

Vuntut Gwitchin Government



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Alice Frost Community Campus Carpentry Graduates Congratulations!

Floyd Norman, Edward Kyikavichik, Theraz Tizya, Harlan Nukon,
Byron Charlie and Alanna Baalam, (Not shown: Devyn Kassi)

Have a great summer!



Vuntut Gwitchin Government

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www.oldcrow.ca

Executive Director – Elsie Hume

Hi all!

I moved back home in May 22 of this year to take on the position of Executive Director. So far, I am really enjoying the stimulating challenges and learning new things. It is great to be working with Chief and Council and getting to know the rest of the staff. Thank you all for bearing with me while I learn the processes of the Government. Together, with the new Chief and Council, we can build a caring, supportive and dynamic government that will build a healthy, vibrant community. Mahsi'



Interactive Youth Workshop

The Health and Social Department invited Hypnotist Scott Ward and Dakota House to Old Crow to hold an Interactive Youth Workshop on May 7-8, 2016. There was a great turn out with many of our children who participated in the Youth Conference and

had a great time! Scott Ward held a hypnosis show for the community on the first night with an amazing turn out and great participants that had everyone laughing throughout the evening. We also made sure to celebrate elder Fanny Charlie's birthday

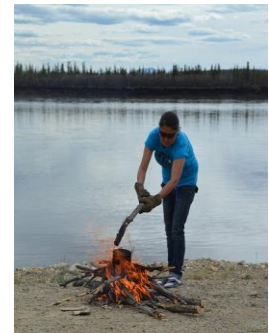
with a community dinner to end the weekend on May 8. Thank you to Dana Lord for coordinating this for our Youth and to Marla Charlie for helping out during the weekend. Pictures can be seen on www.oldcrow.ca

Vadzaih Choo Drin – Caribou Days

Vadzaih Choo Drin took place from May 20-23, 2015. It was coordinated by Teresa and Natasha Frost who brought Events focused on celebrating the caribou, hunting ethics, gun safety and fun games for all ages. This event is primarily funded by VGG Natural Resources Department. Teresa Frost recognized the young

boys with Cabela sleeping blankets as we want to continue to encourage them to keep up the tradition of hunting and trapping. Mahsi Cho Teresa for doing such a wonderful job! We also want to recognize the community for taking part in this fun filled weekend.

***Vadzaih Choo Drin,**
A time to celebrate the
caribou!*



Chief & Council Election



Congratulations to Chief Bruce Charlie, Deputy Chief Margaret Lord-Smith and Councilors Esau Schafer, Dana Tizya-Tramm, and Paul Josie! Election was held on May 2, 2016. You can see results on oldcrow.ca

Summer Student Employment – Malinda Bruce

I started my part-time position as the Summer Student Coordinator/ HR Assistant on April 19, 2016.

Summer student employment will take place from July 4-August 12th.

The Summer Student employment position poster was posted on June

10 with a closing date of June 24.

Interviews will be done with the students after the deadline for their own experience in applying for jobs in the future.

I will also be planning students every Friday while they're employed such as berry picking,

hiking and possibly an end of summer trip to Rampart House. I look forward to this opportunity to work closer with the students as I haven't taken on such task before. Feedback from members on this particular program is much appreciated. You can call or email me at hrclerk@vgfn.net



Human Resource Department – Brenda Frost

Good day,

We are presently working on our Summer Student Employment program which runs July 4 – August 12, 2016. Malinda Bruce was hired as the Human Resources Assistant to assist in running this program for the summer. The employment poster was posted on June 10, 2016 with a deadline to apply on June 24, 2016.

For VGG, we have one post-secondary student in Heritage (Briana Tetlich) and one in Health & Social department (Natasha Frost), both nursing students.

Students will be placed in

NR – Heritage and NR assistant, at least 4 in Recreation and 5 in GS. The Carpentry graduates will work as apprentices. This program has grown in the last 4 yrs. More and more students are opting to staying in Whitehorse or live there and so we're expected to find job placements for them in Whitehorse. Initially the program was for students living in Old Crow but have to go away for High School and this is still priority. We only get a certain amount in the budget for this program as VGG offsets some of the wages, plus we get funds through proposal driven initiatives.

There's been quite a bit of transitions going on with new hires and new leadership, with new staff come changes, new perspectives and new ideas. Let's not forget the employees and how change can effect or improve morale in the workplace. I think we have a good team of Directors and I'm feeling so much better going forward. I look forward to working with all of them. The Executive Director oversees the Administration of our Government, Chief and Council are a political body elected in by the people.

I always remind myself that we are here to provide programs and services to our people and the community

of Old Crow. It's important that we follow our policies and processes.

Positions that are vacant – Inventory Clerk (GS), Maintenance Worker (GS), Mental Health & Support Programs Manager (SP), Native Court Worker/ Justice Coordinator (SP) and Recycling Depot Worker (NR).

You can apply for the positions by submitting a cover letter and resume to hrd@vgfn.net.

CHIEF AND COUNCIL

It has been just over a month now since elections and with the newest additions of both Esau Schafer and Dana Tizya-Tramm our council is now complete and finalized with the swearing in ceremony at the VGFN building on June 14th.

Chief and Council are honored to take on our positions and look forward to bringing the communities' hopes and dreams into reality through our collective vision. We have been busy learning our departments: Esau Schafer with Special Projects and Economic Development, Margaret Smith with Education, Health and Social, Paul Josie with Government Services and Information Systems, Dana Tizya-Tramm with Natural Resources and Heritage, and Chief Bruce Charlie with the Finance, Inter-Governmental Affairs, and Human Resources.

We have been working hard galvanizing our team, and shaping the manner in which we can affect the most positive and constructive change with efficiency as we look to the work ahead in respect of Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation's place within the world and the territory. We strive to balance the needs of our community and members as we work on positioning our nation for success. We started with our Health & Wellness week to set the tone for this leadership, we look to further team development with a Chief & Council retreat at Tl'oo K'at on the weekend from June 24th-26th, as well as meeting with the Premier and select ministers at the end of the month to further agreements for multiple projects like that of the new Health Center, all while crafting our actions into a long term vision of unity and health. As we move forward we are careful not to leave the community behind and looked forward to holding our first public community meeting on June 22, 2016 as we believe that strong communication with our community is the key to our strength.

In the midst of our transition we would like to thank the community for your support, you are why we are here. If you have any questions or concerns please don't hesitate to contact us as our door is always open, you can drop by the office, call, or email us.

Chief and Council is not an easy endeavor, nor one that we take lightly, but it is an endeavor that each member of the Chief and Council have sworn an oath to and we will stand by that oath, to honor it, and all of you. We are proud, we are Vuntut Gwitchin, this is our Government, this is our community, for our nation, and for our future.

Heritage Department – Megan Williams

Traditional Routes Mapping

Traditional Routes have been mapped on the ground and by helicopter. 53 routes are currently documented to be used in the Atlas of the Van Tat Gwich'in along with a wall map of Gwich'in place names and routes.

Historical Lifeways Project

The purpose of this multi-year project is connecting youth with their Elders and their ancestral lands. Youth research their area of choice, interview Elders, travel to their area and make a community presentation about their experiences.



Tr'ahtsii Manuals

Cultural skill and how-to manuals such as Aih Tr'ahtsii, Tr'ih Tr'ahtsii and *"Nits'oo Diik'itr'iindhat ~ How We Were Raised Up"* have been developed, edited and circulated. These manuals provide information about basic Gwich'in cultural skills.

Researchers & Media

Agreements are created for research and media projects to ensure projects benefit the community. This year research projects include: muskrat ecology, hydrology, H. pylori, spirit and intent of the final agreements and architecture.



Heritage Act

Community consultation was conducted at last Standing Committee meeting. More outreach and community education is planned for the upcoming General Assembly. This Act clarifies Vuntut Gwitchin's position on stewardship and ownership of Vuntut Gwitchin culture.

Rampart House Reconstruction Project

Annual reconstruction at this jointly managed site by Yukon and Vuntut Gwitchin governments. Currently the Gwich'in crew are working on site maintenance and starting the foundation for the Church at Rampart House.

Language

Current focus areas are on a Gwich'in app and immersion style training for language classes and verb dictionary. Heritage staff is also collaborating with Gwaankak Theatre on workshops that focus on long ago stories in the Gwich'in language.



Archival Collection

New photos have been added from Murray Gibb's grandfather who worked on surveying the Old Crow airport in the 1940s. All photos are available for the public to view at the John Tizya Centre.

John Tizya Centre

Visitor tours were highlighted this month with a tour of 20 international ambassadors. Visitors have excellent comments to make about the community, the land and the John Tizya Centre.

Natural Resources Director – William Josie

Drin Gwiinzii Shalak Naii.

First of all, I would like to congratulate Chief Bruce Charlie on his recent election victory, and to Margaret Smith, Paul Josie, and Dana Tizya-Tramm for being acclaimed, and finally to Esau Schafer on his appointment.

After a long winter it's good to have warm weather again and it's good to see all the kid's playing around the community. My staff will report on their projects and programs, and so, I would like to highlight some other initiatives.

The Community Plan and Zoning Bylaw project will go through a transition from Natural Resources (NR) to Government Services (GS), after GS is fully updated. Officials from the Forest Branch at Yukon Government will be in Old Crow in early September to discuss amendments to the Yukon Forestry Act with the community. We will update the community before September.

This summer, Robert will get started and oversee

the construction of the Goffer Bluff Cabin up the Porcupine River below Porcupine Lake.

NR/Heritage recently under went some training in Geographical Information Systems (GIS), and we plan to develop this mapping tool in our department.

NR is looking at developing an Environmental Monitor position in our Department to Supplement Robert's work.

At the recent Local Traditional Knowledge (LTK) workshop on salmon held on June 1 & 2 we heard loud and clear that the community would like to see a summer fish camp. We are presently looking into this initiative.

There is a need for some policy development in regards to Natural Resources, Heritage, Industrial Development, Land Use etc. We will be addressing these issues at a later date.

There were some complaints regarding

wastage at the dump this spring, so please harvest only what you need, and remember that other members of the community can also use that meat. Remember that we live in a wildlife habitat, therefor, when you go about with your activities please be aware of your surroundings and watch for wildlife. Also, if you are going out on the river please put on a life preserver.

Enjoy your summer and all it brings.



www.facebook.com/vuntut

Fish and Wildlife Coordinator - Erika Tizya (Whitehorse Office)

Salmon

This year's pre-season salmon run forecasts for Chum, Coho and Chinook were presented to the community in a June 1 meeting with DFO. Much the same as last year, the 2016 returns are estimated to be *weak*. Following consultations with First Nations and other groups, Yukon Salmon Sub-Committee made its recommendations to the Minister for the department of Fisheries and Oceans on this year's salmon management and allocation. Using a pre cautionary approach, below are just a few recommendations with respect to First Nation harvest:



photo credit 1:

<http://yukonriverpanel.com/salmon/publications/joint-technical-committee-reports/joint-technical-committee-plan/>

- A change to the Yellow in-season management zone 42,500-48,750 for Yukon River Chinook to allow for a *base level/incidental catch for First Nations to be less than 10% of annual subsistence needs.*
- *A Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation subsistence fishery allocation be available with limited effort and initiated in a conservative manner for Porcupine Chinook*
- *A Vuntut Gwitchin subsistence fishery of Porcupine River Fall Chum allocation be available, but in light of the very low run sizes, that the fishery be initiated conservatively and harvest be limited to 30% or less of recent subsistence harvest*
- *In-season management of the Porcupine River Fall Chum be informed by the sonar assessment project down river from Old Crow*
- *Management of Porcupine River Chinook be informed by the sonar assessment project down river from Old Crow.*
- *A Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation subsistence fishery allocation be available for Porcupine River Coho Salmon*

These recommendations will be reviewed by the Minister to either accept or reject within the next few weeks.

Restoration and Enhancement Projects

VGG is partnering with DFO, YSSC, and EDI to implement some important salmon related projects. Little is scientifically known of the salmon stocks on the Porcupine River. However, there is a rich history of traditional knowledge. NR partnered with YSSC to host a **Porcupine Drainage Engagement: Local Traditional Knowledge (LTK) Workshop for Community-Based Stock Restoration Plan** held June 1 & 2. The LTK from these sessions provide the groundwork in developing a Vuntut Gwitchin salmon management

plan. This workshop was well attended and there was a lot of support for a VG salmon management plan. A report of this event will be available when completed. Development of a management plan will be ongoing in consultation with the community and engagement with other stakeholders. Any TK VGFN citizens would like to contribute will be welcome in informing this management plan.

Other R&E projects that are starting or will be starting very soon include:

- FB Chum Salmon Habitat Assessment
- Porcupine Chum Salmon Radio Telemetry
- Porcupine Chinook Salmon Sonar
- Porcupine Chinook Telemetry
- Rock River Chinook and Chum Salmon Assessment and Restoration Investigation
- FB Chum Salmon Restoration incubation pilot program

Caribou

PCMB

Porcupine Caribou Herd (PCH) Harvest Management Plan (HMP) members met regarding the status of the PCH and harvest management recommendations at the sixth Annual Harvest Meeting February 8-11 in Dawson. The ***PCMB recommended the parties support the Green Zone (above 115,000 caribou) for the PCH.*** The associated management actions with this recommendation include:

- Take only what you need
- Maximum 2 bull tags for licensed hunters
- Accurate shots and wounded caribou will be retrieved
- Collection of rigorous and verifiable harvest data (underway with VGG)

The PCMP based their recommendation on population size and trend, harvest, population dynamics, body condition and habitat.

NR has installed a database that will improve our collection of harvest information and calculations for the two reporting periods, which are June-November and December-May. ***Please make sure to report an accurate harvest as it is important in determining PCMB's harvest management recommendations for the year.*** Robert Kaye is currently collecting harvest data for the December-May period.

Meat Wastage

There continues to be reports of meat wastage in the community. The NR department wishes to emphasize traditional laws of ***taking only what you need*** and ***sharing your harvest***. Lots of people wish for caribou head and leg bones! Proper butchering and meat storage will also help prolong the quality and use of your meat.

I have also been involved in other files such as oil and gas, YG parks planning, NYRLUP and Whitefish Wetlands; however more detail of these files is covered under the Lands Manager. Mahsi'

Lands Manager – Rosa Brown (Whitehorse Office)

It is almost a year now since I started working as the Lands Manager for VGG. Prior to accepting this staff position, I assisted the Natural Resources Department with various files as a consultant.

I am based out of the Whitehorse office, where I work closely with VGG's co-management partners – most often Yukon Government and other Yukon First Nations. Numerous opportunities take me to Old Crow on a regular basis; I always enjoy talking with citizens and meeting with the community.

North Yukon Regional Land Use Plan

The North Yukon Regional Land Use Plan is the only completed regional land use plan in the Yukon. Implementation activities we are currently working on include developing best management practices for oil and gas activities in the range of the Porcupine Caribou herd, access management planning, and understanding landscape disturbance levels as a means to assess impacts of industrial activity.

Protected Areas

The draft management plan for Ch'ililii Chik Habitat Protection Area is near completion. We expect it to be ready for public consultation later this summer. Preparation of a management plan for Dàadzàii Vàn Territorial Park began this spring with a focus group meeting in Old Crow to discuss a vision statement and guiding principles for the plan. This planning process is expected to take at least one year, and will include several opportunities for public input along the way.

Settlement Lands

The Natural Resources Department is working with Yukon Government and Canada to resolve errors made when several parcels of VGFN settlement land were surveyed. Work began on this file years ago, but was suspended. The lands intended to be Settlement Land have been identified, and the parties are working toward amending the VGFN Final Agreement to recognize these areas as Settlement Land.

Old Crow Solar Project

A comprehensive feasibility study that looks at the economics of developing solar energy for Old Crow was completed this winter. The results of the study are promising. Next steps in advancing this project include determining a business entity to own the project, reaching an independent power purchase agreement with ATCO, and securing project funding/financing.

Game Guardian – Robert Kyikavichik

I started my position as Game Guardian for the Vuntut Gwitchin Government on February 1, 2016. It is good to be back at work for the people. On April 1-4 I went on patrol on the Dumpster Highway with Conservation Officer Shawn Hughes from Dawson patrolling the highway we seen a lot of caribou and no hunters. That is always good to see. I went out to Whitehorse for some training for the Swift Water Rescue Course and did some water training it was good.

We have a black bear going around people's camps along the river went out a few times but did not see the bear around. We all had a good spring getting caribou from February to May. I hope everyone got their meat for the summer. We are setting up the Sonar Camp for Environmental Dynamics Inc. working with fisheries on the Chinook salmon.

We all have a lot of work to do this summer. I hope you all have a good summer, enjoy!

*HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES DIRECTOR
MICHELLE BELMONT*

I would like to thank VGFN for the privilege of being the new Health and Social Director. It's an exciting time for the department and we are in continuous change. The change is exciting and cleansing and we have developed a strong and innovative team. We have a great vision for the department that is community focused and we are working on developing programs that up lift the community. The programs will be located in a central hub, which is the safe

house. This place allows for more confidentiality and is perfect for healing circles, women's groups, men's groups, self-help groups, and elder's programming. I have been attending a lot of meetings with the Council of First Nation Health Commission and with their support we will be having better access to programs within with various stakeholders so that old crow has a voice in the decision making process and program development. I am committed

to taking feedback from the community members to the working tables that I sit on, including health Canada, CYFN, and Yukon government. Thank you to our staff for their commitment and to the community members of being supportive of the health and social programs as we go through these changes. I look forward to many community engagements and a lot of fun with our amazing team.

***Family Support Worker
Kyla Ross***

The Health and Social Department is currently in the process of change, Great new things are happening. We are focusing on changing community programming to better the health and wellness of our community. Our new vision is to concentrate on community feedback, and we strongly encourage the community to provide new ideas and suggestions. We are aspiring to build community integrity, and embrace the importance of family and culture. On May 18, 2016 we held a community meet and greet with social workers: Angie Senft and Mary Jane Oliver, and had great community involvement. There will be another community engagement meeting on July 6th @ 5pm at the community hall and everyone is welcome. On June 3rd to 5th a community health and wellness gathering was held. It was a great turn out and there was lots of positive feedback that came from the Community. The health and social department recognizes and is taking into consideration the suggestions brought forth to ensure that healing, health and wellness are accomplished. The Health and Social team will be doing home visits with elders and people within the community to gather information through questionnaires. Our department will also like to invite the community to come out and celebrate our Elders Birthday party on June 30th @ 6pm at the community hall. We will be continuing to do elders birthday parties every two month to celebrate their birthdays.

Mahsi Cho'

Government Services Director—Howard Linklater

Drin Gwinzii Shalak Kat

First of all I'd like to thank the Chief and Council for giving me the opportunity to work for you. I'm slowly but surely getting back into the swing of things. There are a lot of issues in the community when it comes to the Government Services Department and I knew that when I took on the position. It's our community and only we can deal with and come up with solutions to all the issues. I am taking a proactive approach, as opposed to reactive approach, staying positive on not dwelling on the negative. My department, in all situations will try to come up with solutions that try to solve the problem and not Band-Aid solutions.

REDUCE, REUSE and RECYCLE!!!!

The first major issue on my desk is the garbage dump. Instead of "The blame game" my approach is "It's our garbage! What can we do to help?" Ultimately it is YTG's responsibly for the garbage dump, but if we reduce the volume by recycling, we would all be better off. The "Blue Bin" recycling program is operated by YTG. These Bins will be shipped to Old Crow. We have permission for the Environmental Health Department to bury the garbage, but we don't want to do that. We need your help to reduce the

volume of garbage at home. In other communities the youth run and sort the recycling and benefit from any monies that maybe available from this program. We are currently working on increasing the storage at the dump for the items we need to store and shipped out at a later date. It is good to teach our children to recycle. We throw money away in the form of pop cans. We can even set up for anonymous return of larger bottles as these are worth 25 cents. We will work with the Recreation to set this up. The GS Department will take this approach with everything including building materials. These will be sorted out at the garbage dump. If it can be reused it will be. The cost to replace these materials is very high and should not be burned in the landfill.

JOBS

The Government Services Staff are working hard to come up with various projects to put our youth and the new slate of apprentices that have just come on line to work. We are currently working on two Community Development Fund applications to fix up the "Old Chief Peter Moses Hall" and the old Coop Garage behind the College Campus. We were thinking of

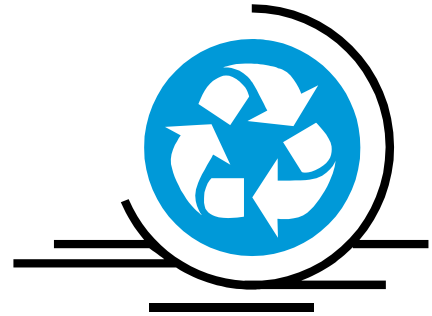
using the old garage as a shop for our future ambulance site or small engine repairs. We can share it with the college if small engine repair course or any other courses that require shop time. The college is looking to expand their Trades Training. These two buildings came to mind first as they are abandoned and fit within the CDF criteria. There will be Jacking and Leveling to begin soon on community homes. I am looking at a demolition crew to address some of the abandoned houses in the community. These units should be of great concern to VGFN and yourselves because of the liability. Think Safety First!

FUTURE PLANNING

The biggest issue that this Department and the community faces today is the lack of planning. Infrastructure such as power lines, gravel pads and roads may and is hindering our progress. This I see is the focus of my job for the next few months. All level of Government, YTG and the FEDS are waiting for us. There is money out there, we just need to get it together and prioritize the issues. CMHC has released new monies \$120 million across Canada over 2 years. This funding will be my focus to address a lot of the renovation issues in our community. We will focus on the

Physical Development Plan with YTG to address future development of our community. Again, I wish to emphasize the need to stay positive and not focus on the negative. We need more positive energy in our community. I'm not under any

illusions here thinking one person can solve all the issues but of course when we put our minds together we can do it together. I look forward to the years to come. I've been in this field for years and realize how important housing is to the overall well-being of our people.
Mahsi Cho'



Buildings Project Manager -Harold Frost Sr.

#991 - Funded by CMHC is 1 bedroom approx. 672 sq ft. The Gravel foundation is in. We will be starting on the flooring soon. This unit is a month behind the other 2 units. The Septic holding tanks are complete.

#992 - Funded by CMHC is 1 bedroom approx. 672 sq ft. The foundation flooring is complete with landing and stairs. The wall systems are up and the roof system is done. The septic tank is complete. This unit will be ready for rough in in 2-3 weeks

#993 - Funded by VGFN is 3 bedrooms approx. 1064 sq ft. The foundation is complete. We are working on the flooring then the wall system and the roof system is on. The septic tanks are done. This unit will be ready for rough in electrical in 2-3 weeks.

#993 – The roof system is done. We are working on facial and soffits and next is the inside work getting it ready for rough in electrical.

Finance Director – Paul Wysman

Our department would like to announce the arrival of two new staff and the return of a previous staff member. The new Director of Finance, myself, arrived at the beginning of May. My name is Paul Wysman and I have moved from South Eastern Saskatchewan where the current temperatures are in the 30s and thunderstorms have been pretty frequent. The Finance Manager, Theona Lewis, arrived near the end of March. She is coming here from Port Hardy, British Columbia. Shortly after my arrival, one of our longest term employees, Ida, went on extended leave to visit with family in Alaska. Please keep Ida and her family in your prayers. I would also like to welcome Marla Charlie back to the department.

Currently we are closing out the previous financial year and completing our yearend audit. There are some additional challenges this year but we are progressing towards the conclusion. If we look a little tired and stressed over the next three weeks don't worry, we'll be back to our normal selves once year end and audit are over

CLASS OF 2016

Nicolas Hendrie-Netro

Myles Rumley-Nukon

Joshua Tetlich

Tyrel Kassi

Nathaniel Schafer

Melayna Kyikavichik

Camisha Charlie-Tizya

Marlon Abel-Kendi



Brody Leigh

February 19

Kai Sidney

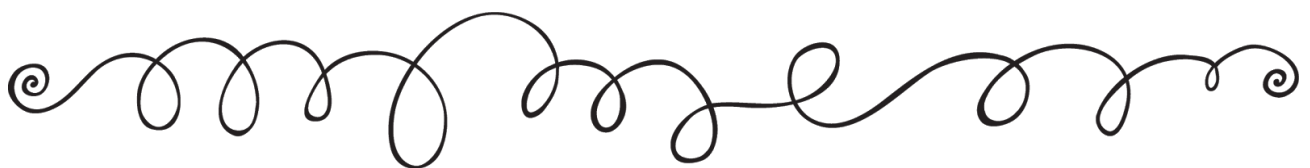
April 11

Shelby Brooklyn Avery

April 14

Aryannah Grace

May 26





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