wrestling matches and football games or watching her beloved Green Bay Packers. She proudly displayed her signed footballs, helmets, and jerseys from football legends such as Brett Favre, Reggie White, and Dan Marino. She also enjoyed walking and cross-country skiing. After retirement, Gerry fulfilled her lifelong dream of moving to Las Vegas, where she lived for 8 years until she moved to California and finally back to Milwaukee, where she remained until her passing. Gerry is survived by her three children, Sharon (Anthony) Sorrentino, Michael (Katie) Weller, and Susan Dejewski, and her four grandchildren Sierra Sorrentino, Hannah Lauhon, Jackson Weller, and Ava Weller. She is further survived by brothers Kenneth and Roger, and by sisters Mary Gaetz, Patricia Whitson, Judith Skenandore, Janice Prohazka, Suzanne (David) Martinson, Jacqueline (Donn) Pozan, and Katherine Skenandore, as well as numerous nieces and nephews. She was pre-deceased by parents Lester and Rose, brothers Ronald, Reginald, and William, and sisters Dorothy Gruetzmacher

and Maxine Bente.

Special thanks to her daughter, Sharon, for ensuring that Gerry was well-cared for in her final years.

#### GREGORY S. JOHN JUNE 19, 1952 - DECEMBER 10, 2024



Gregory Scott John, 72, of De Pere, passed away unexpectedly on December 10, 2024, surrounded by family at University of Wisconsin Hospital, Madison.

Born on June 19, 1952, to Irving and Leona (Bowman) John in Green Bay, Wisconsin, Gregory was proud to be both Oneida and Stockbridge-Munsee Mohican. He ensured his family tree was recorded with both Nations and loved sharing stories about his childhood in Oneida, the Stockbridge-Munsee Community, and Milwaukee.

Gregory enlisted in the United States Army as a young man and was honorably discharged, proud of his service. Known for his big brown eyes, welcoming smile, and stylish fashion sense, Gregory was a kind-hearted, happy-go-lucky man who loved to laugh and make others laugh. He was compassionate, generous, and a great friend, always maintaining a positive outlook.

An adventurous spirit, Gregory traveled and worked in various parts of the United States in customer service and hospitality. He later worked in the Security Department of the Forest County Potawatomi Casino in Milwaukee before returning to Oneida, where he worked at the Oneida Casino until retirement. Gregory enjoyed spontaneous travels, often calling to share his latest adventures.

Gregory loved to travel, cook, celebrate, fish, spend time with family, and watch Green Bay Packers games. He was tech-savvy and enjoyed watching crime documentaries and supernatural horror shows on his 80-inch Roku Smart TV. Music was a big part of his life, especially old-time country, and rock-n-roll.

Family was very important to Gregory, one of twenty-one children. He cherished his parents and siblings, often sharing stories of their adventures together. Gregory is survived by his loving siblings: Herman "Jackie" John, Kristen "Porky" John, Robin (Laura) John, Forest Raphael John, Kevin (Rosa) John, Tony Anthony John, Carol Marie Summers, Andrea (Eugene Franco) John, Patrice John; Special Friends: Lee Webster, Mike Dehart, Pam Danforth-Sittingbear, Donita Powless, Michelle Powless, Lois Franklin, Beverly Decoteau, Barbara Denny, Alex Denny, George Walter Jackson, and Linda "Buffy" Dallas; Special Nieces and Nephews: Juan "John John" John, Phillip L. Polar, Jeffrey S. Polar, Brenda Baird, Maritza Baird-Webster, Victoria Jimenez, and Jennylyn Schmidt. Gregory was further survived by many nieces, nephews, great-nieces and nephews, and dear friends. He was preceded in death by his parents, five brothers: Irving Phillip Jr., Gabriel Lawrence, Timmy, Tom, and Todd; six sisters: Linda, Glenda, Eunice, Kathleen, Michelle, and Arvilla.

Gregory's family would like to extend a very special thank you to all the medical teams in the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) and the Intermediate Intensive Care Unit (I-ICU) at UW Health Hospital that provided so much love, good care, and support to Gregory.

Visitation will be held Saturday, December 21, 2024, at Immaculate Conception, N5589 County Rd E, De Pere, from 8:30 AM until 10:45 AM, with the Oneida Hymn Singers from 10:15 AM until 10:45 AM, a eulogy at 10:45 AM with Mass of Christian Burial following at 11:00 AM with Father Paul Paider officiating. Graveside Service will follow at the Holy Apostles Episcopal Church Cemetery, Oneida, with Military Honors.



Read the full obituary

KAREN K. NOLAN MAY 13, 1959 - DECEMBER 28, 2024



Karen Kay Nolan, age 65, passed away peacefully at her home in Oneida Wisconsin on December 28, 2024. She was born in Chicago Illinois on May 13, 1959, to William P. Nolan and Josephine Metoxen. Karen graduated from Notre Dame in Green Bay, Wisconsin.

Karen found a passion for learning from friends and family how to do beadwork as a hobby. She was confident that one day she would learn it all and by asking people "Now show me how to do that! Oh!" And laughing. Karen loved to laugh.

Karen would also tell and show anyone she could, how proud she was of the beautiful star quilt she made. She had a lot of fun learning how to create beautiful crafts to match her bright, beautiful and caring soul.

Karen had a passion for helping people, which was evident by her job as a Community Health Representative at the Oneida Nation Health Center. She loved visiting her clients and gabbing for hours to get to know them. Many of whom were lifelong friends and family.

Family was important to Karen, and she never let them forget it with the sassy stares and lots of laughter. She loved visiting with people, but she also loved her true crime, horror movies and mystery TV shows.

Karen is survived by two of her children Louis and Maria Guerra, her grandchildren Kiley and Connor Nolan, her brother William Gollnick, nieces and nephews: Cassandra Trepainer (Cory), Kowa Gollnick, James Gollnick (Maria), Nix Doxtator (Matt), and Parker Trepainer.

She was processed in death by her oldest son Michael Shane Nolan, father William P Nolan, her mother Josephine Metoxen, and all her aunts and uncles.

Family and friends may call at Ryan Funeral Home, 305 N. Tenth St. De Pere, WI 54115, on Thursday January 02, 2025, for visitation from 9:00am until time of service at 11:00am. Burial will be held on Monday January 06, 2025, at the Sacred Burial Grounds at 10:00am.



#### LAURA C. HARRISON DECEMBER 14, 1961 - JANUARY 4, 2025



Laura Christine Harrison, 63, died Saturday, January 4, 2025, at Aurora Zilber Family Hospice in W a u w a tosa, W isconsin, peacefully, with

family by her side.

Laura was born on December 14, 1961, to Larry Harrison and Marianne(Jurkowski) Harrison in Kenosha, Wisconsin. She graduated from the University of Wisconsin -Green Bay with a degree in Communication of Arts, and later earned her master's degree in art therapy from Mount Mary University. She was a caregiver and art therapist for many years with Aurora Healthcare. Her Oneida heritage was an important part of her identity, studying the culture and history to then share and experience with her family.

She is survived by her mother, Marianne Harrison; sisters, Lisa (Jeff) Chojnacki, Jodi (Steve) Nienhaus, Judy Schwartz; nephews and niece Anthony (Sara) Brown, David (Katrina) Brown, Michael Schwartz, Joey Chojnacki, Jessica Nienhaus, Maxwell Harrison; Greatnieces Olivia, Sophia, and Sloane. She is also survived by aunts, uncles, cousins, and many friends.

Laura was preceded in death by her father, Larry Howard Harrison.

To honor Laura's wishes, no formal services will be held. Laura loved to throw parties. We'll have one last party for Laura to be determined at a later date.

Memorials can be made to the American Diabetes Association and the National Kidney Foundation. The family wants to thank the many health care professionals and friends who have helped Laura through a very difficult time over the last few years.



#### RONALD HOUSE NOVEMBER 3, 1949-DECEMBER 19, 2024



Ronald House was born to Kenneth and Rebecca House on November 3, 1949 and passed away December 19, 2024.

After graduating

from Senn High School in Chicago, IL, he spent four years in the Navy. After his time in the service, he worked as a plumber for many years before retiring.

When not working, Ronald was an avid sports fan. He enjoyed watching football. He also loved to watch baseball and excelled at playing it as well.

Survivors include his brother William, sisters Mary (Bill) Labant and Iris House, and nieces Jennifer House (daughter of Ruthie), Debbie, Diane, and Doreen (daughters of Sandra), brother-in-law Kenny (Judy) and their son Brian.

Ronald was preceded in death by sisters Sandra and her son Paul, Jr., Judy, and Ruthie.

Ronald was cremated. Services were held Saturday, January 4, 2025 at Grove Memorial Chapel in Elk Grove Village, IL. You are in our hearts forever, Ronald. We love you and you will be dearly missed.

#### SHIRLEY E. HOUSE MARCH 22, 1933 - DECEMBER 27, 2024



passed away peacefully on Friday morning, December 27, 2024. She was born March 22, 1933, in Milwaukee nd Martina Ninham. On

Shirley Ellen House,

91, Green Bay,

to the late Kilman and Martina Ninham. On July 22, 1951, she married Walter Roy House Jr., in Milwaukee. Shirley was a seamstress, Pantry Assistant and a Casino Receptionist.

She is survived by her children; Donald (Linda) House Sr., Gail House, Dennis House, Anthony House, Kenneth House Sr., Susan House, and Tina House. Grandchildren; Rickie House Jr., Michael (Brooke) House, Linda (Robbie) Dowling, Donald (Lisa) House Jr., William (Kaylyn) Cone, Lisa (Victor) Robles, Eric, Tori, Erin (Jake) Ellis, James (April) House, Alaina, Jarred, Adam, Gloria & Raymond (Stephanie) House, Teisha (Daron) Greaner, Veronica Clark, Anthony House Jr., Crissy Boykin, Justin Benson, Jada House, Dean (Kristen) House, and Cortni (Vincent) Truttmann.

She was preceded in death by her parents, her husband Walter Roy House Jr., grandson Kenneth D. House Jr., and her sister, Gloria Jean Todt.

With respect to Shirley's wishes, no service will be held at this time. Ryan Funeral Home, De Pere is assisting the family.

#### YVONNE M. BRENNAN MAY 24, 1947 - DECEMBER 24, 2024



Yvonne Marie Brennan (Antone) of Howard, passed away peacefully at home on December 24, 2024, with her loved ones by her side, after a long battle with kidney

disease. She was born on May 24, 1947 in Green Bay, WI. She is the daughter of Israel and Bertha (Cooper) Antone. She attended Seymour High School and later perused a career in the culinary arts, working at various restaurants in the Green Bay area. She later moved to Chicago to be closer to family and to continue her passion for cooking. She would eventually move back to the Green Bay area, as this was her true home.

Yvonne had many interests throughout her life, including music, nature, fishing, her beloved Packers, a good game of cribbage and Yahtzee, and what some might call an obsession with Johnny Depp. She had a sense of humor that most Christian women would not admit to. It really did not matter what she was doing, as long as she was surrounded by good people that enjoyed a good laugh. She had an incredible soft spot in her heart for animals, and would shower any pet that she could get her hands on with treats and love. Yvonne was a spiritual woman that believed in the word of God, but sometimes on her own terms. She enjoyed attending church services with her friend, Rosemary Warunek at Life Church Green Bay.

Yvonne was preceded in death by her husband, Dennis Brennan, father Israel

Antone, step-father James Skenandore, mother Bertha Skenandore (Cooper), twin sons, William Parker and Robert Parker, and her favorite dog that was always by her side, Andy. She is survived by her brother, Matthew (Joe) Antone (Karen Nicholas), sons, Michael (Jenny) Longcore and Richard (Melissa) Longcore, and many grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

The family would like to extend their gratitude to the staff of Unity Hospice for their care and devotion, and to Dr. Verma and staff of DaVita Dialysis for their support.

The family would also like to extend a very heartfelt thank you to Yvonne's best friends, Jo Northway, Catherine and Keith Imhoff, and Rosemary Warunek. Your presence, kind words, and love put Yvonne at peace in her final moments.

Visitation will take place on Sunday, December 29, 2024 from 2:00 pm to 3:30 pm at Newcomer Cremations, Funerals & Receptions (340 S. Monroe Ave, Green Bay, WI 54301). A funeral Service will follow immediately at 3:30 pm with a reception to follow the service.

#### DENNISON DANFORTH JR. JANUARY 20, 1944 - JANUARY 11, 2025



Dennison Danforth Jr., 80, passed away peacefully at St. Vincent Hospital in the early hours of Saturday, January 11, 2025. The son of Dennison Sr. and Evelyn

(Skenandore) Danforth was born on January 20, 1944.

Dennison attended Pulaski High School and his father signed for him to enlist in the United States Airforce. He was honorably discharged and went on to earn his GED. He spent much of his career as a steel cutter, and he enjoyed working on cars. With his mentorship of the guitar from David "Sonny" King, Jr. became a lifelong musician. His latest band was "The Cherry Bounce Band." Jr. also enjoyed playing bingo, as well as cards with family and friends.

He is survived by his partner of 35 years, Daphne Dessart; son, Allen (Julie) Danforth; a son like his own, Brian Dessart; and his former wife Rosemary John. He is further survived by his grandchildren, Alana Dallas, Lindsey (Brandon) Blackowl and Dylan Danforth; great-grandchildren Brandon Jr, Camille, Luna and Nemkiwanis; sister-in-law Eleanor Danforth; and many special nieces and nephews.

Dennison was preceded in death by his parents, Dennison Sr. and Evelyn; sister, Christine Danforth; sons Cary and Jason Danforth; and daughter, Shell Ann Danforth. Family and friends may visit at Ryan Funeral Home, 305 N. Tenth Street, De Pere, beginning at 10:00 a.m. The Oneida Hymn Singers will begin at 11:30 a.m. followed by a short prayer service a noon. Reverend Barb Hanke will officiate. Military Honors will conclude the service. Burial will take place at a later date at Assembly of God in Oneida.

#### SHEREE A. LEWIS DECEMBER 23, 1962 - JANUARY 10, 2025



Sheree A. Lewis, 62, entered the kingdom of Heaven on January 10, 2025, after a courageous battle with lung cancer. Born on December 23, 1962, to Donald

and Evelyn Stanchik (Steinfeldt) in Green Bay, Wisconsin, as the eldest of her four siblings, Mark, Terrie, Donnie, and Kevin. Sheree shared a strong connection with her beloved grandmother Josephine Steinfeldt (Skenandore) who played a significant role in her upbringing. Sheree earned degrees in business and paralegal, and worked for the Oneida tribe for 25 years before retiring to care for her four grandchildren and support her family's bakery. Known for her strong will, sense of humor, and deep faith, she also cherished her Native American heritage. Her strong faith sustained her during her illness, and she was a member of St. Peter Lutheran Church. The family thanks Pastor Bill for his steadfast support throughout the years. We take great comfort in knowing you were by her side the morning she went to be with our Lord. Sheree's legacy lives on with her loved ones who rejoice in her new life in our heavenly Fathers arms, reunited with her parents, grandmother and baby brother Kevin.

Sheree was a proud grandmother who loved to share stories about her family. She looked for any opportunity to showcase how special and talented she knew them all to be. She leaves behind her two granddaughters Brooklynn and Londynn along with twin grandsons Boston and Bronx, whom were her absolute entire world. She adored her grandchildren more than words could express. She had an unshakable bond with her only daughter Brittney, and a deep appreciation for her son-in-law Johnny.

Sheree's legacy will be remembered not for her career or thirst for knowledge, but for her unwavering support in raising her grandchildren and encouraging her daughter to chase her dreams. Sheree's close bond with her family will endure in their memories, especially through her daughter and grandchildren, who all inherited her striking, icey blue, siren eyes. The afternoon that Sheree went to be with our Lord, in His perfect plan, her eyes became the gift of sight for someone in need. We are honored to know she chose to be the gift for others. Our family expresses our deepest gratitude to the compassionate nurses at AMC in Appleton for their care during Sheree's final days. Nurses Zamzam, Brittney, and Lakeishya, along with hospice nurses Kris and Nikki. Your warmth and kindness will always be remembered.

A celebration of life will be held at St. Peter Lutheran Church in Appleton, on February 1st with visitation from 10-11am, service at 11am, and reception to follow. We invite family, friends, and loved ones to join us to celebrate Sheree's life and heavenly eternity. Details for the traditional Oneida fire keeping ceremony to be announced.

### On Their Journey

Please submit obituaries (300 words or less) and a high quality photo to Kalihwisaks@OneidaNation.org

#### 

Obituaries longer than 300 words will be linked online



# NOTICES



#### **ONEIDA FAMILY COURT**

NOTICE OF HEARING

A diligent attempt was made to notify the Respondent/Custodian of a Petition to Establish Third Party Legal Custody filed by Petitioner. A hearing shall take place Monday, March 17, 2025 at 1:30pm in the captioned case at the Oneida Family Court office located at 2630 West Mason Street, Green Bay, WI 54303. Inquiries for additional information may be directed to: Oneida Family Court • PO Box 19 • Oneida, WI 54155 • 920.496.7200

#### Setting Time and Notice to Interested Parties

The following estates are being prepared for probate by the Oneida Nation, Land Commission Hearing Body.

To attend a scheduled hearing virtually contact: Cindy Lecker, Land, Title & Trust Specialist, Oneida Nation, Land Management, • 470 Airport Dr. PO Box 365, • Oneida, WI 54155 920-869-6610 • CLecker@OneidaNation.org

#### Estate of Julie A Hill, Case No. 2024-LCP-0007

- 1. An application for probate was filed.
- 2. The decedent with a date of birth of 07/03/1970 and date of death 10/30/2022, was an Oneida Nation member, domiciled on the Oneida Reservation at 3045 Ferndale Dr, Green Bay, WI 54313
- 3. The deadline to submit claims is March 31, 2025.
- 4. All interested persons are hereby noticed.

#### CASE #24CU024

Lila Denny VS Cheyenne Starr, Lela Kaguatosh and Brandon Jourdan

Second Publish: Feb 2025

#### Estate of Larry R Hill Jr, Case No. 2024-LCP-0008

- 1. An application for probate was filed.
- 2. The decedent with a date of birth of 09/19/1970 and date of death 05/01/2024, was not an Oneida Nation member, domiciled on the Oneida Reservation at 3045 Ferndale Dr, Green Bay, WI 54313.
- 3. The deadline to submit claims is March 31, 2025
- 4. All interested persons are hereby noticed.

#### Estate of Anna M Haven, Case No. 2024-LCP-0009

- 1. An application for probate was filed.
- 2. The decedent with a date of birth of 08/04/1965 and date of death 11/21/2024, was an Oneida Nation member, domiciled on the Oneida Reservation at N6969 Cornelius Cir, Oneida, WI 54155.
- 3. The deadline to submit claims is March 31, 2025.
- 4. All interested persons are hereby noticed.

### ONEIDA NATION

Board, Committee, or Commissions

### **AVAILABLE**

### **BCC Highlight**

# **BCC POSITIONS**

#### APPLY NOW >>>>

### **ONEIDA** COMMUNITY LIBRARY BOARD

Administer and oversee the administration of the Oneida Library

**Must be a School District** Administrator Representative

#### Qualifications





Application

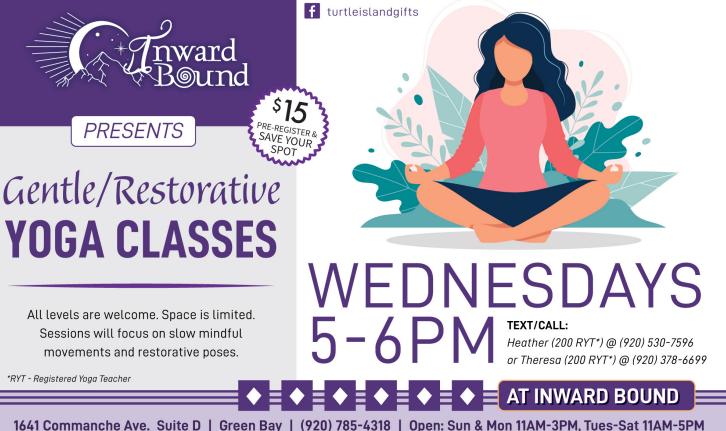


**CONTACT GOVERNMENT** ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE (GAO)



# **EVENTS**





# **EVENTS**





# FEBRUARY Memorv

### **FEBRUARY 12. 2025** 1:30PM-3:00PM

#### What to expect

Memory Cafe is open to anyone with early memory loss and other dementia symptoms. The Memory Cafe is an opportunity to be social in an understanding stigma free setting. Socialization often decreases for people with dementia. Here you can remain connected and engaged.

This Month's Activity

We will be doing chair yoga

#### What is Memory Café?

The memory café provides a fun, comfortable environment where people with memory loss car relax, engage, and enjoy company of others on the same journey. Feel free to bring a spouse, friend, family member, or significant other.





Expanding Respite Care Resources

for Underserved Populations

Date: February 19, 2025

Time: 1:30pm - 3:30pm

Place: 2907 S. Overland Rd. Oneida, WI 54155

Discover how the Respite Care Association of Wisconsin (RCAW) is making a difference!

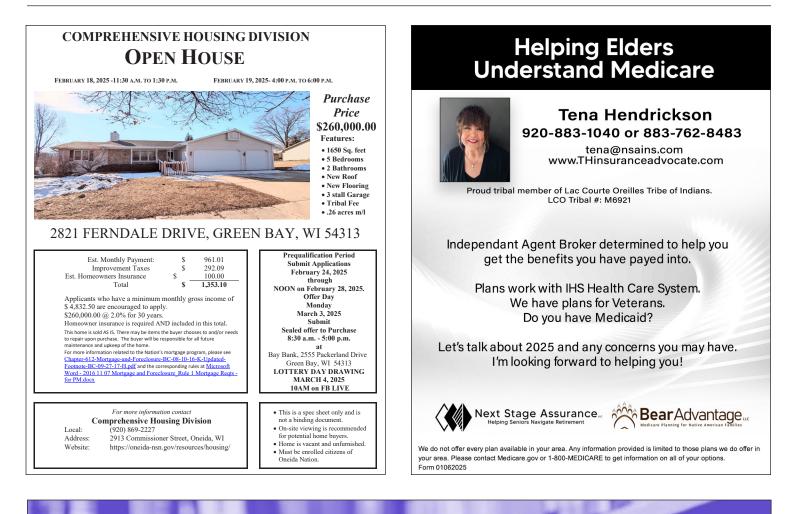
Join us to explore the support and resources available, including respite care grant programs for family caregivers, the Wisconsin Care Registry, Respite Connections, and a variety of training opportunities designed for caregivers and respite care providers. Don't miss this chance to learn how RCAW empowers caregivers and strengthens communities!



Aging & Disability Native American Family Caregiver Patty Harms NAFCG Coordinator/Outreach Phone 920-869-6830 Email: pharms2@oneidanation.org



# LOCAL



### **Oneida Nation Comprehensive Housing Division - CHD** Will be offering Home Loans on a first come, first serve basis!

Funding will be available for home purchases within the reservation boundaries:

- Homeownership by Independent Purchase (HIP) Land becomes Nation owned through this process
- · For Sale by Homeowner (FSBO) on Nation owned land

Beginning January 31, 2025, CHD will be accepting applications for preapprovals. Accepted offers will initiate the loan process.

Please contact a Loan Officer or go to CHD's website for more information.

2% Interest Rate

1.5% Veterans

1.5% Elders

SCAN QR CODE

### **Funds are Limited!**





2913 Commissioner Street, Phone: (920) 869–2227 Fax: (920) 869–8038

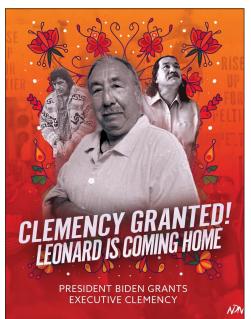
# WINTER GATHERING

# POW WOW

The Winter Gathering Pow Wow, held Saturday, January 18, was a huge success! Spectators and dancers alike enjoyed the sounds of 12 drum groups, including host drum Ho-Chunk Station. While Emcee Ronnie Goodeagle kept the crowd entertained, Arena Director Jeremy King made sure all the events went smoothly. Thank you to the Pow Wow Event Team, Michelle Danforth, Tonya Webster, Trista Cornelius-Henricks, Vicki Cornelius, Leah Stroobants, Rosa Laster and aforementioned Ronnie Goodeagle as they worked behind the scenes to present this year's Winter Gathering. *Enjoy the pictures!* 

Connie Danforth Head Woman Dancer

### Commutation of Leonard Peltier Oneida Nation Statement



Wakinyan Luta Fiddler

Head Male Dancer

The Oneida Nation acknowledges the commutation of Leonard Peltier's sentence as a significant and profound moment of justice and healing for Native peoples. As we reflect on his decades of incarceration, we honor his resilience and the enduring advocacy for his release. This decision is a step toward addressing the historical injustices faces by Indigenous individuals within legal and penal systems of the United States.

Leonard Peltier was an active member of the American Indian Movement (AIM), an organization dedicated to addressing issues of systemic injustice, cultural erosion, and social inequity impacting Native peoples. AIM emerged during the late 1960s as a grassroots movement advocating for the sovereignty and rights of Indigenous nations while confronting harmful federal policies, poverty, and racism.

Leonard Peltier's case has long symbolized the systemic challenges Native peoples encounter, and his release represents a broader recognition of the need for fairness and equity in these processes. The Oneida Nation reaffirms our commitment to safeguarding the sovereignty and rights of Indigenous peoples and ensuring that such injustices are never repeated.

This decision comes as we continue our efforts to strengthen the recognition of our history, rights, and contributions to society. It is our hope that this act fosters deeper understanding and reconciliation between the federal government and Tribal nations, paving the way for a future rooted in mutual respect and justice.

# WINTER GATHERING





## WE'RE HIRING!





Program and Service Positions

www.oneida-nsn.gov/resources/kalihwisaks/

#### PRSRT STD US POSTAGE PAID ONEIDA WI 54155 PERMIT NO. 4

### @kalihwisaks

### Showcase Your Sports Legacy at ONM!

The image below is a mockup of the Oneida Nation Museum (ONM) Athleticism exhibit. ONM is seeking contributions from Oneida "Sports Superstars" to fill the display case accompanying the exhibit. Due to space limitations, the size of the case and other participants' items will be considered.

#### The following items are being requested (loan/gift):

- · Highest sports awards received
- · Sports memorabilia associated with those awards
- (e.g., basketball, football, baseball, jersey, medal, etc.)
- · Certificates or awards for state records broken
- · Certificates, photos, or awards for championships won

For more information, contact Stacy Coon, Museum Director 920.869.6531 · SCoon@OneidaNation.org.

### Kahletsyalusla

(Gahlay-ja-loo-sla)

The heartfelt encouragement of the best in each of us

We encourage each other to pursue a good life. A kind gesture, words of encouragement, and leading by example support and nurture the people of our community.

Take the time to help someone on their journey.

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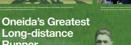
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### **Oneida Athleticism**





Runner



Long-distance Running





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