



MAC Announces EOY

Mississippi Adolescent Center (MAC) celebrates Employee Appreciation Day each year by acknowledging and rewarding the invaluable qualities of its employees. This year, Chris Browder, QIDP of the Brookwood Dorm, was honored as Employee of the year for 2023. (p.6)



#ReelTalk

Before the temperatures became unbearably hot, Individuals on campus took to the lake to enjoy a fishing expedition they won't soon forget. L: Recreation's Nicole Sullivan assists Jessica in posing with her prize catch. (p.9-10)



In this issue:

New Employees.....3

Special Olympics
Torch Run.....4

Meet Your Neighbor....5

MAC's EOY.....6-7

Community Picnic.....8

Campus Fishing.....9-10

Employee Appreciation
Day.....11-12

A Legend Retires....13-14

The Pastor's Corner....15

Upcoming Events.....16

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.

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



Clint Ashley, Director

Renee Burton, Editor


Join for as little as

\$5 *per year*

**It benefits you
&
the individuals
we serve.**



You can sign up for payroll deduction and give as much or as little as you'd like.

 **601-867-5078**

Renee.Burton@brc.ms.gov

Boswell Regional Center

**1049 Hwy 149
Magee, MS 39111
(601) 867-5000**



www.brc.ms.us

***For
Questions or
Comments
regarding
information in this
publication,
please contact
Public Relations:
(601) 867-5078***

WELCOME!

WE'RE GLAD YOU'RE HERE

Top row (L to R):

Mary Brooks,
Jamal Johnson,
Brown Ray,
Vivian Tucker,
Abigail Elmore

Bottom Row (L to R):

Tatiyana Hubbard,
Savitri Williams,
Britney Smith,
Kim Atchley

not pictured:

Madison Floyd, Haleigh
Watts, Angel Bynum,
Lucinda Ducksworth

1st class
of
May



2nd class
of
May

Bottom Row (L-R):

Carol Davis, Aaliyah Kidd,
Jocelyn Edwards, Oksana
LeFlore, Jherrika Atterberry,
Elizabeth Garner, Sheronda
Cato

Middle Row:

Taree Williams, Antionette
McGill, Cruz Dinkins,
LaShina Robinson, Veronica
Nixon, K'Lee Appelt

Top Row:

Chanda Davis, Janiya Thornton,
Dasha Gholar, Alisha Burgess,
Trudy "TK" Bryant, Paris
Blackwell

Not pictured:

DeAsia Deer, Jasmine
Smith, Beverly McGowan



Law Enforcement Officer Torch Run

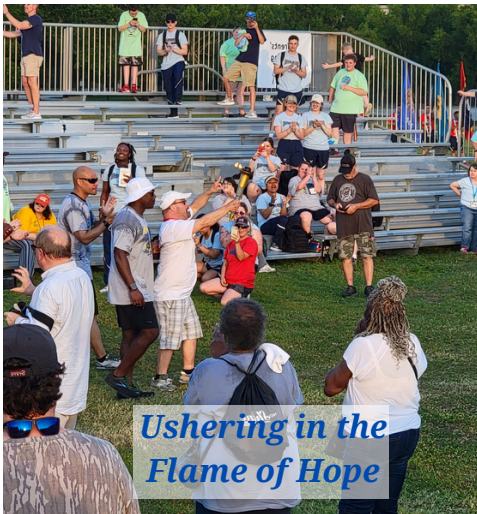
On Wednesday, May 8th, Sheriff Paul Mullins and deputies from the Simpson County Sheriff's Department assisted Boswell Regional Center in kicking off the start of the 2024 MS Special Olympics, which took place at Keesler AFB in Biloxi. The Law Enforcement Torch Run (LETR) is a special opportunity for local officers to help raise awareness and funds for Special Olympics, as well as to demonstrate community support for participating athletes. Each year Boswell Regional Center hosts this special event, where local officers carry the "Flame of Hope" along campus streets, followed by a commemorative ceremony to officially kick off the start of the MS Special Olympic Summer Games, sending BRC's athletes off in style. . Other special guests include City of Magee Mayor, Dale Berry, City of Magee PD and FD, and Biloxi Police Department, Captain Tommy Snyder.



"Let Me Win! But if I cannot win, let me be brave in the attempt."

L: BRC's Justin Wyatt recites the Special Olympics oath

Let the Games Begin!!



Ushering in the Flame of Hope



Lighting the Cauldron



Opening Ceremony



BRC Bad Boys



Bocce Ball



BRC Braves

Meet Your Neighbors



Meet Ms. Pat.

Pat Byrd began her career at Boswell Regional Center in 1981. She retired in 2010, but didn't stay away long at all; just over a month into retirement, she returned to serve the individuals at Boswell through a contract position. She says she initially started sitting with patients in the hospital and later began working in physical therapy. Afterwards she was asked to work in restorative care and provided restorative services to the individuals at Pinelake, where she remained until 2022. Today she assists with Special Olympics. She says her job is to ensure each individual has a photo ID and updated medical information in order to participate in events. Thank you, Ms. Pat, for your continued support of BRC and the individuals we serve. Your sacrifice and dedication serve as an inspiration to us all.

Meet Will Warren

Will is a resident of Broadhead Apartments. He spends a lot of his time during the week at Connections, creating works of art to share with staff and visitors. On Tuesdays and Thursdays, Will spends his afternoons cleaning at the WAC. As you can tell by his smile, he enjoys his work very much. He also enjoys free time, when he can play Air Force games on his X-Box. On the weekends Will visits his mom in Brandon. He says when he's home he likes to go out to eat and take his mom shopping in Flowood. His favorite place to shop is GameStop, and his favorite place to eat is the Cock of the Walk. Will also has a drivers license and says he enjoys driving his mom's blue Mercedes Benz, that he has driven all the way to Alabama, Georgia, and even Florida. When he's not driving his mom's car, he's riding his 4-wheeler in the woods. He says he doesn't hunt; he just likes being out in nature and looking at all the different animals. Will also wants everyone to know that he enjoys cutting grass and he likes spending time with his pet dog, Ella, who is very nice and lives inside.





Helping shape the Future

Celebrates Employee Appreciation Day Announces Employee of the Year

On May 24, 2024, MS Adolescent Center held its annual Employee Appreciation Day. At this event, employees were recognized for their contributions and accomplishments during 2023. Employee of the Year nominees, BRC/MAC Friends and Family Sponsors, and employees who received service awards were recognized; but the most exciting and prestigious award of the day, Employee of the Year for 2023, was presented to Mr. Chris Browder.

**M.A.C.
2023
Employee
of the
Year...**

Chris Browder!



Chris serves as a Qualified Intellectual Disabilities Professional (QIDP) for Brookwood Dorm. He began his career at MAC in June 2004 as an MH-ATT in the Residential Living Department. Throughout his years at MAC, he has also worked as an Educational Trainer and Independent Living Skills Coordinator. Chris currently holds a bachelor's degree in business administration from USM. Chris is a joy to work with. He has worked hard to grow his skills over the years and has been an asset to MS Adolescent Center. Congratulations, Chris!



2023 Employee of the Year Nominees:

(L to R):

Brittany Thompson,
Betti Levi,
Chris Browder,
Jasmine Graves,
Jeremy Clark.

Not pictured:

Sam O'Rorke
Constance Perkins.

Employee Service Awards



Service Awards were presented to (L to R) Salena Williams (10 years), Consuela Johnson (10 years), Jeremy Clark (20 years), Tamara Smith (10 years) and Becky Butler (20 years).

Recognizes Sponsors for 2023 *BRC's Friends & Family Association*



Sponsors of BRC's F&F Association were recognized for their contributions. Diamond Level Sponsors: Rebecca James (not pictured), Tamara Parsons, and Jamie Odom; Emerald Level Sponsors: Carolyn Bouie (not pictured), Consuela Johnson, Ebony Porter (not pictured), Ian Smith, Tamara Smith, and Davidcha Thomas (not pictured); Ruby Level Sponsors: Theresa Childs (not pictured), Toya Humphrey, Madonna Sanchez.

Sun's out, buns out...

BRC Community Welcomes Summertime Picnic-Style at Prentiss Walker Lake



Summertime isn't complete without the aroma of burgers sizzling on the grill, the sun's warmth on your face, and the company of friends and family in the great outdoors. BRC's Community Individuals and staff marked the arrival of summer with their yearly trip to Prentiss Walker Lake in Mize, MS. They enjoyed freshly grilled burgers with all the trimmings and plenty of snacks and drinks. Some even brought lawn chairs and fishing gear to try their luck at catching a big one. Naturally, a Mississippi picnic wouldn't be the same without a few ant and mosquito bites, and a BRC event wouldn't be complete without a visit from Director, Clint Ashley and Assistant Director, Ricky Grimes.



CAMPUS FISHING RODEO!

A warm morning with overcast skies provided the perfect opportunity for campus individuals to take to the water. Recreation and Maintenance got an early start, setting up tents, tables, and chairs, along with enough fishing poles and bait for each individual to wet a line and reel in a big one. Male staff (and a few ladies) spent the better part of two hours baiting hooks with crickets or worms and taking fish off of hooks... and boy, were there ever a lot of fish! Every person with a pole ended up with a fish or two...or three, some big, some small, and some even caught turtles. Of course, each one was gently returned back to the water. Afterwards, teams/units were awarded based on various categories, like "Most Colorful Fish", Fish with the Prettiest Eyes", etc. And to make the day even better, Mrs. Lottie and the Dietary staff cooked catfish, hushpuppies, French fries, and coleslaw for lunch. It was a great day, and now everyone is looking forward to repeating this event next year and for many years to come. A special thanks to Ben Robinson for providing special adaptive equipment for BRC anglers with physical limitations.



FISHING RODEO CONTINUED...



Employee Appreciation Day



Each year BRC's Friends and Family Association sponsors an Employee Appreciation Day out at Green Park to recognize and show gratitude for the amazing work done by BRC staff, and of course, this year was no exception. What was exceptional, however, was the wonderful change in menu, the number of door prizes given away, and the amount of money raised for Friends & Family. Instead of grilling burgers like we normally do, this year we used our contacts at Mississippi Department of Public Safety (MDPS) to request the use of two very large smokers, allowing us to serve smoked chicken and sausage, along with the traditional sides of baked beans and potato salad. The food was very delicious, and there was plenty, enough for most BRC employees to have seconds if they'd liked. The number of door prizes used in the Friends & Family raffle also made for an exciting day. In all, 34 very generous businesses donated items ranging from scented candles to ratchet sets, with a multitude of gift cards in between. Each donated item was used in a raffle to raise money for BRC's Friends & Family Association. Through the generosity of local businesses and BRC employees, a total of \$740 was raised for this very worthy cause. For anyone unfamiliar, Friends and Family is a 501 C(3) charitable organization, registered with the MS Secretary of State's Office, that partners with Boswell to provide BRC individuals with goods and services that are not provided by the state. They also sponsor several occasions throughout the year to recognize and reward the valuable employees who care for them.

It was a long, hot day, and the amount of work that went into making this event a success cannot be overstated. So, to anyone who cooked, cleaned, served, packaged meals, set up, broke down, hauled off, etc., THANK YOU! And a special thank you to BRC leadership for stepping outside their traditional roles and tangibly demonstrating how much they appreciate each one of us.



Left: BRC Director, Clint Ashley, along with Community leaders, Sheri Allen and Kelly Jones prepare to serve meals to employees.

Above: HR's Shawntae Walker prepares for the rush of customers with some help from Unit Administrator Chris Barron and Records Management Director Beth Luper,

Employee Appreciation Day



Pics continued...



A Boswell Legend Retires

Friday, May 31, 2024, marked a date in the history of Boswell Regional Center that will likely never be repeated, the retirement of its longest-serving employee. Community Director, Ronald Britt began his career at BRC in November of 1977, and for the span of nearly 47 years, he worked diligently to meet the needs of individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (IDD), not only in Simpson County, but throughout the state. Understandably, the joy of retiring and spending more time with his family was slightly curtailed by thoughts of leaving his staff behind, at the helm of a ship he had successfully commanded for so long.

Celebrating alongside him were a host of family and friends, including his wife, Wanda, their three children and spouses, several grandchildren, and current & former BRC Directors and Assistant Directors. Memorable, heart-felt comments were shared by current BRC Director, Clint Ashley; former BRC Directors: Steven Allen, Raymond Johnson, and Suzie Lassiter; former Asst. Director Gloria Johnson; and former Director of Support Services, Bill Blair. Also in attendance were Mississippi Department of Mental Health Deputy Director, Craig Kittrell and current BRC Asst. Director, Ricky Grimes.

A special video, prepared by his staff, praised “Britt” (as he was affectionately called) for his attributes of leadership and for the positive impact he has made in the lives of BRC individuals throughout the years. Alongside Director Clint Ashley, who presented Britt with a BRC retirement trophy, long-time coworker Sheri Allen, offered a special keepsake gift on behalf of BRC leaders and staff.

In a spirit of gratitude and emotion, Mr. Britt shared recollections from his experience at BRC, including that cool November day when he visited the campus asking about where he could apply for a job. He says he must have made quite an impression, dressed in those old, oil-stained coveralls, because he got the job and “the rest is history”. He also reminisced about the many Christmas parties he attended with the Individuals, how he dressed up as Santa Clause, danced around the room, playing air guitar to “Run, Run, Rudolph”.

On a more serious note, he commented on the significance of this day for him and how it ranked among the most important days of his life, like the day he asked his wife to marry him, the birth of each of his 3 children, and the day he asked the Lord, Jesus to be his savior. He concluded by saying that the work he has done on this earth and at BRC has been done in hopes of one day hearing his Master say, “Well done thy good and faithful servant.” Following the service, friends, family, guests, and coworkers were invited to stay for the delicious reception, complete with cake, punch, and finger foods. Everyone had a great time visiting with one another, taking pictures, and celebrating this once-in-a-lifetime occasion.

Scripture tells us that, “A generous soul will prosper, and he who refreshes others, will himself be refreshed” (*Proverbs 11:25*). Delighting in the service of others has an interesting way of showering blessings upon the giver as much as the recipient. Thank you, Mr. Britt for your dedication to fulfilling the mission of BRC and for your life-long example of what it means truly lead by serving others. As you enter the golden years of retirement, we hope you remember the words of Babe Ruth, “Heroes get remembered, but legends never die. Follow your heart, kid, and you’ll never go wrong.”



Above Left, L-R: Cassie Bynum, Stephanie McClendon, Chasity Butler and Amber Canoy prepare to serve cake at the reception. Right: Staff member, friends, and family enjoy the light reception prepared by the BRC Dietary staff.



Above Left: BRC Director, Clint Ashley congratulates Ronald Britt for nearly 47 years of service to BRC.

Above Right, L R: Former Director, Steven Allen; Former Director, Suzie Lassiter; Former Asst. Director Gloria Johnson; DMH Deputy Director, Craig Kittrell; Retired Community Director, Ronald Britt; Current BRC Director, Clint Ashley, and Former BRC Director, Raymond Johnson.



Ronald Britt's family joins him in celebrating a well-deserved moment in the spotlight.



A special gift for all the time you've given us.



The Pastor's Corner



Rev. Charles Meadows
BRC Chaplain

Psalm 139:1-8

O Yahweh, you have searched me and known me. You know when I sit down and when I rise up; You understand my thought from afar. You scrutinize my path and my lying down And are intimately acquainted with all my ways. Even before there is a word on my tongue, Behold, O Yahweh, you know it all. You have closed me behind and before, And You have put Your hand upon me. Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; It is too high; I cannot attain to it. Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence? If I ascend to heaven, you are there; If I make my bed in Sheol, behold, You are there.

This past weekend I received a call from my Uncle, a Baptist minister and a faithful servant of the Lord, Jesus Christ. The question he asked me was. "Where in the Bible does it talk about fleeing from the presence of God?" As we both began researching the Bible for verses that talk about this subject, my Uncle discovered Psalm 139:7. The answer to the question, "Can a person flee from the presence of God?" is a simple, but resounding, NO! Sometimes we try running from God because he is calling us to step out of our comfort zone, so we just try going in the opposite direction. Sometimes, because of sin in our lives, we feel ashamed and unworthy; we choose not to fulfill his purpose in our lives, and we continue down a completely different path. And then, at other times, we simply want to do our own thing on our own time. But in doing so, we are running away from the Lord. The absolute truth in Life is this that no matter where you go in life, God is there. He knows everything we do, whether at home or at work. He knows every thought that crosses our minds and hears every little word that comes out of our mouth. As Christians instead running from the Lord we should surrender to Him. I thank the Lord for his love, grace, and mercy. Without the Lord I can do absolutely nothing in this life no matter how hard I try.

Upcoming Events

6th...D-Day

14th... Flag Day

15th...Elder Abuse Awareness Day

16th...Father's Day

17th...BRC Pool Opens

19th...Juneteenth

20th...Summer Solstice

JUNE