

BULLETIN



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DIRECTOR'S COLUMN



Raymond Johnson

Construction has begun on the four buildings which will replace Jaquith. Two are being constructed at the front of campus and two will be constructed by the Lake. This is a project that has been in the making for several years now. As a part of this project, Lakefront, which has not been in use since the early 90's, has been demolished. (See picture, Page 3.)

Campus was filled with Christmas events in December, including the presentation of "A Bos-

well Christmas", a Christmas show put on by staff to entertain the individuals. It was quite an entertaining event and I believe that everyone involved had a wonderful time. It looks like we've started another tradition!

We thank the eight grade band students from Magee Middle School who got the event kicked off with some enjoyable Christmas music.

Boswell participated in five area parades, had a host of Christmas parties and shared in many other holiday activities. A number of you have contributed donations of not only financial means, but of your time to make the holiday a special time in the lives of the individuals here. We thank you for your generosity and want you to know how much you're appreciated.

We're looking forward to the upcoming year and extend to each one of you a Happy New Year!

Mission Statement

Boswell Regional Center provides Mississippians with intellectual and other developmental disabilities a comprehensive array of service options promoting independence and an optimal quality of life. Through an active partnership of individual, family, staff and community, these service options are designed to enhance each individual's quality of life through teaching skills which aid in reaching personal potential.



BRC BULLETIN

The Boswell Bulletin is a publication of Boswell Regional Center. The Bulletin is published free of charge to inform the public and interested family members and individuals about Boswell Regional Center activities, policies and progress.

This publication also serves to provide information to those interested in intellectual disabilities and the individuals served at BRC.

Raymond Johnson, Director

Kathy Lee, Editor

Kathy Dampeer-Pittman, Assistant

It is the policy of the Mississippi Department of Mental Health and each facility to recruit, employ, and promote qualified employees and applicants without regard to race, religion, color, sex, age, national origin, or disability. The Department of Mental Health/Bureau of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990. It is the sole purpose of this act to provide a clear mandate for the elimination of discrimination against individuals with disabilities.

The Front Cover

Pictured on the front cover is Boswell's float at the parade in Raleigh. The theme of the float was "Home for Christmas" and was a tribute not only to troops serving today, but those veterans that have served in the past. Thank you to everyone who had a part in this year's float.



Lakefront demolished to make room for new buildings

Boswell is making the way for progress. The Lakefront building has been demolished to make room for two new buildings. These new buildings are two of four being built to house individuals. They will take the place of the Jaquith building that houses up to 140 individuals. It would take a major renovation project to bring this building up to where it needs to be.

The new buildings are part of a project that has been several years in the making. One of the necessary steps that had to be taken was receiving authorization from the Mississippi Department of Ar-

chives to tear down Lakefront, which was built in 1921. Boswell received Archives permission to do so about a year ago. The Mental Health Board had given permission two years ago for the building to be razed. The project bid came in just over 20% under budget.

“Lakefront was in deplorable condition and beyond renovating for a reasonable amount of money,” said Raymond Johnson, Director of Boswell. “It is costing the taxpayers of Mississippi less to vacate Jaquith, tear down Lakefront, and build four new buildings than it would cost to renovate the two

existing buildings.”

Lakefront was used as a nurses’ dormitory when the Mississippi State Sanatorium for the treatment of tuberculosis was in operation. After the Department of Mental Health secured the property in 1976, the building has been used for a variety of things including a dormitory for individuals, as well as a “country store.” During that time only a small portion of the building was being utilized for activities and the remainder of the building was used for storage. The building has not been in use since the early 90’s.

Boswell Christmas activities

Boswell is always a busy place during the holidays from parades to parties to the Christmas Show, "A Boswell Christmas" December's calendar was full.



Above, Vocational Services entertained the crowd at the Christmas Show with their version of "The Twelve Days of Christmas."

Pictured below is BRC's Christmas float as it rode through D'Lo, which was one of the locations of five parades Boswell's float participated in during the 2009 Christmas season.



Unit 4 employees are pictured below singing carols to the enjoyment of fellow staff and individuals at "A Boswell Christmas" held December 9th. Those in attendance were delighted with the 13 acts that performed for the event.



Randy Robertson and Kerry East are pictured below putting up lights. It takes several employees and several days to dress up the campus for Christmas. Thanks to all who helped!

In and Around Boswell



BRC employees honor retiree with a reception

Pictured at left is recent retiree Ike Raley, at right, receiving a Certificate of Appreciation from Gloria Johnson, at left, Assistant Director of Community Programs during his retirement reception. At the time of his retirement, Ike worked in the Staff Development Department as a Training Coordinator.



It's been said that a picture's worth a thousand words. The picture above pretty much tells the tale of the Hurricanes victory at the Fall Ball Autumn Classic. They get to hold on to the trophy for another year!



Susan Lott, Director of Home and Community Support Services, pictured above right, was the recipient of the American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (AAIDD) Leadership Award for her service to the organization. She received the award at the Chapter meeting in November at the Silver Star Resort. Congratulating her on the award is Gloria Johnson, BRC Assistant Director of Community Services.

'Think Again' campaign

The Mississippi Department of Mental Health launched a new campaign in October aimed at educating the public regarding mental illness.

Boswell introduced the campaign to department heads during the September meeting and then included it in the next employee orientation PR presentation, which included handing out brochures and letting employee know that speakers were available to speak to school groups, civic groups,

organization, faith-based groups and any other gathering that was interested in this information. The "Think Again" campaign continues to be included in employee orientation each month.

If you or anyone you know would be interested in receiving brochures or would like a speaker to address this subject before a group, you may contact Kathy Lee at 601-867-5000, ext. 75195.

BRC Receives Award

Boswell was named as the top agency in the state for decreasing their costs in workers compensation claims. The award was announced during the Mississippi State Agencies Self-Insured Workers' Compensation Trust Annual Members Meeting in October.

Accepting the crystal trophy on behalf of Boswell was Charlotte Luckey. Due to her diligence in tracking and overseeing Workers Compensation claims BRC received the number one honor out of the top five in the state. This was the first time the award had been given.

Ms. Luckey was also recognized during the December Board of Mental Health meeting.



Simpson Center Copiah-Lincoln nursing students were recent guests on the Boswell Regional Center campus. Pictured front row, from left BRC Director of Support Services Lisa Bryant of Mize, Haley Veazey of Mendenhall, Jennifer Bairefield of Mendenhall and Kenetta Williams of Magee. Pictured back row, from left are Nursing Instructor Lisa Pearson of Madison, Chante Ferguson of Mendenhall, Jasper Layton of Magee, Teresa Barnett of Mendenhall, Michael Carey of Raleigh and Shelia Sullivan of Mize.

BRC celebrates a Day of Diversity



As a part of Boswell's Day of Diversity activities in October, Joyce Hall, pictured at center, brought a large collection of artifacts from Africa with her as well as poster displays showing the geography of the country. Ms. Hall, a Simpson County resident who has been to Africa numerous times addresses questions from BRC employees Debbie McLendon, Joyce Windham and Pat Burris regarding information on Africa and some of Ms. Hall's experiences there.

Award winners, businesses recognized at banquet

Community Services held their Annual Awards Banquet in December. Not only were special awards and certificates given to the individuals who participate in the program, but recognition was also given to businesses that employ these individuals who live in the community.

The following businesses were recognized:

- Austin's Safe Storage**
- Broadhead's Building Supply**
- Claiborne County Middle School**
- Fred's**
- Hand's Nursery**
- Leona's Beauty Shop**
- McAlister's**
- McDonald's**
- Murry's Tire and Service World**
- Polk's Meat Products**
- Wal-Mart (Magee)**
- Wal-Mart (Brookhaven)**

Pictured are award winners at the annual Community Services Awards Banquet. At right is Richard Fredrick, recipient of the Robert Arnold Biggest Sports Fan Award. He is pictured with Gloria Johnson, BRC Assistant Director of Community Services. Pictured below left is

BRC employee Linda Dennis, recipient of the Tom Whitton Outstanding Staff Award. She is pictured with Gloria Johnson. Pictured below right is Mark Pannell, who received the Mervin "Mernie" McGhee Achievement Award. Presenting the award was Sandy Entriken.

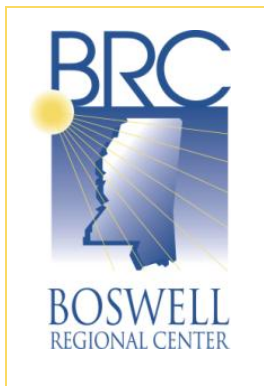


We remember....

The BRC flag flies at half mast at right in remembrance of one of our individuals, Steve. He is missed not only by his fellow residents of Goodwater Group Home, but by all of the staff and individuals at Boswell.



Boswell Regional Center



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