

Oakland News

By Linda Ross Aldy

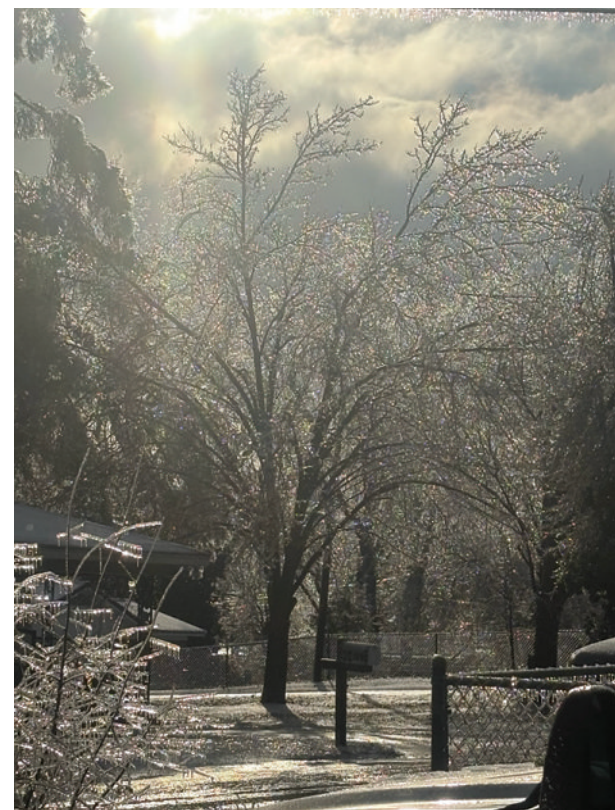
As I write, we are all awaiting a tough weather event. A few of my editors have requested an early column, so I don't know yet the impact of the storm which will have hit when you read this. Having being employed with Entergy during the epic ice storm of 1994, I know that they are expecting things to be rough because they are comparing this to that one. Just 1/4" of ice weighs 250 pounds on an electric line; so it's not just tree limbs falling on lines in this storm—it's the weight of the ice. In '94, the ice took down lines, poles, and then even the big transmission towers. Be safe, don't get out on the roads unless necessary. Check on your neighbors. Protect people, pets, and pipes. Pray for those who are required to be out—utility workers, emergency personnel of all sorts—fire, medical, law enforcement, road and bridge workers. Mayor Stephanie Patterson and Oakland officials have been working hard to ensure the least disruption, especially of water and sewer pumps, during outages.

The Oakland community was saddened to learn of the death of Belle Caulder. Mrs. Caulder was 91-years-old and the oldest active member of the Oakland Baptist Church. I believe I was told she had been a member for 67 years. Our condolences to her family, especially her children John Thomas Caulder, Jr., Roy Gene Caulder, Lisa Caulder Smith, Mark Caulder, and Michelle Caulder Sneed. I'm not sure how Mrs. Caulder did it, but she kept up with people and events in the community. When I would stop by with my mom for a visit, she always knew what I had going on and was in-

terested in learning more! She will be missed.

I was delighted to discover during a recent meeting of the In Her Shoes non-profit board meeting this week that Pharmacy Marketplace was selected by Kansas State University as one of five in-depth case studies of businesses and organizations that have pioneered solutions to increase local food access in that area. In addition to the grocery store, there are mobile grocery stores making stops in various towns. There is now a distribution warehouse in Quitman County as well as a poultry processing center in the works. Oakland is connected to all of this through In Her Shoes which runs the Pharmacy Marketplace grocery. In Her Shoes is a non-profit which means the pricing is probably better than other for-profit grocery stores. I also discovered that Marquitrice Mangham, who founded and runs In Her Shoes, named the non-profit after seeing a homeless girl on a train in the middle of winter and thought to herself, "I don't know what I would do if I or my daughter were in her shoes."

One of the primary purposes of bringing groceries to these small towns is to give local farmers an opportunity to sell their products. The Farm Business Enhancement Program is designed to ensure small farmers can be successful. If you are a farmer or want to raise produce for this next year, contact the group now to find out what is required to be a vendor. There are some virtual workshops that begin on Feb. 5 and run through March 31 that you will need to join. Email bhargav@inhereshoesinc.org for more information or call 706-773-8815.



I recently read an article focused on Harvard scientist Rudolph Tanzi who specializes in brain health and aging well. We've heard it, but here's a memory jogger for you! There are six daily habits he recommends.



ICE STORM FERN 2026



Who Is It?



Last week's "Who Is It?" was Gevena and Darlye Peacock no one identify the "Who Is It?" please call the Courier at 662-675-2446 before noon on Monday or call and leave a message or text 662-458-8939.

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