

# Kalihwisaks



She Looks for News • https://oneida-nsn.gov/resources/kalihwisaks/ • Oneida, WI • December 16, 2020

# McLester tapped as new Oneida Retail GM

(920) 496-5632 🖀

A familiar face has been selected to lead the Oneida Retail Division as 2020 heads into its final weeks. Eric McLester, who has served as the Interim Retail General Manager since April, brings plenty of business leadership experience to the table on behalf of the tribe.

The Seymour High School graduate holds an undergraduate degree from the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay and an MA from Silver Lake College in addition to his thirty-plus year career with the Oneida Nation working in various capacities. "I've served as the Business Compliance Analyst for the Oneida Business Committee (OBC) in the past," McLester said. "I've worked at Social Services and in gaming in the past. I've also worked on various projects as well, for example I was the agent for the Thornberry Creek at Oneida Golf Course and worked closely with that management company."

The COVID-19 pandemic made 2020 a harrowing year for the Oneida Nation as a whole, with the Retail Division suffering right along with every other area. "The pandemic definitely disrupted Retail's business, but because we're an essential business we were allowed to stay open," McLester said. "However, at one point we had three Smoke Shops, the Travel Center, and the Oneida Market all closed at the same time. As a result we ended up having



Oneida Retail General Manager Eric McLester

to furlough 43 people, but fortunately we've recently been able to bring almost all of them back."

A noticeable reduction in sales contributed to a reduction in work hours for employees, but that's slowly changing. "Sales were down across all products so we had to reduce hours, but little by little we're now expanding those hours and getting them back," McLester said. "So, going forward we're looking at what makes good business sense like do we continue with reduced hours because it reduces payroll, or do we increase sales by expanding our hours."

Upgrades have taken place at the various One Stop locations during the past year. "We've added a pay-at-the-pump contactless reader to our POS system if you have the Mobile or Shell app," McLester said. "You can now go straight to the pin pad and pay for your gas at the pump or in the store without touching a single thing. Everybody wears a mask and we're constantly sanitizing all

touchpoints inside and outside the buildings so we're cleaning and sterilizing now more than ever before."

The E&EE One Stop also recently underwent a major upgrade with a new canopy, the replacement of underground piping and wiring from the tanks to the pumps, and a newly added diesel pump.

One uncertainty for McLester right now is how to reopen the Oneida Market and make it profitable. "In October we reopened the Market for phone and online orders and we're evaluating that also," Mc-Lester said. "The Oneida Market has never really been that profitable, so we're looking at how we can open back up with a limited number of products and make it profitable. The whole business model for the Market is being reevaluated and we're hoping to have it open shortly after the first of the new year, but people can still phone in their orders. We're just looking at moving more towards an online platform and e-commerce down the road."

"Moving forward we need to be efficient with how we schedule, how we operate, and how we drive up sales," McLester said. "Strategic planning, along with the analysis that needs to happen, will help us determine what we need to sell going forward. The OBC has allowed us to bring on a public relations specialist, a marketing and merchandising manager, a business analyst, an information specialist, and an executive assistant. So we have new personnel that are really going to help

• See 9 McLester

# BC Forum: Councilwoman Marie Summers

Shekoli Ukwehu·we',

I come to you with heartfelt thoughts and prayers for a better year in 2021. In the past three months, I have completely immersed myself into my new role as a Councilwoman. I am being guided by some very knowledgeable professionals and committee members. I am learning so many intricacies of our government roles.

Today, I would like to provide our Oneida citizens with a brief update on some activities. Part of my role as a Committee member is being a Liaison, to assist in communication between the Committee and certain Boards, Committees and Commissions. We are assigned Liaison duties by resolution approved by the Business Committee, there are currently 67 different entities internally and externally that the Committee serves. I am the primary liaison for the Bay



Oneida Nation Councilwoman Marie Summers

Bancorporation, Inc.

Recently, I met with Bay Bank President and CEO Jeff Bowman and Vice-President Nathan King. We discussed the current Bay Bank Strategic Plan and the team shared with me a lot of the changes that are actively being made. Most notably, Bay Bank has uplifted their brand appearance. Our very own Oneida Nation member, Nathan King has been a major part of this process. Yaw^ko to Nathan and his team for all the hard work and improvements on the brand appearance. The new colors are vibrant purple and white, inviting, and makes a person want to "click" to explore more. In addition, during my initial meeting I felt the executive team was very professional and helpful. Mr. Bowman showed me a new Interactive Teller Machine (ITM), located in the Packerland branch lobby. The new ITM is different than a regular ATM, it provides an option to interact with a live teller with a push of a button, if additional help is need-

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## • See 4 Councilwoman Summers



# Winter Gift Card distribution helps community





Kali photos/Christopher Johnson

Wait times were minimal and all protective measures were in place as the much-anticipated Winter Gift Card distribution took place at the Oneida Nation Elementary School and Radisson Hotel & Conference Center December 10 – 11. Milwaukee members will be able to obtain their gift cards from the SEOTS Office today through Friday, December 18, from 9:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m. Masks are required for entry and members must have their Tribal IDs.

## Festival Foods makes generous donation for Oneida elders, veterans



Kali photo/Christopher Johnson

Festival Foods CEO Mark Skogen presents Oneida Nation Vice Chairman Brandon Yellowbird-Stevens with a check for the amount of \$15,000 at the Oneida Nation Veterans Services Office December 10. The generous Festival Foods gift will be used to procure communication devices and internet assistance for tribal veterans and elders to connect with family and friends. The devices will also be able to access virtual programs, workshops, and therapy. Yellowbird-Stevens hopes to have these devices secured for the veterans and elders before Christmas. "We have many elders who have not been able to share a hug with their loved ones, the hugs they need at this time," Yellowbird-Stevens said. "For nine months many have gone without being able to reach out and touch the hands or put their arms around their children and grandchildren. It's impossible to replace family gatherings and celebrations so we need to surround them with some virtual love at this time."

## From page 2 /Councilwoman Summers

ed. This new function comes with the Pantry, they were the recipient of a through it. Stay Safe and Mask UP!! hope of being more efficient in daily operations.

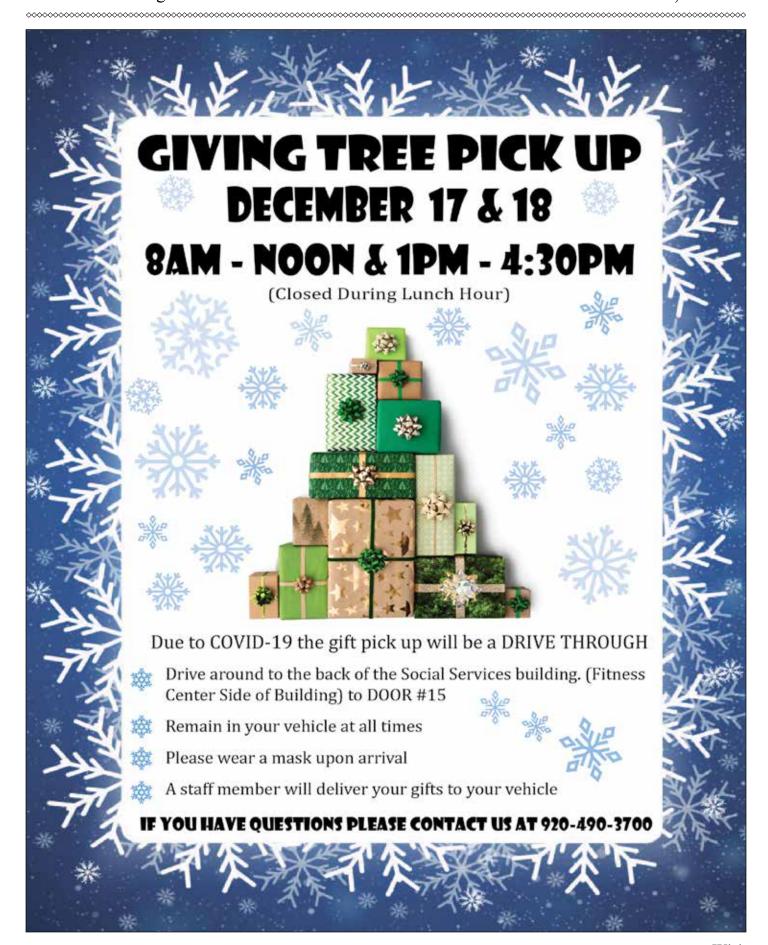
I would like to thank the Bay Bancorporation. Inc. and the Bay Bank team for the introductions and assisting me with getting to know more about our bank. Also, I would like to say on behalf of the Nation, Yaw^ko to Bay Bank for two recent checks received. One is the annual dividend check of \$125,000 which will go to our Economic Development, Diversification and Community Development Fund. And secondly, a check

\$5,000 grant from the Targeted Im- Hoyan and Yaw^ko, pact Fund which the Federal Home Loan Bank of Chicago offered. Also, Marie Summers his team for a job well done. Kudos Committee Oneida Emergency Food Pantry!

Lastly, as we move forward into 2021, I want to acknowledge those in mourning and who are struggling, just know you are not alone. Together as a community, our hope and prayers for a better year will make us stronger as we come out of the murky trenches of a shattering, unpredictfor the Oneida Emergency Food able virus attack, together we will get

shout out to Marlon Skenandore and Councilwoman for Oneida Business





# Harry Potter technology coming to Oneida



Photo courtesy/Christopher Powless

Hugh Danforth (left), Mark Powless (middle), and Brenda John (right) portray Oneidas set in the 1880s during recent filming with Digital Design Services to produce talking paintings. These talking paintings will eventually be displayed in the log homes on Salt Pork Avenue.

## Michelle Danforth and **Christopher Johnson**

**BIG BEAR MEDIA** 

With great sadness comes great creativity. Since the COVID-19 outbreak earlier this year the Oneida Nation Tourism Department has been unable to educate visitors and conduct tours of the reservation due to the layoff of staff members. The pandemic has forced the entire tourism industry to modify how they operate, and Oneida is no exception.

from the federal government made tour.

it possible to bring back one staff member for six weeks to help coordinate a virtual tour guide project affectionately dubbed "The Harry Potter Technology Project." The project entails filming of actors portraying Oneida historical figures in front of a green screen. Digital Design Services of Green Bay will then convert the background into a log home setting like those in the Amelia Cornelius Culture Park on Salt Pork Avenue. Digital programming and audio will Fortunately, CARES ACT funding then create the magic of this virtual

Just like in the Harry Potter franchise, this technology will convert the film into what appears to be talking paintings which will be displayed in the Salt Pork Avenue log homes in the near future. Oneida Tourism will be the first organization to utilize this technology in Northeast Wisconsin.

As an uncertain 2021 dawns on the Nation, our tourism efforts will continue to look for new virtual technology to assist with the education of the greater public.

# Passing On



Wurth, Karen K. April 21, 1950 - November 26, 2020



Karen K. Wurth, age 70, of Gresham passed away Thursday, November 26, 2020 ThedaCare Medical Center, Shawano.

The former Karen Kay Erickson was born on April 21, 1950 in Tigerton to Carl and Dorothy (Denny) Erickson. She grew up on the family farm in the Bowler area. Karen graduated from Bowler High School in 1969 and went on to studying at NWTC in Green Bay. For a short time, she did the billing at a radiologist's office in Green Bay. Karen was united in marriage on April 7. 1973 to Donald L. Wurth at Immanuel Lutheran Church, Town of Morris. She stayed home for some years and enjoyed raising their two sons. Karen also transported a few kids with disabilities to school in Green Bay. Then she was employed for over 15 vears with the Oneida Tribal Land Management Office. While working at Oneida she was able to complete her bachelor's degree from the University of Phoenix.

Karen was a former member of Zion Lutheran Church, Gresham, where she was active on the Altar Guild and served as Treasurer. Currently, she is a member of St. Paul Lutheran Church - Stony Hill. Karen was a Life Member of the American Legion Ladies Auxiliary in Gresham, serving as Secretary and Treasurer. She liked playing cards and going deer hunting. Karen and Donald enioved several trips out west and down south. The couple also made maple syrup together for many years. She was the official "supervisor" and often helped with the sap collection and jarring of the syrup. Karen loved spending time with the grandchildren and will be remembered most as a

proud grandmother.

Survivors include her husband of 47 years, Don; and two sons, Ron (Jenny) Wurth of Appleton and Rob (Kristen) Wurth of Rothschild. There are three grandchildren, Jackson, Kaylee, and Kara Wurth. There are four siblings: Reuben Erickson of Bowler, Charles Erickson of Milwaukee, Diane (friend John) Cerveny of Gresham, and Ralph (friend Cindy) Erickson of Bowler. There are four sisters-in-law: Barbara Erickson of Shawano, Pam Erickson of Shawano, Grace Erickson of Kenosha, and Melody Wurth of Shawano. She is further survived by two brothersin-law, William (Debbie) Wurth of Clintonville and George Asenbrener of Pella; many nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

Karen was preceded in death by her parents; two sisters, an infant Helen Erickson and Jean Behnke; four brothers, Herbert, Gary, Andy, Roger Erickson; and a sister-in-law, Minnie Asenbrener.

We wish to thank all the doctors and nurses at ThedaCare Medical Center for the compassionate care given to Mom.



## John, Ernest "Butch" E. January 10, 1943 - November 26, 2020



Ernest "Butch" E. John, age 77, passed on to glory on Thanksgiving Day, November 26, 2020. He was born on January 10, 1943, to the late Lomas

and Nellie (Skenandore) John. He was a US Army veteran.

Everywhere he went, he was known as the "Candyman".

He is survived by his siblings: Clara Kerwin, Cora John, Andrew (Lorrie) John, Thomas (Adela) John, Myron

devoted wife, a loving mother, and a | (Judy) John, all of Oneida; as well as several nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends.

> In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his grandparents: Dixon and Jane Skenandore, and Peter and Elizabeth (Denny) John; brother, Ben (Selma) Jahn; and brother-in-law, Harold Kerwin.

> Private family services will take place for Butch. Muehl-Boettcher Funeral Home, Seymour, is assisting the family with arrangements.

> Special thanks to Crossroads Nursing Home and their staff for their kindness and caring for him. Thank vou also to St. Mary's Hospital for vour care.



## **Nicholas, Eldred Joseph** May 21, 1936 - December 3, 2020



Eldred Joseph Nicholas, 84. Oneida, passed away on Thursday evening, December 2020 following a short battle with Covid-19. The

voungest child of John and Jane (Denny) Nicholas was born on May 21, 1936 in Oneida.

Eldred served for four years as a United States Marine in the Korean War. Upon returning home, he worked in construction and enjoyed working on cars on the side.

He enjoyed cooking and baking, working in the yard, feeding his birds and spending time with his grandkids. He was always helping others, volunteering for the Oneida United Methodist Church and Unity Hospice.

Eldred was always putting a smile on other people's faces, with a story

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# Passing On

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or a joke. He was always comforting others, and even in his final days he was comforting family, telling them he was ready to meet his Lord.

Survivors include his wife Rebecca; children, Bonnie (Ernie) Nicholas-Marlewski, Geraldine (Joseph) Danforth, Frank (Cher) Nicholas, John (Shirley) Melchert, Laurie Melchert, Milton (Rebecca) Melchert, and Charlotte Skenandore. He is further survived by 21 grand-children, 35 great-grandchildren, sisters-in-law, Betty Nicholas and Alfreda Green; and other members of his extended family.

He was preceded in death by his parents, John and Jane; his daughter, Linda Nicholas; all of his siblings, and other extended family members.

Private family services were held at Ryan Funeral Home with Deacon Bobby Doxtator officiating. Burial will take place at a future date at Oneida United Methodist Cemetery with full Military Honors.



**Danforth, Yetsitsehewe** December 6, 1981 - December 3, 2020



Yetsitsehewe Danforth, whose Oneida name means "She's holding the flower", age 38, began her journey to the Creator's land on December 3.

2020. Yetsi was born December 6, 1981 to David and Janet (Webster) Danforth.

Yetsi was one of a kind. Her nieces and nephews knew her as "Auntie Teek". She enjoyed spending time with her children and family. She had a very caring heart not only for her family, but to all those she met

and was prideful of her Nation.

Yetsi had a special place in her heart for all her children, her parents and siblings. She is survived by her children: Iiyonna, Irie, Kendrick and Rickim. Her parents and her siblings: Shonna (Sterling) Danforth, Lataklolwatha (Tanya) Danforth, Shaleena Danforth, Margaret Danforth, Shaleesa (Kato) Danforth, Jennifer (Luke) Berg-Hargrove and Jeremy Berg. And her "look alike" Aunty Ruth Ann Miller.

Yetsi is further survived by her nephews: Brennan, Junior, Kupono, Kekoa, David, DeBron, Brody, Blake, Cayman, Laken, Keyen, Jermey, Jr., Tehan'sta\*litha, and Laknatakwe\*ku; nieces: Sasha, Sayjah, Briella, Santana and, Akasha parental Grandmother Marilyn Danforth and many aunts, uncles and relatives who brought great joy into her life.

Yetsi is preceded in death by her son Joseph Crumble and daughter Imaysheia Crumble, maternal grandparents Art and Rita Webster; paternal grandfathers Leander Danforth and Reginald Danforth and niece Alivia Hargrove.



Webster, Donald M. April 3, 1932 - December 4, 2020



Donald M. Webster died Friday, December 4, 2020 at the age of 88 from COVID-19.

He was born April 3, 1932 in Outagamie Coun-

ty in Wisconsin to parents Wilfred and Lena (nee Cornelius) Webster. Don served in the United States Army where he fought in the Korean War. He received numerous medals. He worked at Redford Paper Company for 40 years. Don was a devoted husband and was very involved in his church. He will be deeply missed

by friends, family, and all who knew him.

Don is survived by his wife Bernadette Webster (nee Nettesheim); twin daughters, Beatrice and Susan Webster; siblings, Kenneth (Pearl) Webster, and Dale (Bobbi) Webster; stepchildren, James (Joyce) Coffey, Barbara Coffey, Susan (Floyd) Funk; Steven Coffey, and Brian Coffey. He is further survived by grandchildren and great grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents; siblings, Joe (Helen) Webster, Orville Webster, Leroy Webster, Ronald Webster, Muriel Webster, and Arleen Elm; stepson, Michael Coffey; and grandchildren, Stacy Coffey and James Coffey Jr.

A private committal service will be held for the immediate family at St. John Cemetery in Monches with Deacon Allen Olsen officiating.



Webster, Sharon L. July 26, 1947 - December 7, 2020



Sharon L. Webster, 73, passed away on December 7, 2020. In Appleton, WI. She was born on July 26, 1947 in Green Bay, WI to Lester and Al-

thea (Parker) Schuyler.

Sharon was a proud member of the Oneida Nation. She graduated from Freedom High School. On May 27, 1965 Sharon was united in marriage to Larry Webster at the St. Joseph Catholic Church in Oneida. In her younger years she took pride in working numerous positions within the Oneida Nation. She enjoyed traveling and was especially fond of Albuquerque. Of her accomplishments she took most pride in her two kids. In her later years, as her health failed

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# Passing On

## From page 8/ Webster, Sharon L.

her, she enjoyed seeing her family. Through her struggles she never lost her quick wit, sarcastic sense of humor nor her ability to surprise one with her bold statements to say the least

Survivors include her husband Larry of Green Bay, two children Shad (Tanya) Webster and Danielle (Troy) White of Oneida; Grandchildren: Amber, Jacob and Leigha; one Greatgrand-daughter, Jaylee; step-grandchildren: Tyler, Alexandria, Jazmin, Tasha, Kiara and Joshua; her sister Shirley Jean Schuyler as well as her niece and nephew: LeeAnn (John) Schuyler, John (Margaret) Garsow and their families. She is furthered survived by aunts, uncles and cous-

Sharon was preceded in death by her parents, Lester and Althea and numerous aunts and uncles.

The family would like to give a special thank you to Dr. Flood for his care as well as Appleton Medical Center & Cherry Meadows Hospice for their care and compassion in the final days.

# Thank you to the community from the Nicholas family

The family of Eldred Nicholas wish ter for the health care they provided to thank everyone for their prayers and kind thoughts during Eldred's recent battle with COVID-19. We will miss him dearly. Additionally, our gratitude goes out to the COVID-19 team at St. Mary's Hospital who tirelessly tended to Eldred's needs prior to his passing.

We especially want to thank the administrative and medical staff at the Oneida Community Health Cen-

him for many, many years. Lastly, our heartfelt appreciation to Deacon Everett "Bobbie" Doxtator for officiating at the private funeral service and for his camaraderie and Godly advice.

The family will be holding a burial service for Eldred in May of 2021. Details and more info will be shared closer to the date.



Floresta, Marlene J. September 29, 1956 - December 1, 2020



Marlene Joy (Rubio) Floresta began her journev on December 1. 2020. Marlene was born on September 29, 1956, the youngest daughter of Luis

and Beverly (nee Archiquette) Rubio. Born and raised in Milwaukee, she moved to Green Bay in the early 90's where she worked at Oneida Casino for several years. Her next move took her to Kin Salmon, AK and she later settled in Dillingham, AK. She married Francisco Floresta on December 25, 2004. She ran a day care for many years in Alaska and found great happiness in caring for her "kids". Marlene was a nurturing person who was always available to help her family and friends when needed.

Marlene is survived by her husband: Francisco, 2 children: Gwendolin (Saaki) and Gerald (Angel), 10 grandchildren: Jodeci, Justina, Roman, Reyna Jo, Desiree, Diego, Gabriel, Galen, Tristen and Anastasia, 8 great grandchildren with 1 coming in January. Brothers: Jerold (Suzie), Luis (Tina) and Ronald (Laurie), Sisters: Denise (Harry) and Gayle

(Ellis). Many nieces, nephews and a family of friends both in Alaska and Wisconsin and her fur baby, Cuno. She was preceded in death by her brother, Joseph "Bernie" Rubio.

Private services were held. Interment Forest Home Cemetery.

## From page 1/ McLester

solidify a successful plan."

McLester would like the community to know that safety is paramount. "We're focused on providing a safe environment and experience for everybody," McLester said. "With us moving towards these contactless transactions and with sanitizing and cleaning throughout the day, mandatory masking, and barriers, we're doing everything we can to ensure our customers and employees are safe."

McLester also has a request for community patience. "Not everybody wears a mask when they come to the One Stop," McLester said. "There are a number of things like medical conditions that permit people to not wear a mask in public. But we're having our employees enforce the mask policy so it's a constant challenge for us.

"I need to express the appreciation we have for our employees," Mc-Lester said. "Police officers, nurses, and doctors are highly compensated, trained workers who deserve the extra pandemic pay. My contention with the OBC when we were trying to get that extra pay for our workers is that we're also frontline workers. For many kids this is their first job right out of high school and we're asking them to step right up in the line of fire and risk exposure to this thing. Our Retail employees are in that same category. I really give our employees a lot of credit because they've been doing a fantastic job."

McLester is the son of Betty and the late Gordon McLester.



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## **Oneida Nation Employment Opportunities**

The following positions are open to: All Applicants:

Position Title	Department	Job#	Closing Date
Dual Diagnosis Therapist	Behavioral Health	02186	Until Filled
Attorney	Law	09001	Until Filled
Community Advocate	Family Services	01772	Until Filled
Lay Advocate	Family Services	02757	Until Filled
Produce Assistant	Apple Orchard	01685	Until Filled
Special Education Teacher	Oneida Nation School	07103	Until Filled
Recovery Coach	Behavioral Health	03046	Until Filled
Dietitian – Youth Consultant	Community Health	00007	Until Filled

The following positions are Open to: All Applicants including employees on Layoff/Furlough Status:

Position Title	Department	Job#	Closing Date
Purchased Referred Care Supervisor	<b>Business Operations</b>	02524	12/18/2020
Purchased Referred Care Specialist	<b>Business Operations</b>	02525	12/18/2020
Community Health Representative	Community Health Nursing	00120	12/18/2020
Certified Medical Assistant	Employee Health Nursing	02398	12/18/2020

The following positions are Open to All Applicants (Pool Positions):

Position Title	Department	Job#	Closing Date
Certified Nursing Assistant	Nursing AJRCCC	00333	Ongoing Recruitment
Registered Nurse	Nursing AJRCCC	00406	Ongoing Recruitment
Retail Associate	Operations	00448	Ongoing Recruitment

The following positions are for **Gaming:** 

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Or contact the Human Resources Department at 920-496-7000