



Newsletter – May/June 2019

Walker River Housing Department

“Without a sense of caring, there can be no sense of community.”
- Anthony J. D’Angelo

Returning home to lead a school

April 23, 2019

By Lance West, Schurz Elementary School Principal

I always dreamed of returning to my hometown on the Walker River Paiute reservation in Nevada to be principal of my elementary school, **Schurz Elementary**. I never thought they would hire me – I am the first principal from the tribe in about 30 years. Now that I’m here, I am doing the most I can with whatever time I have.

When I got here last summer, none of our students had scored proficient in math on the state test, and only 6% had on the ELA test. After I read the last few school improvement plans, it’s no wonder. There, in black and white, it said that students were struggling in school because the community did not care about or see much value in education. This statement was signed off on not only by the principal, but by teachers and parents. If the adults in school are not expecting anything of our kids, why would they expect anything of themselves?

I was so upset and confused. I’m from here and I got a good education. Lots of other people from here are well accomplished – they have degrees or trades or are involved in the community. How can you blame the fact that these kids are not performing on a preconceived notion that their families don’t care about education? And why would parents endorse such a statement?

I spoke to some of the people who helped put that wording into the plan. The community just let the responsibility of education go to the school district, in every regard, because they did not feel like they had a voice. A lot of people are disenfranchised.

As for the educators and district leaders, most of the people involved in making sure those statements made it into the plan have left. We have a new superintendent now, who grew up in the district. For those who are still here, I think about what they have to gain by aligning themselves with this belief. What do I have to do to gain their favor?

Following the advice of my elders, and with support from my NYC Leadership Academy coach Patricia Hines, I am making changes, but not too quickly. At the same time, I know we don't have much time; we have a lot to take care of now. We need to be strong and trust each other. We need to love these kids unconditionally and hold them to high expectations because I know they can do it. We just need to give them the tools.

I've had some wins: A few years before I came, because our school is so small, the district moved the middle school grades to a larger school 30 miles away – and the school's entire sports program moved with them. You don't take away sports from a small community. That killed all motivation for students who need more than academics to feel successful. With encouragement from our new superintendent, Karen Watson, we brought sports back. It's been a good motivator for kids, and a way to bring the community in — we have home games at the tribal gym.

Meanwhile, I am working closely with the teachers to build up our instruction and our culture. Last year, teachers did not receive evaluations. I am setting expectations for lesson planning and being professional. If teachers question my decisions, that's fine, just as long as we respect one another. I have heard about some teachers saying that Native American students cannot learn as well as white children. That's just ignorance. All students are unique and have different learning styles. For Native American students to learn, they need their teachers to be culturally aware. I have told my staff that I have made mistakes with racism and made assumptions about groups of students, and that, when that happens, it helps a lot to say, "I'm sorry." This is one way I am leading my teachers to become more culturally aware.

Having gone to mostly white-majority schools myself and experienced racism, I know how important it is that our kids see more people like themselves in school. I know there are many qualified native teachers across the state. I spend my weekends recruiting, looking for educators like me who want to

come in and change the world. I have hired one new teacher who is from here. She has implemented some great stuff for ELA and is working with the other teachers. I have also been in contact with the Nevada State Education Association to ask about their recruitment efforts, to advocate and get that conversation going.

We also have a lot to do to help kids and adults deal with stress. Native Americans and their kids have so much historical and cultural trauma. The boarding schools that our grandparents were sent to, reservations, loss of language and our identity, struggles that we have had to endure for hundreds of years. These kids may not realize it, but they are carrying that weight of their parents and grandparents. We simply cannot ignore that. We have generations of uncles and aunts who despise the white man and western education because of the way their families were treated.

I recruited a Native American social worker who is coming on Fridays to address those traumas. Having someone like that on staff goes a long way toward helping our students and staff.

And we are getting our team trained on historical trauma and cultural competency. The staff has a trauma-focused book club. And we are bringing in facilitators to help lead conversations about culture, racism and white privilege. I can't do this work without my own support system. Without my coach, I would be lost. I need her outside voice pushing me and my team. We need to step on the gas with this work around equity. Of course, I get pushback, including from my own people, who are thinking, "Who does this guy think he is? Is he trying to save us?" That is motivation for me.

I know that if I were to maintain the status quo of where Schurz was when I arrived in September and just do things the way I'm expected to, we would never make real change. We need to make change for the sake of every kid I see come off the bus each morning, and for all the kids who come after.

<https://www.nycleadershipacademy.org/blog/returning-home-to-lead-a-school/>

Here is the link to the article

Fiscal Year 2018 Annual Performance Report

On Tuesday, during the Housing Governing Board meeting the Walker River Paiute Tribal Council approved the Fiscal Year 2018 Annual Performance Report (APR). The APR contains accurate information reflecting program accomplishments for the Indian Housing Plan during the program year. The Walker River Paiute Tribe is required to submit an Annual Performance Report as required by Native American Housing and Self-Determination Act (NAHASDA) Regulation 24 C.F.R. 1000.512.

Talking to Your Kids About Sexual Abuse

- Note that private parts are “private” and “special.”
- Note that it is inappropriate for anyone to look at or touch the child’s private parts and it is inappropriate for the child to look at or touch anyone else’s private parts.
- Make a list of people the child can tell.
- Let the child know it is not acceptable for someone to expose them to sexual content or material.
- Emphasize the importance of telling and let the child know that they will not be in trouble if it happens to them or if they speak out.
- Discuss tactics an offender might use to keep the child from speaking out.
- Don’t refer to the abuse as an illness, point out that it is a crime.



WRPT Chairman Gets Invited to Celebrate 2018-2019 Miss Indian World's Reign



Figure 1 2018-2019 Miss Indian World, Taylor Susan

Taylor, Anne and family and GON attendees:

Thank you for allowing me to speak before you on your beautiful ancestral homelands. On behalf of the Walker River Paiute Tribe I would like to Thank the Susan family for inviting me to be here to speak in honor of Miss Indian World 2018 Taylor Susan. I am honored and blessed to be here to say Congratulations to Taylor on a year of outstanding leadership and wish her well on all her future endeavors. She has been a major role model to all of the children and young women in Indian country. At the Walker River Paiute Tribe, we are very proud of her for continuing her education and pursuing her dreams. We have watched all her worldly adventures across the nation and she has represented all of us and her ancestors to the fullest. She has educated the world on the fact that we are still here and we take pride in our nations, our stories, our language, our culture, our heritage but most of all

our people. She has shown our people that is ok to step out of your comfort zone and take healthy risks, and when you do the rewards will pay off tremendously. To use your voice for the greater good of your own respective nations, to come together to help one another, be kind and respectful to one another, and to teach and be willing to be taught for a greater future for the next seven generations. Taylor you have had an amazing life this far and I know you will not stop till you reach the top, with your hard work and dedication in everything you do, I cannot wait to see where this journey called life takes you. Thank you for all you have done for WRPT and Indian country. Special thank you to your family, friends and the Miss Indian World Committee for their continued support for you throughout the year. Pasha U, Boneduah I had a great time meeting lots of new people and seeing lots of people from home. Thank you to our beautiful royalty from back home Kierra Dini Miss Walker River and Rayanna Williams Lil' Miss Pinenut Festival for doing a great job this weekend. and to all who helped me get here.

Respectfully,

Amber Torres, Walker River Paiute Tribe Chairman

NEW!

Walker River Housing Department

Home Improvement Loan Program

On Tuesday, April 23, 2019, during the Housing Governing Board Meeting the Walker River Paiute Tribal Council approved the Walker River Housing Department's NEW! Home Improvement Loan Program Policy.

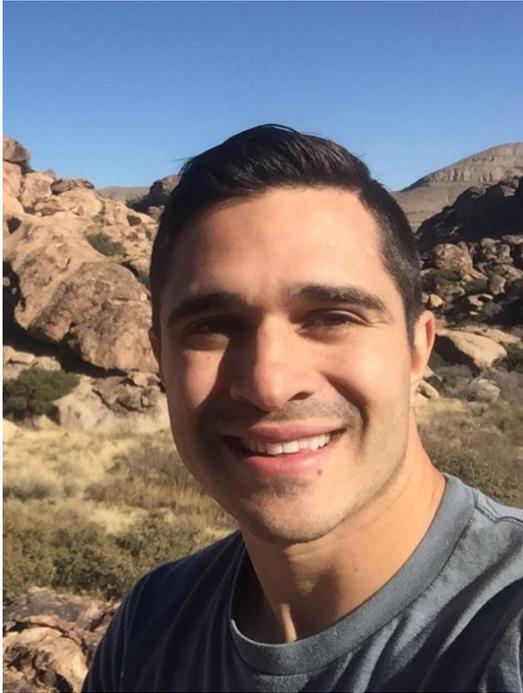
This new program was developed for homebuyers and homeowners to have the opportunity to improve their home or to have services performed to their home.

Eligibility Requirements: Homebuyer, managed by the WRHD OR Homeowner, resident of the Walker River Paiute Reservation, and Income Eligible.

For more information or questions please contact the WRHD Office at (775) 773-2334. You can also find the policy and application for the program in the WRHD Office or online at wrphousing.com

Walker River Paiute Tribe Health Clinic – NEW Dentist!

My name is Dr. Alex Burciaga, I am pleased to have joined the Walker River dental team in March. The dental clinic is expanding to five days a week and I will



be available Mondays and Tuesdays. I graduated from the University of Washington; I have ten years of clinical experience in public health, private practice and tribal health positions. I look forward to improving the oral health of this community. It will take some time to get up and running but we hope to expand provided services over time.

I live in Bishop, California with my girlfriend and my adorable 1 year old daughter. While family time takes priority, I spend as much time possible hiking, fly fishing, and rock climbing.

I look forward to meeting you.

Warmly,

Alex

WRHD Applicant(s) for Housing – Reminder to Update Application Information!

The Walker River Housing Department would like to remind those of you who have submitted a housing application to please update your application upon receiving request form WRHD. If you fail to recertify after two (2) attempts from the WRHD, you will be dropped from the wait list. Your cooperation is appreciated!

3rd Annual Establishment Day

On Tuesday, March 19, 2019 staff and community members gathered at the Pinenut Park to celebrate our Walker River Paiute Tribe's Establishment Day. The morning started off with a run/walk, singing/dancing, and lunch.

Are You Looking for a Home???

Recently the Walker River Housing Department acquired and renovated the home located at 1051 Hospital Road, and with the approval of the Walker River Paiute Tribal Council the Housing Department is going to be offering the home to a qualified Walker River Paiute Tribal member.

**The Walker River Housing Department will be accepting applications
May 1, 2019-June 28, 2019.**

Looking for:

- Walker River Paiute Tribal Member
- Income over 80% of the median income level for household size?
- Must have stable employment for at least one (1) year prior to applying
 - Must provide proof of Tribal enrollment

2019 Median Family Income Limits - Nevada								
	1 Person	2 Persons	3 Persons	4 Persons	5 Persons	6 Persons	7 Persons	8 Persons
80%	\$39,050.00	\$44,600.00	\$50,200.00	\$55,750.00	\$60,250.00	\$64,700.00	\$69,150.00	\$73,600.00

If you are interested, please stop by the Walker River Housing Department to pick up an application. Applications can also be found on the Walker River Housing Department's website at wrpthousing.com

Please understand that incomplete applications will be returned to applicant/sender.

For more information or questions please contact the Walker River Housing Department at (775) 773-2334 or by emailing the Wilelia Murphy, Resident Services Specialist.

2019 WRPT Earth Day

-Submitted by the WRPT Environmental Dept.

The WRPT Victim Services, Law Enforcement, and Environmental Department would like to thank the tribal departments, Schurz community and Schurz Elementary School with their help in making our Earth Day Event a success!

Thank you to everyone who gave a hand with the community cleanup and who helped with the beatification projects around the community. Thank you to the Law Enforcement for providing the

delicious lunch, the Victim Services for preparing our amazing shirts and the School whom also helped with the food and participation.

We would also like to thank our sponsors: Truckee River Rock & Nursery Company of Reno, NV and Greenhouse Garden Center & Gift Shop of Carson City, NV for the donation of over \$150 worth of seeds and over \$2700 worth of trees and shrubs!

We are also trying to sustain a clean and healthy environment for our people here in the community and we appreciate everyone participating and following our practices. We understand that there are some issues but we want to get everyone on board with what we are bringing into the community. If you have any ideas or want to help participate in the process please do not hesitate to give us a call at 775-773-2306 x 303/319

“Be a part of the solution not part of the pollution”



Help do your part by:

- Keeping your yard clean
- Pick up trash that is yours or not
- Use eco-friendly cleaning supplies
- Pass old clothes to people who need them
- Reuse supplies: DIY Projects



We urge the community members to learn and follow the “Three R’s”: Reduce, Reuse and Recycle. These all help lessen the amount of waste we throw away each day!



Before and After

Figure 2WRPT Environmental Department Beautification Projects

NOTICE!

Effective May 2, 2019

The open dump is still closed; However, we will begin utilizing the Tribe’s waste bins located at the Transfer Station under the awning.
 The recycle bins will also remain at the Transfer Station for:
Plastic Bottles, Aluminum Cans and Glass.

Transfer Station Hours:
Monday - Friday 8:30AM to 4:30PM
***CLOSED on Saturday & Sunday**

Failure to abide will result in the Walker River Tribal Law Enforcement issuing citations.

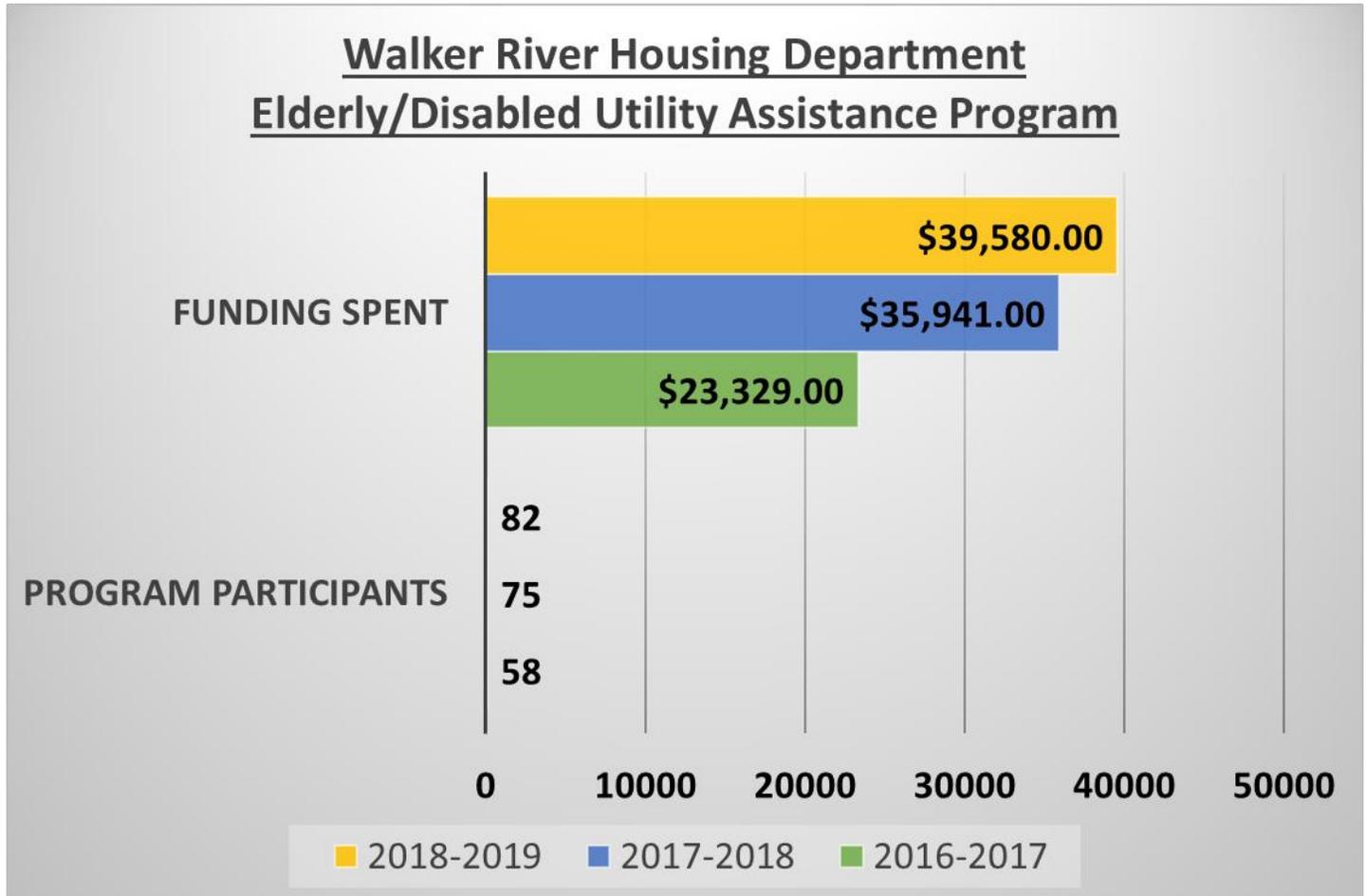
**Law and Order Code of the Walker River Paiute Tribe,
 Title V. Code of Criminal Offenses,
 Tampering or Destroying Public Property 5-80-170
 Littering 5-90-170
 WR-71-94**

CAMERAS ARE IN USE AS OF May 2, 2019

Any questions or concerns please contact the Environmental Department at (775) 773-2306 Ext. 303/319

NOTICE: Elder/Disabled Utility Assistance Program Participants

The Walker River Housing Department would like to remind participants in the Elder/Disabled Utility Assistance Program that the program ends on May 1, 2019. The program will start up again on October 1, 2019, and all participants will have to re-submit applications to qualify for assistance.



Elder/Disabled Utility Assistance Program 2018-2019 Date:

- This year we approved 82 Applicants.
- This year we went through 892 bags of pellets (~22 tons) - \$5,352
- This year we delivered 119 truck-loads of wood - \$11,900
- This year we had 10,365 gallons of propane/oil delivered - \$22,328
- This year we spent about ~\$39,580 on the Elder/Disabled Utility Assistance Program.

For more information or questions please contact the WRHD office at (775) 773-2334. Applications can be found in the WRHD office or online at wrphousing.com

Know the Signs!!!

HEAT EXHAUSTION

Symptoms

- Faint or Dizzy
- Headache
- Profuse Sweating
- Irritability
- Weak, Rapid Pulse
- Shallow Breathing
- Pale, Cool, Clammy Skin
- Nausea or Vomiting
- Muscle Cramps

Treatment

- 1) Have victim lie down in a cool shaded area or air conditioned area.
- 2) Drink water if victim is conscious.
- 3) Use caution when victim stands up, apply cold compresses.

HEAT STROKE

Symptoms

- Absence of Sweating
- Pulsating Headache
- Hot, Red, Dry Skin
- High Body Temp: Above 103
- Nausea or Vomiting
- Strong, Rapid Pulse
- Confusion
- Convulsions
- May Lose Consciousness

Treatment

1) DIAL 911

- 2) Take action to cool victim by any means. Place victims in a cool area, wrap in wet towel, sponge victim with cool water.



TRAILMOB.COM

Info Source: MayoClinic.org



Welcome NEW! Executive Secretary

Hi, my name is Cheri Clendenning. I am the new Executive Secretary for the Chairman of the Walker River Paiute Tribe. I recently retired from the State of Nevada with 12 years of service in the Division of Health and Human Services. Prior to working for the State, I was the Payroll Officer for Mt. Grant General Hospital for 8 years. I currently reside in Hawthorne, and I have a son, Sky Lockwood.

Nevada/California Indian Housing Association
Scholarship

ATTENTION ALL COLLEGE STUDENTS!!!

The Walker River Housing Department would like to remind all students in two (2) and four (4) year colleges, universities, technical and trade schools about the Nevada/California Indian Housing Association Scholarship. The application can be found on our website wrpthousing.com under the community board tab. ALL APPLICATIONS MUST BE POSTMARKED NO LATER THAN JULY 1, 2019



Mother's Day Breakfast

When: May 11, 8:00 AM

Where: LDS Church by Tech Center

"There is no role in life more essential and more eternal
than that of motherhood."

- Elder M. Russel Ballard

THE CHURCH OF
JESUS CHRIST
OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

May

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Court 9AM	2	3	4
5	6 Staff Mtg. 830AM C.R. Enrollment Mtg. 5PM C.R.	7	8 Food Bank 10AM	9 Regular Council Mtg. 6PM C.R.	10	11
12 	13 American Indian Day – All Offices Closed	14	15 Court 9AM	16 Commodities 8AM	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27 Memorial Day – All Offices Closed	28	29	30	31	

All Offices Closed

June

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3 Staff Mtg. 830AM C.R. Enrollment Mtg. 5PM C.R.	4	5 Court 9AM	6	7	8
9	10	11	12 Food Bank 10AM	13 Regular Council Mtg. 6PM C.R.	14	15
16	17	18	19 Court 9AM	20 Commodities 8AM	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

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The Walker River Housing Department Newsletter is developed on a bi-monthly basis. To submit articles or for more information please contact the Housing Assistant at (775) 773-2334 or by email at wrhdassistant@wrpt.org

Please visit the Walker River Housing Department's website at wrpthousing.com for past newsletters and other Walker River Housing Department information, policies and forms.

Walker River Paiute Tribe Housing Department Directory

Executive Director, Genia Williams, wrhddirector@wrpt.org

Development/Modernization, Glen Roberts, wrhousingdevelopment@gmail.com

Purchasing Officer/Inventory, Lisa Valdes, procurementmanager@wrpt.org

Resident Services Specialist, Wilelia Murphy, wrhdresidentservices@wrpt.org

Housing Receptionist, Brooke Meyer, housingrecep@wrpt.org

Housing Assistant, La Reina Jim, wrhdassistant@wrpt.org

Warehouse Clerk, Haley Richardson, warehouseclerk1@wrpt.org

Warehouse Clerk, Charles Quartz, warehouseclerk2@wrpt.org