

BOSWELL REGIONAL CENTER'S BULLETIN

Vol. X • May/June 2019





Job Well Done!

Employees of the Month

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:

Major Chris Deback of the Biloxi Police Department is pictured at Boswell's Special Olympics Law Enforcement Torch Enforcement Torch run with a sympathy card created by Boswell individuals. Three days prior to the event, Biloxi Police Officer Robert McKeithen was killed outside police headquarters while attempting to change a flat tire. The card was presented to Deback, who organizes the statewide Torch Run culminating in the Summer Games at Keesler, to place on a memorial to McKeithen at the site of his death. Biloxi Police officers also escort each runner throughout the state and provide security at the Summer Games.



JOB WELL DONE!

Quarterly Recognition Reception



Ashley Nichols, left, was named the first Employee of the Quarter - Campus DSP for 2019. She received her award from Clint Ashley.



Sholanda Cook, left, was named the first Employee of the Quarter - ICF Group Homes for 2019. Clint Ashley presented the award.

Not present at the Employee of the Quarter reception were quarterly winners Jason Sandifer, Community Services and Yolanda Beard, Support/Professional.



Attending Belhaven's Best, a workshop offering leadership training and other skills, were from left: Jennifer Chennault, Madilyn Gray, Luvennia Banks, Tara Dickerson and James Randolph.



2019 GOVERNOR'S SERVICE AWARDS



Teresa Windham, left, received a 30-year Governor's Service Award at the quarterly reception from Clint Ashley. Windham, Boswell's Director of Nursing, will retire at the end of June. She will be missed by staff and our individuals.

Employee health fair was well-attended

Boswell's Wellness Committee staged an employee health fair recently to provide free health checks from local medical professionals as well as exposure to related service providers.



Amanda Blakeney, left, director of Mississippi State Extension's Simpson County office, offered advice and an opportunity to check for sun damage at her table.



Student nurses from Copiah-Lincoln Community College-Simpson County Center provided a variety of health and wellness checks.



Spotlight On...

2018 Employee Recognition Reception

Boswell Regional Center held its Employee Recognition Reception April 26 to honor the top employees of 2018. All employees of the month chosen during the past year were honored at the reception, which was attended by Steven Allen, deputy director of Mississippi Department of Mental Health and Renee Brett, DMH bureau director, intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Patrice Rushing of Magee, a unit supervisor on Boswell's campus, was named 2018 Employee of the Year following the recognition of all employees of the year. Rushing received \$100 from Boswell's Friends and Family Association, an engraved award and a personalized parking sign declaring her status as employee of the year.



Patrice Rushing, center, was named Boswell's 2018 Employee of the Year. Pictured with Rushing are, from left: Steven Allen, deputy director of Mississippi Department of Mental Health, Clint Ashley, director of Boswell, Renee Brett, DMH bureau director, intellectual and developmental disabilities, and Cindy Womack, assistant director.



Cindy Womack, center, is pictured with the 2018 Eisenhower Durr Leadership Award for exhibiting exemplary leadership qualities. Pictured with her are, from left: Steven Allen, deputy director of DMH, Clint Ashley, director, Renee Brett, IDD bureau director, DMH and Whitney Barnes Baker of Priority One Bank.



Hunter Thompson, third from left, received the 2018 Tracy Dampier Spirit Leadership award for extending outstanding service to the individuals served by Boswell. Thompson was formerly a direct support professional. He was recently promoted to Boswell's business office. Pictured with him, are from left: Steven Allen, deputy director of DMH, Clint Ashley, director, Debbie Walker of Peoples Bank, Renee Brett, IDD bureau director, DMH and Cindy Womack, assistant director.



Spotlight On...

2018 Employee Recognition Reception



All monthly award winners from all four categories in 2018 were recognized at the reception along with milestone Governor's Service Award winners.

Becky Wells, center, long-time director of recreation for Boswell, now retired, received Boswell's inaugural Volunteer of the Year award for outstanding service to programs and fundraisers benefitting Boswell's individuals. She is pictured with Bill Blair, left, Boswell director of support services and Kristen Zila, Trustmark Bank.



Lottie Keyes, kitchen manager, and her staff did a wonderful job of arranging the refreshments for the employee awards reception. Moving to a reception format instead of a seated lunch allowed all employees to attend and enjoy the ceremony and refreshments.



Patrice Rushing, center, is pictured with Suzie Wilder, left, director of human resources, and her supervisor Will Beeson, director of three campus units, right. Both were impressed with her work ethic and felt she was very deserving of the top award.



Pictured with Cindy Womack after she was chosen for the Durr Leadership Award are Jamie Prine, left, director of ICF group homes and Will Beeson, director of campus units.



Spring Fling filled with many activities, enjoyed by all

To herald the beginning of spring and allow individuals a chance to get outside and enjoy a day of fun activities, recreation director Cindy Sanders and her staff staged one of the best Spring Flings in Boswell's history. Besides large events like this one, Sanders and her team of recreation therapists located on every unit plan a daily calendar of activities and events, including arts and crafts, learning activities, field trips and excursions to sporting events, restaurants and area festivals.

This year's Spring Fling, called "Aloha, Spring!" was filled with numerous activities in Green Park, including arts and crafts, games, dancing to Hawaiian music, door prizes, an appearance by the "Beach Boys," kickball game and a cookout lunch. Everyone had a great time and is already looking forward to next year.

Below are a few scenes from this year's event:



More photos from spring fling



Simpson County Development Foundation banquet draws local, state and federal officials

Boswell hosted the Simpson County Development Foundation's banquet April 25 in the Dining Hall of Nutritional Services Building. In attendance were State Sen. Chris Caughman, Lt. Gov. Tate Reeves, U.S. Sen. Cindy Hyde-Smith and U.S. Congressman Michael Guest. Boswell applied for a \$1,000 Entergy grant, which funded the décor and other items needed to stage a sit-down meal for over 140 guests. Additionally, Boswell roses, magnolias and greenery from the grounds were used to decorate tables and the lobby. U.S. Sen. Hyde-Smith complimented the décor, especially pointing out the "beautiful roses" grown by Boswell's grounds crew under the direction of Gene Lee. Below are scenes from the event:

Listening to guest speaker Dr. Jane Hulon, president of Copiah-Lincoln Community College are, from left: State Sen. Chris Caughman, Lt. Gov. Tate Reeves and U.S. Congressman Michael Guest.



U.S. Sen. Cindy Hyde-Smith, left, is greeted by Steven Allen, deputy director of DMH. At right is Fontaine McNair of Priority One Bank.



Magee Mayor Dale Berry, left, is pictured with U.S. Congressman Michael Guest, right. Also in attendance was Mendenhall Mayor Todd Booth and county supervisors.



Memories of previous visits to Boswell were recounted by U.S. Sen. Cindy Hyde-Smith, who was instrumental in getting an unsafe campus building torn down years ago. Old doors from the Sanatorium and early years of Boswell served as a backdrop for speakers.

More photos from the SCDF banquet



A packed room of over 140 guests listen to Lt. Gov. Tate Reeves talk about his plans for the future of Mississippi. The banquet was one of the largest seated events Boswell has ever hosted.



Copiah-Lincoln Community College President Dr. Jane Hulon, pictured second from right, was the guest speaker at the SCDF banquet. She is pictured with members of her staff, including Kenny Goza, program director, far right. In the background is Dr. Dwayne Middleton, Dean of the Simpson County Center.



Guests enjoyed a barbecue lunch prepared by Farm Bureau's Chris Williams. At far left is Stanley Shows, a member of U.S. Congressman Michael Guest's staff.

Helping serve dessert is Cindy Sanders, director of recreation. Thanks also goes to Cindy Womack, assistant director, Teresa Hinsz of Staff Development and one of Boswell's individuals, Randy, who assisted Boswell's public relations director with setup and serving duties. Also involved in setup of the event were Boswell's maintenance department and nutritional services.



Courtney Nalker, who oversees Boswell's supported employment program, gave a recap of the program to attendees, many of whom own or operate businesses. A supported employment handout was created specifically for the event and provided to all attendees.

Special Olympics Torch Run

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

Area law enforcement made May 8 special for Boswell Regional Center's Special Olympics athletes by participating the 51st annual Special Olympics Law Enforcement Torch Run as it passed through Simpson County.

Beginning at north Mississippi, separate torches travelled through Mississippi courtesy of law enforcement officers from around the state, who handed off the torch at various stops enroute to Biloxi. The torches were used to light the cauldron at the State Special Olympics Games' opening ceremony at Keesler Air Force Base in Biloxi.

Arriving first in Mendenhall, Biloxi Police Officer Tommy Snyder ran with the torch to Mendenhall Elementary School. Several hundred students were gathered on the front lawn with hand-drawn signs and banners, excitedly cheering the torch runner as he made his way to the school. Principal Dr. Rhonda Berry said students had been looking forward to the event all week, adding, "They appreciate our law enforcement officers and wanted to show their support. And, they were excited about seeing the Special Olympics torch."

From there, City of Magee Police and Simpson County Sheriff's Office picked up the torch and ran with it into Boswell's campus, where a culmination ceremony was held.

"The Special Olympics Torch Run is something to which we look forward all year," said Magee Police Chief Randy Crawford, whose officers carried the torch into Boswell's campus. "We are proud of our local athletes and are happy to give them a special sendoff."

Crawford led the assembled group at Boswell in reciting the pledge of allegiance. All flags at Boswell were lowered to half-mast in honor of fallen Biloxi Police Officer Robert McKeithen.

City of Magee Police officers that ran with the torch include Officers Shane Little and Christopher Jones. Simpson County Sheriff's Deputy Shane Brown joined them in the run leading to a ceremony on

Boswell's campus.

Other speakers included Magee Mayor Dale Berry who said, "Boswell, we love you – we are very happy to have this center and each and every one of you here in Magee."

All funds raised during the Torch Run goes toward training, transportation and other things that contribute toward the Summer Games' successful operations.



Torch Run photos



Magee Police Chief Randy Crawford, to the left of flag, led the group at Boswell's Special Olympics Law Enforcement Torch Run ceremony in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance. Other officers present were, from far left: Simpson County Sheriff's Deputy Shane Brown, Magee Police Officer Christopher Jones and Magee Police Officer Shane Little. Magee Fire Department brought the ladder truck and flag to show their support of the event. At far right is Magee Mayor Dale Berry.



Running with the torch into Boswell's campus are, from left: Magee Police Officer Shane Little, Simpson County Sheriff's Deputy Shane Brown and Magee Police Officer Christopher Jones.



James Randolph, far right, Area 2 Director of Special Olympics and director of autism services for Boswell, presented a sympathy card made by Boswell's individuals to Maj. Chris Deback of the Biloxi Police Department to place on the memorial in honor of the fallen Biloxi police officer.



Several hundred Mendenhall Elementary School students gathered on the front lawn of the school with signs and banners to show their support of the Law Enforcement Torch Run.

Reciting the Special Olympics oath was team member S. Banks, at the podium. At far left is Magee Police Chief Randy Crawford; James Randolph is pictured, right.





Pastor's Corner



BRO. RUDY JACKSON
Patient Advocate/Chaplain

‘It’s All About Me’

Several years ago, I found myself struggling with an issue when I learned a Boswell event was scheduled on a day that was inconvenient for my plans for that particular day. Sometime during that day while in casual conversation with my supervisor, I voiced my displeasure about how this event was interrupting my plans for the day. Then came the words I will never forget:

“Oh I’m sorry I didn’t realize it was all about you.”

Just in case you’re wondering, yes, those words stung like a wasp on steroids. I had learned in times past if faced with a sharp criticism, before getting angry to put the accusation to the test and see if it held water. Well, it did. I was guilty as charged of a self-centered, self-serving attitude. No doubt this bit of criticism changed the way I looked at myself in the light of serving others.

Our Lord Jesus gives us a great example of what it really means to be a servant. The Apostle Paul writes in Philippians 2: 7-8:

“But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.”

The first thing we notice is that God, “The creator of the universe,” took on the form of a servant. The word form in the Greek is the word we get the word metamorphous from. It means to take the shape or the complete nature of something else. Here the Creator of man becomes the servant to man to the point of humbling himself to the death of the cross to pay for our sin debt. Before he could die for us he first had to die to self. So we too must learn to die to self before we can rightly serve others.

Secondly we notice the word servant means to become a bound slave. This kind of servant has a willful decision to come under the servitude of another. This is when your will and your life is altogether lost in the will of another.

Oh that we could take on this nature as servants wherever we find ourselves and allow our lives to be lost in the lives of others. Like a seed that must die to its self first in order to produce fruit, until were ready to give up our lives for others, we abide in an “It’s all about me” world. The marks of a servant are Love, Compaction, Concern, Selflessness, and Dedication. Let’s not forget:

“It’s not all about me.”

BOSWELL REGIONAL CENTER

JOB FAIR

**JUNE
6TH**

**9:00 AM
TO
3:00 PM**



- Fill out applications for open positions and talk with HR representatives & supervisors
- Learn about Boswell Regional Center and State of MS benefits
- Door prizes and refreshments

**Boswell Training Center
1049 Simpson Hwy. 149
Magee, MS**

For more information call 601-867-5000 Ext. 75208