

Boswell Regional Center's

September 2023

BULLETIN

Commitment **Respect** **Responsibility** **Loyalty** **Communication** **Trust** **Cooperation**





On the Cover:
 Crepe myrtles continue to adorn BRC campus with beautiful pink, crepe-like clusters despite scorching heat and weeks with no rain.

BRC Bulletin

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.

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Boswell Regional Center

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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 person, family, and community, dreams can become a reality
 Where Dreams Can Become Reality***

Welcome TO THE TEAM!

Congratulations on joining the BRC family!



September 1st Orientation

Bottom Row (L-R): Sierra Lerch, Keaira Hubbard, Mariah Bass, Kimberly Allen

2nd Row (L-R): Hope Roberts, Jaysha Jones, Sade Lipscomb, Shakira Jones, Natasha Durr

3rd Row (L-R): Jamie Willis, Mahalia Magee, Lashonda Miller, Kendre Robinson, Lori Craft

Top Row (L-R): Kalysia McLaurin, Denzell Moffett, Catina Washington, Johnny Lott, and Ryshara Floyd

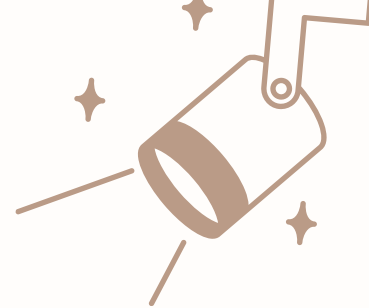


September 18th Orientation

Seated (L-R): Patrick Easterling, Patrick Flagg, Akelah Carter, and Shavonda “Sha” Nelson

Standing, (L-R): Titian Floyd, Kacy Barnes, Christy Shows, Demariques Gardner, Stacey Durr, Saaniya Wheeler, Darrein Hardy, and Vol “Josh” Sanders, III

Department Spotlight



HUMAN RESOURCES/EMPLOYMENT SERVICES



Suzanne "Suzie" Wilder, Director

from Portland, TX, has served in the HR Department at BRC for 25 years. She enjoys scuba diving and traveling to enjoy the sun and sea. Her career aspirations are to retire, and her favorite thing about Boswell is her coworkers. She says the thing that most people don't know about her is that she is actually a nice person.

We all know they're important, but few of us really know why.

Every employee here shares a single common thread- each of us had to go through the ladies of Human Resources before being allowed to work for the individuals of Boswell Regional Center. Some may even say the HR Department serves as the gate-keepers for BRC.

And while some of us may think we have a general idea about their role in regards to processing applications, overseeing Onboarding, and running background checks, the majority of us are pretty clueless when it comes to truly understanding the lengths to which their responsibilities extend.

For instance, they maintain personnel records for hundreds of employees, keeping track of each employee's work time and managing every employee's accrued time off. They are also responsible for processing FMLA and Worker's Compensation, in addition to administering both employee benefits and retirement. They perform pre-hire, random, and incidental drug screenings, as well as conduct investigations, set up polygraphy testing, and occasionally perform the unfortunate task of terminating employment. For obvious reasons, it's imperative for the HR department to operate with the highest of standards.

They must possess great interpersonal skills and provide exceptional customer service when recruiting and processing information for new hires, yet find a way to balance this with sufficient levels of compassion and encouragement when dealing with the needs and concerns of BRC's most valued resource...you!



Kassie Ibarra

from Magee, 13 yrs at BRC, worked in Community prior to HR. Likes to fish, visit with family and watch sports, especially baseball, and her favorite team is the *Yankees*. She loves Mexican food and hopes to open an activity center one day. She says her favorite thing about BRC is the events that are put on for the individuals.

Hanna Duran

from Magee, 9 yrs at BRC, worked in Community prior to HR.

Enjoys the beach, reading, spending time with family. She is married to her high school sweetheart and is currently working on her masters' degree.

She says that even though she doesn't work with directly with the individuals, she loves that our #1 goal is to serve them.



Stephanie McClendon

from Braxton, has been at BRC for 8 years and worked at the WAC prior to HR. She enjoys viewing antique cars & trucks.

She also loves animals, the color pink, and Italian food.

She says her #1 goal is to see her children succeed and most people don't know that she really loves to cook.



Roslyn Lott

from Mendenhall, has been at BRC for 1 yr, 9 months. She was an SCP supervisor and in Community Services prior to HR. She enjoys exercising, spending time w/family, and wants to continue excelling in HR. She began college as a nursing student but realized she freaks out at the sight of blood. Now she is helping others in a different capacity.



Shawntae Ebony Walker

from Pinola, has been at BRC for 1 yr, 8 months. She enjoys watching TV, line dancing, riding ATVs and going to concerts. Her favorite football team is the Seattle Seahawks. Her favorite thing about BRC is seeing the individuals smile and enjoying the simple things in life. She says she has a strong desire to reach greatness and become a better person each day and what most people don't know about her is that she has an extreme fear of heights and public speaking.

Devona Wood

from Mize, has been at BRC for 1 yr. She enjoys hunting, fishing, horseback riding, and hanging out at the camp on the river. Her favorite color is red and her favorite food is steak. Her goal is to stay healthy and be able to retire. She says the thing she loves most about BRC is her coworkers and the benefits.





Ounchea Mc Gee

from D'lo and has been at BRC for 6 months. She enjoys going to the park with her 2 daughters, cooking and doing fun activities.

She loves pizza and leopard print. She says her goal is to make daily improvements and grow as a person. Her favorite thing about BRC is that she has THE BEST coworkers, and most people don't know that she is an only child.



Shana Thompson

from White Oak and has been at BRC for 6 months. She enjoys spending time with her grandchildren and watching college baseball and football. Her favorite teams are the Ole Miss Rebels and the Florida Gators. Her goal is to retire from Boswell and earn her masters degree. Her favorite thing about BRC is her coworkers and how helpful they have been.

Some see a problem; we see an opportunity.
It's all about PERCEPTION.

Weeks with no rain have certainly played havoc on the lawn and landscaping at BRC; however, it has allowed for some much-needed upgrades and improvements to the lake and water utilities.



Girls Night Out

Community ladies get a night of pampering and hibachi.

Several ladies from the Community took advantage of a trip to the nail salon, where they received manicures and/or pedicures, followed by supper at Oishi Hibachi. Having a chef prepare their meals right in front of them was a new and exciting experience for many of them.

Sometimes you just want to do something to make yourself feel special, and for these ladies, a night of pampering did just that.

Ladies' Luncheon *at Fresco!*

After several weeks of , scorching dry weather, a cool afternoon provided the perfect opportunity for a ladies luncheon away from campus. The ladies of Oakbrook groomed their hair, donned their best clothes, and set out to investigate the newly opened “Ray Wings” on Hwy 49, which specializes in a large variety of chicken wings along with country-style fried catfish.

All the ladies said they enjoyed the food, but more than anything, they cherished the special feeling they got from getting all dressed up and having their own “girls only” day.



You, Lucky Ducks!

BRC water fowl receive pet-like preference



65% of U.S. households own pets and get to experience the joy of coming home to a loyal companion at the end of a long day. Those of us who are fortunate enough to own pets understand that their unconditional love and acceptance does way more for us than just keep us company; owning a pet is good for the soul. Having a family pet can create a warm and inviting atmosphere for any home like nothing else can. Studies have shown that having a pet can reduce stress, improve heart health, and can even help children who struggle socially or emotionally. At BRC, our

campus individuals may not be able to have pets of their own, but many of them, like Antonio (pictured above) love to take full advantage of the entertainment the BRC ducks offer both on the water and on land. Antonio says he enjoys coming to the lake each afternoon to feed the ducks; he takes a lot of pride in caring for them, and he knows how excited they get when they see him walking toward the lake each day. As soon as he casts a handful of corn onto the ground, they all scurry about, gobbling up as much food as possible, trying to keep the others from taking more than their fair share. Unlike the BRC geese, that have quietly moved on with the change of season, the ducks here at Boswell are non-migratory, and they consistently forage on insects and seeds during non-feeding times. They are mostly a Muscovy breed (brown/black & white), mixed with a few Pekins (solid white). An interesting thing about the Muscovy is, it's technically not even a duck. It's a South American waterfowl that has a body like a duck, a breast like a turkey; it roosts like a chicken and hisses like a goose. Some might say this debunks the assumption that if something walks like a duck and quacks like a duck, it's a duck. The Pekin, on the other hand, is an actual duck; it's a multi-purpose breed, meaning it can be raised for both meat and egg production. Because of their docile demeanor, they are more suitable and easily one of the most popular breeds for backyards and homesteads. Every duck and waterfowl here at Boswell, much like the Peabody ducks in Memphis, are highly regarded, so much so that if an employee carelessly runs over one or attempts to cause deliberate harm to one of these beautiful birds, he/she could face severe repercussions, up to and including termination. So, when it comes to all the feathered friends on the Boswell campus, the best rule of thumb might be to protect each one much like you would your own beloved family pet, because to many of the individuals here, that's exactly what they are.

GROOVY 70's Dance Party



*“...You can't dance and stay uptight
It's a supernatural delight...”*

Did you know the benefits of dancing go far beyond the physical? Dancing can release chemicals in the brain that actively work to reduce cortisol, which helps reduce stress, anxiety, and depression. In addition to the benefits of cardio conditioning, strengthening, and balance/coordination, dancing is a natural mood enhancer that can be performed by most anyone, anywhere, and at absolutely no cost.



On Wednesday, September 6th, campus Individuals got to experience some of these benefits by being treated to an end of summer dance party in true 70's fashion. Units came in shifts of two and enjoyed a late evening of mingling together and dancing to some of the most popular retro music. Afterwards, everyone had an opportunity to enjoy late night snacks of chocolate-dipped ice cream cones and chips. Of course there was plenty of water available to keep everyone hydrated as staff members encouraged participants onto the dance floor, some even forming a “Soul Train” dance line. Things must have gotten out of hand, because someone called security to investigate the noise.



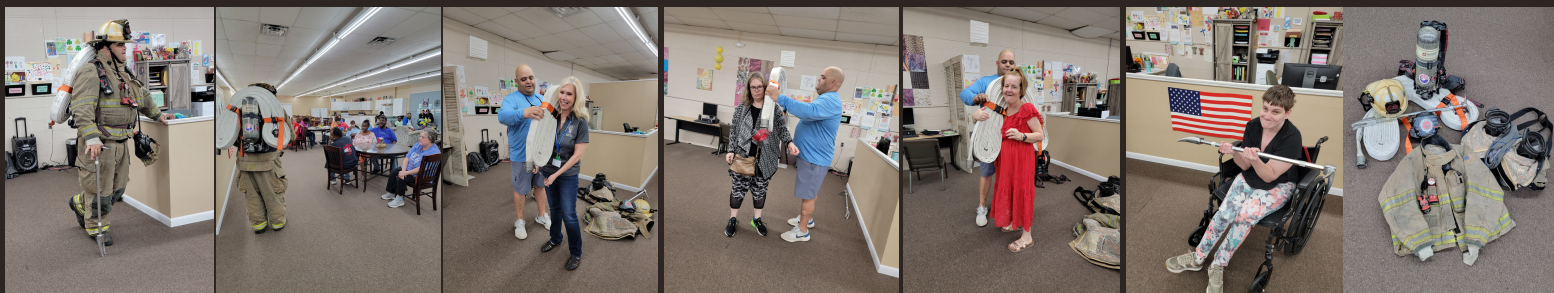
WE REMEMBER!

9/11

2,977



That's the number of people who lost their lives as a result of the 9/11 terrorist attack. Just for reference, that would have been more people than the entire population of Mendenhall, MS at the time. Of these men and women, more than 400 New York City firefighters and police officers paid the ultimate sacrifice, making the phrase, "To Protect and Serve" more than just a slogan.



In remembrance of 9-11, Special guest Phillip Magee, from the City of Magee Fire Department, visited the individuals at Dream Extreme, wearing full fireman's gear. He discussed the role of the firefighters from 9-11, including the 45 pound weight of the fireman's gear (not including the weight of victims they likely carried) and the 110 flights of stairs they had to climb. In addition, he took advantage of the opportunity to discuss fire safety with the individuals. He covered basic fire precaution measures and what someone should do if they find themselves in a dangerous, fire-related situation. There was a question-answer session as well as an opportunity for individuals to test the weight of a fireman's equipment. Afterwards, the staff led individuals in a timed group activity simulating how quickly a fireman must get dressed before responding to a fire.

Right: Each team was given a mere 5 minutes to coordinate together and assemble a small puzzle. While this would be a great challenge for most any of us, a fireman must be able to complete the task of getting dressed much more quickly. One of the requirements for completing Fire Fighter Training is for the recruit to put on all Personal Protective Equipment, a breathing apparatus, and be on air in less than 90 seconds. This includes pants, coat, hood, boots, helmet, gloves, and an air pack. The current record for this is an unbelievable 43 seconds!



"It was the worst day we have ever seen, but it brought out the best in all of us."

—Senator John Kerry



BRC CAMPUS REMEMBERS



Each year, the staff and individuals on campus make it a priority to remember the traumatic events that occurred on 9-11-2001 and to honor the memory of the brave men and women who lost their lives by rushing to the scene of the attack while others rushed away. This year Cindy Sanders and the Recreation staff paid special tribute to these heroes by holding a special memorial with a patriotic balloon release followed by red-white-&-blue popsicles.



John Wayne Pigg

January 11, 1955 - September 12, 2023



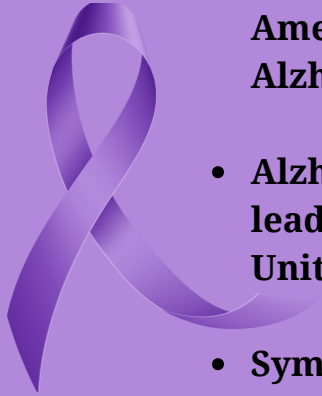
Family, friends, and BRC staff joined together to remember the life of John Wayne Pigg.

A graveside service for James W. Pigg of Magee, MS was held on Tuesday, September 19, 2023, at Magee City Cemetery. Mr. Pigg was preceded in death by his father, Johnny Lee Pigg and two brothers, Charles and Mike Pigg. Survivors include his mother, Regina Watkins Pigg and a sister, Judy Shoemaker.

World

September 21, 2023

Alzheimer's Awareness Day



- Currently there are 5.5 million Americans living with Alzheimer's Disease.
- Alzheimer's Disease is the 6th leading cause of death in the United States.
- Symptoms may appear as early as 60 years of age.



ALZHEIMER'S ASSOCIATION



BRC Campus supports Alzheimer's Awareness Day with new Purple Ribbons

In support of Alzheimer's Awareness Day and Month, large, purple ribbons have been placed at the entrance gate of Boswell Regional Center for several years, and this year was no different. When it was discovered, however, that the old ribbons were in need of replacement, the BRC Maintenance Department went right to work cutting and painting large sheets of plywood until the final product was complete, and BRC once again had beautiful purple ribbons adorning the front gate.

WE ARE HIRING

Scan me

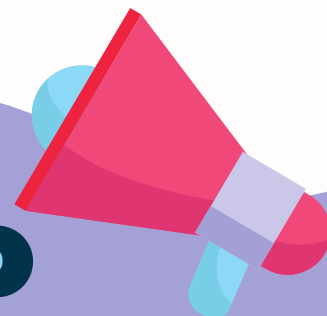


FULL-TIME STATE BENEFITS

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- PAID MEDICAL LEAVE (8 HRS. MONTHLY)
- PAID HOLIDAY LEAVE (10 DAYS PER YEAR)
- MS PUBLIC EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT
- 8 HOUR SHIFTS

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OCTOBER *is...*



- BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH
- PHYSICAL THERAPY MONTH
- AMERICAN PHARMACIST MONTH
- CLERGY APPRECIATION MONTH
- DOWN SYNDROME AWARENESS MONTH
- NATIONAL DISABILITY EMPLOYMENT AWARENESS MONTH



2023 OCTOBER



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
8	9 Employee of the Quarter Recognition 8:30 Admin. Bldg.	10 Events Team Meeting 1:30 Admin Building	11 Team Meeting	12 Friends & Family Meeting 11:30 LeGrand	13 Breast Cancer Awareness Walk 10:00 a.m. BRC bridge to Rainy Day Room	14	
15	16 Boss! Day	17 Open Enrollment 6:30 a.m. - 4:00 pm	18 Open Enrollment 6:30 a.m. - 4:00 pm.	19 Fall Festival 4-7 p.m. Green Park	20	21 Joni & Friends Barnyard Dance 3-7 p.m. Lena, MS	
22	23	24 Haunted Hay Ride 5-8 p.m.	25 MH IDD Conference, Natchez, MS			26	27
28						28 Crazy Day Downtown Magee	
29	30	31 Trunk or Treat on units Masquerade Jewelry Sale 10/31-11/2 7 a.m. - 6 p.m. Training Center					



If it is art, it is not for all, and if it is for all, it is not art.

—Arnold Schoenberg

BRC Art on Display at Local Library

On August 25th, Individuals from Campus and Community submitted their best works of art into the BRC Expressive Art Exhibit.

The top 10 entries were chosen to be showcased in the Magee Public Library throughout the month of September. The librarians say their guests have really enjoyed looking at these and hate to see them go.

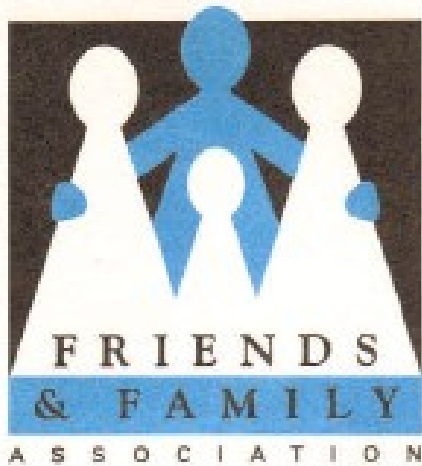
Here are the top 10 winners:

- #10. M. Delancy, F. Bannock, & C.J. Jensen
- #9. D. Baily & W. Hilton
- #8. C. J. Jensen
- #7. M. Naylor
- #6. E. Manning
- #5. T. Romney
- #4. S. Jones
- #3. JB
- #2. J. Phelps
- #1. M. Forrest



Each of these will receive a free ice cream cone or sundae from Dairy Queen.

Boswell Regional Center's



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The BRC Friends & Family Association is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization that partners with BRC to provide goods and services for our individuals that are not covered by the state, for example, Christmas and/or birthday gifts, outings, activities, personal items, even final expenses.

They also help to provide employee recognition efforts throughout the year, such as Employee of the Quarter and Employee of the Year cash awards, retirement trophies, and our annual BRC Employee Appreciation Picnic.

You can join for as little as \$5

Give a one-time gift or through payroll deduction

Contact Renee Burton
601-867-5078

Serve with your heart and your hands



THE PASTOR'S CORNER

God's Calling

by:

Rev. Charles Meadows, BRC Chaplain



One verse that I have heard multiple times throughout my life and ministry is, Jeremiah 1:5. In this verse, God tells Jeremiah, “Before I formed thee in the belly, I knew thee; and before thou came forth out of the womb, I sanctified thee, and I ordained thee a prophet unto the nations.” (KJV).

So Before Jeremiah was conceived in his mother’s womb, God had sanctified (to set apart) and ordained (to appoint) him to be a prophet to the nations. It is my belief that if you are a born-again Christian, you have been called to be the hands and feet of Jesus. Not everyone is called to be a minister, Sunday school teacher, musician, youth leader, etc. but we are all called to be a witness.

God knew Jeremiah before he was ever born, and he knows you as well.

I still remember when the Lord called me into the ministry. I had been struggling with the thought because I felt unworthy, but since I submitted to His calling on my life, it has been such a blessing. Yes, there are times when I continue to struggle, but I remind myself that as a born-again Christian, “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me” (Phillipians 4:13, KJV). It is also evident that in this life I will face opposition as I share the gospel of Jesus Christ, but no matter how much opposition I face, I know the Lord is with me to the very end. So ask yourselves, “Is Jesus satisfied with me? Have I been doing what God has called me to do?” If you haven’t given your life to Jesus, I pray you do so before it is too late. Remember, as Christians, we are all called to share the gospel with the world.



Holifield Retires with 28 years

Kristy Holifield, Behavioral Health Specialist at the Bay Springs Group Home, retires after 28 years with the state. Before becoming part of the Boswell family, she worked at Ellisville State School and East MS State Hospital. She received a bachelor’s degree in Psychology from USM and later earned a master’s degree in Community Counseling from MSU.

Recently married, she plans to spend the next few months of retirement combining households with her new family but says she is planning to return to BRC in January as a contract MHT at the Bay Springs Group Home.

BRC FALL BALL

is BACK!

“16th Annual Event”

Individuals and Staff ended the month of September on a very positive note with the return of a much-loved event, Fall Ball. Homecoming and Fall Ball have been iconic events for BRC and Simpson County Schools for a very long time, and this year was no different.

On September 28, the BRC Hurricanes faced the SCA Jr. Varsity challengers in another battle of epic proportions. There was the kickoff and then it was crunch time! The score went back and forth for the first half of the game, and no matter how many times our guys got knocked down, they just kept getting back up. They played like there was no tomorrow and gave 110% 100% of the time. Simpson Academy was indeed a most fierce opponent, but even they were no match for the BRC Hurricanes, who went on to gain, yet another victory, crushing the Cougars 30-12.

Not enough great things could be said about the teams themselves; each group of young men played valiantly, with sportsmanship that has never been seen by the NFL. And they couldn't have done it without the direction of competent, selfless coaches. Kudos to James Randolph, Mryicks Cole, and Carrie Webb for leading this group of young men to another championship win.

And what about those cheerleaders? They did an amazing job motivating the crowd and pumping up the team with BRC spirit that couldn't be matched. They looked great in their uniforms, had the perfect matching accessories, and performed a half time show that truly changed the momentum of the game. Coaches Kerri East, Madelyn Gray, Jennifer Keyes, Nadia Young, Rhonda Tillman, and Tootie are to be commended for all their hard work coaching these ladies and making sure every little detail was perfectly in place.

The unsung heroes who are rarely seen during events like this also deserve special recognition. The leaders on the Events Team worked especially hard, meeting and coordinating with their own departments to ensure that everything ran smoothly before, during, and after the game.

Last, but certainly not least, the Schools of Simpson County went above and beyond in their service to BRC this year, creating a game-day atmosphere like nothing else could. We were so fortunate to have them share their talents with us throughout the entire game.

Game Day Pics:



Game Day Pics continued...



Game Day Pics Continued

