



Gone Fishin'

Much more than a tranquil location or a scenic view, the BRC lake is a great place to spend unseasonably warm spring afternoons with friends & family. Several of the guys from campus packed up their poles, found a little sack of crickets and a 5-gallon bucket, and headed down to the pier to enjoy some good, old-fashioned male bonding time on the water. (see page 6)



All Things New

Itchy, watery eyes; coughing; sneezing; scratchy throat... for many of us, the nuisance of seasonal allergies can make springtime the most miserable time of year. But in no time at all, we'll look around, and all the pollen and blossoms will be gone, replaced by the unbearable heat of summer, along with those blood-thirsty mosquitoes. So for now, let's just enjoy this all-too-brief season where Mississippi awakens from her winter's nap and Mother Nature works to make all things new. (see page 8)



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On the Cover



What started as a simple idea, to enter BRC into the Tablescapes Competition at the Magee Chamber of Commerce Banquet, quickly led to an unveiling, to the public, of the type of talent only found within the boundaries of BRC's Maintenance/Grounds Department. Prior to March 21st, few people outside the BRC family knew about Randy Robertson, the artist or Greg Amason, the craftsman. And chances are, only a few people within the BRC family truly know and appreciate the level of mastery each of these men possess in their respective fields.

The picture above, taken during the chamber banquet, showcases a single centerpiece and eight parting gifts. The centerpiece, comprised of six, 12-inch, hand-painted wooden panels, vividly depict scenes and logos from both the MS State TB Sanitorium and Boswell Regional Center. The parting gifts are wooden boxes, crafted from a single 8x8 post, designed to house a single glass milk bottle and two original milk lids from the old TB Sanitorium Dairy Barn. Guests with the good fortune to be seated at BRC's table during the banquet were indeed privileged to witness such a unique display of history and talent.

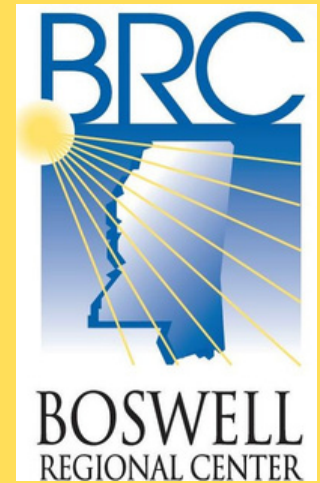
A special thanks to Beth Luper for her creativity in designing our table, and a very special thanks to both Greg Amason and Randy Robertson for bringing her ideas to life.

The Boswell Bulletin

is published without cost to inform the public, employees, friends and family of Boswell Regional Center's activities, programs and progress. This publication also serves to provide information to those interested in the work conducted by BRC employees to enrich the lives of those with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities.

Mission Statement

Boswell Regional Center offers specialized program options to Mississippians with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities. These programs are designed to identify the necessary supports for successful community transition. With collaboration between the person, family, and community, dreams can become a reality



Clint Ashley, Director

Renee Burton, Editor

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www.brc.ms.us

***For
Questions or
Comments
regarding
information in this
publication,
please contact
Public Relations:
(601) 867-5078***

WELCOME!

WE'RE GLAD YOU'RE HERE

1st March Class

Sitting L-R:

Mark Brown,
Jollodie Williams,
Chasity Layton,
Terri Rayner

Standing L-R:

Sarah Brown,
Darrius Brown,
Josalyn Sullivan,
Janice Cockrell,
Carrie Jones



2nd March Class

Sitting L-R:

Kierstyn Williams,
Danielle Goforth,
Shaquan Sims,
LeKeisha Carter

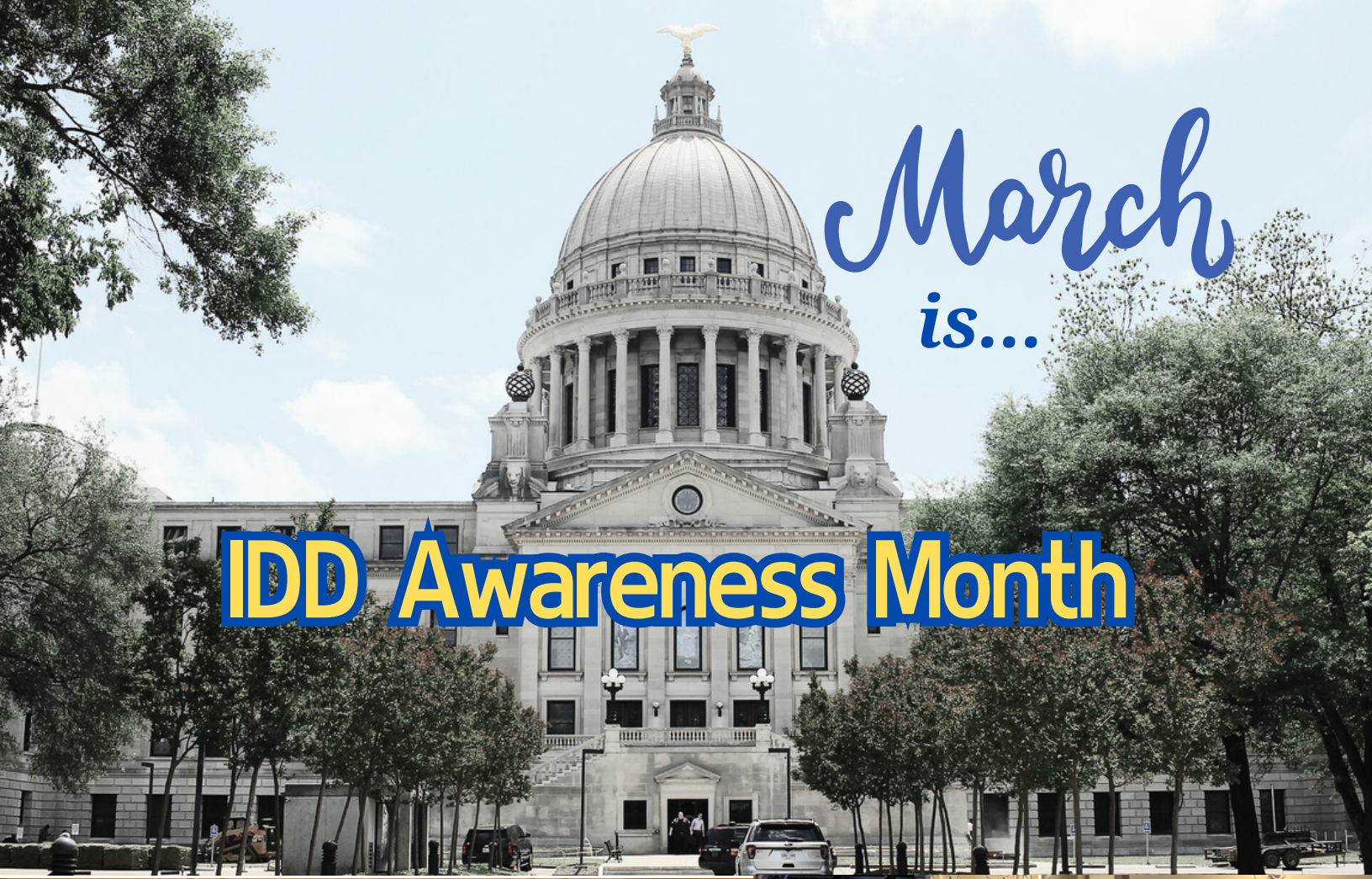
Standing L-R:

LeDarius Sandifer,
Paranovecia Ducksworth,
Cardis Sparks,
Brandon Grace,
Charissa McGee

Not Pictured:

Jacoria Showers





March
is...

IDD Awareness Month



GOVERNOR SIGNS PROCLAMATION

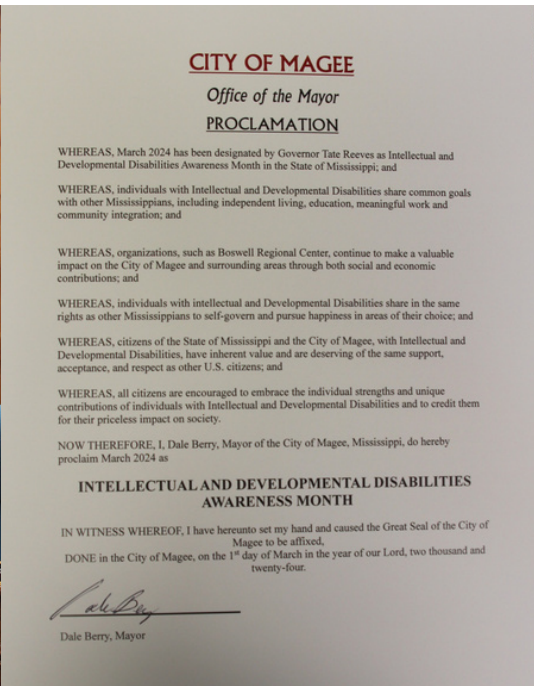
Throughout the country each year, the month of March is recognized as IDD Awareness Month. During this month, organizations like DMH celebrate and spotlight the special gifts and unique contributions made by individuals with IDD. One way of doing this is through having our Governor sign a proclamation, recognizing it as IDD Awareness Month for the state of Mississippi. BRC staff and individuals joined DMH and other IDD facilities in commemorating this very special occasion.



IDD DAY AT THE CAPITOL

March 6th marked IDD Day at the Capitol 2024. The goal of this event is to increase awareness of individuals with IDD and allow service providers an opportunity to share information with community members regarding the services they provide. Pictured above L-R, Wendy Bunt, Marley Lott, Kaitlyn Higgins and Gracie Earnest traveled to the capitol to represent Boswell Regional Center. **4**

Mayor Berry Proclaims March IDD Awareness Month for the City of Magee



For a number of years now, the month of March has been recognized as Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (IDD) Awareness Month in the state of Mississippi. This year several men from Boswell Regional Center’s Community Day Services Program traveled to City Hall to meet with Mayor Dale Berry, as he signed a proclamation, recognizing March as IDD Awareness month for the City of Magee.

Among other things, this proclamation acknowledges that individuals with IDD share common goals with other Mississippians, such as independent living, education, meaningful work, and community integration. They make a valuable impact on the City of Magee and surrounding areas through both social and economic contributions. They share the same rights to self-govern and pursue happiness in the areas of their choice, and they have inherent value and are deserving of the same support, acceptance, and respect as anyone else. All citizens are encouraged to embrace the individual strengths and unique contributions of individuals with IDD and to credit them for their priceless impact on society.

Mayor Berry expressed his appreciation for Boswell Regional Center and for the great work that is being done here. He also shared his affections for all of the individuals served by BRC and for the positive impact they have made on the City of Magee over the past several years. Mayor Berry’s support for BRC is sincere, and it goes far beyond kind words and photo ops. When his schedule allows, he makes it a priority to attend all BRC’s parades and other important events. He also coordinates with the Magee Fire and Police Departments to ensure their participation in these events as well. He doesn’t do it for status or public recognition; he does it because he genuinely cares. We are grateful for his authenticity, his leadership, and his consistent love for BRC.



Rain out our Parade?

“If at once, you don’t succeed, try, try again.”

BRC’s 2024 St. Patty’s Day Parade was a washout no-go, not once but twice, leaving the “Luck of the Irish” trophy a raincheck for next year.

The weather may have “rained on our St. Patty’s Day Parade”, but guess what? That didn’t stop BRC’s individuals from striking gold at the end of the rainbow! Big kudos to the Recreation Department for, once again, pulling off an amazing St. Patty’s Day Party!



A BAD DAY
Fishing
- IS -
BETTER
THAN
A GOOD DAY
AT Work



Where Else?

Where else can you get this kind of job satisfaction? Not many places will allow their employees to go fishing while on the clock. But with warmer temperatures and overcast skies, it would've been a shame to pass up a perfect opportunity for "rippin' lips". So, a couple of staff members grabbed their poles, a little bag of live crickets and several of the men from campus and headed down to the lake. The fish might not have been very big that day, but there certainly were a lot of them. One staff member said he and the guys caught nearly 30 fish just the day before.

And what's better than a bucket full of fish on a weekday? The fond memories that were made and the sense of belonging that was created from a simple afternoon on the lake and another... **Good Day at Work.**

Above: Antonio wasn't thrilled about bating his hook with that squirmy little cricket, but he was super brave when it came to taking off his own fish.



The Pastor's Corner



Jesus is Alive



*Rev. Charles Meadows
BRC Chaplain*

The greatest miracle to ever be performed in the history of all mankind is the resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ. Today, some people try to disapprove Jesus' resurrection, because they know if they can prove that Jesus never arose from the grave, then they can debunk Christianity all together. I thank the Lord for laying down His life for me, because apart from Him, I am destined for complete and utter destruction. In the gospel of John 20:1-18, we learn that, after His crucifixion and burial, Jesus arose defeating death. When Mary noticed that the body of Jesus was no longer in the tomb she immediately ran to the other disciples. Once the disciples reached the tomb and noticed for themselves that Jesus's body was not there, they went back to their own homes. Mary Magdalene, on the other hand, stood outside the tomb weeping because the Lord's body was no longer there. Scripture also tells us that she had an encounter with the risen Lord and went back to the disciples to tell them exactly what Jesus had told her to tell them. No matter how hard people try to debunk the resurrection of Jesus, they will never be successful. Just as Jesus defeated death and arose from the grave, those who are in Christ will do the same.

WE ARE HIRING

Scan me

FULL-TIME STATE BENEFITS

- **COMPETITIVE PAY**
- **STATE SPONSORED HEALTH/LIFE INSURANCE PLAN**
- **PAID PERSONAL LEAVE (12 HRS. MONTHLY)**
- **PAID MEDICAL LEAVE (8 HRS. MONTHLY)**
- **PAID HOLIDAY LEAVE (10 DAYS PER YEAR)**
- **MS PUBLIC EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT**
- **8 OR 16 HOUR SHIFTS**

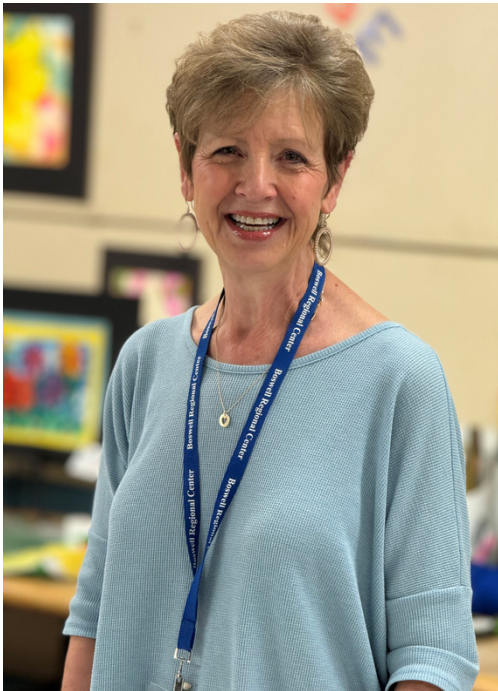


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 **601-867-5000**

Department Spotlight

Recreation Services



Cindy Sanders, Director

Cindy is from Star, MS and has served at BRC for 6 yrs. She holds a B.S. in Therapeutic Recreation from USM, and She enjoys spending time with family/grandchildren as well as community and church activities. Her goal is to bring joy and happiness to our individuals through fun and exciting recreation programs and events. Her favorite thing about BRC is the individuals.

The Importance of Therapeutic Recreation for Individuals With IDD

Therapeutic recreation is a form of therapy using recreational activities to improve the physical, cognitive, emotional, and social functioning of Individuals with IDD. This specialized therapy approach is essential for several reasons.

First, it provides an opportunity for Individuals to express themselves freely, breaking down barriers that may be imposed by their disabilities. Therapeutic recreation empowers people with a sense of control and autonomy, thus boosting their self-esteem and promoting mental wellness.

Moreover, it also improves their physical and cognitive abilities. Through engaging and enjoyable activities, Individuals can enhance their motor skills, coordination, and concentration. It's a unique way of learning and growing that's both enriching and entertaining.

Finally, therapeutic recreation fosters social integration. Participating in group activities helps Individuals with IDD develop social skills, build relationships, and feel a sense of belonging in their community

Extracted from:
"Independent Living Association, Inc." at ilaonline.org



Demetria "MiMi" Craig

Demetria is from Mendenhall and has been at BRC for 3 years. She attends Pearl River Community College and plans to study nursing. Her goal is to become a better person for herself and her family, and her favorite thing about BRC is being able to see all the individuals enjoy the outings and activities.



Jollodie "Lodie" Williams

Jollodie is from Pinola and has been at BRC for 1 month. She studied Medical Assistant at Antonelli College and enjoys sports and writing poetry. She provides Art/Music at 5 Oaks. Her goal is to keep living and walking by faith, and her favorite thing about BRC is being able to communicate with others.

Not Pictured: Nicole Sullivan, Recreation Coordinator, Ridgeview
Nanette Rankin, Recreation Coordinator, Pinelake
Laketha Dampier, Expressive Arts, 5-Oaks



SPRING CAMPUS PICS

“Behold, I am making all things new.”
Revelation 21:5



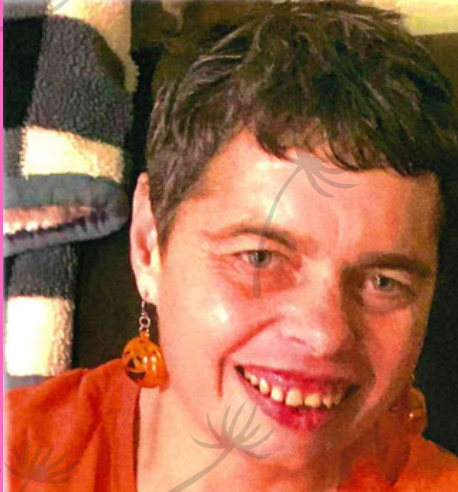
Remembering Good Friends

4/02/1978 - 3/09/2024

Services were held for Ms. Jeannette Edge on Tuesday, March 12, 2024, at Colonial Chapel Funeral Home in Magee. Ms. Jeannette was a resident at Oakbrook for many years. She loved going home to see family and spending the night with "Grandma Crafton," and she would count the days until she could visit them again. She also loved going to flea markets, shopping for shoes, stuffed animals, purses, and earrings. But what most people remember most about Ms. Jeannette is how much she loved checking the weather on a daily basis and sharing this information with everyone to keep them safe.

Extracted from The Post Newspaper

Barbara "Jeannette" Edge



7/07/1950 - 2/24/2024

Ms. Cookie Stimage was born on July 07, 1950. She became part of the Boswell family on April 23, 1981. Cookie called Pinelake her home from September 08, 2014, until she left for Jaquith Nursing Home, Whitfield, MS, on April 27, 2023. While at Pinelake, Cookie enjoyed sitting on the porch and welcoming everyone, she was our greeter. She always gave her beautiful smile freely to all visitors. Cookie Stimage went to her heavenly home on February 24, 2024.

*Submitted by Kay Adcox,
Social Worker, Pinelake*

Cookie Stimage



"WE ALL SCREAM FOR ICE CREAM!"



If there's one thing the majority of us can agree on, it's the satisfaction we get from the first taste of that cold, sweet, creamy goodness known as ice cream. Whether you're wanting to top off a hearty meal with a little something sweet or you're looking to indulge in full-on layers of decadent dairy, drenched in rich sauces and endless add-ons, ice cream makes for the perfect, anytime treat and is ranked second, only to cookies, as America's best-selling dessert.

The Ice cream machine at BRC's Le Grand Cafe, which was out of commission for some time, is now up and running, giving employees yet another option for soothing their sweet tooth. Mrs. Lottie and her team work hard to provide the best flavors including, vanilla, Chocolate, Georgia Peach, and Butter Pecan (*flavors vary depending on supply*). And if a sundae is what you're craving, there's always a variety of toppings to choose from: strawberry, chocolate, or caramel syrup; chopped nuts; etc. And to make it even better, the prices are incredibly reasonable, only \$1.50 for a small, \$2.00 for a medium, and \$2.50 for a large. Just make sure you can get the lid on the bowl, or else you will be charged for the next size up. No one knows how long our ice cream machine will cooperate, so be sure to get a serving of soft serve at the Le Grand while you still can.

Random Facts About Ice Cream

5th century B.C. - Ancient Greeks enjoy a dessert similar to ice cream.

1300s - Marco Polo brings an early form of ice cream to Europe.

1700s - Ice Cream is introduced to America as a delicacy enjoyed by high society due to its expensive ingredients and lack of available refrigerators.

1776 - America's first ice cream parlor opens its doors in New York.

1840s - The ice cream churn is invented, and now we can make ice cream by the bucket!

1851 - Doors open to one of the sweetest buildings ever - the very first ice cream plant.

1880s - The ice cream sundae is born.

1904 - Rumor has it, the waffle cone makes its debut at the world's fair in St. Louis, MO after an ice cream vendor ran out of bowls.

1929 - William Dreyer and Joseph Edy create Rocky Road ice cream! It joins vanilla, chocolate and strawberry as most widely available flavors.

1984 - July is declared National Ice Cream Month, but you can still enjoy it all year long!

Today - 90% of freezers in the USA are chilling with ice cream.

BETTER WITH FRIENDS



What could be more enjoyable than free ice cream? Sharing it with friends! Every year, Dairy Queen Grill & Chill marks the arrival of spring by offering complimentary ice cream cones to anyone who asks. This year a few of the guys from Connections took advantage of savoring sweet treats at absolutely no cost.



STAFF COMPLETE SUPERVISOR TRAINING COURSE



With Director, Clint Ashley, and Asst. Director, Ricky Grimes left to right: Dakota Lofton, James Kirby, Shermeka McDonald, Aaron Berry, Melvin Smith and Tommy Neely



Above: Instructor, Bobby Prince (L) and BRC Director, Clint Ashley (R) share encouragement with staff in their roles as leaders at BRC.

The BRC Supervisory Class is an intensive 3-day class for upcoming and current supervisors. Each participant spends three days being introduced to the concepts and expectations of an effective supervisor. The class is tailored to meet the unique supervisory needs of Boswell Regional Center.

Commitment Respect Responsibility Loyalty Communication Trust Cooperation

Horses For Handicapped MS



Thousands of participants and volunteers attended this year's Horses for Handicapped event at the Rankin County Multipurpose Pavilion in Brandon, MS. Horses for Handicapped is four-day, annual event that provides horseback riding, wagon rides, and various forms of farm-life activities to children and adults with disabilities. Several BRC Individuals from the Community got to experience the joys of equine life, some of them, for the very first time.

BRC Participates in Governor's Job Fair



The first annual State Agency Job Fair was held on Thursday, 3/28/2024, at the MS Trademart in Jackson. Pictured above: BRC HR Dept's, Ounchea Magee, shares information with prospective candidates regarding position availability and the benefits of working for the State & BRC.

Find Joy in the Journey



Spring Fling

&

TOUCH

a

Truck

FRIDAY APRIL 5TH, 10A.M.-2 P.M.

GREEN PARK

Upcoming Events

April

Autism Awareness Month Parkinson's Awareness Month

- 1.....April Fools Day
- 2.....**World Autism Awareness Day**
- 2.....Peanut Butter & Jelly Day
- 3-4.....**Masquerade Jewelry Sale (Dream Extreme)**
- 5.....**Spring Fling (Green Park 10-2)**
- 12.....National Grilled Cheese Sandwich Day
- 13.....Thomas Jefferson's B-Day
- 13.....Simpson County Bicentennial "Magee Day"
Downtown Magee
- 14.....Simpson County Bicentennial "Sunday at the 'San'"
BRC Campus 11:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
- 14-20.....**Parkinson's Awareness Week**
- 19.....**Autism Day, Goodwater**
- 22-28.....**National Multiple Sclerosis Awareness Week**
- 22.....National Jelly Bean Day
- 23.....**Friends & Family Annual Meeting/ EOY Recognition**
BRC Dining Hall 2:00
- 24.....Administrative Professionals Day
- 25.....**Autism Day, Brookhaven**
- 26.....National Arbor Day
- 26.....**BRC Spring Pageant (Auditorium 1-3 pm)**

Good Friday Easter Service

In reverence of the Easter season, several staff and individuals joined together to celebrate the significance of Good Friday through special music and a “Good News” message of the Cross . This year’s service took place in the BRC Dining Hall, where Director, Clint Ashley, shared a special word and opened in prayer before introducing BRC’s newest choir, “Joyful Noise”. Under the direction of Robin Moss, “Joyful Noise” filled the room with remarkable praise and worship, singing some of the most popular Gospel hymns, like “Because He Lives”, “The Old Rugged Cross” and “Amazing Grace”. Afterwards, BRC Chaplain, Charlie Moss, shared an in-depth review of the scourging, crucifixion, and burial of Jesus Christ, followed by a reminder that *Sunday’s Coming*, when the Lord would be resurrected to new life again. Wendy Bunt and Brock Kinsey closed the service with, “I will Rise.”

Special thanks to Will Harper and Jarrod Lee for accompanying the choir with keyboard and guitar.



Psalm 100:1-3 -"Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all ye lands. Serve the Lord with gladness: come before his presence with singing. Know ye that the Lord he is God: it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture."



Joyful Noise

