



HRN

....human resources news you can use

December 10, 2015 Volume 2, Issue 4

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Another Year!

Here we are at the close of yet another year. Another year, hopefully wiser, definitely older. I normally finish my message before I even start on the other pages of the newsletter, but I found myself lost for awhile. Maybe it's the anticipation of the holidays, the hustle and bustle of the season, that I haven't really stopped to smell the roses. Well, I thought about the song that you normally here at the end of each year; "Auld Lang Syne" so I "googled" it and found out that it was written by Robert Burns, a Scotsman, in 1788. The Scottish title may be loosely translated as "for (the sake of) old times". I never knew that the song had so many verses, and after reading them all, I found one that reminds me of all of you. It goes like this:

"And there's a hand my trusty friend!

And give me a hand O' thine!

And we'll take a right good-will draught, for auld lang syne.

Should old acquaintance be forgot, and never brought to mind? Should old acquaintance be forgot, and old lang syne?"

When I think of this simple song lasting for 227 years, I am amazed. PHWD has been in existence for over 50 years, and years from now, I know people will be celebrating the years end at our parks, looking out over the water, and reflecting on that song; remembering, "for the sake of old times." The work you do in the parks now is never un-noticed. Be proud of how far we've come and where we're headed, and I do think of each of you as my trusty friend!

Bernie Hudson



From Parks Director Allen Wright

As this year draws to an end and a new year approaches, I would like to take this opportunity to extend my heartfelt thanks to you all for your hard work during 2015. This past year has been a very productive year for PHWD! We have accomplished a great deal in the improvements of our facilities, and I look forward to us doing even greater things in 2016.

I would also like to wish you and your families a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! May you all be blessed.

Allen Wright

Dollars and Sense

By: Lisa Clark, Payroll Officer

It is coming up on W-2 Time, take a moment and review that the address on your check stub is correct. If not, please contact Bernie at 601-264-4104 immediately to update that information and you may want to verify that we have the correct phone number on file as well. This will be beneficial in the event we need to mail your W-2 to you.

Please make sure you are keeping up with your paystubs, you never know when you might need them. If you have any questions regarding them please feel free to contact me at 601-264-4105. We ask all employees to never discuss your pay with another employee.

In the event you would like to take a day off, please fill out a leave request form, and have your supervisor sign off on it. This form should be attached to your timesheet and turned in to me.

Thank You,

Lisa

Retirement



You may recognize the guy in the light blue shirt. Don Lee retired in May, but heard that there would be cake so he crashed the party. All joking aside, this is what PHWD families do, they celebrate each others accomplishments. It was great to see him and his wife Elaine.



Congrats to James Loflin on his retirement from PHWD July 1st. James became a PHWD employee in 2006 and has worked at Little Black Creek and Flint Creek. His knowledge and expertise in maintenance has been helpful as he mentored other employees to follow in his footsteps. He has been an asset to PHWD and we will miss him dearly. We had a big turn-out for his farewell gathering. Now with time on his hands, and his wife Joy by his side there is nothing holding him back from starting a new adventure. We look forward to seeing him again as a relaxed and retired person.



PHWD Board of Directors honored



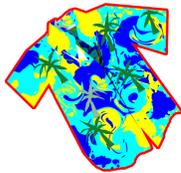
Ken Papania, PHWD Board Member, Jackson County received a plaque from our Board President Don Pittman honoring his service to PHWD since 2007. Mr. Ken retired from our Board of Directors September 2015 to serve on the Jackson County Utility Authority Board. He will be sorely missed.

Board president, Don Pittman acknowledged Director Geoffrey Clark's service to PHWD with a plaque. Geoffrey Clark served on our board since 2007. We were sorry to see him leave, and wish him all the best as he returns to his family business.



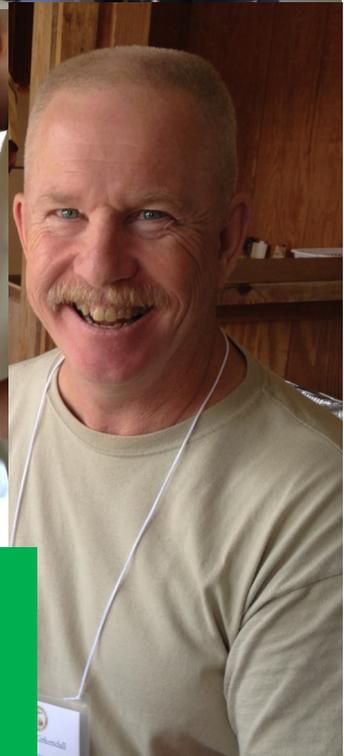


Rusty Ryals hosted a “luau” to showcase the improvements made to the “Splash of Fun” waterpark. The whole gang had such a great time and we’re so grateful for Rusty’s commitment to PHWD.



LUAU!





**2nd Annual
Sea Bees Retreat**



As you can see by smiling faces this 2nd Annual Sea bees Family Retreat was a “Hit”. Thanks to all the staff who worked all weekend taking care of the needs of the Sea bees. Thanks to the Sea bees for their service to our Country. Schuntel Shockley, cabin reservations supervisor, was happy to hear that they have booked again for next year!

Benefits Fair



The three day event was held at the District Office. Dawson Dyess and Chris Thompson with One Life Insurance were available for questions regarding insurance policies that may be of benefit to our employees. Bari Middleton handles our cafeteria plans in regards to pre-tax deductions. This benefits our employees as well as PHWD. Chris Finn explained the advantages of participating in the Mississippi Deferred Compensation Plan. It is never too early to plan for your retirement. The event was a huge success, and hopefully we can have a benefits fair like this each year.

Works Project Completed



Allen Wright, Parks Director, and Geoffrey Clark, Director from Wayne County presented a check to Gaston Hutcherson, Vice President of the Wayne County Board of Supervisors in the amount of \$6,135.42 for the completion of G. N. Jones Road and Crow Drive drainage improvement projects.

What's going on in Reservations?

20% off cabin rentals (excludes Flint Creek)

This offer is available if you book a cabin from now until February 28, 2016. Tell your friends, tell your neighbors, spread the word! Leticia alias "Coco", Uncle Bill, and Schuntel are looking forward to the new year!



Millenium cabin at Maynor Creek in Waynesboro, MS



2-story A-frame Cabin at Big Creek Water Park, Soso, MS

Archusa Creek



All of us here at Archusa would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! We look forward to what the new year holds for us and are proud of the progress we have made together; improving the appearance of our park.

This picture is the Labyrinth Dam here at Archusa Creek. It is the only one of its kind in the state. It sets approximately 6 inches above normal pool of the lake. It is a complex configuration of zig zag weirs that handles the excessive rainfall and keeps the lake just above the normal pool during a large rain event. Water flows over it at all points and discharges several times more water than if it was just a straight wall dam. It works exceptionally well and we are proud to have it here at Archusa Creek.



Big Creek



We at BCWP are blessed to have a great crew that really pitches in and works together. We consider each other as part of our extended family.

This is what each of us are thankful for this year:

Lisa Walker, Office Clerk: I am thankful for my health, my family, my job, and my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Teresa Dinwiddie, Assistant Park Manager: I am thankful for my husband, my kids and for my job that I love and the close friends that I work with. I am also thankful for my health and for each day I have with the ones I love.

Kathie Abercrombie, Park Ranger: I am thankful for my husband, my family, and friends. My most precious blessing and thanks goes to my Heavenly Father, because without him, I would be nothing.

Sid Flynt, Park Worker: I am thankful for my job, my health, and working with good people.

Kathy Landrum, Housekeeping: I am thankful that I have a loving and forgiving God.

We have all worked very hard at updating our cabins and bungalows inside and out. This year we have stained the outside of our cabins and updated the inside with new carpet, curtains and furniture.

BCWP had a great Halloween. We had a contest for the best decorated camper! The winner is shown here, bottom left. We look forward to an even better year in 2016.



Flint Creek



Pepsi shoots commercial at Flint Creek water park in Wiggins



When interviewed by WLOX, Mr. Ryals said: "I retired from PepsiCo Food Systems in '98'. I worked at the Allen Beverage Company in Gulfport, and so it's kind of a family tradition, backbone I guess you could say, for us to be affiliated with PepsiCo. What better place to film a soft drink commercial than at a popular water park on a hot summer afternoon.

Allen Beverages was awarded bottler of the year, which is the highest honor PepsiCo gives to their independent bottlers.

Since Rusty Ryals leased the waterslide from us the transformation has been incredible. He has put so much of his heart and soul as well as a substantial amount of money into renovating these slides and he's not stopping with the slides. Plans are in the works to build a nine-hole chip and putt golf course as well as adding another lazy river. After that is completed his plans are to build a ball complex that will host baseball, softball and soccer tournaments.

Filming of "Shark Lake" at Flint Creek Water Park includes use of the facility's cabins as a set for Lake Tahoe in Nevada.



The movie crew rented cabins for the shoot, totaling \$2,564.24. The movie is classified as "Horror".

Action legend Dolph Lundgren goes head-to-head with a blood thirsty shark that has a resort town under siege. As bodies wash up on the lake's shore an ex-con (Lundgren) must take matters into his own hands to protect his daughter.

Don't be afraid, it's only a movie and I can guarantee there are no sharks at Flint Creek!

Maynor Creek



Here at Maynor Creek we have so much to be thankful for. We have struggled with personnel, but now have a team that works well together. We had a very busy summer and looking forward to having a better summer in 2016. During Thanksgiving holiday week our campsites and cabins were full. Everyone came together to enjoy their family and friends. The weather was perfect; not too cool. As the year ends we're excited to see what the new year brings. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!



Enjoying a relaxing afternoon fishing.



Nothing like sharing a campfire with friends.

Okatibbee



We all would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! We are proud of our park and would like everyone to see all the improvements we have made. In the future, we would like to add a fishing pier to accommodate those with handicaps, and add a new playground area with more swings and slides for children.



We are staining all of our cabins and adding new furnishings to the inside.



Congratulations to Rusty and Hannah who were married on November 14th of this year. We wish them the very best life has to offer and a long happy marriage. They make such a beautiful couple.

Turkey Creek

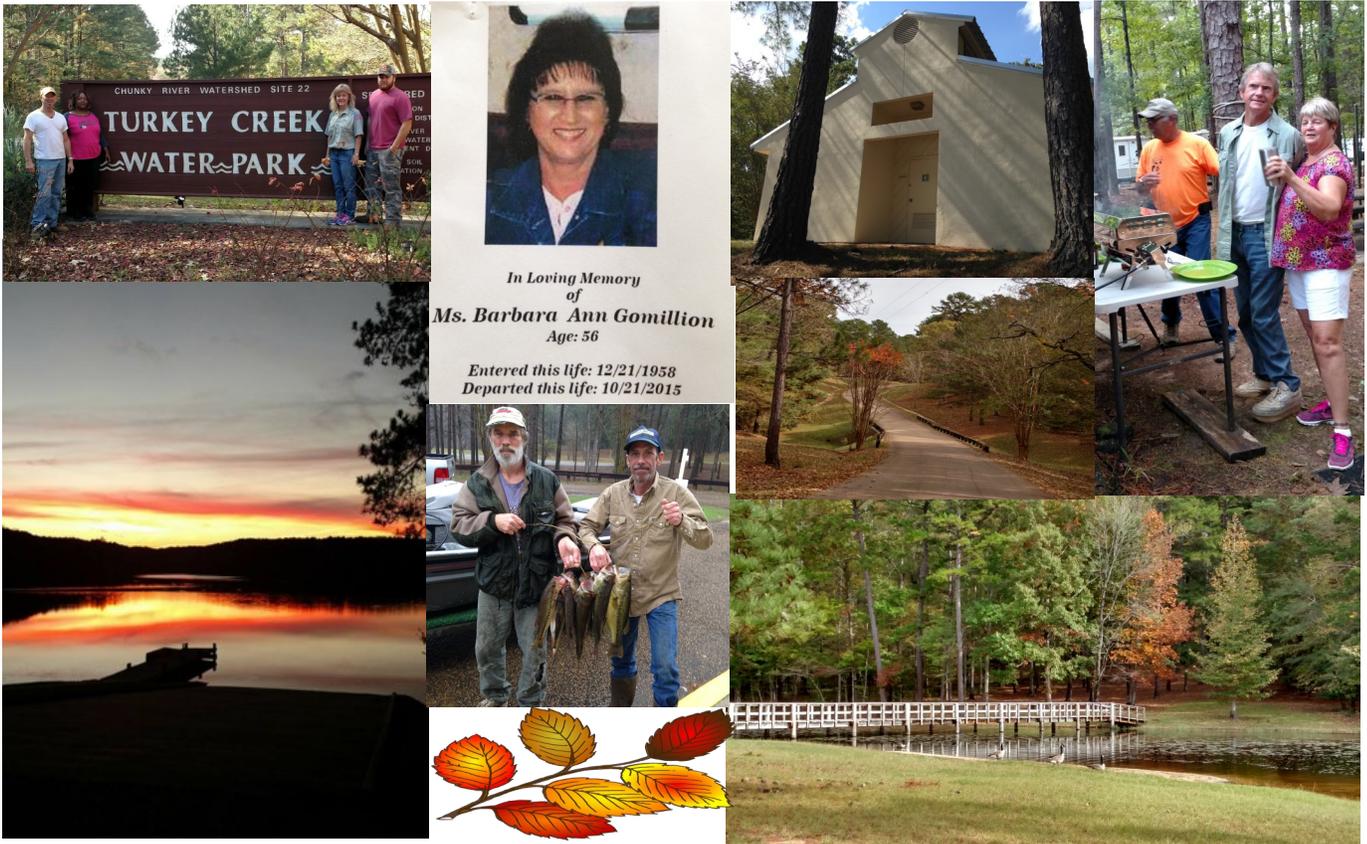
We have had a good year here at Turkey Creek. We are blessed to have a great crew who all work together to help make this park the best it can be. It makes a huge difference when employees care about their park. We are all thankful to work for Pat Harrison Waterway District as well as all the PHWD family.

We have made some improvements to our park this year. We have stained our cabins, painted all the bathhouses, office, lodge hall and shelter. We have added curtains and some new furniture in the cabins. As you will notice in our group photo below, we have also painted the entrance sign and all sign posts a pretty brown to get rid of the ugly green. Our crew has worked hard to also do a lot of clean up around the lake; getting rid of the brush. Our guests have really noticed all the improvements and we are pleased!

We enjoyed having the Church of God group with us again this year. They had a cookout several nights and invited the employees for steak one night. We have had several groups come for fishing tournaments this year. We have also had several weddings here this year.

We are looking forward to 2016 and hopefully will be making more improvements to our park. We hope you all have a Very Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year!

We would like to dedicate our page in memory of Barbara Gomillion who passed away October 21, 2015. Barbara and her husband, Harold were married 40 years. They lived here at the park for almost 9 years. There is an empty feeling now when we turn down the campground road. Barbara always had a beautiful smile and kind words for anyone she came across. Mr. Harold is now living with his son in Tennessee.



Dunn's Falls

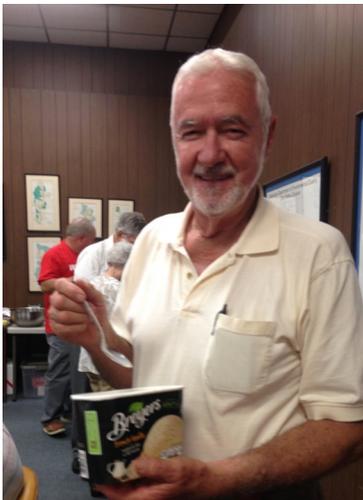


PHWD maintenance crew installed a dry fire hydrant on the newly renovated Dunns Falls catfish pond. The Lauderdale County Supervisors dug out the old silt that filled the catfish pond. It is now a beautiful area and we look forward to getting the grist mill back to its original glory. Currently this park is opened from Memorial Day to Labor Day. This could be a gem with a little hard work and ingenuity.

This and That! Caught on Camera!



James Buchanan, Director from Clarke County presents Larry Wilson, Director from Perry County with a t-shirt, and declares his new title as "Investigative Reporter"



Mr Ben Johnson, Director from Greene County is finally smiling again. "It may not be Blue Bell, but it's the next best thing."



Big Creek's assistant manager, Teresa Dinwiddie, and her son, Donald stopped in for a visit. I just had to get a picture of this little cutie and you too T.C.!



Director, Aubert Pitts, from George County and his lovely wife, Jo Ann were caught on camera while attending a meeting at Big Creek waterpark.

Inside Story: Chunky River Train Wreck-Newton Co.

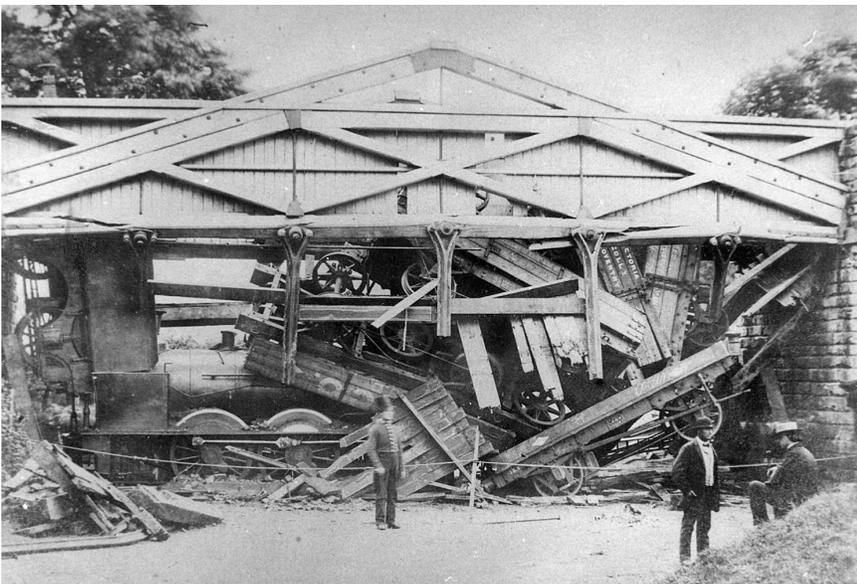
The train named "The Mississippi Southern" left the depot in Meridian, Mississippi filled with 100 passengers. Most of them were confederate soldiers on their way to the Battle of Vicksburg. Other passengers included some civilians and a paymaster for the Confederate government named Willis Roy Norman.

Little did they know that their battle would not be against the Union Army, but against the cold icy waters that submerged the locomotive a little before daybreak on February 19, 1863.

Severe flooding at that time had caused debris to build up against the bridge. The weight of the debris caused the bridge to shift, leaving it six inches out of alignment. Attempts to warn the train failed and the bridge collapsed as the train crossed it.

The First Battalion of Choctaw Indians, under the command of Major S. G. Spann, was based at a Confederate military training camp near the crash scene. Led by Jack Amos and Elder Williams, the Indians rushed to the scene and due to their heroic acts 60 of the passengers were rescued.

Most of the passengers who had been killed were buried in trenches on a farm belonging to A. F. Temple, two miles east of Hickory Station. Willis Norman lived to tell this story. He recalled that he was in the nearest car to the engine. After being thrown to the bottom of the stream in about 15 feet of water, he rose to the surface with the fragments of the broken car. He suffered a broken collarbone, internal injuries and an injury to his leg.



District Office



Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!! Thanks for everyone's participation in putting this newsletter together. At this time we would like to give a special shout out to our Maintenance Crew. They work hard throughout the District and have no plans on slowing down. They are looking forward to new challenges in 2016. Allen Wright, Parks Director said it best, during one of our board meetings, "We are truly blessed to have such a dedicated crew who is knowledgeable and determined to conquer any and all challenges they are faced with."



Anthony Golson, our systems administrator, his wife, Liz, and their baby, Zelda, visited us during our Christmas luncheon. They are such a sweet little family and Zelda is a very happy baby. Liz made The Best chocolate pie I've ever eaten.