

Oakland News

By Linda Ross Aldy

Condolences to the Conner family on the loss of their mother, Kathryn Conner Spruill. They were our next door, down-the-road neighbors for years. They moved to Calhoun City in the late 60's but kept their land in Oakland. Two of the children now live on the Oakland property.

Also, our sympathy to Rosemary Irby on the loss of her daughter Robin. It is a tough, tough thing to deal with the loss of a child, no matter how old they are. Rosemary is the founder and runs the Facebook page for those who grew up in and around Oakland or live here now. She does an amazing job of keeping up with things for us and keeping us together.

The legislative timeline is marching fast now. With good fortune, the session should end near the end of March or early April. On their timeline, they are supposed to adjourn "sine die" on April 5, but sometimes they beat that. We are pushing for funding for a new firetruck for the Town of Oakland.

Oakland Volunteer Fire Department responds to an outsized number of calls for the size town due to the proximity to Interstate-55 and Cossar State Park among other things. It also supports the surrounding volunteer fire departments when they need more help as they do for us.

The traffic count at the Oakland I-55 exchange, according to the Mississippi Department of Transportation traffic count map, is 20,000 vehicles daily. There is another 2100 coming through Oakland on Highway 32 to and from the east and 3700 to and from the west, with an additional 900 between Oakland and Coffeeville.

Before the closures on Highway 51, the traffic count was at 1500.

Right now, Highway 51 is closed to both the north and south of Oakland for bridge work. Part of 32 is being diverted through the town for bridge work. Investors and developers, and hopefully legislators take note of these numbers.

We are surrounded by Cossar State Park on the 6,100-acre Enid Lake, the Holly Springs National Forest which is 21,000 acres between Oakland & Coffeeville, the Bob Tyler Fish Hatchery at Enid, and the Jamie Whitten Plant Materials Center which is a 360-acres research center at Tillatoba serving Mississippi, Louisiana, Alabama, Arkansas, Kentucky, Missouri, and Tennessee.

We are quite the attractive location. One of the Senators, who was advising me on tourism issues, made a comment that has stuck with me and encourages me on days when I wish things were moving faster and smoother. "Natchez would kill for your location." In spite of its location, people flock to Natchez! Of course, they have unique history and river location, but I totally understand what the Senator was saying!

I look forward to being a part of the Mississippi Main Street gathering at the Capitol this week to share with legislators the work going on in our towns and cities throughout the state. Main Street is a national organization with state organizations across the country. The Oakland Area Chamber of Commerce has been very supportive of Oakland being a member of this organization and I am fortunate to serve as the representative to Main Street.

You truly never know who you will run into at the Capitol on any given day. I was showing a W friend around the Capitol last week. The building was full of students and any number of organizations and business groups who come to try to convince legislators to support their issues. I heard someone in a small group of students who were on the fourth floor of the House side of the Capitol say "Coffeeville" and my ears perked up! There was a group touring from Coffeeville High School. I told them I had graduated from CHS and asked who was there from Oakland. It seemed that at least half the group was Oakland, so I asked if we could get an Oakland photo together. The teacher with them pointed out one young man in the group who is interested in getting into politics. I explained that I was a lobbyist for the Town of Oakland. I look forward to seeing these young people get involved in our community!

We had a houseful of Ross relatives over the past weekend as we celebrated birthdays. Little Thomas Smith of Cleveland, Bradley Ross of Oakland, and I had birthdays within days of each other, so we used that as an excuse to throw a party! Martha Ross Smith with her husband Ronnie came from Florida with two of the grandchildren, Beckham and Saylor, while her son Jace and his wife Jamie and their three, Mae Whitley, Thomas, and Caroline came from Cleveland. Richard and his three, Maddie, Kade, and Garrett came from Grenada along with Lindsey and Kash from Coffeeville. Rich and Jennifer and Jennifer's brother Erik were there. The house was FULL of Margaret Ross' great-grandchildren, grandchildren, and children. I don't think we even bothered to count. Cousin Bradley and I share the same birthday so we are birthday twins!

Regardless of your thoughts on social media,



Touring the Capitol last week were these Coffeeville High School students from Oakland., left to right, Jaden Suggs, Rashayla Moore, Nigo Evans, Markyle Pittman, Eric McIntyre, D'Carlos Holloway with Linda Ross Aldy, lobbyist for the Town of Oakland.

Faithful . . .

(Cont'd. from front page)

said she still subs when needed but has devoted her time to the shelter throughout the storm response. Asked what has stood out most during their time at the shelter, both immediately pointed to children.

"Babies," Donna said. "Some came in with nothing — no diapers, no wipes, no formula. We wanted to make sure they had what they needed."

She said children arrived without coats, socks or blankets.

"They can't fend for themselves," she said. "So we make sure they've got jackets, blankets, water — whatever they need."

The shelter has also served elderly residents,

I'm here to tell you that Facebook birthdays are like nothing else! Thank you to all the people from all the different corners of my life who took the time to send me birthday greetings. I have not stopped long enough to thank each one, but I'm working on it!

It is a blessing to have another year. I hope to do

many homebound, some dependent on oxygen or medical equipment.

When asked what motivated them to help, Vincent's answer was simple.

"God," he said. "God told me to go help."

He added that he doesn't serve for recognition or praise.

"I do what He tells me to do," Vincent said. "That's it."

Donna echoed that faith-driven mindset.

"Our purpose is to serve," she said.

How the shelter worked

Day to day, the shelter provided meals, clothing, blankets, water, jackets and essential supplies, with volunteers adapting as needs changed.

In the early days, only a handful of volunteers were present. As word spread, more help arrived — includ-

good with each day I'm given.

Don't forget!! May 2 is the Yalo-Ribbon Festival in Oakland featuring Danica Hart, formerly of Chapel Hart. If you are vendor, contact Sue Donohue Smith at exccdir.oaklandarea-chamber@gmail.com or 662-852-1110 to reserve your space.

ing local residents, civic groups like the Lions Club, and volunteers from as far away as Louisiana, Tennessee, North Carolina and beyond.

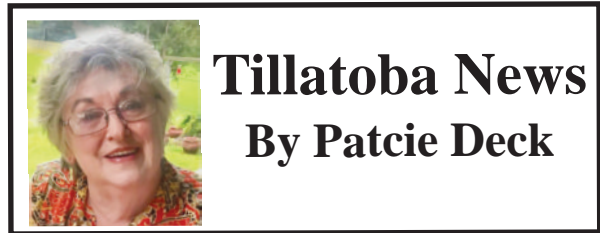
One of the most effective tools, Donna said, has been snack packs for children.

"You give a child one of those, and you see a smile," she said. "That makes it worth it."

The Robertsons praised the professionalism of Red Cross staff and the support of local organizations, churches and nonprofits.

They also credited Yalobusha County Sheriff Jerimaine Gooch and his deputies, who helped transport supplies, deliver food and assist families in need.

"Everybody has pulled together," Donna said. "People helping people they didn't even know."



Tillatoba News By Patcie Deck

When I see daffodils popping up here and there I know spring is in the air. These past few beautiful days remind me that we may have a few more cold days, but spring is on its way.

North Delta School is proud to recognize its 7th and 8th grade students who earned placements in the Mississippi Council of Teachers of Mathematics (MCTM) Middle School Math Tournament. Rowland Hartley is among one of the four students.

The Tillatoba Baptist Church youth (6th grade and up) attended Camp Lakeside's Winter Retreat this past Saturday, February 28th. The group was made up of eight kids and the chaperones. It was a full day of worship, games, and food. The kids had a great time and the chaperones left exhausted! They all look forward to doing it again next year!

Our visitors Sunday were Waylon Dukes and our grands, Haven Rose and Waylon Jr. Haven Rose painted my fingernails and she also painted aunt Donna's. I got her little rocking chair out and she loved it. And I had bought Waylon Jr a little chair and he sat in it for a few minutes. (Daddy made them leave their chairs down here so they were always excited about getting to sit in them). Also visiting was daughter, Donna, granddaughter Francesca and grandson Bradley Holliday.

Hello. How am I doing? Well I'm still working on me, says Martha Box. Apparently Our Lord is not through with me yet! Yes even Superwoman takes a Whooping now and then. That Daddgumm Kryptonite bad boy may have laid me low a few days, but Our

Healer lifted me up and away from that open grave! Must be something else for me to accomplish in this world! So I'm still working on me and all you friends know, IT AIN'T EASY BEING ME.

Many precious memories of all my family and kiddos have done to keep me happy and blessed as I heal. Yes they are spoiling me!

Milton Harper went to his back doctor recently and the L2 vertebrae has healed itself. God took over and performed another miracle.

Congratulations to Anna Deck and Rush Feezor on their beautiful wedding Sunday. Anna is David's only niece.

Happy birthday to Linda Ross Aldy and Jordan Bell who celebrate on March 1st, Trudy Simmons, Maci Kent, Anita Smith, Ash Counts, and Sheila Williams celebrate on March 2nd, Betty Chambers Garrison and Bonnie Moody celebrate on March 3rd, Fred Jackson, David Toney, Beth Deloach, Drew Tillman, Stephanie McMillan, Becky Hunter, and John Walton all celebrate on March 5th, Cheyanne Anderson Croy will celebrate on the 6th, Sarah Grace Paris celebrates the 7th and my beautiful niece, Angie Beardain, celebrates March 8th and Larry Cockerel on March 9th. Prayers for a wonderful birthday celebration for all!

Recipe of the week: Cowboy Cavier

- Ingredients:
- 15 oz can black beans rinsed and drained
 - 15.8 oz can black-eyed peas rinsed and drained
 - 15.25 oz can sweet corn drained
 - 14.5 oz can diced tomatoes drained
 - 1/2 cup chopped onion

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

Spring Hill Church

Spring Hill Church will be having their Usher Day Program the third Sunday in March, the 15th, at 11 o'clock.

Everyone is invited.
Rev Ralph Anthony Horton, Pastor
Mary Ann Jennings, Secretary
Spring Hill Church Family



- 1/2 cup chopped cilantro
 - 3/4 cup zesty Italian dressing
 - 1 Tbsp lime juice
- Instructions
Pour all of the ingredients into a large bowl and stir until combined.

Cover the bowl and place in the fridge.

Allow the flavors to blend for about 1 hour before serving. Enjoy with your favorite tortilla chips!

Thought for the day: day.....We all get the exact same 365 days. The only difference is what we do with them.

Who Is It?



Last week's "Who Is It?" was Marvin and Melissa Horton. Cantrice Swearngen and Cecil Ingram correctly identified them. Weekk before last I failed to correct the names on the "Who is it" they were Patty and Steve Baily. 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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