It’s Finally Summertime!

Hello, and welcome Summer! I cannot believe that half of the 2015 year is almost behind us. That means that just a few weeks ago my baby girl, Ripley Anne, turned 6 months old. I never ever thought that I could love someone so very much. Sometimes I think that love could burst out of my eyes and ears in the form of sweet sunlight because I am so happy!

With my very first Mother’s Day approaching, which will come and be gone when you receive this newsletter, I have been reflecting on how thankful I am to have the opportunity to be a mother. There is truly no greater gift I have ever received than the gift of motherhood. It is also the hardest job I have ever taken on, but by far the most rewarding.

I am always proud of YOU, Wilson County fce members and your dedication to others. During the recent Spring fce Luncheon I was honored to present this year’s Wilson County fce Best of the Best to a very deserving fce member. This lady has held numerous offices on all levels of fce including the national office that she currently holds. She also dedicates hundreds of hours each year through her volunteer work. She works closely with me providing education to others in Chronic Disease Management and works closely with the Wilson County Fair promoting fce through Cultural Arts and Cancer Caps.

It is my distinct pleasure to announce Wanda Briddelle of Green Hill fce Club in Mt. Juliet as the 2015 Wilson County fce Best of the Best. I look forward to Central Region Annual Meeting to see if she is named the Central Region winner. We all know she is the most deserving. We are all so very proud of you, Wanda! Keep up the amazing work!
Bernie Kane, Wilson County fce President

Shelly is looking for help teaching crafts on Craft Day October 6th from 10am til 2pm. If you would like to participate she needs the following:

* Name and cost to produce the craft
* How long it will take to complete the class
* Photo of what you are making

You will need to bring your own lunch, please contact Shelly if you would like to take part.

Its time to line everything up for the Bazaar and for the County Fair! We really need more participation from our clubs for the bazaar, customers were crying out for more hand made items.

This is what fce members are known for, please plan to fully participate and help make this our best one yet. If you have any thoughts or questions please contact Michelle. She is working diligently to make this Bazaar bigger and better than before.

To clarify the policy on membership in fce clubs, you may only be a member of one club. However you are more than welcome to visit any and all of the others. So go enjoy and take advantage of visiting you will be welcome and may pick up some ideas that may work in your club. Just remember you will be unable to vote or hold office in any club except your own.

We had a booth in the Wilson Bank Senior Days this year representing fce.

In closing lets all push the last half of the year and make this a very fruitful one for fce. Thank you for all of your time, idea’s, energy and efforts to make our organization more active and enjoyable.

~Bernie

Suzanne Bell, Former Wilson County fce Member

Spring is here and the school year is quickly coming to an end! May 15th is the last day of school and, despite the warmer weather, there will most definitely still be plenty of snow on the ground. The big news in Gambell as of late is that we got a whale! The bowhead whale was over 40 feet long and can feed the entire village. The village is allowed seven whales each year, but rarely get over two. Every part of the whale is used, even the sinew of the muscles is used to make rope. While we were out watching the whale harvest a baby seal was discovered all alone. It was finally lured back into the sea. We don’t know what will happen to it, but hopefully its mother will find it or another seal will take care of it. We did pet it and took lots of videos and pictures!

The village’s water tank ran dry last week! We had a week of severe water restrictions and are still on a boil notice. They finally started to turn it on for 30 minutes every 4 hours. During that 30 minutes we filled a big soup pot for boiling, took our showers, and stored extra water for flushing. We are almost back to normal now, but that was one adventure I could have done without!

I am excited to come back “below” for a couple of months this summer. Much of it will be preparing for my return to Gambell. Now that I have a year under my belt, I can be even better prepared next school year.

I would like to give a special thank you to Ms. Catherine Brown from the Oakland fce Club for the wonderful handmade hats! The kids love them!

Looking forward, if you would like a service project for your club, please consider some of these options: Buying children’s winter gloves when they are on sale or good ones at a thrift store (not the little knit ones), buying or making winter hats or scarves (can be crochet, knit, fleece, as long as they are warm.) This would be great to work on throughout the summer and fall!

All donations can be sent to me at PO Box 235 Gambell, Alaska 99742.
Stuffed Summer Squash

**Ingredients**

- 2 summer squash
- 3 C cooked brown rice
- 1 C diced tomatoes
- 1 C squash pulp (from summer squash listed above)
- 1 C white beans, drained and rinsed
- 1 T fresh basil
- 4 T Parmesan cheese

**Directions**

1. Wash and cut squash in half, lengthwise. Remove the large seeds.

2. Steam the squash, skin side down, in a small amount of water in a fry pan or skillet until slightly tender (but not mushy).

3. Scoop out a good amount of pulp (1 cup), place in a bowl and mix with stuffing (brown rice though Parmesan cheese).

4. Place the squash shells in a baking dish. Stuff the squash with the stuffing mixture.

5. Top with grated Parmesan cheese, Bake at 350˚ for about 30 min.

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**County fce News You Can Use**

**Spring fce Luncheon-Special Thanks**

We from Tucker's Crossroads fce, wish to thank everyone that attended the fce Spring Luncheon. To all the fce clubs that brought door prizes and worked to decorate their tables, thank you. All the tables looked fantastic. A special thank you to Wilson Farmers Co-op and Sparkle Laundry for all their help and Wild Berry Café for a excellent lunch. Thank you to all the Tucker's Cross Roads fce members who worked hard to help put together the fce Spring Luncheon!

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**Wilson County Fair Notes**

Robbie Rogers, Fashion Revue Chairperson would like to remind each of you to begin work on your entries for the Wilson County FCE Fashion Revue. The county Fashion Revue takes place on Monday night (Aug. 17) at the Wilson County Fair beginning at 7pm. Please see the fair catalog or fair website (http://tiny.cc/fcefashion) for official rules. The categories are listed below:

**Constructed Items:**

1. Suit, dressy ensemble, or better dress
2. Jacket, blazer or coat
3. Casual and active wear
4. Children's casual and better wear (ages 12 or under)
5. Teen's casual and better wear (ages 13-18)
6. Sewing for an adult (over 18)
7. Recycled garment (utilizing used materials)
8. Wardrobe accessory (belt; tote bag; handbag; scarf; vest; hat; etc.)
9. Decorative Sweat wear (sweatshirt; sweatshirt jacket, etc.)

**Purchased Items:**

10. My Best Fashion Purchase: Casual Wear

Wanda Briddelle, Cultural Arts Chairperson would also like for you to begin working on your entries for the Cultural Arts Competition. Official rules can be found in the fair catalog or the fair website (http://tiny.cc/fceculturalarts). Entries are taken on Saturday, Aug. 8th between 10am and 3pm. Please see insert for categories.
Hello friends…

I am always appreciative to those who work hard to produce our food and fiber. I was recently reading an article about a “Farm to Fork” event held in conjunction with National Ag Day. This group was discussing issues facing farmers and ranchers. The following were highlighted as some of the major issues.

1. **This is the age of social media and liability lawsuits.** “Producers must be thoughtful and proactive in regard to food safety and animal welfare issues.” The recent issue with Blue Bell ice cream has had a tremendous impact on the future of that company. Any event is instantly reported and due to the mobility of products across the nation and the world, all safety concerns are major news event.

2. **Water represents a growing challenge for agriculture around the globe.** Agriculture is at the mercy of Mother Nature. We were blessed with a lot of rain earlier this year but right now we are facing a period with no rain which impacts row crops, fruit and vegetable production, pastures and hay. The extreme drought in the agricultural areas of California have already impacted food prices in our grocery stores. It is not just a California problem…it turns into a national and world problem.

3. **Inaccurate messages.** Farmers must tell their story about the quality of care they give their animals, their concern about the environment and quality of methods used for food production. The opposing side is excellent at taking their views and reducing it to a “bumper sticker” which may relate inaccurate information. These inaccurate messages easily become “fact” if not countered with accurate, science based information. There are a lot of people who make a lot of money scaring people about food.

The United States has the best and safest food supply in the world. For this I am extremely thankful.

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**Mango Cucumber Soup**

Makes 4 servings

**Ingredients**

- 2 ripe mangoes (divided)
- 1 English cucumber (divided)
- 2 T chopped onion
- 1 jalapeno pepper, finely diced
- Juice from fresh lime
- 1/2 C water
- 1/4 C fresh chopped cilantro

**Directions**

1. Cut all but one half of the mango into chunks, removing peel and pit; chill remaining mango half for use with garnish.

2. Slice off 1/4 of the cucumber and chill for use with garnish. Coarsely chop remaining 3/4 of the cucumber.

3. Place chopped mango, cucumber, onion and pepper in blender or food processor with lime juice and water. Puree until smooth.


5. About 15-30 minutes before serving, prepare garnish. Dice chilled mango half, removing peel and pit dice remaining cucumber. Mix mango and cucumber dices with cilantro. To serve, top with garnish.
Local Club News

Carroll fce Club: Members of the Carroll Club have been busy at our monthly meetings this winter and spring with various crafting projects to enter in this year’s Cultural Arts competition at the County Fair. We won last year’s club participation with 100% and aim to do it again this year.

Member Delane Kolbe taught special interest class March 31 at the Carroll Club House. Six participants wove very good looking market baskets. Look for these to win ribbons at the fair too. Delane also demonstrates basket weaving at Fiddlers Grove.

March was Extension month and members John Swendiman, Delane Kolbe, and Jeanie Such represented our club and fce at the Extension Walk and Talk event at the Charlie Daniels Park in Mt. Juliet March 30. All had a good time as we shared and demonstrated our crafts with visitors. Jeanie crocheted caps, Delane wove baskets, and John cleaned and cut gourds.

Jeanie Such crocheted and donated 130 baby hats and 30 pairs of baby booties to the UMC maternity ward, as well as over 50 cancer caps to the Sarah Cannon Center. And more are on the way for each. Zena Swendiman is also crocheting cancer caps for the fair. Our club house is available to rent for special events. Contact member Betty Hartman for details.

Norene fce Club: Again it has been a busy few months. February was bad for us like most due to weather conditions. We have been planning and working for the fce Bazaar and a craft sale sponsored by the Norene Community Center on September 26. We had 7 members including one guest at the spring Luncheon. Our program for March was SCAN a senior citizens program monitored and sponsored by the Wilson County Sheriff’s department. Several members are now wearing SCAN buttons for personal safety and emergency help. A monetary donation and walker bags were given to SCAN by the club.

This has also been a sad month for Norene members. Two members lost husbands: Evelyn Lannom lost her husband, Shirley and Janet Chisam lost her husband, Douglas.

Maybe the sun and warmth will bring more than just flowers but also true warming and lots of good memories.

Oakland fce Club: Oakland fce Club’s Catherine Brown donated several handmade hats for our favorite little Alaskan friends. Suzanne Bell’s students were really excited to receive these from their new friend Catherine!

Keep up the great work, Catherine!
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Craft Day Information

Plans are underway for the 1st Annual Craft Day for Wilson County fce. We are hoping to have several options of simple and fun crafts for you and your friends. Specific class information will be ready for pick up on July 1st at the Extension Office. Please use this as a way to market your fce clubs. Please invite non fce members to this event and let them learn what fce is all about!


Programs in agriculture and natural resources, 4-H youth development, family and consumer sciences, and resource development. University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture, U.S. Department of Agriculture and county governments cooperating. UT Extension provides equal opportunities in programs and employment.