

Oakland News

By Linda Ross Aldy

Friends of Ginny Toole Sosebee are so saddened to hear about the sudden death of her husband, Richard, last week. Ginny grew up in Oakland, the daughter of Martha Magee Toole and Terry Toole, and after college and living in Atlanta moved back to Oakland with her husband Richard. He was a contractor and she opened the cutest antique shop downtown and hosted tea parties and became the center of downtown. Their son, Andrew, was born while they lived in Oakland. They originally bought and renovated the Hill house next door to my mom's before building a beautiful house on "the park road." My son now owns the house that Richard lovingly worked on. They have been such a part of our lives. They attended Oakland Methodist Church for years before they moved to Batesville. I call Ginny my little sister as she and my sister Carol became playmates and best friends for life. A celebration of Richard's life will be 4:00 P.M. Saturday, March 14, 2026, at the Batesville First Methodist Church.

Oakland is a member of the Mississippi Main Street Association. Main Street, with 91 member towns across Mississippi, works to improve local communities, specifically their downtown areas. Lt. Gov. Delbert Hosemann addressed the group during both a press conference at the Capitol last week and a luncheon following the press conference.

"Showcasing Mississippi and our small towns is fundamental to selling our state" Hosemann said. "From small town Main Streets to our largest tourism destinations, tourism drives economic development, strengthens small busi-

nesses, and returns direct investment to our communities."

"I want to see my grandchildren grow up and live here in Mississippi," he concluded. He also announced that SB 1716 passed with full support in the Senate. It had previously passed with unanimous support in the House. HB 1716 is the general appropriation bill for the Mississippi Main Street Revitalization Grant Program. Grants are available to Main Street members via a selection process for up to \$500,000 with a matching requirement.

It was well attended by Main Street Directors from all across the state. I was delighted to have time to visit with my friend and former Entergy co-worker Kelle Barfield of Vicksburg. Kelle serves as President of Main Street and has done some amazing work in Vicksburg where she owns a downtown bookstore and serves on the Warren County Board of Supervisors. She is also an international consultant on nuclear issues and literally travels the world.

We are now officially in our Spring "tornado season" which runs March, April, and May. Review your weather plan and be weather aware. Tornadoes can occur at any time during the year but are most common in those Spring months, with a secondary season in November. They can occur at any time of the day.

From Miss. Department of Transportation website: "If you are in a car, do not try to outrun a tornado.

Take shelter in a sturdy building nearby. If none is available, get out of the car and get into the lowest part of the ground, such as a ditch.

"Never take shelter under

highway overpasses. Many are not constructed properly to provide adequate shelter, especially as the wind speeds increase as the tornado passes over."

Margaret Ross and Janet Ross Caulder attended the 4th birthday party of Garrett Ross in Grenada last weekend. Garrett is the son of Richard and Meagan Ross and grandson of Rich and Jennifer Ross.

Mother said that Garrett looked each of his guests in the eye as he thanked them for his gifts. If they weren't looking at him, he continued to repeat his thanks until they looked at him!

The Oakland Baptist Church held its delayed Valentine banquet last week with a Hawaiian-themed dinner. Mother said it was wonderfully decorated and included some guests from Hebron Baptist Church in the Grenada area. She was surprised to see a former co-worker from Grenada Clinic there.

Louise Brown and Mother had worked together in the 1980's and had not seen each other since.

I am checking on the issues at Cossar State Park which I'm told remains closed following the ice storm.

Sister Carol reports that Spring has definitely arrived in Oakland where everything is blooming and looking beautiful against the backdrop of the ice storm damage. As with other towns in the path of the ice storm, there is still recovery underway. The primary evidence of the storm is debris stacked and awaiting pick up and the trees with broken tops. Hopefully, they will soon be filled with leaves and begin their recovery.

With the blooms comes Spring Break for many schools. I took my two oldest grandchildren and their mom to Laurel for the first few days of their school holiday. If you haven't been to Laurel, it is an amazing and vibrant town, especially in the downtown area. The HGTV

Hometown Show has really created a buzz there. We had some wonderful food as well. I love Mimmo's Ristorante Pizzeria which was perfect for adults and kids. On our way out of town, we discovered Edgar's Steak House for Sunday brunch. That appears to be where the locals eat! The kids favorite shop was Shug's Cookie Dough & Candy Bar which we did for dessert one day.

Throughout our visit, the people serving us in stores and restaurants and the beautiful Lauren Rodgers Museum were so helpful and kind. It truly felt as though we were just visiting with neighbors.

Let me know if you have news to include. Contact me via email at oaklandarea-chamber@gmail.com or text or leave a message at 601-853-3942.

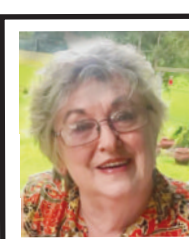
Oakland Storm Debris--While Spring is in the air, there are still reminders of the 2026 Ice Storm Fern as communities throughout North Mississippi, including Oakland, await debris removal. This photo was taken on Oak Street. The railroad runs behind the debris. The top of the Oakland Clinic can barely be seen through the branches.



Main Street Photo Kelle and Linda--Dr. Kelle Barfield and Linda Ross Aldy enjoyed visiting at Main Street Mississippi's Day at the Capitol. They are former colleagues from Entergy. Kelle is President of Mississippi Main Street and Linda is the official director for Oakland's Main Street. The Oakland Area Chamber supports the membership for Oakland.



Main Street at the Capitol--Representatives from the 91 cities and towns with Main Street Mississippi attended Capitol Day recently. Oakland is a member and was represented by Linda Ross Aldy.



Tillatoba News

By Patcie Deck

I pray all you school students and faculty have a great and safe spring break.

Scott McLendon attended his granddaughter's first birthday party. Little Farron McClendon was dressed like a little princess with a flower wreath that adorned her beautiful hair.

Martha Box is glad to be up and at em a bit better this week.

Good time with granddaughter Marnie Box shopping and lunch Thursday. And she washed my car for me, while I was having a break with long time missed Friends. So great to see Glenda & Charles, Shirley, Larry & Jimmy! Good time at Spencer's.

Brother Ronnie from Texas popped in surprising us at lunch Friday at the Corner! Wow those brothers always up to something!

Good Family gathering Saturday at the Truck Stop. Martha, Joyce Stevens, Ronnie and Jesse Wortham, Ben Box, Ginger and Phil and Josh Harrison. Our cousin, Billy Wayne had us laughing and reminiscing.

Made it to Church finally. Great service must have been planned just for me! Every song, every scripture touched so my soul! But Jake singing Buhlea Land had me so longing for it!!!

Then a great meal and good time at my place with us brothers and sisters telling some tales.

And then that sweet Melinda Box pops in with some Goodies for me to stay fit! Love how she spoils me, said Martha!

Lila Myrick says Joey and Katelyn McClanahan and Shelby Dewitt, of Jackson, visited his dad, Bobby Joe, and other family members this weekend.

Freddie Wayne McCla-

hanan is home after being in the hospital in Oxford. His wife, Jojo is still in the hospital in Oxford, but doing better.

Nothing going on, says Deborah McCool. Tommy has been sick with head cold and sinus infection. Get well soon Tommy those sinus infections are a killer.

David and I wrote up the road Sunday and visited with our great grands, Haven Rose and Waylon Junior Dukes. It was a beautiful day so we sat outside and watched them ride the little jeeps. I thought they were going too fast, but they were having so much fun their cousins, Joanna and Andrew pulling rode her G over and they played all afternoon. I enjoyed it so much just being outside for change and singing how happy they all were.

Celebrating birthdays this week are Wendy Dempsey on the 11th, Addison and Abigail Newsom on the 12th, Brian Bowman, Eddie Simmons, and J.R. Dukes on the 13th. Praying you all have a wonderful birthday! We also have an anniversary for Dale and Shannon Dukes on the 15th. Happy Anniversary you two!

Recipe for the week: Butterfinger Trifle

- 1 large instant vanilla pudding mix
 - 1 Angel Food Cake
 - 1 bag of Butterfingers
 - 1 can of condensed milk
 - 8 oz cool whip
- Use a trifle bowl and layer. Mix pudding by directions. Add condensed milk and Cool Whip, mix with wooden spatula. Break angel food cake into bite-size pieces. Pour pudding mixture over cake pieces. Crumble butterfingers on top and enjoy!

Thought of the day: I

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

PLEASE JOIN US!!!

It's time for "Spring Revival" Spring Hill (South) M.B. Church

March 15-17, 2026 Sunday Night: 6:00p.m. Monday and Tuesday Nights: 7:00p.m.

Reverend Gregory Wilson (Mt. Grove M.B. Church, Coffeeville, MS) will be the guest speaker each night.

Yours In Christ, Pastor Ralph Horton & The Spring Hill Church Family

learned how to belly dance today! I didn't have to do too much, I just gave it a little shake and the darn thing started dancing all on its own!

Who Is It?



Last week's "Who Is It?" was the Senior homecoming maids for 2016 Olivia Barns, Ariama Davidson, Jala Dorrough, and Markiva Suggs. Shantica Kincaide and Cantre Swarengen correctly identified them. 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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