# WISCONSIN

# **Vatican's** sidestepping of moral, legal obligations pg 2

# Pearl McLester joins Oneida's centenarian club



**Photo courtesy Karen Krause** 

Oneida Nation treasure Pearl McLester is joining the tribe's centenarian club Tuesday, February 22, 2022. Nothing is more important to Pearl than her family, and she has introduced generations of McLesters to Turtle Island.

By Christopher Johnson Senior Reporter/Photographer

The Oneida Nation is about to welcome the newest member to its centenarian club, and she is still as sharp as a tack. Beloved matriarch Pearl McLester will turn 100-yearsold Tuesday, February 22, 2022, and her adoration for family and friends is as strong as ever.

Born Pearl Schuyler on Ray Road in Oneida to parents Hattie Lavina Moore Schuyler and James E. Schuyler, she recalls with great clarity what life was like on the reservation before all the unending hustle and bustle of modern living. "As a kid we had to walk to school and it was quite a long walk, but we always managed to get there," Pearl said. "Today you never hear of it but families would get together all the time. I remember families always getting together and playing cards after supper."

Close interpersonal relationships have always been an important part of Pearl's life since the beginning, and she feels people should do a better job of building those relationships with others. "We really need to take the time to get to know one another and give others a chance so we can understand how they think," Pearl said. "Also getting your kids and teenagers to church on a regular basis is very important. Having good neighbors and generosity are things I would really love to see in our community again."

She counts making things for the holidays among her favorite memories from growing up in Oneida. "I absolutely loved making things, the boys would make toys and other Christmas presents also," Pearl said. "We all grew up around some really good cooks out here."

Pearl married Lee McLester in 1939 and the young family moved to Detroit in 1939, returning to Oneida after World War II.

> Continued on PG 14 **Pearl McLester**

## **CULTURE**

Thanksgiving Address PG 5

## TALK BACK

PG 6

Ask the Business Committee Daniel Guzman King

We are made of Stories - Elder

interviews return

**ELDERS VIDEOS** 

**PG 7** 

# Vatican's sidestepping of moral, legal obligations on full display for Canada's Indigenous

By Christopher Johnson Senior Reporter/Photographer

Much of the world reacted in shock at the 2021 discovery of 215 children's remains in unmarked graves at British Columbia's Kamloops Indian Residential School. Within weeks more than 1,000 children's bodies were then uncovered at more of these predominantly Catholic Church-run "schools" across Canada, sparking outrage from across Turtle Island by Indigenous peoples who, for many generations, knew of the horrors being committed at these facilities but were never listened to.

Even as the Catholic Church remains in damage control mode throughout the world for the torment heaped upon innocent children going back centuries in a variety of now well-known scandals, an actual apology from the pontiff himself for the glaring misdeeds of the church doesn't appear to be coming any time soon. Calls for a public papal apology on Canadian soil have come from Indigenous leaders, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, the Canadian Parliament, and more, but those hopes were initially stifled by the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops who wield the real power behind any visit from the pope.

While the pope is authoritative over the Catholic Church, he respects the autonomy of local bishops, and without a unanimous invitation from local bishops, the pope will not simply show up in a foreign country. Therefore, the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops was not unanimous in its opinions regarding the need for an apology until it finally gave in to mounting pressure from the public in October 2021. It was then the Vatican finally announced the Canadian bishops had extended an invitation for a papal visit in the "context of the long-standing pastoral process of reconciliation with



**Getty Images** 

A few of the 215 children's graves discovered unmarked on the grounds of the former Kamloops Indian Residential School in British Columbia in 2021. Indigenous leaders have called for a formal papal apology on Canadian soil however, given the church's blatant disregard for its moral and legal obligations to Indigenous survivors stemming from a 2005 settlement, that's probably not going to happen.

Indigenous peoples." Yet neither the bishops nor the Vatican made any mention of a planned apology, and no date has been given for the visit.

In June 2021, following the heinous discoveries at the schools, Pope Francis invited a small delegation of Canadian bishops, First Nations, Inuit, and Metis leaders to Rome for December meetings, however the visit was indefinitely postponed because of the ongoing pandemic. No mention was made by any members of the delegation or the Vatican of a planned apology.

In 2010 Pope Benedict XVI apologized directly to victims and families of church sexual abuse in Ireland but stopped short of requiring any discipline of the Roman Catholic leaders responsible, and there were no apologies given to other countries involved in the same scandal. In 2015 Pope Francis apologized to the Indigenous peoples of what is now Bolivia for the church's role in the brutality of colonization, and while other examples

of papal apologies exist many feel the church's continued adherence to their Doctrine of Discovery hollows out any words of apology.

Written by Pope Alexander VI in 1493, the Doctrine of Discovery says all lands not inhabited by Christians are available to be "discovered," claimed, and exploited by Christians. It was the basis for all European land claims in the Americas and the foundation for the westward expansion of the United States. Condemned by the United Nations for its human rights violations, the church's refusal to denounce the doctrine demonstrates their own hypocrisy. It was also cited as recently as 2005 by late Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg in her land ruling against the Oneida Indian Nation of New York.

Continued on PG 17
Vatican

# Environmental Audubon Partnership



Photos courtesy Environmental, Health, Land and Agricultural Division

Volunteers discussing the birds they saw after a morning of birding!

#### By Anthony Kuchma

Wetland Project Manager

With over 20 years of habitat restoration behind us, the Oneida Nation is reaching some big milestones with our efforts to restore the natural environment. Nearly 1,000 acres have been reforested, over 1,000 acres of native prairie grassland have been planted and about 1,000 acres of wetland have been restored. By removing dams and modifying road culverts fish are now able swim over 200 miles upstream. We have also restored over 4 miles of stream habitat. Brook Trout once again live in some of these streams.

When we set out to restore habitat like a prairie, stream, or wetland, we need to understand how successful that effort was. One way to do this is to look at who is living there. Are the plants that define a prairie growing here? Have frogs, turtles, fish and aquatic insects found a home here? What birds have returned and are they nesting here? The answer to these questions provides an indication of how healthy the restored habitats are and can guide how we manage them.

One of our larger and more recent projects involved the restoration of 300 acres of prairie, 50 acres of wetland and 60 acres of reforestation. The project started in 2018 with the planting of the prairie and wrapped up in 2020 with tree planting and the construction of an earthen berm to restore wetlands. This area is

located between County U and Olson Road and south of Reformatory Road. A partnership with Northeast Wisconsin Audubon Society and UW Green Bay lead to the development of a volunteer bird monitoring effort at this newly restored habitat. There were 7 expert "birders" who paired with 25 volunteers to document the birds using the grasslands and wetlands. Over 100 bird species were identified with over 15,000 total birds documented! The numbers and diversity of the birds using this area indicate a very healthy ecosystem.

This information not only provides an indication health, it also guides management decisions. By knowing what species of birds are here, where they are nesting and what their habitat preferences are, we can plan management activities. This spring we plan to burn a portion of the prairie. When the prairie begins to regrow after the fire, some species like Bobolinks and Meadowlarks will move right in. They prefer freshly burned areas. Other species like Henslow's Sparrow and Sedge Wrens will move to the more established portions of the prairie that have a thick ground layer of dead plants from the previous growing seasons.

Keep an eye out for upcoming announcements for how to become a volunteer this year. There are some exciting events planned for those who volunteer!



Randy Cornelius



Migratory shorebirds



Over 50 acres of wetland, 300 acres of prairie grassland and 60 acres of reforested lands were recently restored.

# This week in Oneida history: From February 11, 1999

# Two year old HRD fire still a burning issue

By Kevin Moore Kalihwisaks

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A GTC petition asking that a \$100,000 reward be offered in connection with a suspicious fire at the Human Resources Department is moving forward.

The Business Committee will consider the petition at its Wednesday meeting.

The fire on March 8, 1997 caused approximately \$60,000 in structural damage, and burned records. The records were recovered from computer files.

Julie Barton said the petition signatures were validated, and Treasurer Kathy Hughes office is studying the financial impact of the request.

No specific time was given on when the treasurer's office would release its findings, but Barton said the issue should be back on the BC agenda in one or two weeks.

Green Bay Fire Chief John Troeger said the fire "appears to be intentionally set."

Richard Decker, Green Bay Police detective, said the investigation is "still open, and we're welcoming information on it. We have been contacted, but nothing recently. It's on the back burner. We haven't worked on it for the last year. Our case load got full. We have evidence, and it will stay put. I've always felt the case is suspicious, but there are no major leads we're on at this time. I'm interested in any leads, and money speaks."

Barton said since the case is still under investigation, "something could be identified without a reward. It's a matter of waiting."

The petition also asks that the conflict of interest and disclosure policy be discontinued, "because



Kalihwisaks file photos

Marianne Close, Compensation Team Director, cleans her office following the fire that occurred at the HRD Building on March 8, 1997. Structural damage, inset, along with burned records were reported

of its vague, arbitrary and overly broad nature (that has) resulted in the unnecessary infringement of the freedoms of association guaranteed to the Oneida people ... which have resulted in ... blacklisting."

The request comes after the consulting services of a UW-Madison professor and attorney, Richard Monette, were discontinued. Monette had been advising the constitutional review committee on proposed changes in the Oneida Constitution. Monette said he had six separate contracts with the CRC, and when the investigative task force tried to hire him, the law office said there was a conflict of interest because he was working with

the CRC. Monette said he didn't have a contract with the CRC at the time.

Monette said the law office asked him about a document a student of Monette's drafted, that Monette called an "academic lesson" referring to "arguments that the BC was doing something wrong ... that wasn't intended to be filed.

"I have done nothing wrong," Monette said. "I've always gotten along with the tribe. I've sent students to the tribe to work for free that helped in legislative matters."

> See Page 2 HRD Fire

# HRD Fire From Page 1

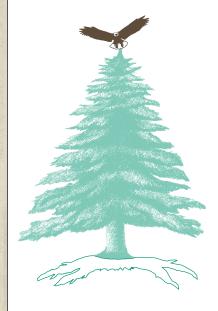
Barton said, "There are two issues there we have to look at ... tribal protection on both sides we have to consider." The petition "still has to serve all people in their best interest," she said. "We sometimes react to petitions," without realizing the "length of time it takes to protect everyone."

Barton said the petition is being reviewed by attorneys, and that consideration is being given to whether a reward "could be done without the GTC if an appropriate funding source," were found. "I don't know if we want a witch-hunt, if there is money out there. It's a little touchy at the mom since it's (the investigation) open.

"The GTC seizing the moment may not be the most practical if it's all ready in process, or not the time, because of the budget.

"Are there individuals identified? It gets sticky if the process is disrupted," Barton said.

Kalihwisaks Archives 1999



# Oneida Thanksgiving Address

#### By Bob Brown

Onáyóte?a·ká· niyukwahútsyo·tá ne· ká?iká tsi? niyukwalíhotá. These words or phrase has been always been embedded in my mind. I grew up being raised by my grandparents, on both sides of my family. We lived right next door to my fathers grandparents. It was a very natural setting for us, being in and around all my elders who all had a hand in my upbringing. So knowing and understanding the language was the same as breathing. So fast forward in time, I had went to ceremonies with my Akshót and it was there that I would sit and listen to the various old men speaking, and to me each of them seemed like they were singing. And the words they spoke of was how we should always have gratitude and be thankful with all that is around us.

That the Creator has taken time and consideration of what he felt would be necessary to be here on earth for our well-being. That all were very significant to one another. So it was at that time I started to formulate my own thoughts of how I can relate these same kinds of words as well, some time. There was also a time when sitting there, and in between dances and songs, one of the elder men would stand up and give words of encouragement to everyone, especially to the parents of small children. He would say that it's very important that we bring in the kids to these ceremonies, cause it's not known how long some of us will still be here, moving about. He would go on to say that those who have gone on, meaning our ancestors, have one time or another said these very words on encouragement. The children are important, cause they will be the one who's shoulders will lay all of these things that we do, for the next generation to come.

Somewhere here today he would say, sits a boy or girl, listening to what I am saying. He or she will take in as much as they can to continue it forward, to those who's faces that will emerge from the earth. So it was that encouragement that grasped me to learn as much as I could. When I asked my Akshót, she said that perhaps it would be best to start with doing the opening. Once I can do this, and then the other meanings of things will follow. And so I did this, practiced and spoke to my uncles and grandfathers, and teach of them had their own words that they shared. They would say to put in the best words you can to dress up of how you give thanks. When the old people hear this, it will put a smile on their face and tear in their eye. When you are able to do this, then you can continue on to learn other parts of what our ancestors laid out for us to move forward to the coming generations. The People were very strong in their beliefs and their ways. Let's put our minds together. So be it in our minds

Our mother earth takes care of all lives.

Let's put our minds together. So be it in our minds

Grass carpets the earth.

Let's put our minds together. So be it in our minds

Strawberries are good medicine that helps all the people.

Let's put our minds together. So be it in our minds

Tobacco the head of all the medicines here on earth.

Let's put our minds together. So be it in our minds

Three sisters are the leaders of all foods here on earth.

Let's put our minds together. So be it in our minds

Medicines here on earth were left for all Oneidas and other Indian benefits. Let's put our minds together. So be it in our minds

Deer here were left they are the head of all animals and also the reason here they stay to help the Oneidas.

Let's put our minds together. So be it in our minds

Maple they gave us for syrup a medicine in the spring to give thanks to all the trees.

Let's put our minds together. So be it in our minds

Water they give us strength also a good life. Water gives us strength to live. Let's put our minds together. So be it in our minds

The winds bring the changing of the seasons.

Let's put our minds together. So be it in our minds

Birds their songs they use to lift our minds when we are sad.

Let's put our minds together. So be it in our minds

The thunders wakes us up here on earth spring it brings the warm winds for all things to grow.

Let's put our minds together. So be it in our minds

Our grandmother, the moon has charge of women's needs.

Let's put our minds together. So be it in our minds

Our eldest brother the sun helps us for all things to grow whatever our foods for our survival. He gives us light to be able then to work every day. Let's put our minds together. So be it in our minds

The stars give us light so that we don't get lost also tells us when it's that time when to give thanks to the winter.

Let's put our minds together. So be it in our minds

Four messengers they give us guidance how that all became of one same mind (thinking).

Let's put our minds together. So be it in our minds

The one who made all things that we are thankful here on earth. Let's put our minds together. So be it in our minds

# talkback

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# **Rights of Nature**



Councilman

Daniel Guzman King

The Oneida Nation has acknowledged and proclaimed that our Mother the earth has rights. Just like our natural mothers, she provides for and sustains all life in this world. And with that, we have the obligation to protect her and those inherent rights to exist and not be destroyed. Our people have had a relationship with and co-existed with the natural world since time immemorial but not all cultures and societies do.

This past October the Oneida Nation passed a resolution opposing the Enbridge pipelines #3 and #5. Enbridge has a long history of catastrophic oil spills and continues to destroy the earth solely for profit. Sadly line #3 has already been completed, cutting across tribal territories in northern Minnesota. Now they want to cut across northern Wisconsin to replace an old pipe, which will inevitably fail again. We need to take a stand as a people and as protectors of mother earth. I urge you to take a moment of your time to do some research, share information, and provide a written comment to WI DNR at: Department of Natural Resources, Line 5 EIS Comments (EA/7), 101 South Webster Street, Madison, WI 53707, Email: DNROEEACOMMENTS@ **WI.GOV** 

# WATER IS LIFE.

# MIS gets a new name: DTS



**Dr. Shane Archiquette** 

Shekoli Swekwaku!

Welcome to the inaugural Digital Technology Services (DTS) Update which is the monthly Newsletter for the DTS Department to share information about our operations and initiatives with the Oneida Nation employees. As I have been in the CIO role for almost 90 days, I have come to know many great people in the DTS organization and am immensely proud of how our department is advancing and evolving to meet the needs of the Oneida Nation employees and Tribal Members.

You may be wondering what Digital Technology is and why we decided to rename the MIS department to the DTS Department. In this initial CIO Corner, I will provide an explanation of the role of Digital Technology within the Nation as well as describe the process of what is known as Digital Transformation and how the effort will benefit each of us in our work and daily lives.

First to describe 'Digital' Technology is to understand that the definition is expanding beyond traditional 'Information' Technology or IT. Digital technologies are electronic tools, systems, devices and resources that generate, store or process data. Digital Technology encompasses newer areas of the Technology spectrum such as:

- Cloud Computing
- · Digital and Social Media
- Artificial Intelligence (AI)
- 5G Telecom Networks
- Internet of Things (IoT)
- Blockchain, Crypto-Currency, Non-Fungible Tokens (NFTs)
- Robotics
- Augmented and Virtual Reality (AR/VR)
- Digital Security

In the industry known to many as 'ICT' which is Information and Communications Technology, there have been a few definitions to describe the department within companies and organizations that serves this function that have evolved over the past 30 years from MIS to IT and ITS. These departments have served as a support function for desktop, server, storage technology requirements and data services. A Digital Technology Services department expands the role and function of services that are provided to the organization and is seen as an enabler of innovative technologies which intend to benefit the organization in areas of cost reductions, automation, access to real-time information, and enhanced working & living conditions.

The process used to describe how an organization goes from standard technology to Digital Technology enablement is known as Digital Transformation. We are well into our journey of transforming our operation to understand and adopt the Technologies that make practical sense but also advance our capabilities to serve our Business Units and Divisions. The Oneida Nation will evolve to become a Digital First organization which will provide enhanced services to our Tribal Members, improve our overall Environment, and facilitate Land Acquisition as part of our unified Mission to the Oneida people.

Yawλko Dr. Shane Archiquette

# We are made of Stories



Ida Celisia Powless Moore

**Photo Courtesy Elder Video Project** 

The late Gordon McLester, a respected Oneida Nation elder and historian, conducted a vast number of tribal community elder video interviews between 1994-2007.

#### By Michelle Danforth

Tourism & Marketing Director

Ida Celisia Powless Moore was born in 1930 in Oneida, Wisconsin. Her mother was Delia King and her father was Peter Powless. Her dad was an auto mechanic in Chicago, and they moved there when she was 9 years old. One of her dad's customers, got him a better job working

I'm in Oneida now, on Standing Stone Drive, right over there. Best place to live.

**Ida Celisia Powless Moore** 

for an air compressor technician and he did that for 30 years. She didn't know the Oneida language but learned a few Oneida

songs. She sang the Oneida song to him on his death bed and he said, "Ida you are the best darn daughter I ever had." As she chuckled in joy she said "I didn't tell the other daughters." Even though she didn't live here, she did come and visit every summer and stay with her grand parents who didn't have electricity or running water.

She graduated in 1948 and she wanted to go to college. Her dad wanted her to go to college but the Indian Colleges were too far away. She settled on Beloit College for her junior and senior year because there was a nice Indian family that lived in Beloit that she could stay with. She was a drama and English major and became a teacher in Janesville, WI. She was very active in acting and theater. In 1955, one of her friends who worked in NY said "Why don't you come to NY and try to break into Broadway." Her mother knew a woman whose nephew was Russel Moore if she ever got home sick. She stuck it out for a while and then around Christmas. she met Russel and she married him 2 weeks later. She worked as a switch board operator and never broke in. Russel "Big Chief" Moore was a musician and played with Loui Armstrong. It opened a lot of exciting memories. To find out more about Ida's life and other elder stories check out Oneida Digital Media on YouTube. Big Bear Media will soon premier a database with all of McLester's elder interviews recorded between 1994 - 2007.



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# **NOTIFICATION**

# New COVID-19 Isolation & **Ouarantine Guidelines**

**Guidance based on new CDC recommendations** Please Note: Healthcare personnel will follow separate guidelines

# IF YOU TEST POSITIVE FOR COVID-19 (ISOLATION)

**Everyone, regardless of vaccination status must:** 

- Isolate for 5 days, whether you have symptoms or not. The 5 day clock stats the day your symptoms developed or your test date if you do not have symptoms development or your test date if you do not have any symptoms (symptoms onset date/test date is day 0).
- After 5 days, If symptoms are resolving, your can return to normal activities but must continue to wear a mask in all settings (home/in public) for another 5 days.
- If your symptoms have not improved after the 5 days, continue to isolate until you fell better.

# IF YOU WERE EXPOSED TO SOMEONE WITH COVID-19 (QUARANTINE)

If you received your booster vaccine

You completed the primary series of Pfizer or Moderna vaccine within the last 6 months

OR

You completed the primary series of Johnson & Johnson vaccine within the past 2 months

- You can skip quarantine if a mask is worn in all settings (home/in public) for at least 10 days.
- Test on day 5 if possible.
- If you develop symptoms, get a test and stay home.

ONEIDA

If you completed the primary series of Pfizer or Moderna vaccine over 6 months ago and have not received your booster vaccine

Completed the primary series of Johnson & Johnson over 2 months ago and have not received your booster vaccine

OR

#### Are unvaccinated

- Stay home and quarantine for 5 days. The 5 day clock starts the last day you were exposed to the virus (last day of exposure is day 0).
- After day 5, continue to wear a mask in all settings (home/in public) for 5 additional days.
- Test on day 5 if possible.
- If you develop symptoms, get a test and stay home.

# **COMMUNITY EVENTS**

## COVID-19 Vaccine Opportunities All Moderna, Pfizer and Johnson & Johnson Doses will be available

February 2022 • Health Center

- 2/1 2:30 4:30pm By appointment for ages 5-11 yrs.
- 2/2 9am 3pm Walk-in for people 12+ years
- 2/9 9am 3pm Walk-in for people 12+ years
- 2/16 9am 3pm Walk-in for people 12+ years
- 2/1 2:30 4:30pm By appointment for ages 5-11 yrs.
- 2/9 9am 3pm Walk-in for people 12+ years

For appointment schedule, please call 920-869-4939. Please bring your Covid-19 vaccination card.

## Wisconsin Virtual Tribal Caregiver Connect Session

The Tribal Caregiver Connect session is supported by the Tribal Dementia Care Specialist in the state. Caregiver connect sessions are a great way to share stories, get tips and strategies from other caregivers and discover that you are not alone in your caregiving journey

Every 4th Tuesday of the month from 12-1 pm Price: Free

Register, please contact: Deb Miller/ Oneida Tribal DCS @ 920-869-4854 or dmiller4@oneidanation.org.

#### **Stroke Prevention Research Study**

Native American 55 and Over

You are invited to participate in the Native American Stroke Prevention Research Study. This study is a partnership between the Oneida Nation and UW-Madison to decrease Stroke and Stroke Risk Factors in the Native American population.

Participation is Free. All research is performed on the Oneida Reservation.

Contact Amanda for Sign up and questions at 920-490-3984.



# FY-2021 Late 65+ Payment Per Capita Reminder!

The deadline to submit Late FY-21 Per Capita Payment forms is:

# Tues., March 1st, 2022 4:30pm

Payments for all acceptable forms will be deposited/mailed on:

## **Thurs., March 31st, 2022**

Please visit our website for more information: https://oneidansn.gov/resources/enrollments
Oneida Trust Enrollment Department

- PO Box 365, Oneida WI 54155-0365
- (920) 869-6200 800-571-9902



# APPLY TODAY Oneida Nation Boards, Committees, or Commissions

Vacancies and applications are posted on our website here: https://oneida-nsn.gov/government/boards-committees-and-commissions/vacancies/

You can also contact the Government Administrative Office (GAO) at (920) 869-4364 for more information.



# Oneida Emergency Rental Assistance Program

Funded by the US department of Treasury



Rent and Home Energy Utility Payment Assistance Program

# Applications accepted until September 17, 2022

Eligible households may receive assistance with arrears up to 12 months and/or up to 3 months of current or future rent costs.

Mortgage payments and home owner utility payments are not eligible.

## **Apply online:**

https://oneida-nsn.gov/resources/economic-support/special-programs/ oneida-emergency-rental-assistance-program/

Contact Oneida Economic Support to apply by phone or email 920-490-3884 • Economic support@oneidanation.org

# OCHC, UW Madison School of Nursing offer Tribal Immersion Clinical



Community Health Nursing and UW Madison Nursing students

**Photos Courtesy Candi Cornelius** 

#### **By Candi Cornelius**

Oneida Prenatal Care Nurse

In January 2022 the Oneida Community Health Center (OCHC) was able to be a clinical site for the second time to two UW Madison Nursing students who identified as being Native American (enrolled or descendant of any National tribe).

The first time was in 2020 which was a huge success, then in 2021 OCHC was unable to be a site due to staffs' increased focus on COVID pandemic response tasks. OCHC was happy to be able to be able to precept students again this year with established COVID precautions in place.

The nursing students are also a part of a program called STREAM (Success Through Recruitment/Retention, Engagement and Mentorship). STREAM is a program in the UW School of Nursing that started in 2017. STREAM was designed to help Native American nursing students achieve their goal of becoming a professional nurse and to obtain experience working in tribal communities that is difficult to obtained at a UW college.

In 2020 STREAM designed a two-week clinical called, Experiential Learning in Tribal Communities to help students gain experience in tribal communities. This would give students a unique opportunity to work with native patients and increase interest in working in tribal health in the future.

This year the two students at OCHC were able to learn about majority of Oneida Comprehensive Health Division programs. They were able to spend time with a Pediatric Nurse, Infection Control Nurse, Diabetic Team, Employee Health, School Nurse, Community Health Nurses and Health Promotion staff along with helping at the COVID vaccinations at the OCHC clinics. The students also participated in a Culture Retreat where they learned about Oneida history, culture, and indigenous foods. Both students expressed sincere gratitude for this opportunity and learned a lot.

The Clinical Instructor and Preceptor are both enrolled Oneida nurses: Kala-Kim Cornelius, DNP RN and Candi Cornelius, MSN RN.

If you are or know of a UW Madison student interested in Nursing and/or STREAM contact, Kala-Kim Cornelius at: ckimberly@wisc.edu or visit the website for more information: nursing. wisc.edu/diversity.



(L-R): Instructor Kala Cornelius, Nursing Student Lauren Smith, Nursing Student Taylor Dirienzo, Preceptor Candi Cornelius

# Our family's decision? Stepping up her safety.



→ Because COVID-19 can be serious for kids, too.

Getting COVID-19 can have real consequences for a child's health, from a hospital stay to living with "long COVID" symptoms. Taking simple steps as a family—like wearing a mask in class or getting kids the free COVID-19 vaccine for ages 5 and up—can help kids stay safe and in school.



Get started today at dhs.wi.gov/covid19/parents

# **OBITUARIES**

# JESSE SCOTT CARTER October 21, 1965 - December 13, 2021



Jesse Scott Carter, born October 21, 1965, in Black Creek, WI. He was a resident of WI until he entered the National Guard after his

High School graduation. He was living in Monroe, Washington, when he passed away at the UW Medicine-Harborview Medical Center in Seattle, WA, on December 13, 2021 at the age of 56. Jesse had Covid and even though the hospitals tried valiantly to save his life it was not to be.

He was preceded in death by his wife Cheri Bazz and by his father and mother, Crawford Lee Carter and Christina Inez Louise (Wilber) Carter, Green Bay, WI. Also, his older siblings, sister, Linda Lee Carter, brother, James Edward Carter and sister, Doris Marie Carter. Jesse is survived by his sister, Karen Taylor of TX, brother James Carter of MN, sister Kathleen Carter of TX, brother John Carter and wife Kim, of KY, sister Jean Key of AZ, sister Debra Carter of Seattle, WA, Cherryl Carter of Seattle WA and sister Diana and husband, Fernando Chavarria of Green Bay, WI.

He had one remaining auntie, Robin Emmerton of Oneida, WI and one uncle Jay Carter of Garland, TX, numerous nieces, nephews and cousins. Jesse was an avid reader and a Christian. He studied his Bible and could quote chapter and verse on almost any topic.

Jesse cared deeply for his family and showed his love to each of us in various ways. He loved his nieces and nephews and was a very giving person. We are going to miss him so much. We have had his body cremated and are planning to spread his ashes in Oneida in the Spring of this year 2022.

## DONNA (DENNY) DOXTATOR June 10, 1936 - February 1, 2022



On February 1, 2022 Jesus reached down & Donna took His hand as He ushered her home. Born in Green Bay on June 10, 1936,

she was the middle child of Dewey and Armenia (McHugh) Denny.

She was a member of Green Bay East High School class of '54 and thoroughly loved her years as a majorette in the EHS Band. She continued her love for band music. She still had her baton & on occasion would pick it up and give it a twirl, saying it kept her fingers from getting arthritic.

Donna held several work positions in her lifetime and assisted in the start-up of the Library at St. Joseph School, currently known as Lady of Lourdes in De Pere. She then spent the next 32 years at St. Norbert College, as Assistant Bookstore manager and then as Textbook buyer for the college, retiring in May '99, or so she thought. In November of '99, she was hired by United Financial Group of Appleton as Administrative Assistant for Nicolet Highland Apts. for Seniors in De Pere, finally retiring January 2015. Donna said she used to be an avid book reader until she had to catalog every book in the library and was surrounded with books at the college for the next 32 years. From the time she asked Christ into her life in 1980 until her death, her favorite book was the Bible and she tried to live according to God's word.

Donna had a love for young adults and from Jan. '97 to Dec. of 2014 she was host mother to 17 different St. Norbert students, mostly enrolled in the ESL program. They included students from Korea, Japan, Spain, Mexico, 5 other Central & South American countries and Anna from Appleton, WI. Donna continued to keep in touch with most of them until her death.

Donna is survived by life's greatest blessing, her children, son Randall "Doc" Doxtator, Green Bay, daughter, Mary Jo (Swanzie) Nash of Oneida. She is further survived by her brother Tim (Gen) Denny, Green Bay, sister Jodi (Dennis) Maroszek of De Pere, 2 grandchildren, Swanzie "Lee" Nash III, Belvidere, IL, Angela Flegel (Lucas) of Green Bay plus several other cousins, nieces and nephews and last but not least, her special Bible Study Family that has always been there to care for her and share the love of Jesus for the last 41 years.

She was preceded in death by both parents, sister Jean Denny, and brother Jack Denny.

## DONNA JOYCE DRAKE(NEE SKENANDORE) May 23, 1961 - January 12, 2022



Donna Joyce Drake (Nee Skenandore) Of Waukesha passed away peacefully with family by her side on Wednesday January 12, 2022

at the age of 60.

Donna was a long-time employee of ITU in New Berlin since 1979 where she made many friends.

She continued working after her struggle with kidney disease and a successful kidney transplant. She had a love of crafting and the color pink!

She will be greatly missed by her husband Bruce G. Drake, siblings Judith (Dennis) Troemel, Cheryl Skolaski, Burton Skenandore and Jessie, twin brother Donald Skenandore, several nieces, nephews and her Drake family. Preceded in death by her parents Burton and Lucinda (Nee Cornelius) Skenandore, sister Janet Skenandore, brother Richard Paul Skenandore, brother-in-law Paul Skolaski, and sister-in-law Cheryl Skenandore.

A memorial service will be scheduled at a later date.

## HARVEY M. SKENANDORE, SR., February 9, 1945 - January 31, 2022



Harvey M. Skenandore, Sr., 76, Oneida, passed away at home on Monday, January 31, 2022. He was born on February 9, 1945, to the late Edward and Electa

(Skenandore) Skenandore. Harvey enlisted in the U.S. Army, and proudly served his country in the early 1960s. He was united in marriage to Patricia "Patsy" Danforth on November 20, 1965, at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Oneida.

Harvey was a longtime member of Holy Apostles Episcopal Church in Oneida. He worked at CA Lawton Co in De Pere for many years until his retirement. Harvey was a member of Wisconsin Indians Veterans Association - Oneida Chapter. He enjoyed shooting dart ball with the Oneida Methodist Church members. Harvey had a passion for playing cribbage and bingo. He also liked fishing, traveling, cooking, and going out to eat. He was an avid Green Bay Packers fan. Harvey's greatest passion in life was spending time with his family, especially his grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

He is survived by wife of 56 years, Patsy Skenandore; four children: Lisa Skenandore, Diane Corn, Harvey Jr. (Maria) Skenandore, and Amanda Skenandore, seven grandchildren: Melissa, Jessica (Jeremy), Jamie (Louis), Christopher (Laquitta), Cody, Jaya, and Michelle; 14 great-grandchildren: Tanaya, Nevaeh, Wiley, Julian, Landon, Andy, Stadler, Jordan, Peyton, Rahmani, Nyomi,

Robin, Noah, and Bryan; one sister, Betty Nicholas; one brother, Edward (Beverly) Skenandore; one sister-in-law, Mary Ann Kruckeberg; his special nephew, Kenny Skenandore; numerous nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

He was preceded in death by one son, Michael Lee Skenandore; one granddaughter, Janessa Lynn Skenandore; one grandson, Christopher Hebb; siblings: Mary (Lee) Hill, Corneil (Delores) Skenandore, Lorraine (Garrett) Thomas, Loretta (Joseph) Valentino, Frank (Yvonne) Skenandore, and Hartman Skenandore; and one brother-in-law, Edwin Nicholas.

Online condolences may be expressed to Harvey's family at www.muehlboettcher. com.

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## From page 1/ Pearl McLester

She brought seven children to Turtle Island, and they gave her 20 grandchildren. She now has 44 great-grandchildren as well as 22 great-great-grandchildren. "Every single one of my children and grandchildren are precious and good kids," Pearl said. "When I hear that I have good kids, it really means the world to me."

Her son Gordon took the bull by the horns and created a great legacy of elder videos for our community to enjoy, but video production work from some in the younger generations has left Pearl with much to be desired. "I'm sick of the language kids use today," Pearl said. "Our kids need to know their own language and they need to use good language. It's up to us and it's our own fault as mothers and fathers who don't know the good language to use."

Having served a significant amount of time on the Oneida Nation Commission on Aging, there are still a few things Pearl would love to see implemented. "We are not teaching elders the new technology or the language they grew up with," Pearl said.

"She is a great lady who has been through so many things," her daughter, Winnie Thomas, said. "She witnessed electricity come to the reservation. We all grew up with outhouses, so the first time she had indoor plumbing was on County Line U. She's witnessed so many changes in the community that we just take for granted today. We had to haul water in milk jugs, but today you just turn the faucet and there it is. And I'll never forget the 18 years she spent at the Sacred Heart Seminary working as a cook.

"In January 1948 my mother gave birth to my sister Pearl (Webster) at home," Thomas said. "In May of that same year I lost a younger sister to tuberculosis meningitis, so we were all tested and mom came up positive. She was put in a sanatorium and my twin brothers Ronald and Donald McLester were born in December 1948. So, she gave birth to three and lost one in 1948 and she's a miraculous lady.

"She had a kidney removed in 1957 long before that type of surgery was done and she was sent home with these huge staples from the center of her stomach to the middle of her back, but she weathered that storm," Thomas said. "She has been through so many things and she's just an incredible lady, and we owe it all to my grandma and grandpa Schuyler. My grandpa Schuyler used to always tell us 'You're made of strong stock.'

Do better than the next guy down the road but know they may be in the same situation as you are. Just remember we're only here for a little while and know God put us all here for a very good reason.

#### **Pearl McLester**

Many may be wondering what the secret to a long, fruitful life may be. Pearl's pretty sure she has the answers. "It's all in the way we live," she said. "Good, clean food. We didn't have fancy food while growing up, but we had good, healthy food. Different than what we have today. We need good food for a long life. We also need to teach our kids to be respectful and to always keep in contact with family."

When asked if there were some things she wishes she could experience again, Pearl replied, "I would like to go back to my father's house and relive there and relive life. I'd like to go back to where we all got along and were so close."

At 100, Pearl McLester wants everybody younger than her to keep pursuing the truly important things in life and keep contributing to Oneida's fire in a good way. "I didn't make the fire; we are all out there giving to the fire as far as I'm concerned. We must all get out and do it in a decent way. Do better than the next guy down the road but know they may be in the same situation as you are. Just remember we're only here for a little while and know God put us all here for a very good reason," Pearl said.

Pearl's family will be hosting a 100th Birthday Party for her Saturday, February 26, at the Congregate Dining Hall of the Anna John Resident Centered Care Community from 1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. The celebration is open to the public. Cake and punch will be served, and all COVID-19 protocols and masking will be strictly adhered to. To view Gordon McLester's series of Oneida elder videos, please visit.



**Photo courtesy McLester Family** 

On February 22, 1922, it was the worst ice storm in US history. Her dad hitched up a team of horses and begain the treak to Seymour, WI to fetch the doctor. Half way there, he had to turn around and get a second team of horses to get through the snow and ice.



**Photos courtesy McLester Family** 



Missy and Pearl

Top Row (L-R): Lester Schuyler, Mary Schuyler, Pearl Schuyler (McLester) James Schuyler, Hattie Schuyler, Eva Schuyler (Danforth), Rita Schuyler (Webster), James Schuyler. Bottom Row (L-R): Cleo Schuyler (Cornelius), Harriet Schuyler (Reiter), Barbara Schuyler (Denny), Evelyn Schuyler (Elm).



Top Row (L-R): Ronnie McLester, Pearl McLester, Gordan McLester, Lee McLester, Donnie McLester. Bottom Row (L-R): Pearl Webster, Winnifred Thomas, Judy Cornelius.









# LEGAL NOTICE

# ONEIDA FAMILY COURT ORIGINAL HEARING BODY **NOTICE OF HEARING**



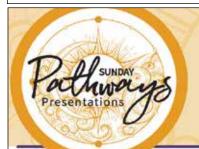
Inquiries for pleadings and/or additional information may be directed to: Clerk of Court • Oneida Family Court • P.O. Box 19 • Oneida, WI 54155 • (920) 496-7200

# Case #21PA105, Oneida Nation Child Support Agency and Petitioner MERLENE D JORDAN v. Respondent RAUL SADA JR

A diligent attempt is made to notify the above individuals of an action filed by the Oneida Nation Child Support Agency for a Petition for Child Support. A hearing shall take place on Wednesday, February 23, 2022 at 2pm in the above captioned case at the Oneida Family Court; located at 2630 W. Mason St. Green Bay, WI 54303. Failure to appear may result in a default judgment.

# Case #21CS018, Oneida Nation Child Support Agency v. Co-Respondent ANGELEA A VANDERLOOP and Co-Respondent ANTHONY A HUFF

A diligent attempt is made to notify the above individuals of an action filed by the Oneida Nation Child Support Agency for a Petition for Child Support. A hearing shall take place on Wednesday, March 30, 2022 at 11am in the above captioned case at the Oneida Family Court; located at 2630 W. Mason St. Green Bay, WI 54303. Failure to appear may result in a default judgment.



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# From page 2/ Vatican

In June 2021, United States Interior Secretary Deb Haaland ordered the formation of the Federal Indian Boarding School Initiative. Its purpose is to investigate the loss of life and traumatic legacy of the more than 365 Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) – led boarding schools operated here in the U.S. Catholic religious orders administered at least 84 of these schools while Jesuits managed at least four. Haaland has ordered the investigative report be issued in April 2022.

Given the unlikelihood of a papal apology for the attempted cultural genocide of Canada's Indigenous, there's little reason to expect one in the United States. Further muddying the waters in the relationship between the Vatican and Canada's First Nations is the church's refusal to fulfill its legal obligations stemming from a settlement agreement reached in 2005 with former residential school students. Survivors and advocates involved in those proceedings say the church still owes upwards of \$60 million on the \$79 million settlement, and it's unlikely they'll ever see it even though the Vatican, which has tens of billions

of dollars in assets, could easily do so.

In an almost unconscionable legal reversal, the Canadian court system then absolved the church of its financial obligations to those survivors, and to this day nobody in government has satisfactorily answered the question as to why. While the church cried poor in the courts, they simultaneously forked out \$28.5 million for a new cathedral in Saskatoon. Money the church promised to victims instead went toward their own legal fees. The Vatican was the only European country that refused to join talks on Holocaust reparations to Jews following World War II, not surprising as a network of church priests, bishops, and cardinals helped establish escape routes for Nazi war criminals in what was known as Project Odessa.

While First Nations in the U.S. watched the Canadian residential school drama unfold throughout 2021, they now await Haaland's report coming in April, the details of which are unknown. Her report may yield many answers regarding the treatment of Indigenous youth at boarding schools here in the U.S. at the hands of the Catholic Church, but watching the church

sidestep its moral and legal obligations in Canada leads to the real possibility they will only do the same here.

"I traveled with one of our Faithkeepers, Gail Danforth, and it was my first time ever setting foot on our original Oneida homelands," Kindness said. "Being able to reconnect with the land was a very emotional experience. We even went to a gorgeous site where an actual Oneida village once stood overlooking a large valley."

Kindness, a former two-time Miss Oneida, is the current Indigenous Coordinator of the Western Mining Action Network and a member of the Board of Directors for the Indigenous Environmental Network. Her burgeoning business, called Skywoman Beadwork, contains many of her works which can be seen and purchased virtually on her personal Facebook account at Sayokla Kindness.

Her maternal grandparents are Harry DeCoteau and Vivian Danforth. Her paternal grandparents are Lloyd Kindness and Cynthia Antone.



# Liam's Ride Fundraiser Help Liam Get New Wheels





**Photos Courtesy of Tara Cottrell** 

#### By Tara Cottrell

A little over 4 years ago, Keith and I became the full-time caregivers and guardian to our disabled grandson Liam.

Liam was born with several major medical issues including severe Cerebral [Palsy and Cytomegalovirus (CMV). He has several specialists that he sees regularly in Green Bay and Milwaukee. Liam has very little head and torso control and needs full support for all positions. He is non-verbal but has a special device he can control with his eyes to communicate his wants and needs. Liam is an extremely happy little guy who loves music of all sorts, Judy Garland and grandpa are his favorite!

Liam has been using a wheelchair for several years now. We have just been loading and unloading his chair by hand for each appointment. We knew eventually we would have to get a wheelchair accessible vehicle and didn't realize how expensive they really are. We have found a program to help with the cost of the ramp, but it has to be only a newer (50,000 miles or less) vehicle. This would still leave \$25,000-\$30,000 that would have to be incorporated into a loan with a monthly payment of \$500-\$600 a

month, and financially there is no way we can afford that kind of monthly payment.

My van was towed home today with electrical issues and not running. With the amount of miles we put on each year traveling back and forth to Children's Hospital in Milwaukee, it is not worth trying to fix. We are currently down to one vehicle that I cannot physically lift Liam's wheelchair into.

We are turning to our family, friends and community for help. We are hoping that with a little help we can a larger down payment on a newer van to lower the monthly payments.

We know that everyone is going through rough times these last few years, but we are asking for donations of whatever you can spare. \$5, \$10, \$20, every little bit helps to get this little guy a new ride.

We have opened a savings account at Bay Bank in Green Bay under LIAM'S RIDE.

There is also a GoFundMe page at https://GoFundMe.com/liams-ride

Contact Tara Cottrell @ 920-360-8608 or mactrell75@gmail.com for any questions.





# OESC congratulates scholarship recipients



#### By Jeffrey House

Oneida ESC Group congratulates Jackson Hill and Hudson Cornelius as the recipients of the annual OESC Scholarship award.

Hill is interested in natural sciences, especially branches of biology. His areas of study include ecology, ichthyology, marine biology, and zoology.

"I have always loved to fish, hike, and explore new things outside, and at an early age I realized how amazing and intricate all the living organisms around me were," Hill said.

Not only does Hill have his sights set on a biology degree but also wants to make an impact and be a role model for Native Youth. Teach about the importance of our environment's living organisms. He believes it would be very beneficial to reach out to Native organizations in his community and other schools, particularly with high Native populations and talk about natural sciences and our living ecosystems.

He is attending Cowley County Community College in Arkansas City, OK.

For Cornelius, engineering has always been a goal of his for as long as he can remember. It may have had to do with a trip to the NASA museum as a young kid.

"As soon as I got there I fell in love with NASA. At the time I didn't even know what engineering was, but I knew that I admired the people who work there," said Cornelius.

In a middle school engineering class, he explored different types of engineers and that is when he found out about aerospace engineering. However, after further exploration, he is still deciding between aerospace or mechanical engineering.

Though he was the only "Native American kid" in his class who was interested in engineering and a lack of Native American engineer role models gave him some doubt. His Grandfather wanted to be an engineer but lacked funding and other resources to go to school. However, those doubts would soon be washed away when he met Joseph Connolly at an American Indian Science and Engineering Society (AISES) conference. Connolly, an Iroquois engineer working at NASA, inspired Cornelius to go after his dream of becoming an engineer.

Cornelius will be attending the University of Wisconsin - Madison.

Applicants are required to fill out a scholarship application form which includes an essay about their interest in science or engineering of study, current school transcript, ACT scores (if applicable) and higher education acceptance letter. Recipient are selected by the OESC Board of Managers and this year we had two applications.

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



# **Open letter from the Websters**



Photo courtesy of Powerball Lottery
Tammy and Cliff Webster

Feb. 7, 2022

To Our Family, Friends, and the Oneida Nation:

As many of you may know by now, Wisconsin Lottery officials have announced that we were the winners along with a person in California of the recent Powerball jackpot drawing that took place on January 5, 2022.

This is an amazing blessing, and we are incredibly thankful and most appreciative for this extraordinary set of circumstances. We always believed that we had a chance to win if we played, and this is a dream come true.

We are working to come to terms with it and what it means for us. It's a lot to digest, and our focus is on making wise decisions and moving forward.

We are aware that there have been some rumors about this topic, and we thought it would be best to confirm the news once Lottery officials made the formal announcement.

Thank you for your understanding. Sincerely,

Tammy and Cliff Webster



PO Box 365, Oneida, WI 54155-0365 • 2701 W. Mason St., Green Bay, WI 54155

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