

# Oakland News

By Linda Ross Aldy

Well, what else is there to write about but ice and power outages? Our Oakland area was hit pretty hard and as I write this on Sunday afternoon, the town of Oakland doesn't have power restored yet nor do most of the folks in the surrounding area. Some have been told it may be another 4 or 5 days. There are things we learn about ourselves and others during times when our communities are in crisis mode. I hope you learned that you live in a community where people care about each other and do the very best they can to help. I hope you learned that you either are a patient person or that you are being taught that you need to be a patient person. I hope you looked around and saw the angels and heroes. I saw so many in Oakland. I saw our Mayor Stephanie Patterson practically flying around in a Super Woman cape trying to get the resources for a small town that can easily be overlooked. Thank goodness, she is either kin or friend to EVERYBODY! Her cousins are legend and they rallied to help her (and therefore Oakland) in so many ways. My brother Rich Ross, who really prefers to fly under the radar, just started helping.

He shared his generator with his neighbors, moving it back and forth. He helped people with gas heat get their heaters going. He took gas to people. He cut down trees. He checked on his mama, of course! My cousin Bradley walked across town to check on my mom and has made sure her house is ready to accept electricity when the power is restored. I saw photos of brothers Melvin and James Sayles helping with James posting a wonderful uplifting message about how

blessed he was to be able to help. I saw Bud Leland in those photos and knew he had opened his home to a family who lost their home to fire. I read about Alderwoman Marzet Bland cooking and feeding people. My sister Carol helped set up the warming center under the direction of our grocery store manager Kini Bradford-Jefferson. Kini posted earlier this week, the following: "A tremendous salute to Cedric Jones, Dexter Bland, Lonnie Bland, Markel Andrews, Joshua Few, Robert Curry for expertly operating tractors and chainsaws, tirelessly working to restore our beloved community. Heartfelt gratitude to Mrs. Barbara Benson for your selfless contributions, ensuring the needy receive the essentials that will uplift them during this time. Special appreciation to my husband for going the extra mile to collect all donated items. Thanks to Joshua Few and his wife for generously providing delicious, homemade chili that warmed our hearts. Today was indeed a demanding day, yet together, our community demonstrates unwavering strength and resilience, navigating through adversity as one." There are so many and I KNOW that I have left out a bunch of the helpers, but all of this is just to point out we are so blessed to live in a caring community.

Mr. Rogers famously quoted his mother as saying, "Look for the helpers" in times of emergency. For our Oakland community, I'd say, "look in the mirror" because so many of you serve as helpers. As James Sayles said in his post, "you don't have a belong to any organization to help others, all you need is the LORD JESUS CHRIST, to see smiles on



Oakland celebrated a bit of warm weather on Sunday by hosting a Community Cook-Out open to all. Linemen and residents enjoyed having hot food and fellowship. Oakland has now been given a Feb. 4 date for having its power restored.

people's faces to feel the joy from their hearts is priceless, and I'll do it all over again tomorrow, helping others is so awesome, GOD doesn't see black or white, he sees his children in need and wants you get out and help your brothers and sisters because tomorrow, it might be you." Amen, James Sayles.

Send me names of those you want to recognize and I'll include them in my next column. Email to oaklandareachamber@gmail.com or call and leave a message or text to 601-853-3942. I'll have more names next week that Mayor Stephanie Patterson wants to include also. The worst of the weather is over, but the damage from it will last for quite a while. Your mayor and your town leadership and those who continue to volunteer will be doing everything they know to do to get things cleaned up and restored. Former Governor Haley Barbour, who is credited with great crisis leadership, during and after Hurricane Katrina is famous for saying "we hitched up our britches and went to work," but he also said, "I think... crisis and catastrophe does not create character, it reveals character." Keep your local leaders and volunteers in your prayers in the days and weeks and months ahead. Oakland is extremely proud to be the home base of Grays Power Supply. Mi-

chael Gray, the founder of the company, helped us establish the Oakland Area Chamber of Commerce and served on the founding board. A post from Grays says, "We are truly blessed to have the team that we have to help us make it through the extremely tough times. This ice storm that had lead to widespread outages throughout has hit our home towns. Grays sent crews across the country to respond to Georgia Power, Dominion Power, Greenwood Municipality, Oncor, Trinity Valley Electric Cooperative, Water Valley Electric Department and now Tallahatchie Valley Electric Power." They went on to say that TVEPA has asked Grays to help them rebuild their system and "we are honored to do so."

Both Dolly Parton and Loretta Lynn have praised the work of Danica Hart and her group Chapel Hart.

Chapel Hart has split, but Danica Hart is still singing her heart out! She will our featured musician at Oakland's 5th Yalo-Ribbon Festival! It's not everyday we have such a big name stopping by to sing for us.

Put Sat., May 2, on your calendar. If you are interested in being a sponsor or vendor, contact Chamber Executive Director Sue Donohue Smith at [execdir.oaklandareachamber@gmail.com](mailto:execdir.oaklandareachamber@gmail.com).



Residents were excited to see this emergency generator being delivered and set up at the Oakland Senior Citizens Center which became a warming center and food service for the Town. The Center is available at least through Wednesday for anyone without heat or those who just need to charge phones and other devices and for lunches at 12:30 p.m. Residents should look for Town text messages for services beyond Wednesday.



## Tillatoba News

By Patcie Deck

Diane Dukes has enjoyed having some of her children, grand children and great grands staying with her. We get up, start finding out who wants what for breakfast, but first I have got to have my coffee with grandson Waylon. Then the day starts. I tell great greatgrands, Haven Rose and Joanna we have to turn the lights off at night because the generator is having to work so uncle Bubba Dukes makes sure they turn the lights off. Diane and Terri thought that was so funny.

I bet the girls didn't think it was so funny. Speaking of Bubba, he fell Sunday night taking out the garbage and broke his femur bone. He is scheduled for surgery at the med in Memphis Monday morning. Prayers for a safe and fast recovery.

I am so proud of my great grandson, Bradley Holliday, who fixed coffee and hot chocolate and served to some of the linemen.

He felt in his heart that there was something he could do to help them so he asked his mother if they could fix coffee and hot chocolate.

Candy Box was sick a few days and her two daughters, Marissa Jackson, and Lilly Whittaker took good care of her.

Freda and Frank Weir want to thank Tim Sullivan for helping them clear their driveway from limbs and debris. He also brought in firewood for us! She said he has been a wonderful help this week. They also thank Darby for making soup and sharing with his neighbors.

Martha Box said it has been a blast, a blast of Cold Freezing trouble! But Thank God we are handling it. Light poles and wires and trees down at my place since

the first night. Got to spend several nights with daughter, Ginger, Phil and the boys. They have a gas stove so Giger cooked a mighty good breakfast and supper each day. Yes, I bet I gained a lb. every day!

Ben Box and Phil Harrison have been putting generator to my place frequently for my freezer. What would I do without my boys? Brother Jesse and his boys got the fallen limbs out of my frozen drive on hilly driveway. After all these days still a lot of ice on that drive. But I drove over and picked up needs. With all the damage that occurred my house is OK!

Spent the last two nights with Sister Joyce Steven's at Oakland. Joyce had no power there but her son, Billy, put a Buddy heater in and it warmed her apartment. And he brought a generator Sunday to save her food in the freezer. We sure are blessed with great helpful children, said Martha.

A whole lot of community Angels working and cooking and serving so many in our community. Tillatoba Baptist Church, Coffeeville Community Center and several others stepped up and fed so many. Many Thanks to all. Especially the one today when I asked who provided so I could Thank them and he said, "JESUS!" And yes we Thank JESUS for all that love!

Many thanks to all those electricians, contractors, etc. working so hard in the cold away from families and homes to help us!

God is good all the time.

Debbie McCool was hanging in there this week. They've had two of Tommy's sisters staying with them since last Friday. They took Alice Kellum home to

Grenada Saturday and on Sunday they took Patsy to Cleveland to visit her husband in the rehabilitation nursing home. Afterwards, they went to Leland to check on her home. She is coming back with us to stay longer, she likes our little town.

Celebrating birthdays this week is John Lippincott on the 1st, Amanda Hailey and Benton Donahue celebrate on the 2nd. Wayne Simmons celebrates on the 6th and Wanda Crawford and Jonathon Dees will celebrate on the 7th. I pray you all have a wonderful and blessed day celebrating your special day!

Recipe of the week: Broccoli and Cheese Soup

Ingredients:  
1/2 cup butter  
1 whole onion, diced  
1/3 cup flour  
4 cups whole milk  
2 cups half-and-half  
1 pinch nutmeg  
4 heads broccoli cut into florets

Dash of salt, plus more as needed

Freshly ground black pepper, to taste

3 cups grated cheese (mild cheddar, sharp cheddar, jack, etc.)

2 cups chicken broth, if needed for thinning.

Directions: In a large pot, melt the butter over medium heat, then add the onion. Cook the onion for 3 to 4 minutes, then sprinkle the flour over top. Stir to combine and cook for 1 minute or so, then pour in the milk and half-and-half. Add the nutmeg, then add the broccoli, a dash of salt, and plenty of black pepper.

Cover and reduce the heat to low. Simmer until the broccoli is tender, 20 to 30 minutes. Stir in the cheese and allow to melt.

Taste seasonings and adjust if needed. Then either serve as is, or mash it with a potato masher to break up the broccoli a bit, or transfer to a blender in two batches and puree completely. (If you puree it in a blender, return it to the heat and allow

to heat up. Splash in chicken broth if needed for thinning.) Enjoy!

Thought for the day: Today, I'm doing NOTHING because I started doing it yesterday and I'm not finished yet. I mean, I'm certainly not a quitter.



# Who Is It?



Last week's "Who Is It?" was Tate Summers 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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