

BOSWELL REGIONAL CENTER'S BULLETIN

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Iceapocalypse '21

Boswell Regional Center's

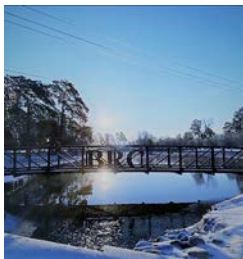
The Boswell Bulletin is published to inform the public, employees, family members and friends on Boswell Regional Center's activities, programs and progress. This publication also seeks to provide information to those interested in the work conducted by Boswell's employees to enrich the lives of those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

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ON THE COVER:



The sun rose over the lake Feb. 16 onto an ice-covered campus. Grounds, trees and roads were covered with frozen sleet and ice, creating a beautiful winter wonderland.

Cover photo and page 2 photos by Will Beeson.

Boswell continued to operate, care for individuals 24/7 **Unprecedented ice storm caused emergency operations to go into high gear for several days**

Beginning Valentine's Day weekend and extending through the next several days, "Iceapocalypse '21 brought freezing rain and as a result, icy roads to Simpson County and outlying counties in which group homes are located, resulting in dangerous driving conditions and power outages for most of Boswell's staff.

Thankfully, generators at all of Boswell's campus and community homes immediately went into high gear; therefore, no loss of electricity or heat was experienced. Clients received meals on the units or in their homes and were provided activities to stay busy.

However, making sure individuals were fed and cared for by staff was a little more difficult. Due to icy roads, many staff were unable to drive in to campus or community homes in their own vehicles. Boswell sent four-wheel drive trucks and vans to pick up staff that were willing to come to work. Many were asked to stay overnight to make sure adequate staffing needs were met during the week. Staff were provided meals and a place to sleep on campus while those in community homes slept in spare beds and on living room couches.

All total, over 100 staff worked over-time to insure individuals were well cared for and operations continued without interruption.

Following are a few photos from a harrowing few days:

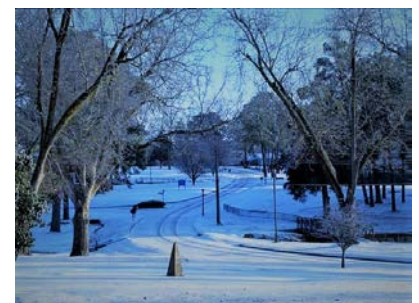


Almost no place on earth is more beautiful when covered in snow and ice than Boswell's historic campus. The former Preventorium left, was the home for hundreds of children during the Sanatorium days.

Left, it's easy to imagine the Preventorium children sliding down the hill during the ice storm of 1963 and other rare Mississippi snowfalls.



A beautiful sight awaited those who were able to drive in to campus for the evening shift. Many ended up staying overnight to avoid getting stuck at home due to hazardous road conditions.



Looking like a scene from a Hallmark movie, Boswell's icy roads and slippery rolling hills were easier to photograph than maneuver.

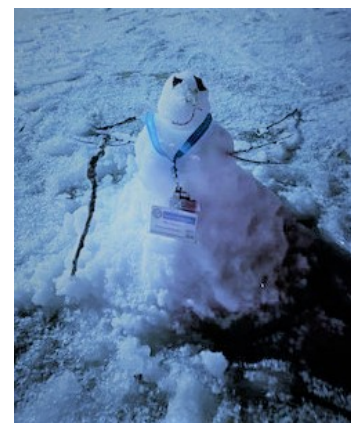
Iceapocalypse '21

Boswell continued to operate, care for individuals 24/7

Unprecedented ice storm caused emergency operations to go into high gear for several days



A mammoth tree fell on one of the staff offices during the ice storm. Luckily, the damage was minor and Boswell's grounds crew was able to remove the tree and limbs in the following days.



While most staff huddled inside warm buildings with individuals, a few brave ones ventured outside to build a snowman made mostly from frozen sleet and ice.



Another old tree fell outside Nutrition Services. The grounds crew used heavy equipment and chain saws to remove it in a few short hours.



Chain saws could be heard buzzing all over campus as grounds crew members cut large trees and limbs that fell all over campus.

**See page 9
for a list of
staff who
went
"beyond
the call"
during the
ice storm.**

Parties, parades & celebrations...

2021 began on a high note, with fun for all

The first part of the new year is usually considered “down time” for many due to cold weather and rainy days. Not so at Boswell, where individuals are treated to special celebrations, parties and even a parade during the otherwise-dismal months of January, February and March. Here are just a few of the photos from Super Bowl Sunday, Valentine’s Day, St. Paddy’s Day parade and for staff and clients, “Wear Red Day” for Heart Disease Awareness Day.



The guys at Ridgeview enjoyed a “Tie-Dye Super Bowl Party” complete with new shirts, plenty of tailgating snacks and Super Bowl LV on TV. Back row from left, staff Catina, Mollye and Roxie helped the guys get “ready for some football!”



Nathan proudly showed off his “stash” of cards on Valentine’s Day.



The ladies and guys on the campus units made Valentine’s card holder in their art class, then were excited to find cards placed inside on the 14th.



Special Valentine’s Day parties were held on each unit, complete with punch and refreshments.

Parties, Parades and Celebrations...

2021 began on a high note, with fun for all

While it was a scaled-down version of larger parades we've had in the past year, individuals enjoyed standing outside and watching the cars, trucks and other vehicles filled with family members and staff wave and throw candy and beads from decorated cars in the St. Paddy's Day parade.



A festive St. Paddy's Day Parade was enjoyed by campus individuals. Staff, departments and family members decorated vehicles in green and waved to those gathered outside the buildings while throwing candy and beads.



Jason Shoemaker, husband of nurse Susan Shoemaker, brought his mammoth truck, above, to ride in the parade, while right, the ladies of Pinelake dressed in green to the delight of their individuals.



Community individual buys first home in Magee

Like many 30-somethings living in Magee, Sam Banks enjoys living on his own after fulfilling the American Dream of owning a home.

As a first-time home buyer, Sam utilized all the resources accessible to him, including seller and local businessman Anthony Koehn and Magee attorney Scotty Buffington, who assisted him with the home closing.

As a resident in Boswell's Community Services division, Sam lived with several other men at Magee's Cedarcrest Apartments, a few houses down from his current home near the post office. He enjoyed having a roommate and the camaraderie with the other guys and staff. But after seeing Koehn renovating a brick home just down the street, Sam begun dreaming of having his independence in his own home.

"I liked living with my friends, but I wanted to have some peace and quiet," said Sam as he showed off his modest brick home near the Magee Post Office. "When we found out this home was for sale, I wanted to buy it. I'm glad I did."

A smooth process that involved the assistance of Boswell's Community staff soon led to the realization that he would be responsible for a monthly mortgage payment and his own bills. However, even this fact of life experienced by many Americans didn't faze the affable Sam.

"I work full-time at Polk's Meats, so my staff told me I have enough to pay my bills," he said. "They help me make sure I pay everything on time."

Now that he's settled into his new home, Sam is enjoying the "peace and quiet" that precipitated his decision to buy his own home. He's also gained more self-confidence from performing household chores like cooking, laundry and house cleaning.

"I like making my own meals - chicken and pizza are my favorites - then watching football and movies," Sam said. "I still go down to visit the guys when I want to, but I like coming back to my house."

Sam is enrolled in Boswell's supported living program, which provides assistance with some of his daily living activities. Besides helping him pay bills, staff transport him to and from work and to purchase groceries. They also assist him with preparing certain food items. He's happy about the progress he's been able to make on his own.

"It's nice to be able to eat what I like and then take a walk around the neighborhood," said Sam. "I can concentrate more on the things I like to do. Buying my own place gave me more freedom. I love my home."



Sam Banks proudly shows off his new home near the Magee Post Office. Banks is part of Boswell's Community Services division.

1-year mark of COVID-10...

Anniversary of first COVID-19 case marked with staff, individuals receiving vaccine

It's been a very long, challenging year since the first COVID case was recorded in Mississippi. Lockdowns, quarantines, cessation of family visits for individuals and many other hardships highlighted the past year.

However, the arrival of the first vaccine lifted everyone's spirits and staff lined up outside the Training Center in anticipation of their first dose. Individuals were also administered the vaccine, with the majority experiencing little to no side effects.

Here are a few scenes from campus vaccination sites:



Long lines gathered outside the Training Center, foreground, as staff waited inside for their turn to get vaccinated.



Everyone that received the vaccine got a badge ribbon, left, from Friends and Family proclaiming their status.



"Mr. Roy" of Security was the first in line to get his shot.



Walgreen's officials were tasked with the job of administering vaccines to staff and individuals.

'Wear Red' for heart disease awareness held in February

Combining Valentine's Day celebrations with "Wear Red Day" reminded everyone to not only wear red, but to take care of their heart health. Information was distributed to staff that included reminders on the importance of getting regular checkups, watching blood pressure and cholesterol numbers and eating healthier.

Employees and individuals wore red to celebrate Valentine's and Wear Red Day.

Clockwise from top right: Ridgeview group, including staff and individuals; the gang at Connections II, formerly Boswell Industries and the ladies at Oakbrook.





Spotlight On...

IDD Awareness Month, Boswell's contributions recognized by City of Magee

Mississippi Gov. Tate Reeves recently announced March is Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month in Mississippi. In honor of that designation, and in recognition of Boswell Regional Center's numerous contributions to the city, Magee Mayor Dale Berry signed a proclamation designating March as "IDD Awareness Month" in the City of Magee.

Berry presented Boswell officials with a signed proclamation listing the impact Boswell employees and individuals make on the local economy.

Boswell has an annual economic impact of nearly \$59 million, the majority of which is experienced by the City of Magee. Additionally, a large portion of the center's payroll is received by Simpson Countians, who own and rent homes, pay utilities, support local businesses, attend area schools and churches and pay taxes.

BRC also operates in Simpson County several group and retirement homes, as well as supervised apartments for individuals who are served by the center.

Many of the residents in these homes:

- Pay their own rent and utilities; two have purchased homes in Magee and pay mortgages and for area services
- Possess checking accounts at area banks
- Use area physicians, hospitals and pharmacies for medical needs
- Shop for food and necessities at local businesses; and
- Spend thousands of leisure dollars at area restaurants, sporting and community events.

Berry thanked Boswell for its contributions to the city and applauded the center for continuing to grow its programs and services in the area.

"Celebrating Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month speaks to the city's values of inclusiveness and appreciation of people from all walks of life," said Berry. "We greatly appreciate Boswell's major economic impact on Magee. My goal is to continue to explore ways to ensure all residents with disabilities are given a fair chance at a better way of life."



Magee Mayor Dale Berry, center, is pictured signing a proclamation naming March as "Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Awareness Day" in Magee in honor of Boswell Regional Center's contributions to the community. Also pictured are, from left: Boswell director Clint Ashley; Boswell individual Sam Banks, who recently purchased a home in Magee and works for Polk's Meats; Trinessa Walker, community supervisor; Pam Webb, a Walmart employee and Cindy Womack, assistant director of Boswell.

First Employees of the Quarter for 2021 named

Kicking the 2021 employee awards program off were the following employees honored for their work during the first quarter:

- Stephanie Pruitt – ICF Group Homes
- Sharon Jones – Support/Professional
- Roxie Weathersby – Campus
- Chasity Norwood, Community

Each one received a \$25 check from Boswell's Friends and Family Association, a certificate and restaurant coupons.



Pictured received certificates from Clint Ashley, far left, director, and Cindy Womack, far right, assistant director, were second from left: Stephanie Pruitt, Roxie Weathersby, Sharon Jones and Chasity Norwood.



Iceapocalypse '21 heroes

Staff that went the extra mile to take care of individuals, including staying overnight and working double shifts:

Fairway (Campus)

Aalyiah Walker
 Esquivel Davis
 De Marcus Hooker
 Deontae Rodger
 Dridra Fairley
 Emmitt Grubbs
 Eric Williams
 Greg Grantham
 Larissa Sims
 Sakuma Magee
 Sarah McNair
 Tayler Tatum
 Tedreckus Magee
 Whitley Jones
 Zevohn Smith

Oak Brook (Campus)

Amber Westmorland
 Anassia Nelson
 Belinda Davis
 Charonda Lee
 Chiquita Price
 Cikera Owens
 Dolphus Colon
 Francis Loftin
 Jasmine Barnes
 Kenni Skiffer
 Laura Harris
 Madison Mabry
 Minnie Dampier
 Patricia Dixon
 Rakeem Duckworth
 Rebekah Stewart
 Stacy Barnes

Pinelake (Campus)

Amanda Gates
 Antoinette Revies
 Brendalyn Walker
 DeMarcus Childress
 Denise Durr

Pinelake (cont.)

Felicia Batton
 liesha Stuckey
 Jeffrey Williamson
 Jennifer Amason
 Jennifer Cole
 KaDasia Newsome
 Katie Page
 KeAndrea Barnes
 Kimberly Middleton
 Paige Boone
 Quashonda Grant
 Regina Collins
 Samantha Blanks
 Sandra McCollum
 Schqundria Gray
 Shania Green
 Tameka Cooper
 Tiffany Rushing
 Trevor Reed

Ridgeview (Campus)

Aaron Heil
 Arthur Milton
 Brewunta Johnson
 Catina Osby
 Deivion Fairley
 Dezmus Sumrell
 Duriell Humphery
 Ingrid Mills
 James Williams
 Jaylin Hall
 Jeffrey Hobbs
 Karmen Collins
 Kirkland Hubbard
 Nick Arender
 Nickolas McLaurin
 Roxie Weathersby

Medical

Madison Martin
 Wanda Davis

Brookhaven Group Home

Asondra Tyner
 Jasmine Johnson
 Julio Jones
 Lucille Mathis
 Natasha Arnold
 Tanetta Benson

Magee ICF Group Homes

Cherry Harris
 Kiara Bowen
 Liza Gray
 Lonie Brown
 Mashanda McDonald
 Nicole Sullivan
 Phyllis Enoch

Bay Springs Group Homes

Coretta Purdie
 Naja Holliday
 Sharon Jones
 Stephanie Pruitt

Taylorsville Group Homes

Aliyah Barnes
 Andrea Crosby
 April Clark
 Ashunta Pickering
 Ayeshia Satcher
 Ben McDonald
 Brittany Ducksworth
 Debbie Coghlan
 Diamond Newell
 Diana Finley
 Kadasia Keyes
 Kaitlyn Wilson
 Kayla Smith
 Kima Carter
 Lakeishia Keyes
 Latoy Jones
 Makiessa Moffett
 Merry Booth
 Ruby Holder
 Sherry Ducksworth
 Yasmine Crosby
 Yeshia Pittman
 Zoria Newell
 Zya Nixon

** List contains names submitted by managers at time of publication.*