

# Oakland News

By Linda Ross Aldy

I hope everyone has power back on. I know there are still some with specific issues that are waiting, but hopefully most are now enjoying all those creature comforts we sometimes take for granted until they are gone. My mom, Margaret Ross, and sister Carol had gotten so used to not having power that they didn't even realize the power was back on for almost an hour! I can't tell you the number of people who have said they continued to flip switches (especially in the bathroom) even when they had a flashlight in hand. We are creatures of habit, aren't we?

The sound of bucket trucks crossing over the railroad means progress. We can see them (and hear them) from Mother's sunporch. Several people have been trying to count how many, but there are dozens and dozens and dozens. Some are crossing to head west and others are crossing going east. I was very happy to join the throngs of people in Yalobusha County and surrounding areas to show our appreciation to the many linemen here. I was able to host 19 linemen Saturday night at the Country Catfish in Oakland for dinner. They were from Carthage, Philadelphia, and Tyler, Texas area. Much thanks to Luanne Brooks and Cliff Craven for organizing. And to my mom, sister Carol, and husband James for helping cover the cost. A special thanks to all the folks at Country Catfish who made this happen in spite of the staggered times the crews got finished working and for their hospitality to the crews.

Now the sounds of tree trimming, limb removal, and big piles being dragged across the yard to the curb have added to the sound of

progress. It will go on for a while.

We were sad to get a phone call Saturday morning at Mother's that Willie Richardson, 73, has passed away. Willie has many siblings and relatives in Oakland and I hope to share his obituary next week. His sister, Johnnie Mae House, let us know. Willie grew up in Oakland and even helped my daddy on for the dairy for a time. He worked for Borg Warner and passed away in Jackson after a long illness. Our sympathy and condolences to his family.

I had the unexpected pleasure to join Ben and Donna Toole, Donnie Crenshaw Toole, and my mom for dinner Saturday night. Ben and Donna were among those still waiting on power as of Saturday. I loved listening to them sharing memories. I think my favorite tidbit was learning that Donnie is actually Martha Donelson Crenshaw Toole. I had forgotten (if I ever knew) that her first name is Martha. She said she was called Donnie from day one. The Donelson name is a family name and includes Rachel Donelson who married Andrew Jackson. Rachel died at age 61 just days after Andrew Jackson's election as the seventh president of the United States and before his inauguration in 1829—therefore she never served as first lady. What an interesting connection. Donnie's sister Louise is having surgery this week so we have her on our prayer list.

The Oakland Chamber of Commerce Foundation was awarded an America250 grant by the Mississippi Humanities and America250 Mississippi. We were notified on Friday afternoon. We still have to sign paperwork

but it's exciting that our projects to celebrate the anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence have been deemed worthy of funding. We have many community groups who will be working with us throughout our project cycle. I'll have details to share in next week's papers.

I think the most interesting thing that has come out of the ice storm is that my mom's goldfish pond was a cake of ice, liberally frosted with limbs and debris for days before anyone could get to it. When they finally were able to check it, they realized all 11 of her goldfish were alive! The famous Mr. Google told me that goldfish survive frozen ponds by entering a dormant, near-hibernation state called torpor at the bottom, where water stays warmer and liquid, slowing their metabolism to conserve energy. As cold-blooded creatures, they align with water temps, and if the pond doesn't freeze solid, they safely endure the cold. Snow and ice on top helps insulate the water below from even colder air temperatures.

Some additional names of people who deserve recognition for their help in the community include Cedric Jones, Joshua Few, Kini Bradford-Jefferson, Kjuana Curry, Natasha Carmichael, Dexter Bland, Markel Andrews, Terry Ellis, Bud Leland, Marzet Bland, Sharonda Jones, Joe Jenkins, Carol Ross, James Swearingen, Vanessa Person, Rich Ross, Bailey Ross, Will Harris, Tommy Moore, Will Bradford, Jennifer Nunally, Sue Donohue Smith, Robert Curry, the Kimble family, Reggie Woodall, Terry Allen, Melissa Suggs, Shelby Few, and Jasmine and Pearly Robinson plus so many organizations and groups who came in to support the community with meals, supplies, blankets, coats, and more.

Here's hoping Mother Nature will decide to be gentle with us for the rest of 2026.

# Obituaries



Bobbie Nell Moore was born in Coffeeville, Mississippi, to the late Marie and L. B. Torrance. Growing up, Bobbie learned early the value of prayer, perseverance, and compassion. These guiding principles shaped the woman she would become and remained with her throughout her life. Bobbie later married Lawrence Moore, and the two shared twenty-eight years of love, partnership, and commitment before his passing. As a young woman, Bobbie discovered her passion for cooking. She worked in several cooking positions before eventually opening Nell's Place in Coffeeville — a restaurant she operated for more than thirty years. Her customers become like family, and she found joy in serving them daily. The fellowship, laughter, and conversations shared there gave her joy, and she continued this work until her health no longer allowed. A devoted Christian,

Bobbie was a faithful member of Bethlehem Baptist Church. She sang joyfully in the choir, taught Sunday School, and lived out her faith with humility and grace. Gospel music uplifted her spirit, especially songs by Shirley Caesar, Vanessa Bell Armstrong, and the Mississippi Mass Choir. Her faith was not only something she believed — it was something she practiced daily through service, kindness, and steadfast trust in God.

Her greatest earthly blessings were her family. She was the proud mother of Tyson L. Moore, Sr. (Melaine) and the devoted grandmother of Tyson L. Moore, Jr. She was preceded in death by her brother, Oscar Turner, and sister, Bernice Tuggle. She leaves behind her siblings: Bobby E. Turner, Billy Torrance, and Sandra Torrance, as well as a host of nieces and nephews.



Annie Ruth Johnson

Mrs. Annie Ruth Johnson was born November 11, 1942 to the late George and Roberta Bland in Coffeeville, Ms.

Annie Ruth accepted Christ as her personal Savior and joined Mt. Grove Missionary Baptist Church at an early age.

She was a graduate of Coffeeville High School and a member of the school's first State High School basketball champion team. After college, she began teaching and was an educator for 35 years. She retired from Waynesville Middle School in Missouri. She was an Order of Eastern Star lifetime member of the Bathsheda Chapter #114 of Ft. Leonard Wood, Mo. She was a Gold Card member of Chapter #114 for forty years and received her 40 year pin. Annie Ruth was an instructor at heart and was always willing to give helpful advice. She was sure to let you know if you were the speaker on the program that you gave a great message, but next time don't take all day and make it short and sweet.

Annie Ruth was preceded in death by her parents; her husband, Ladell Johnson; two brothers, George Eddie Mack, Jr., and James Earl Mack; two bothers-in-law, Cletis Mack and John Reed; and a sister-in-law, Edna Johnson.

She leaves to cherish her precious memory three children, Dorstine Wilks, Terry Johnson (Edvena) and Ladell Johnson, Jr (TaKishia), five grandchildren; four great grandchildren; three sisters; five brothers; and a host of nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.



## Tillatoba News By Patcie Deck

Love and sympathy to the Dynamite Kirk family of Grenada. Dynamite passed away February 7, 2026 at his home.

Christian love and sympathy to Michelle Clolinger in the loss of her son, Nicholas Hardy, (little Nickey) passed away February 4, 2026.

Deborah McCool said their lights keep going off a little while and then on again, off again. This was Sunday afternoon. Nothing going on, just very thankful to have lights back on at home and work. Now we have to get time to clean up the limbs in the yard. Deborah our lights flicker Ed on and off Sunday afternoon also and they finally went out for almost 2 hours.

Deborah won 5 tickets for the monster truck show in Batesville Saturday on B100. Some of the men in the family, Tommy, Jason, Dallas and his brother, Denver Boyett and Denver's girlfriend went. They all had a good time.

It's been a 2 weeks for sure, said Martha Box. It brought back a lot of Kerosene Lamps and Candle memories. Yes, even then, we had homework to do!

Ginger, Phil and the boys put up with me for a week. Then sister Joyce put up with me till Friday. Bless her heart and mind .Lol

Thank you Phil ,Ben ,and grands for looking after me and trying to save all the frozen goodies! But hey when the power came on , I got a great workout. And cleaned 2 freezers and a refrigerator.

Many, many thank you's to all those workers and electricians for such hard work. Many prayers we had for them and thier families! Made it to church today at Willow Springs. And a great visit and message it was! God is Good All The Time says Martha.

Christian love and sympathy to the Mike Lancaster family. Mike was such a sweet person and it had been several years since I talked

to him, but one thing I will always remember about Mike is his sweet disposition and kindness toward others.

Daughter Donna, Brad, Francesca, and Bradley Holiday all of Grenada visited Sunday afternoon. Sunday night David and I watched the Super Bowl game. I was pulling for the Patriots and David was for the Seahawks. I lost that bat.

Happy birthday to Alexa Hodges, Noey Dees, and Connie Simmons who celebrated on the 8th, Nikki Newsom and Candice Wiseman celebrated on the 10th, Mike Fox on the 11th, Wendy Pettit, and Sawyer Grace Bowman celebrate on the 12th, Robin Laster Harrington celebrate on the 13th, Dylan Jeffords on the 14th, Billy Brassel on the 15th and Agnes Lane Parfilio celebrates on the 16th. I pray you all have a wonderful day celebrating your special day!

### Recipe for the week: 3 Musketeers

- Ingredients:  
20 oz. Milk Chocolate Chips  
8 oz. Whipped Topping/Cool-whip  
20 oz. Chocolate Almond Bark  
Melt milk chocolate and

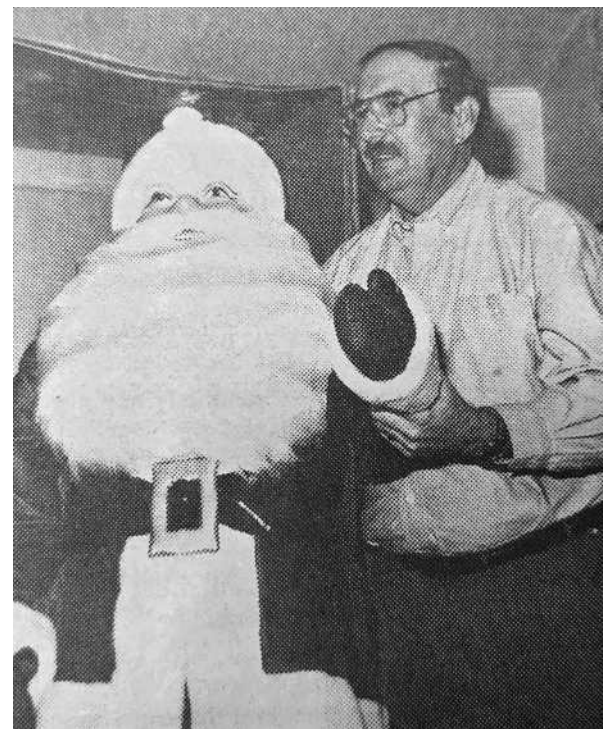
let cool for 20 minutes. Line a baking dish w/parchment paper. In a large bowl add thawed whipped topping then fold in cooled milk chocolate til fully combined. Pour chocolate nougat into prepared pan and even it out.

Freeze for 30 minutes. After 30 minutes remove from freezer and cut into desired size bars, place on baking sheet lined w/ parchment paper and return the nougat back to the freezer for another 30 minutes.

A few minutes before removing the bars melt chocolate bark or your favorite chocolate. Dip, flip, and drip the chocolate nougat bars and put it on your pan. Chocolate will set quickly as the pan is still cold or return back to freezer for a few minutes.

Wrap finished 3 Musketeers in parchment squares and store in an airtight container.

**Thought for the day:** People say don't give up on your dreams so I rolled over and went back to sleep.



Last week's "Who Is It?" was Annie Covington Hazel Rounds, Cherese Birks Jenkins, Le'Andre Cottom a former student correctly identified 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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