

Boswell Regional Center's

# Bulletin



June 2023



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## Looking Back

There may be several things from this month that we try to remember, but there's a few things we won't soon forget. We have seen record-breaking temperatures in the triple digits with heat indexes up to 120 degrees. The heat and humidity created a dangerous environment for anyone working outside and hindered individuals from participating in outdoor events. What's worse is that recent storms brought along heavy rain and damaging winds that destroyed trees and caused damage to several of our buildings on campus.

Thankfully, after two weeks of perseverance the grounds are almost fully restored and regular lawn maintenance has been resumed as normal. Nevertheless, there's still a lot of work that has to be done, particularly to damaged buildings and remaining tree roots, but even in her state of repair, BRC is still the most beautiful and most hospitable campus in all of Simpson County, and that is something we can all be proud of.

# *Will Begins a New Chapter*

Long-time administrator, Will Beeson, spent his last few days on Boswell campus being surrounded by the staff and individuals who meant the most to him, sadly bringing a close to a chapter in his life that undoubtedly brought him a great deal of joy. Over the course of his 21 years at BRC, Will had the opportunity of developing close relationships with many people. If asked, several people could tell stories of how he fiercely advocated for the individuals at BRC and how he would go out of his way to help them if he could. It is no secret that Will Beeson cared deeply for people; most would agree, he had a heart as big as a lion and made no reservations when it comes to expressing how he feels. He was also



very active on campus, helping to spearhead many of the most-memorable events in Boswell's history, like fall ball and homecoming parades. Indeed, he loved the individuals at Boswell Regional Center wholeheartedly and was unrestrained in his service to them; Boswell was his second home, and they were his second family.

Will's charismatic nature and generosity will be missed by all. We are very grateful for the personal investment he made while at BRC, and we wish him and his beautiful family the very best in their future. May this new chapter of their lives bring them the peace and happiness they desire.

*Happy Retirement!*



*"Don't cry because it's over. Smile because it happened." - Dr. Seuss*

# Let's Talk About Men's Health

In 1994, Congress passed a bill declaring the week before Father's Day as Men's Health Week.

**"There is a silent health crisis in America...it's that fact that, on average, American men live sicker and die younger than American women."** Dr. David Gremillion, *Men's Health Network*.

Most of the factors that contribute to men's shorter, less healthy lives are absolutely **PREVENTABLE**. Part of this prevention starts with seeing a healthcare provider on a regular basis. Women are **100%** more likely to visit the doctor for annual examinations and for preventive services than men.

## Some recommendations for men of any age:

1. **Avoid tobacco and non-prescriptive drugs**
2. **Avoid risky behaviors:**
  - Wear seatbelts
  - Wear helmets
  - Don't text while driving
3. **Have cholesterol and triglyceride testing every 5 years.**
4. **Get Bone Health/Density checks**
5. **Talk to your provider on screening for diabetes, thyroid disease, liver problems, anemia, and high blood pressure**
6. **Avoid excessive sun exposure and screen for skin cancer if at risk**
7. **Talk to your doctor about screening for low testosterone and prostate health**
8. **Learn what works for you to decrease stress and don't be a workaholic**
9. **Laugh and have a sense of humor**
10. **Keep up to date on immunizations and vaccines.**





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***MANDT***

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**2.0**



***Instructors take training to the next level.***

***In this place and with these people,  
I feel safe.***



**Above:**

Carrie, Myrics, and Madelyn, along with Staff Development Director Cassie Bynum, demonstrate several methods and holds they learned throughout the 3 day course. Each instructor reported moderate fatigue following the hands-on portion of their training.

***\*Advanced Mandt techniques may only be used in Crisis Support areas and only by staff who have undergone extensive training and successfully completed the Mandt 2.0 curriculum.***

Keeping individuals safe while protecting staff members is the primary goal of the Mandt System. In keeping with this goal, trainers in the staff development department renewed their bi-yearly Mandt instructor certification training. In addition to an updated Mandt 2.0 curriculum, our staff, and participants from around the country spent 3 days learning new Mandt material and additional techniques. The class was fun, inspiring, and challenging. Myrics Cole, Carrie Webb, Madelyn Gray and Ian Smith look forward to continuing to teach our staff to keep themselves and those we serve safe.

# *An Unexpected Sunset*

*For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known.*

*1 Corinthians 13:12*

*Aquia Esta Nieta Hooker*

**9/23/1981 - 5/30/2023**



On Tuesday, May 30, 2023, BRC staff and individuals were devastated and heartbroken to learn the loss of friend and fellow co-worker, Aquia Hooker. Aquia worked as a Support Care Professional at the Ridgeview unit, and for nearly a year, she invested her time and efforts into making sure the men in her building received the best care possible. She made them her priority, whether it was through assisting them with daily hygiene, accompanying them to MD appointments or simply interacting with them so they knew they were loved and accepted. Aquia was a hard worker; she loved her job, and it showed by the amount of effort and initiative she put into it daily.

More than this, she loved her family. She left behind three children, two daughters and a son. Her oldest daughter is expecting a son in August, and Aquia was very excited about welcoming her first grandchild into the world. Her children were her pride and joy, and she loved spending time with them and working to provide for them.

She was a member of Magee United Pentecostal Church, where Rev. Gary Meadows was her pastor. Simply talking with Aquia let you know of her love for God; conversations with her naturally gravitated to expressions of His goodness and His faithfulness in her life. What she knows now is what the rest of us can only have faith to believe.



# Community Outings & Activities



## Gathering Together

On Wednesday, June 7th, participants and staff from Connections, Dream Extreme, and Dream Makers all traveled to Luckey's Fish House in Raleigh, MS. A Family-owned restaurant in a small, country town is definitely the way to go when you want to sit down to generous portions of delicious food, in an atmosphere that is warm and inviting, with servers who treat you like family. It looks like these guys really had a great time together and probably enjoyed lots of fried catfish, hushpuppies, and homemade coleslaw. Not a bad ending to any kind of day.

## Happy Father's Day

It's a well-known fact that Father's Day is not usually met with the same anticipation and importance as Mother's Day. However, the Individuals at Community Day Services went out of their way to make sure Mr. Britt felt loved and appreciated for his father-like role in their lives. Together they crafted a simulated tool pouch for him and inserted every tool a good father would need for fixing broken things around the house. Mr. Britt was surprised and very appreciative.



## A Hidden Talent

A Community individual surprised the entire Community Day Services staff by showing off an artistic talent no one knew he had. Willie "Deshun" Williams was given a blank canvas and one set of instructions, to draw or paint whatever he liked. Staff even provided him with magazines to get ideas, never considering the type of masterpiece they would return to find. Deshun went right to work sketching, but not with a regular pencil that can easily erase mistakes, with a colored pencil. It's plain to see there are no smears on the canvas; he simply captured the most minute details of the picture with photographic precision. The staff was most amazed, as they had no idea he had this kind of talent. Since this revelation, Deshun has been asked to draw many more pictures by both staff and individuals.



# EARLY MORNING STORMS RAVAGE CAMPUS

Early Friday morning on June 16, 2023, individuals on campus awakened to a thick blanket of humidity with dark, ominous clouds; these clouds quickly progressed into severe thunderstorms, leaving the once manicured grounds of BRC riddled with debris from tree damage and destroyed buildings.

Beautiful, mature oaks that had just begun to cast their shade, were violently uprooted or broken by the storm that lasted close to an hour. Several buildings on campus, including the Assistant Director's home, were damaged as strong winds toppled over some of the largest trees on campus. One small house, the Cromwell, was completely destroyed, as a large oak tree crushed through the center of the roof.

The Home of the Assistant Director sustained major damage as well, where a large oak tree in the backyard was laid center mass of the garage. Thankfully, his SUV, though covered in tree limbs, received only minimal damage.

Other damage included, the complete destruction of a campus van, which was flattened by a nearby pine tree that snapped in half, crushed fencing around

the scrap yard, and a few bent iron railings that lined walkways.

Thankfully, no one was injured as a result of the storm, though some departments were forced to modify their normal routines due to transportation issues. Downed trees and debris along the sidewalks and streets left many campus individuals dining in their units, as opposed to being transported to the dining room. Nutritional Services sent breakfast to each unit, carefully packaging each meal according to individuals' needs.

In addition to changing up their daily routines, many staff members found themselves having to work extra hard due to shortages, as some employees were unable to make it in to work due to power outages and blocked roads.

Although every department is significant, and each person experienced their own unique disruptions from the storm, nobody had it as bad as the Grounds and Maintenance Department. As soon as the storm was over, and they were able to assess the damage, these men went straight to work clearing tree limbs and debris from streets and sidewalks in order to restore the normal flow of traffic.

The sound of chainsaws and tractors filled the air, as these unsung heroes worked steadfastly throughout the day in blazing heat and stifling humidity. The few times they stopped were mostly out of necessity, to cool down, rehydrate, and grab an occasional bite to eat. The Dietary crew at LeGrand had prepared spaghetti for the staff on this day, and they were more than happy to see the Maintenance and Grounds crew come inside to enjoy a wholesome meal in a nice, air-conditioned building.

As the day came to an end, and many employees were making their way back home, the Maintenance and Grounds crew could still be seen, clearing debris and tree limbs from the most critical areas in order for staff and individuals to return to normal campus life.







## Strike Two!

Restoring BRC's campus back to her original state of beauty is nearly an impossible task, but this did not stop the Maintenance and Grounds Department from giving 110%.

The crew worked diligently, day in and day out, cutting and dragging limbs, loading and hauling debris, raking and clearing the last remnants of tree damage from the storm that had just hit seven days before. Finally, after a full week of clearing, the grounds were repaired enough that the Grounds crew could begin their daily summertime task of mowing the beautiful, but

massive lawns of BRC.

Unfortunately, before the men could finish mowing the grounds for the first full time, another storm struck, leaving even more trees uprooted and broken around campus. Thankfully, there was no damage to any of the campus buildings this time, and again we are fortunate that no one was injured. Even so, for the Maintenance and Grounds Crew, the arduous task of cutting limbs and clearing debris was theirs to begin all over again.



**Above:** Tree damage from the first round of storms that hit campus early Friday morning, 6/16/2023.



**Below:** Tree damage from the second round of storms that hit around midnight on 6/25/2023







## SPOTLIGHT ON

# Nutritional Services

7 days a week, every holiday, every event, rain or shine, Mrs. Lottie and the Nutritional Services Department are committed to seeing that every individual and employee has nutritious meals that are not only full of flavor, but also made with love. They work short-handed most days, but we never hear them complain. They truly deserve our appreciation for all they do.

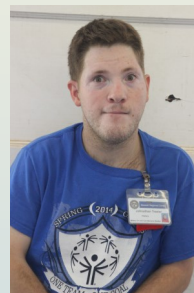


**Mrs. Lottie Keyes**

Is the Director of Nutritional Services. She lives in Mize, MS and has worked at Boswell for 17 1/2 years. Before trying her hand in dietary, Mrs. Lottie worked in the Transportation Department. She and her husband, Leonard, have a fruit stand in Taylorsville, MS, and she also has a private catering business that keeps her very busy.



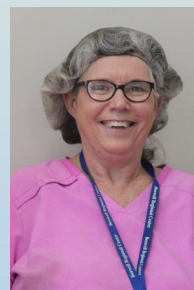
**Rebecca Nixon** is from Covington County. She has been a part of the Nutritional Services team at Boswell for 1 1/2 yrs. She has two children and 2 grandchildren.



**Jonathan Traxler** is from Raleigh, MS and has worked at BRC for less than a year. He has hunted with Clint Easterling and Ben Robinson at "Faith Love & Hope Outdoor Ministries."



**Anastasia Craft** lives in Magee with her 4 m/o daughter. She ran track in high school, and her team won championship for three years straight. She plans to be a Medical Asst.



**Vera Green** is from Magee, MS. She has been at BRC in the Nutritional Services Department for 18 1/2 years. She has one daughter and 4 grandbabies who consume all her free time.



**Georgia Smith** is from Forest, MS. She's been at BRC for 3 yrs and was at Oakbrook prior to joining dietary. She fishes, hunts, and does custom wood work.



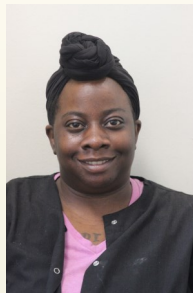
**Sam Banks** lives in Magee. In his off-time, Sam likes to hang out with friends, playing basketball or video games. His favorite basketball player is Steph Curry of the SF Warriors.



# Staff who Make it Happen Everyday



**Tammie Tebo** grew up in Mt. Olive but now lives in Mize, MS. She has been at BRC for 19 years. She's a salt water aquarium enthusiast and has a heart for yorkies.



**Maggie Jones** lives in Magee, MS. She has worked in the Nutritional Services at BRC for 6 years.



**Veronica Davis** is from Pinola, MS and has been at BRC for 2 yrs. She cares for her mom and enjoys bowling. She would love to visit New York city one day.



**Casey Green** is from Magee and has been a part of the BRC team for 4 yrs. She loves to listen to music and enjoys reading.



**Nicole Nichols** is from Mt. Olive. She has been at BRC for approximately 13 years and has been in the Nutritional Services Dept. all this time. She enjoys watching documentaries.



**Sheila Gray** is from Mendenhall, MS. She has been a part of Nutritional Services for 22 yrs. Outside of work, she takes care of her 12 y/o grandbaby and enjoys shopping.



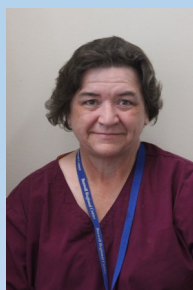
**Geraldine Brown** is from Mendenhall, MS. She has been in Nutritional Services at BRC for over 21 years. She spends her free time caring for her parents & grandchildren.



**Willie Keys** is from Laurel, MS. He has been at BRC for 10 years. He enjoys fishing, going to church, singing and shopping.



**Don Preston** is originally from the Chicago area. He has been at BRC for 13 yrs. He was an Engineer at UPS for 27 yrs. before coming to MS to work for KLLM.



**Deanne Clark** is another Raleigh native. She will have worked 20 yrs. at BRC this October. She likes flowers and animals

**Not pictured: Ms. Tine Reynolds & Ms. Willie Jones**



Clean mixing bowls and containers, all stacked according to regulations...not too close to the floor or the ceiling.



This "thaw pot" uses cold, running water for thawing frozen foods prior to cooking, according to food safety.



Clean, sanitized dishes leave this dishwasher at a piping 180 degrees and must cool before touching.

# Behind the Scenes



This "tilt skillet" is used for cooking meats and vegetables. It can tilt to allow for draining water or grease.



Clean pots and pans hang just above the sink area for a more economical and environmentally-friendly air drying.



Every cooking utensil is organized and placed into specific containers for easy access during those busy cooking times.



This slicer is extremely sharp and is used for slicing meats and some vegetables to an exact thickness.



These aren't your typical home fire extinguishers. This hood suppression system and other extinguishers are all up to code.



**Where there's a will, there's a way....**  
For over a month, the freight elevator has been out of order. No big deal unless your having to transport food and supplies from the basement to the kitchen, right? They didn't let this slow them down; staff hauled everything they needed up the hill to the kitchen using backbone and a dolly.



# Just Chillin'



Campus individuals got to enjoy a very rare and special treat on what might have been one of the hottest days of the summer thus far.

With plenty of towels and sunblock in tote, Individuals and accompanying staff members loaded the buses early Monday morning for a short trip to Grand Paradise Waterpark in Collins. After leaving the bus and receiving admission arm bands, most everyone grabbed a float and started the day with a slow, winding

trip down the lazy river.

After this cool, relaxing experience, several members gathered mats and began walking the long, uphill track toward a tower of winding stairs that led to the platform of a thrill seeker's paradise. Without hesitation, individuals and staff began bolting down one water slide after another, devouring every ounce of excitement from a day with no cares at all.

Not everyone was a fan of the water.

Some stayed back to enjoy a snack and a cold drink under the giant umbrella. With the gracious gift of free admission, individuals and staff members alike were able to use their personal money for buying whatever food and drink items they wanted. The group made it back to campus later in the afternoon, exhausted from a full day of fun and adventure.







COPIAH LINCOLN  
COMMUNITY COLLEGE



**Co-Lin Simpson Campus LPN students receive a tour of BRC campus and beyond.**

On Wednesday, June 21st, fifteen Co-Lin LPN students, along with instructors, Hope Berry, RN and Lynda Finstad, RN, toured nearly every available setting for individuals served by Boswell Regional Center.

Each year LPN students of Co-Lin Simpson County visit BRC to get exclusive insight of the daily life for BRC staff and the individuals we serve. The timing of their visit aligns with their study of psychology and mental health. This year students were invited to tour a unit on campus, a group home, an apartment setting and Community Day Services.

The morning began in the training center with an overview of BRC and the benefits of caring for IDD individuals, followed by a bus ride to the museum, where students were able to appreciate historical methods as well as advancements in the treatment and prevention of tuberculosis.

The tour continued with a trip to Pine-lake Geriatric Unit, Goodwater Group Home, State Farm Apartments, and Day Services. Each tour was led by a designated spokesperson who expounded on the different characteristics of their setting as well as the unique qualities of the individuals served in those areas.

The tour ended with a bus ride back to campus, where students and instructors were treated to a free lunch at the LeGrande. The instructors and students were very appreciative of the warm welcome they received at each site and the valuable information that was given by a very qualified staff.







# BRC's 2023 4th of July Parade



If you ask anyone who's been around for a while, they will tell you all about the firework shows that used to take place at Boswell for the 4th of July and how the staff and their families would join with individuals and be completely mesmerized by the display of lights over the lake. They will reminisce over the sense of unity and togetherness that was created by this special event and how it gave everyone the opportunity to just relax and become like family.

We have not had fireworks at BRC in several years now; cost and regulations on fireworks for state-owned properties make resuming this much-loved tradition a very unlikely option. Nonetheless, the human spirit will always find a way to prevail, and our outstanding

parades are just one example of how we've done that. This year's 4th of July parade was an incredible display of red, white, and blue. Friends and family of individuals and staff members alike decorated golf carts, side-by-sides, trucks, trailers, cars, and even antique hot rods in an unbelievable tribute to Old Glory.

We know the day may come when people will reminisce and talk about the fantastic parades we used to have at BRC, it seems like somebody's always trying to regulate the fun out of stuff. But for now, we're just going to keep smiling, waving, throwing goodies, and enjoying every given day like it's the 4th of July.







# Winners



Members of Records Management holding the 4th of July trophy and their bubble machine cart topper.





# Pastor's Corner



## Does Jesus know you?



**Bro. Charles Meadows,**  
**BRC Chaplain**

One of the most quoted verses of scripture in today's society, other than John 3:16, is John 14:6. In this verse, Jesus responds to Thomas after he was asked where he was going and how they could know the way. Jesus told Thomas, "I am the way, the truth, and the life; no man cometh unto the Father but by me" (John 14:6, KJV). As I think about this verse, I am reminded that the only way a person can inherit eternal life is by first coming to Jesus and placing faith in him. Many believe their good works will outweigh their bad and, because of their good works, they will inherit eternal life. But my friends, this is direct lie from Satan. It is a fact that you can give all you have to the poor, go to church, visit the sick and those in prison, and even feed the hungry, but if you don't have Jesus, then you, my friend, will miss the mark.

We read in the parable of the Good Shepherd that Jesus knows those who are completely sold out for Him. In John 10:14-15, Jesus says, "I am the Good Shepherd, and know my sheep and am known of mine. As teh Father knoweth me, even so know I the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep" (KJV). One thing that I have always told people is that Jesus knows whether you are a fake Christian or a true, authentic Christian. The sad thing is that not everyone who cries out, Lord, Lord, will go to heaven; there will be some who have claimed to believe in the Lord and yet spend all of eternity separated from God.

The reason why they will miss the mark is because they have believed a lie, that they can inherit eternal life by good works, or they have believed in false doctrine. So, my question to all who are reading this is not, do you know Jesus, but more importantly, does Jesus know you? I pray that the eyes of those who are self-deceived into believing they are saved will be opened, and those who have rejected Jesus, will repent before it is too late. To all who are faithful, may the Lord bless you, keep you, and give you strength.

Blessings.



### Excessive heat warnings continue

Drink plenty of fluids! Check on relatives, particularly the elderly and those who live alone. Never, under any circumstances, leave young children or pets unattended in vehicles. Supply outdoor pets with fresh water and shade. Apply sunscreen liberally.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

# July

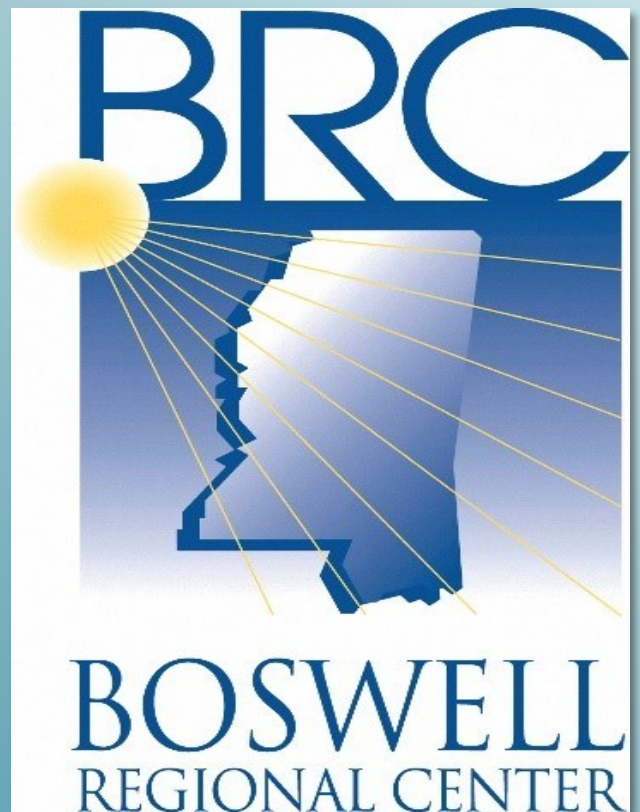
### UV Safety Awareness Month

3rd	Watermelon Cutting at Green Park
4th	Fourth of July
5th—9th	National Therapeutic Recreation week
12th	LPN Pinning in Auditorium
18th	F&F Meeting 11:30, LeGrand Classroom
25th	MAIDDP Conference in Hattiesburg 3-5 pm

# We Are Hiring

- Full –Time State Benefits
- State Sponsored Health/Life Insurance Plan
- Paid Personal Leave (12 Hrs. Monthly)
- Paid Medical Leave (8 Hrs. Monthly)
- Paid Holiday Leave (10 Days Annually)
- MS Public Employees Retirement
- 8 Hour Shifts

*Full Time & Contract Positions Available !*



**Where Dreams Can Become Reality**





## BRC BULLETIN

The Boswell Bulletin is published without cost to inform the public, employees, friends, and family of Boswell Regional Center's (BRC) 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 (IDD).

*Clint Ashley*

Director

*Renee Burton*

Editor

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### **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 individual, family, and community...

*where dreams can become reality.*