

# NW teams with Tuscarora Nation



Submitted by the Niagara Wheatfield Central School District

The Tuscarora Nation recently held its annual Tuscarora Picnic and Field Day. This year was the 177th Tuscarora Picnic – one of the oldest continuous Field Days in Niagara County.

On Saturday, July 13, following the opening address given by Turtle Chief “Sacarissa” Brennen Ferguson, Niagara Wheatfield School Superintendent Daniel Ljiljanich was honored for his work in getting the funding to help repair the 70-year-old Tuscarora School. The school had fallen into disrepair and needed upgrading in several areas. Ljiljanich joined with the superintendents of Onondaga Nation School and Salmon River School in Akwesasne to bring attention to the critical funding needed to repair these schools. Because of their efforts and the work of others who helped to publicize this need, New York state provided the district with the funds to address these issues at Tuscarora Nation and Onondaga Nation, and Salmon River is getting a new school.

On behalf of Tuscarora chiefs and clan mothers and Tuscarora Nation, Ljiljanich was

presented with a beaded frame with a plaque reading, “Nya’we Daniel Ljiljanich for your dedication to the students from the Tuscarora Nation and throughout the Niagara Wheatfield School District your relationship with the Tuscarora Nation to create a positive environment will benefit students for years to come.”

Pictured, from left: Tuscarora School Principal Liz Corieri, Ljiljanich and Assistant Superintendent of Finance Allison Davis. (Submitted photo)

## Cambria Historical Society and Museum open house

The Cambria Historical Society and Museum announced an open house event set for 2-5 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 10, in the field adjacent to the museum at 4153 Lower Mountain Road, Lockport. The event will feature an array of activities suitable for all ages.

Organizers said, “Attendees will have the unique opportunity to explore our rich history through free guided museum tours, where they can view our latest exhibits and discover fascinating local lore. The day will also feature live music from popular local band Yellow Jack, and veteran songsters John Dudley & Friends, providing a lively backdrop to the festivities. Yellow Jack’s set will be themed for the occasion, featuring traditional and original songs featuring Western New York canal history, the War of 1812, and other local fare.

“Highlighting the community spirit, the event will include a basket raffle with items generously donated by local businesses and artisans.”

“This is a fantastic way to support the historical society while enjoying high-quality, locally-crafted products.”

A food truck will be onsite, operated by Griffon Brewery and Gastropub, offering guests a taste of local cuisine as they mingle and enjoy the day’s offerings.

Cambria Historical Society and Museum President Jim Ellis said, “This open house is a celebration of our community’s rich heritage. We invite everyone to join us for

## IN THE NEWS

an afternoon of history, music and fun. It’s a fantastic opportunity to connect with our past while enjoying the vibrant culture of Cambria today.”

Treasurer Dennis Reed Jr. added, “We’re excited to showcase our latest exhibits and share stories that have shaped our region. The live music, basket raffles and food trucks are just the icing on the cake. We can’t wait to welcome everyone to this special event.”

## DEC seeks participants for turkey survey

Submitted by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Interim Commissioner Sean Mahar is encouraging New Yorkers to participate in the state’s annual survey for wild turkeys this summer.

“DEC’s summer wild turkey sighting survey is a great opportunity for people to participate in wildlife science,” Mahar said. “Anyone with internet access can participate, simply by reporting their observations while exploring the outdoors.”

Throughout August, partici-

pants can record observed dates, locations, sex and ages of wild turkeys by using an online form as they enjoy the state’s beautiful summer landscapes. The form can be filled out on a smartphone, tablet or computer. The survey form and instructions are available on DEC’s website.

DEC has conducted the annual summer wild turkey sighting survey with the help of the public since 1996. Many factors, including weather and habitat changes, can impact turkey reproduction and populations. By collecting observations of turkeys in August, DEC estimates how productive the turkey population is each year and compares reproductive success between years. Annual measures of poult production (number of young-of-the-year birds) are important data that help biologists manage wild turkey populations.

Citizen or community science opportunities like the summer wild turkey sighting survey cultivate a collaborative partnership between the public and DEC while providing data that can be used to help manage wildlife species, including turkeys. Summary data from the survey is posted on the fall turkey harvest and productivity dashboard on DEC’s website.

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