

BOSWELL REGIONAL CENTER'S BULLETIN

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Job Well Done!

Employees of the Quarter

Boswell Regional Center's

The Boswell Bulletin is published to inform the public, employees, family members and friends on Boswell Regional Center's activities, programs and progress. This publication also seeks to provide information to those interested in the work conducted by Boswell's employees to enrich the lives of those with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (IDD).

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ON THE COVER:

Santa, aka Will Beeson, campus unit administrator, is pictured spending time with a young admirer at Mississippi Adolescent Center's Christmas party. MAC, located in Brookhaven, is a satellite facility of Boswell Regional Center that serves adolescents.



Final Employees of the Quarter honored in December

Four Boswell employees were honored for going beyond the call of duty in the final quarter of 2021. They included:

Support/Professional: Cindy Errington

Community: Christian Landing

Campus ICF – LaFania Hare

Comm. ICF Group Homes: Coretta Purdie

Each employee received \$25 from Boswell's Friends and Family Association, a certificate and coupons to area restaurants.



Pictured with Clint Ashley, far left, and Ricky Grimes, far right, are winners, from left: Christian Landing, LaFania Hare and Coretta Purdie.



Cindy Errington, LPN at Fairway, right, is pictured with Clint Ashley, left.



Recap of 2021 Law Enforcement

Torch Run

Boswell's Law Enforcement Special Olympics Torch Run supported by Magee Police, Simpson County Sheriff

Area law enforcement honored Special Olympics athletes by participating in the annual Law Enforcement Torch Run as it passed through Simpson County enroute to the Fall Games after a one-year hiatus.

Beginning in north Mississippi three days prior to reaching Simpson County, separate torches travelled through the state courtesy of law enforcement officers, who handed off the torch at various stops enroute to Camp Shelby in Hattiesburg. The torches were used to light the cauldron at the Games' opening ceremony.

Officers from Magee Police Department and Simpson County Sheriff's Office, including Police Chief Chris Jones and Sheriff Paul Mullins, picked up the torch and ran with it into Boswell's campus. A ceremony was held in Green Park to honor the athletes. Magee Fire Department brought its ladder truck and displayed a large U.S. flag.

"The Special Olympics Torch Run is something to which I look forward all year," said Jones, who participated for several years as an officer before being promoted to Police Chief in 2021.

Participating in this year's event was also a first for Mullins since being elected Sheriff. He enjoys running, so being able to carry the torch during the final leg of the run was something he was glad to do. Also running were Magee Police officer Mike Grubbs and Simpson County Deputy Mark Herrin.

Other speakers at the ceremony included Magee Mayor Dale Berry who said, "Boswell, we love you – we are very happy to have this center in Magee and to have each one of you as part of the Magee community."



Running with the torch into Boswell's campus were from left: Magee Police Officer Mike Grubbs, Magee Police Chief Chris Jones, Simpson County Deputy Mark Herrin and Simpson County Sheriff Paul Mullins.

Above right, Chief Jones is pictured running in 2019 when he helped carry the torch as a Magee Police officer.

Simpson County Sheriff Paul Mullins, above, second from right, holds the lit torch at the culmination of the run. Also pictured are, from left: James Randolph, Area 2 coordinator, Biloxi Asst. Police Chief Chris De Back, Ricky Grimes, Boswell Asst. Director, Deputy Mark Herrin, Officer Mike Grubbs, Chief Chris Jones and far right, Magee Mayor Dale Berry.

End of year activities kept individuals (and all staff) busy

The remaining months of 2021 were a busy time at Boswell for both our individuals and staff. “Pink October” Breast Cancer Fund-Raising and Awareness Walk, Fall carnival and Halloween parties were just a few of the fun activities our individuals enjoyed. Here is a “snapshot” of the many ways we closed the year out with a bang!



The ladies of Oakbrook, above, were excited to don their pink shirts (along with Halloween décor in preparation for that afternoon’s party) and walk to raise money during Breast Cancer Awareness Month.



Despite their status as our elder individuals, the ladies and men of Pinelake, above, are always willing to get out and walk in honor of a good cause. It was a chilly day, but those that wanted to participate were bundled up and kept warm. Staff escorted those with mobility issues and made sure they walked or rode safely.



The guys at Fairway weren’t that excited about wearing pink, but walking was a different story. They enjoyed getting a little exercise and participating in an event to raise money to help others.



A brisk walk over to Green Park was the perfect outing for the energetic guys at Ridgeview, who are always good sports, willing to help for a good cause.



More Fall fun...

End of year activities kept individuals (and all staff) busy



Campus individuals enjoyed the “Haunted Hall” occupied by the “Pink Lady” and other characters. The Pink Lady is a fictional character dating back many years in Boswell history - someone that “supposedly” has been glimpsed making her way around campus since the TB Sanatorium days. The modern version was portrayed by Rita Traxler, above.



An outdoor fall festival was held in Green Park, complete with games, a dunking booth and refreshments.



Trick-or-treating was enjoyed by individuals at Oakbrook and Ridgeview, complete with staff dressed as favorite characters.

Christmastime at Boswell filled with parties, gifts and parades

The holiday season began after Thanksgiving and extended until New Year's - as usual, it's a festive time at Boswell. Kicked off by the lighting of the campus Christmas decorations, the weeks are filled with parades, parties and gifts and the arrival of even more gifts on Dec. 25.

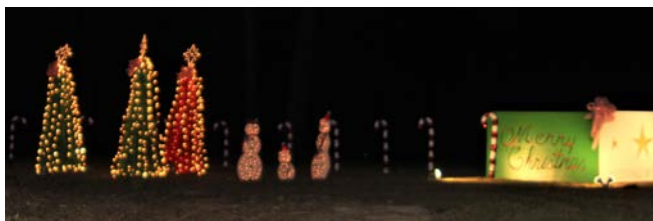
In addition to attending area Christmas parades, a campus Christmas parade was attended by family members and city officials who decorated vehicles and drove by buildings to wave to loved ones.

Prior to Christmas Day, special parties were held separately for each campus unit. These fun events included games, Christmas music and a visit from Santa to deliver gifts from Westminster Presbyterian Church in Hattiesburg.

Here are a few photos from a socially distanced, but still enjoyable Christmas at Boswell, 2021-style!



Individuals attending Day Services classes made Christmas ornaments in class and proudly showed off their work at a party, above left, while those attending art classes, left, presented their work while singing Christmas carols for staff.



Above left, the guys at Fairway enjoyed coming out to view the Christmas lights coming on and being treated to hot chocolate. Above right, Dorian, the son of Recreation employee Erica Hubbard, who helped decorate campus, was excited to view the bright lights.



Boswell's individuals look forward to the Magee Christmas parade all year long. It's a festive event filled with law enforcement vehicles, horses and floats, including Boswell's own entry, above, depicting a "Dr. Seuss Christmas."

Christmas activities, continued...



Warm blankets, slippers and wallets are just a small sample of the hundreds of gifts delivered by Westminster Presbyterian Church in Hattiesburg and presented to each client. Pictured above are two ladies at Oakbrook's party.



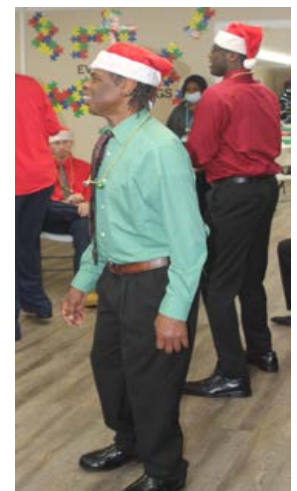
Dancing with Santa, above, and getting a hug, left, was the highlight of the night for these ladies at Oakbrook's party.



Pinelake's older residents chose to have their party on their unit. Cookie, left, wasn't convinced that Santa wasn't Trevor Reed, Pinelake's administrator.



Left, above and right, Ridgeview's guys looked sharp at their party, dressing up in their "Sunday" shirts and ties. They enjoyed socializing with staff members, dancing to music and eating party foods.



Christmas activities, continued...

Generous donations made Christmas special at Boswell, Mississippi Adolescent Center

The Christmas season for Boswell and Mississippi Adolescent Center's individuals was special due to the generosity of our community partners and friends.

For several years, one of the biggest donors for Boswell's Christmas celebrations has been Westminster Presbyterian Church in Hattiesburg. Using "wish lists" from individuals, church members purchase gifts for each campus individual to present at individual parties.

For the second year, the Mayor of Brookhaven, department heads and city employees held a toy/gift drive to make sure the boys served at MAC had a "Merry Christmas."

Other organizations that helped make Christmas 2021 special through their donations to Boswell included:

- Joni & Friends of Ridgeland
- ARC of Mississippi
- Country MS Homemakers Volunteers
- Fellowship Sunday School – Pelahatchie
- Corinth Baptist Church of Magee



The City of Brookhaven adopted MAC residents for Christmas and purchased everything on their wish list. Pictured with MAC Director Jamie Prine, above, second from left, is Mayor Joe Cox, far left, his assistant Cindy Smith, third from left, and other city employees.

Above right, members of Westminster Presbyterian Church load a Boswell van with gifts for Boswell individuals, including athletic clothes, sleepwear and other needed items.



Christmas activities, continued...

MAC individuals enjoyed a fun, festive Christmas

The term, "Christmas is for children" is one the staff at Mississippi Adolescent Center takes to heart, planning parties and special events for the young boys who reside at the Brookhaven center. In addition to a pre-Christmas party highlighted by a visit from Santa and loads of gifts from the City of Brookhaven, Christmas morning brought more gifts and a special meal.

Here are a few photos of the boys after opening their gifts at the Christmas party:



Boswell's Christmas parade supported by community partners, family members

Reviving a popular event of the past, a Christmas parade through campus was held the week prior to Christmas. Staff, family members and City of Magee, including the Mayor, police and fire departments, participated this year to the delight of individuals.



Family members decorated their vehicles and drove through campus to wave to their loved ones.



The City of Magee is always supportive of Boswell. Two police cars, a fire truck and Mayor Dale Berry, left, participated in the Christmas parade, something they've done since 2020.



Clint Ashley and Ricky Grimes represented Administration in a decorated golf cart.



Boswell's Christmas was created by Maintenance and Community staff. Santa rode on the float and called out to individuals by name.



Day Services' staff enjoyed decorating a truck and riding in the parade together.



Trevor Reed borrowed his children's go-cart and decorated it to participate in the parade.