

## Clevenger is new Cortland administrator

Beth Clevenger, a 25-year veteran of Cortland Acres and the assistant administrator since 2001, is Cortland's new administrator. Clevenger takes over the role held by Don Black, who is retiring after 28 years of service to Cortland.

The Board of Directors unanimously voted at its Oct. 30 meeting to name Clevenger as administrator, effective Dec. 18.

"We have great confidence that Beth is the person to lead us in the coming years," said Pat A. Nichols, board president. "This is a difficult time for health care filled with uncertainty, but we're excited about the potential for Cortland and know Beth will do a great job. We also appreciate the service of Don Black, who has been an asset not only to Cortland Acres but to our entire community, as he will continue to be."

Clevenger is a graduate of Fairmont State with a degree in business and received her nursing home administrator license in 1994. She said she

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Snowmen created by staff members decorate the dining room at Cortland Acres. Winners from left were Clerical, 7-3 Nursing shift, 11-7 CNA shift, and 3-11 CNA shift.

## Tax credits available through Foundation

Taxpayers who want to donate to a worthy cause and save on their state income taxes at the same time should consider a donation to The Cortland Foundation.

"Businesses or individuals who make at least a \$500 donation to the Cortland Foundation before the end of the calendar year can receive a tax credit at a rate of 50 percent," said Lois Nelson, executive director of the non-profit foundation. "This is a



win-win situation for donors, and Cortland Acres residents

and the community."

The West Virginia Development Office granted The Cortland Foundation \$2,500 in Neighborhood Investment Program tax

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Thomas Davis Lions Club donates in memory of Dick Wolfe / **Page 2**

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# Credits

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credits for the 2013-2014 fiscal year.

"Because of this, we have the opportunity to receive \$5,000 in donations which will benefit Cortland Acres residents directly," Nelson explained. "The money from the tax credits will be used to revitalize Cortland Acres dining room."

The dining room revitalization project is a three-phase project with a total cost of \$19,200. The chapel adjacent to the dining room is included in the project.

"Phase one includes replacing the wall coverings," she said. "Phase two involves replacing the ceiling tiles and grid and the lighting and phase three is new window treatments."

Tax credits are awarded at a rate of 50 percent. A \$1,000 donation for example will result in tax credits of \$500.

It's different than a traditional tax deduction because rather than decreasing total taxable income, it's actually a credit applied to the amount of state

tax a person owes.

"Donors can use the tax credits to reduce liability for Corporate Net Income Tax, Business Franchise Tax or Personal Income Tax," she said.

The tax credit can be used to reduce total tax liability and must be used within a five-year period beginning with the tax year in which the donation is made. A donor cannot use the tax credit to reduce total state tax liability by more than 50 percent annually.

This is the first time The Cortland Foundation has gone through the process and Nelson knows the tax credit program may also be new for many people in the area.

"I'll help guide businesses and individuals through the process and make sure they get their tax voucher and understand how to use it and apply it on their taxes," she said.

The Neighborhood Investment Program is designed to increase charitable giving to nonprofit 501(c)3 organizations

that serve low-income families in high distressed areas. The West Virginia Development Office distributed \$8.2 million tax credits to a total of 201 West Virginia organizations.

"We asked for a smaller amount this year to make sure we achieved our goal of raising \$2,500 in donations toward the project," Nelson said. "Next year we may look at other projects and may ask for more money."

The foundation's participation in the Neighborhood Investment Program won't cover the entire cost of the dining room revitalization.

"In addition to applying for the tax credits, we also applied for a Tucker Community Foundation grant to help complete the project," Nelson said.

Interested businesses or individuals can send contributions to The Cortland Foundation, Attn: Lois Nelson, 39 Cortland Acres Lane, Thomas, WV 26292.



**Paul Rudy, president of the Thomas-Davis Lions Club, presents Don Black with a \$2,000 donation in memory of Dick Wolfe. Wolfe was a longtime Cortland Acres board member and past president of the Lions Club. The money was used to provide furniture for the employee dining room, and a plaque was installed in the room to honor Wolfe. Wolfe served on the Personnel Committee for the Cortland Acres Board and appreciated the care staff members provided to his son while a resident at Cortland.**

# Cortland is a four-star facility

Cortland Acres received a four-star rating from Medicare's "Nursing Home Compare," which rates every Medicare- and Medicaid-certified facility in the country.

Cortland Acres' rating places it among the best in West Virginia and the Potomac Highlands region.

The government agency rates nursing home in three different categories: health inspections, staffing, and quality measures. Cortland Acres received four stars in each of those three areas in addition to the four-star rating overall.

"This above-average mark is a testament to the hard

work of our employees, who dedicate every day to providing outstanding care for our short- and long-term residents," Administrator Don Black said. "We will always strive to constantly improve and be the best we can possibly be."

According to Medicare, data come from two sources: the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) health inspection database, and the national database known as the Minimum Data Set (MDS).

The CMS information includes the nursing home characteristics such as safety, environmental issues, health standards, etc., which were addressed during

the three most recent state inspections and complaint investigations. The MDS data involves assessments done at regular intervals on all residents, including information about health, physical functioning, mental status and general well-being.

"We realize objective measures such as these, while valuable, are just part of providing outstanding care," noted Beth Clevenger, Cortland's assistant administrator. "We also take pride in the compassion and caring shown by everyone who works at Cortland, and that makes the difference in residents' lives on a daily basis."

## Administrator

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looks forward to the challenge and the opportunity.

"Cortland Acres has so much to offer," Clevenger noted. "We do have a long-term care component that many people are familiar with, but that's just part of the holistic care available on our campus. We also have apartments, duplex housing, in-patient and outpatient physical therapy and rehabilitation, and are home to a health clinic.

"In addition to all that, we're one of the largest employers in Tucker County and provide our community with good jobs and benefits. We have a great staff that provides outstanding care to our residents, and we will continue to offer the services that our region needs."

In addition to working at Cortland Acres, Clevenger serves on the board of the Tucker Community Foundation and is involved in a number of community groups. She lives in Thomas with her husband, David. They are the parents of two children, Kim and Katie.



**Floyd Crawford stirs the pot of apple butter while Phil Oster waits his turn. Residents and friends took turns stirring the pot during the apple butter cooking process. Activities Director Marie Grafton said the pot produces about 150 pints of apple butter.**

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George and Mariwyn Smith show off mustaches.



Champ Sedmock toured the new courthouse.



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