

BULLETIN



DIRECTOR'S COLUMN



Raymond Johnson

This year seems to be flying by fast and it is amazing to realize that half of the year is already come and gone.

So much has changed at Boswell with the new buildings and a number of our departments vacating the Jaquith Building. Other departments have moved to different locations on campus.

One of the most joyful moments I get to experience during the year is announcing the Employee of the Year. The recipient of the 2009 Employee of the Year is Linda Sumrell,

who is well deserving of this honor. We had a wonderful banquet and had the opportunity to recognize all of the outstanding employees in each division. An article and pictures are featured on Page 5.

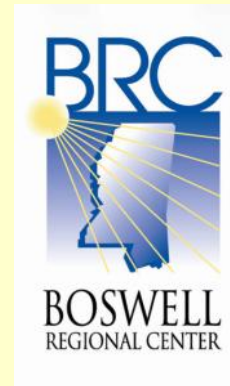
For the first-time we experienced the Mississippi Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics as they made a stop at Boswell. We had a very uplifting ceremony and recognized the 90 athletes that Boswell sent to the State Games. Pictures and information from this event are featured on Page 8.

You can also read about our recent donation of the BRC fire truck to the City of Magee on Page 4.

We are proud of our individuals and staff that we have at Boswell Regional Center. I take this opportunity to say thank you to each and every one for their contributions in making Boswell a great place to be.

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.

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On the cover...

Pictured are Linda Sumrell, at left, the 2009 Employee of the Year and Raymond Johnson, BRC Director. Mrs. Sumrell was named Employee of the Year at the annual banquet held in April.

For article and pictures see Page 5.

Autism Awareness Month celebrated

Individuals with Autism celebrated Autism Awareness Month at the Morton Group Home on April 9th.

Autism Awareness Day kept individuals and staff alike busy with some different activities than what they are used to. The day started out with soccer, then a cookout, followed by making pillows by hand, learning the art of origami, and learning to play a variety of instruments. Also, individuals who participate in art displayed their work, including the background on this page.

A Silent Auction was held on campus with all the proceeds donated to TEAAM (Together Enhancing Autism Awareness in Mississippi).

Puzzle pieces, the symbol of autism, were also sold with those proceeds going to TEAAM as well.



Fire truck donated to City of Magee

Boswell Regional Center turned over the keys to their 2000 model fire truck to Magee Mayor Jimmy Clyde in May. This move not only benefits the city, but Boswell as well.

“Boswell Regional Center has had a volunteer fire department since the 1980’s,” said Facility Director Raymond Johnson. “A number of our volunteer firemen trained at the Fire Academy in Jackson in 2000.”

But, according to Johnson, keeping the number of volunteers trained to operate the Center’s Fire Department has become an issue.

“Boswell is a residential facility. We are in operation 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and have three shifts. It has become difficult to make sure we have trained volunteers on campus at all times so that our fire department can respond in a timely manner,” he said.

“When weighing our options on what we needed to do we came up with what we thought would be a perfect solution; to donate the fire truck to Magee. This way we were also able to give something back to the community,” he added. “It has always been a pleasure to work with the City of Magee and its officials have always been supportive of our endeavors.”

The Magee Volunteer Fire De-



Pictured at center giving Magee Mayor Jimmy Clyde the keys to the fire truck is Raymond Johnson, Director, Boswell Regional Center. Also pictured, from left: Donny Welch, Boswell Assistant Director Steven Allen, Junior Grubbs, Eddie Lofton, Mayor Jimmy Clyde, Lane Steele, Raymond Johnson, Boswell Director of Vocational Services David Tedford, B.J. Smith and Charlie Valadie.

partment will be able to provide Boswell with the same fire protection as the citizens of Magee. All the way around it benefits both parties.

“On behalf of the City of Magee, we are very appreciative for the fire truck that Boswell Regional Center donated to the Magee Vol-

unteer Fire Department. This vehicle will help the department protect lives and property in our service area and it is an excellent addition to our existing fleet. We are also thankful for the wonderful working relationship that we have with all of the staff at Boswell,” said Magee Mayor Jimmy Clyde.



Boswell employees Eric McLemore and Ronald Ingram were the first to respond to a car fire in Jaquith’s front parking lot in May. The Magee Fire Department arrived and finished up the job, but these two employees should be recognized for their quick thinking and willingness to help a fellow employee.

Employee of the Year Banquet

Linda Sumrell of Mendenhall was named as Boswell Regional Center's Overall Employee of the Year for 2009. She was recognized recently at the Annual Banquet held on the main campus.

Mrs. Sumrell, who is employed with Boswell's Community Intellectual/Development Disability Division, was selected out of the top three division Employees of the Year. Also honored were Mary Smith of Brookhaven as the Community ICF/MR Employee of the Year and Lonia Gray of Prentiss who was named as Residential Living's overall Employee of the Year as well as 2nd Shift Employee of the Year. In this division, an employee of the year is selected from each of the three shifts. Also recognized were Lisa Blackwell of Mendenhall, named 1st Shift Employee of the Year and Jo Ann Nelson of Magee, named 3rd Shift Employee of the Year. All those named received plaques for their dedication and service.

Mrs. Sumrell began her career at Boswell in October 1998 when she went to work at the Eastside Men's Group Home in Magee. She has worked at a number of sites in the Community. Primarily she is currently working at State Farm Apartments where she holds the position of Direct Care Worker Advanced. Mrs. Sumrell attends Zion Hill Baptist Church where she is an active member and serves on the Usher Committee.

According to her nomination form, Mrs. Sumrell was instrumental in organizing the opening of State Farm

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Pictured are Gloria Johnson, Asst. Director; Kris Jones, Bureau Chief of IDD, DMH; Employee of the Year Linda Sumrell,; Raymond Johnson, Director and Steven Allen, Asst. Director.



Pictured are Lisa Blackwell, 1st Shift winner Lonia Gray, 2nd shift and Overall winner for Residential Living, Asst. Director Steven Allen, and Jo Ann Nelson, 3rd Shift winner.



Pictured are Employee of the Year Linda Sumrell, Asst. Director Gloria Johnson, and Community ICF/MR Employee of the Year Mary Smith.

Unit 2 receives recognition



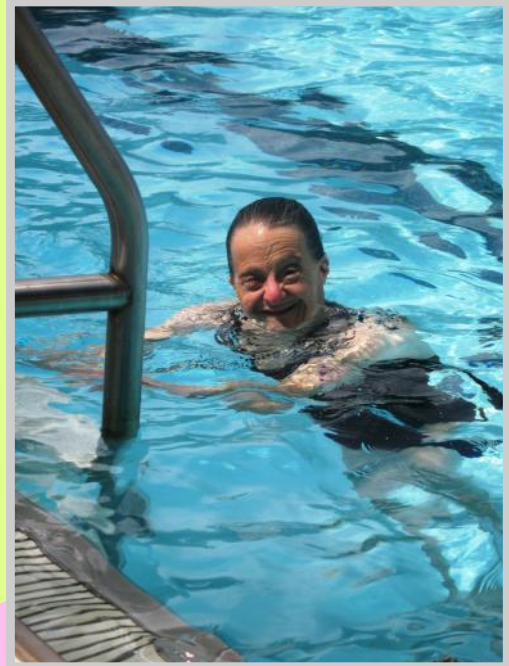
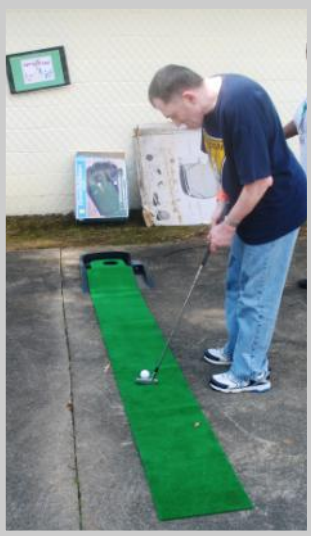
Assistant Director Steven Allen addresses some staff members from Unit 2 during a recognition reception held in their honor. Unit 2 was selected to be the first unit to utilize the PASS method of behavior modification and had great success.

Boswell honors recent retirees with receptions



Recent retirees Vonnell Pruitt, left picture, and Debbie Hughey, at right, were honored with receptions upon their retirement from Boswell. They are both pictured with Facility Director Raymond Johnson who presented them with certificates of appreciation.

Scenes from Spring Fling



Torch Run makes stop at Boswell

For the first time, Boswell Regional Center was a stop for the Mississippi Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics. The torch is carried from North Mississippi to the Coast.

Simpson County Sheriff's office, the Magee Police Department and the Mendenhall Police Department all participated and met the convoy at the Rankin-Simpson county line. After arriving on campus, a special ceremony was held in recognition of the 90 athletes at Boswell.

Members of the community participated in the program, including Magee Mayor Jimmy Clyde, who played the National Anthem on the trumpet and Mendenhall Mayor Randall Neely who led in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

The torch continued on its journey until it reached Keesler Air Force Base and the beginning of the Special Olympics State Games.



Pictured at right is Jared Mullins running with the torch in Green Park. Pictured accompanying him at left is Gordon Givens.

Tennessee Youth Choir comes to Boswell

Members of Maryville, Tennessee Youth Choir (pictured at right) and chaperones visited with individuals for three days and helped out in various areas of education, recreation and the IDD Day Hab program. They also led a Tuesday night worship service.



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Apartments in 2005 and assisting with transferring several individuals to this facility.

“Individuals’ care is Mrs. Sumrall’s first priority,” it stated. “She goes out of her way to make certain all individuals are happy and their needs are met. Finding a staff that one can depend on like Mrs. Sumrall is not an easy task.”

Raymond Johnson, Director of Boswell Regional Center, reiterated what the nomination form had to say about Mrs. Sumrall. “We at Boswell are proud to be able to honor such a hard working and dedicated employee as our Employee of the Year,” he said. Mr. Johnson presented her with a reserved parking sign, a new badge that has the designation of

the Employee of the Year, a plaque, a bag of goodies, and on behalf of Boswell’s Friends & Family Association, a \$100 Savings Bond.

Each month Boswell selects an Employee of the Month in each of the three divisions. These employees are then eligible to be nominated for the Employee of the Year Award.