

Oakland News

By Linda Ross Aldy

A tip of the hat to all who write weekly community news columns. Pat Deck, who I have read for years, and all you other columnists, this is hard work! I was co-editor of a weekly newspaper (Aberdeen) and then moved to The Memphis Commercial Appeal serving as bureau chief for north-west Mississippi and had daily deadlines for years. But, somehow, this weekly column comes around more often than the daily deadlines did. I understand that is impossible, but....that's my story and I'm sticking to it.

I'm going to write about beautifying mailboxes, engineers, and death this week. How about that for a combination?

Let's start with Engineers Week. That's this week and it is celebrated nationally. The theme for Engineers Week 2026 (February 22-28, 2026) is "Transform Your Future." The week is designed to show appreciation of engineers and interest young people in engineering careers. I wondered how many kinds of engineers there are and got a list reminiscent of how Forrest Gump's friend Bubba went on and on about ways to cook shrimp. Here is a range of different engineering fields: Civil, Mechanical, Electrical, Chemical, Software, Aerospace, Biomedical, Environmental, Industrial/Manufacturing, Materials, Petroleum, Computer/Hardware, and Nuclear. So, if you drive or ride in a car, go across a bridge, turn on your lights, take medicine, use a computer, have bank transactions, fly or go into outer space, have an x-ray or scan, go in a public building or a long list of other things, thank an engineer. They are problem-solvers who use

math and science skills to move us forward.

Now, I'm going to move to something much easier for the artsy crowd—mailbox beautification! I had no idea there is a national week for mailbox improvements sponsored by the US Post Office. Friends, we are ahead of the crowd on this one. We can lead the nation in beautifying mailboxes. The national celebration doesn't happen until the third week of May. As I was driving through my neighborhood Friday, I noticed several mailboxes that

NEED ATTENTION! Some need the box and post replaced, others need one or the other and some just need cleaning. Mine is in the "needs cleaning" category. I googled mailbox beautification when I got home and, boom, mailbox improvement week came up! Key tasks, according to the US Post Office, include fixing hinges, painting, tightening posts, clearing debris, and ensuring house numbers are visible, ultimately improving curb appeal and protecting mail from weather. Visible numbers also help emergency responders find you. After the winter weather, mine looks like it has taken a real beating. As soon as this next cold front comes and goes, I'm going to get it cleaned up. My son's in Oakland needs replacing and we are going to have a gentle conversation about that! Send me pictures if you'd like to show off your beautified mailboxes between now and the third week of May. Email me at oaklandarea-chamber@gmail.com.

Finally, to wrap up this week's topics, let's chat about death. I read the most interesting article last week about a group of ladies in

Virginia, ages 78 to 89, who initially met each other in a workshop series about preparing wills, end-of-life wishes, and obituaries. The workshops ended, but a small group stayed together and have become dear friends. They meet monthly to continue the discussions they started in the workshop. They hold each other accountable ("Have you finished writing your obituary, Mary?")

"Hattie, did you get that do not resuscitate order signed?")

The article said it may sound depressing, but the women say it has been just the opposite: "a life-affirming exercise that has given new meaning to their final chapters. It seems that by demystifying death, by refusing to deny that their lives are near the end, they have freed themselves from some of the fear of dying.

"That is what is so magic about this: It gives you a safe, comfortable, un-frightening way to talk about death," said Daphne Hutchinson, who survived a major heart attack some years back. "Talk about death when you are feeling good. Talk about death when you can still do something to change the path that you're on."

They call themselves the "RONettes" because they came together through a local program called Ready or Not.

While helping a friend on her death journey, I witnessed how important all of this is. Being prepared to slip "the surly bonds of earth" is not a small task and much better done when you're feeling good. After my friend's death, I learned the hard way that she was too specific in some parts of her will. There are some things that are best left in a Letter of Instruction. A will or trust is necessary for legally handling the distribution of property, while a letter of instruction is an informal, non-binding document providing personal, detailed guidance to loved ones and executors,

covering such things as funeral wishes, personal items, and explanations for decisions. It also helps the executor of your estate if you list bank accounts, insurance policies and who to contact at the insurance company, and passwords to accounts they will need.

This week, I'm going to thank an engineer, work on getting Oakland a fire truck and the W some nursing expansion money, encourage legislators to assist our small towns and counties with debris removal and recovery funds, work on my death wishes by updating my Letter of Instruction, and wash my dirty mailbox.



Getting ahead of national mailbox improvement week, there are several different approaches to increase your mailbox curb appeal. Always check postal regulations before installing your mailbox.



Tillatoba News By Patcie Deck

Ruth, Jane, Festus and Amanda Hailey visited Peggy Bailey in the Charleston nursing home Sunday afternoon.

Bubba Tillman's birthday was Saturday, February 21. Dr. Joe Roberts and wife Patsy invited him to have supper with them at Country Catfish in Oakland. Patsy made him a good coconut cake to take home with him.

Congratulations to Johnadam and Blake Sides Robinson on the birth of a beautiful baby boy. John "Woods" Robinson was born February 20-2026 at 7:04 p.m. He tipped the scales at 7lb 13oz and was 19 inches long. A nice size young man. Also welcoming baby Woods is his big sister, Jolee.

Debbie and Tommy McCool went to Leland Saturday afternoon after going to Cleveland to get new tires for Tommy's truck. Visited with Tommy's two sisters there for a while and then home and church Sunday.

Faye Hartley said they have been working and trying to clean up after the ice storm. Daughter, Kristie, and friend, Tyler Welch, have been doing a fantastic job cleaning trees and limbs.

Freda Weir is recovering from shoulder surgery. Freda hasn't started therapy yet.

She and Frank are still cleaning up limbs and trees over here too.

Sunday afternoon, daughter, Donna, came up from Grenada and checked on us as well as our granddaughter Francesca and Brad Holliday. David and I rested after their visit and then we drove up the road to visit Waylon and Holly Dukes and grandbabies, Haven Rose and Waylon Jr. It had been almost a month since I had seen them. Either I had

been sick or I they had. Holly had four wisdom teeth cut out Thursday.

Our friend Martha Box, lost her superwoman cape for a few days last week. Martha said Dr. Robert's and his nurses, along with the help of her children and grandchildren has got her up and going. She's not moving quite as fast as she would like to, but give her a few more days and that superwoman cape will be flying high again. Giving God all the praise and glory!

Happy birthday to Sarah Williams who celebrates the 26th, Katherine Harris Brewer and Melissa Sturdivant celebrate the 27th, and Sydney Champion celebrates the 28th. I pray you all have a wonderful day!

Melissa, Sturdivant is asking for prayers for her daddy (James Larry Hammons) who was taken to the ER in Grenada. He was having severe chest pain. Praying for good results for you, Mr. Hammond's!

Recipe for the week: "3-Ingredient No-Bake Cheesecake Cups"

- Ingredients:
- 1 cup of heavy whipping cream
 - 1/2 cup powdered sugar
 - 8 oz cream cheese, softened

Directions: Beat all ingredients until smooth and fluffy. Spoon into small cups and chill for 30 minutes. Enjoy!

Thought for the day: Remember that Winnie the Pooh wore a crop top with no pants and ate his favorite food And loved himself. So you can too!



Persimmon Hill M. B. Church Enid

Enlightenment Week Persimmon Hill M. B. Church of Enid will be having a three night Enlightenment Week March 9-11 at 7:00 nightly. Our guest instructor will be Rev. Robert Reed of Enid. Everyone is invited to attend.

Choir Day Persimmon Hill M. B. Church of Enid will be having their Annual Choir Day Sunday, March 15 at 2:30. Everyone is invited to come. All choirs and solo singers are welcome.

Pastor Andrew Fluker



Last week's "Who Is It?" was Doyle Varner. Mary Sue and Roy Bennett Stevens, Sarah Williams, Dorothy Page, and Jean Scobey 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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