

Oakland News

By Linda Ross Aldy

We are excited to announce that Oakland has received another grant. We are waiting to hear this morning about yet another one. (Fingers crossed!) Communities Unlimited has awarded us a grant to bring together our faith-based communities to potentially create a huge core of people to further strengthen our community. We are so grateful to CU and its funder, Trust for Civic Life, for believing in Oakland and our vision.

Last week I wrote about the delay of opening Cossar State Park after the ice storm. That column generated more feedback than any I've written. Sadly, there really doesn't seem to be an opening date available. Cossar isn't the only one. From the Mississippi State Parks Facebook post on March 12 (no update since then) "George P. Cossar, John Kyle, J.P. Coleman, and Wall Doxey State Parks remain closed until at least March 31st. Closures have been extended until contractors can get in to address hanging limbs, ground cleanup and any repairable structural issues. Wall Doxey still doesn't have power to their cabins. We hope to have another update at the end of the month."

However, the ice storm and delay have resurfaced strong dissatisfaction in the state funding and maintenance of Cossar. There is a growing mood from my readers to join together to try to address this.

Callers also want the restaurant to be brought back. If you are interested in being included in this discussion, which may include a Day at the Capitol next year, please email your contact information (I need your name, mailing address, email ad-

resses, text numbers, and phone numbers (if different from your text number) to oaklandareachamber@gmail.com or you can leave a message at 601-853-3942. Be sure to include your name as well! We will get organized and include you in what we are doing. To adequately prepare for the 2027 Legislative Session, we will need to start planning within the next few months.

I was just heartbroken to learn of the death of Zandra Walker. There have been and will be many accolades and memories about her. She certainly represented Water Valley with a big heart. As we were forming the Oakland Area Chamber, Zandra was one of the first people I sat down with. She was such a source of great information and excited that we were doing this in Oakland. Much love to her family and all who are at a loss without her in your world.

Our family gathered this past week, coming in from across the country, to say farewell to Richard Sosebee and be with Ginny and Andrew. Even though they are members of Oakland Methodist, the service was held at Batesville Methodist and for good reason. The church was packed there. The impact of Richard and Ginny and Andrew and wherever they have lived, worked, or played was in great display.

There was a Jimmy Buffett styled reception following at the Ice House and it was packed as well. I had the chance to see and visit with so many people with Oakland connections. I saw, but did not get to visit with the Fly girls, Ann Kirk and Betty Neal. I always looked up to them as a kid on the school bus. I did get a little visiting in with the wonderful Donnie Toole. I want to

be as elegant as Donnie when I grow up. It always does my heart good to be in the same room as Kathy Tippit Burkhalter. I don't think there is a sweeter person anywhere. There were so many others there that I only got to say hello to before the crowd pushed us along our way.

As all of my sisters were in town for this, we had some lively and fun discussions including about social media and cell phone usage. Sister Martha assured Mother (Margaret Ross) that she was as fast as Facebook on being in the know and delivering the news. Martha also found some napkins in Mother's collection that said "I'm having people over later to stare at their phones if you want to come by." All these communications channels have pluses and minuses, but personal connection is the most important.

Increased communication technology has also increased scams. The bad guys are getting quicker and smarter. Don't fall for ANY calls, text messages, or emails that ask you to share personal information.

Don't fall for messages that tell you there is a warrant out for your arrest for missing jury duty or failing to pay a traffic fine. Hang up and call the Sheriff's Office, the Police Department, the bank, or whoever is trying to steal your hard-earned money or savings. A law officer has no authority to collect money, only the courts do. So, if someone pretending to be an officer says you should pay them, don't fall for it.

The newest ruse is that the crooks are using artificial intelligence to create the voices of your children, grandchildren, and friends. They sound just like the people they pretend to be. The FBI says they are putting our tens of thousands of these scam calls per minute. Scammers like AI so much they are replacing the callers in their call centers. DO NOT GIVE OUT your infor-



Danica Hart

Hart

Saturday

May 2

5:00PM

Oakland Area Chamber of Commerce presents

Yale-Ribbon Festival

CAKE WALK * CHILDREN'S ZONE
FOOD TRUCKS * VENDOR BOOTHS
MUSIC ALL DAY

BEGINS AT 2:00PM
SWEARENGEN PARK

61 WALNUT STREET - OAKLAND

mation over the phone. DO NOT GIVE gift cards or money or bank account information to anyone. Have a family "safe word" that you can ask for if someone calls you and asks you for money. Remember, ALWAYS verify any call that asks for money. Simple say, "I'm going to hang up and call you back soon." Don't let any caller make you panic, which is what they want you to do.

Kids love to come over to Mother's and look at her goldfish pond. This week Mahaley Hames and her granddaughter Daisy came over. It just so happened that Mae Whitley Smith from Cleveland, Mother's great granddaughter, was there so Daisy and Mae Whitley had a great time playing together.

I may not have a column next week as I am taking a

long weekend to visit my newest granddaughter in the burbs of Chicago. I haven't seen her since Christmas and I'm quite worried that she needs to see me in person! She's 8-months-old and starting to do some amazing things. She needs her grandmother to witness and cheer

her on! My son sent me a photo this morning of snow covering their yard and reminded me to bring my coat!

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



Tillatoba News

By Patcie Deck

It was snowing in Starkville Monday morning. My friend sent a picture and it was coming down! If it wasn't so far to Starkville, I think I would have tried to go over there. Enjoy the snow, Lonnie!

I hope all you readers had a fun Happy St. Patrick's Day! Did any of you ladies get pinched for not wearing green? I wore green but got pinched anyway! ha ha

Deborah McCool has what her husband Tommy had last weekend. I've been sick with a cold and sinus since Thursday.

Martha Box said it was a beautiful day Saturday. She felt good, worked some, played some. Then visited sister Joyce at her place and had a wonderful porch visit with Diane Dukes and her sweet girl, Terri Pullen. Been a long time girls so let's do it again!

Today not as sunny but a great visit at Willow Springs AOG. You know how I love the singing Dave Box. What an encouraging carry on message from Bro. Webb with such Spirit filled singing from Sis. Webb! Got to see and pray with loving friends and family. Then Joyce, Jesse and I ate a marvelous fish meal at the Catfish Hut. And thank you Angie for that special gift.

Came home to a great visit by granddaughter Marnie Box followed by daughter Ginger, Phil and the boys. Now I call that a Happy Blessed weekend after a great week. Thank you daughter, Candy Box and great cooks at the Corner Store for such good food. Got me up and at em for sure!

Faye and Nathan Hartley and Jessica McGee went to Starkville Saturday to watch Rowland Hartley play base-

ball. Mary Brett Hartley is going to be a cheerleader for North Delta Junior High next year. I'm so proud of them, said grandmother, Faye.

Terri Dukes Pullen and Diane Dukes went shopping in Southaven Saturday all afternoon. They stopped and had lunch then headed to Batesville to shop a little bit. Sam and Anna Pullen had their third bundle of joy, Ann Reese on March 11. Her big sister was excited and couldn't wait for her to come home and all her little brother could say was, "baby". Also, Terri went to visit with her friend, Lauri McCullar, Saturday, so Diane visited with some of her friends. Joyce Stephen's and her sister Martha Box. We all had a good time talking and visiting. Diane and Martha talked about living in Greenville and the good old days.

Gloria Hoop Marceleno is finally a Grandma! Little Elijah Kendall was born March 14 and measured 8.4 Oz and over 21 inches. Proud parents are Joseph and Jessica Little.

Celebrating birthday's this week are Billy Edwards on the 16th, Jackie Nail on the 17th, Kay Calder Orton on the 18th, Greg Luckas, Brandy Deck, Lisa Havens, and Richard Ross celebrate on the 19th. Amanda Ayers Gunn, Curtis Taylor, and Tristian Taylor will celebrate on the 21st and Hayden Woolridge Bettiga celebrates on the 22nd. I pray you all have a wonderful time celebrating your birthday!

Recipe of the week: Chicken Bacon Ranch Pasta Salad

- Ingredients:
 •16z Penne Pasta
 •2 Tbs Olive Oil
 •1 Pkt Hidden Valley



Ranch Seasoning

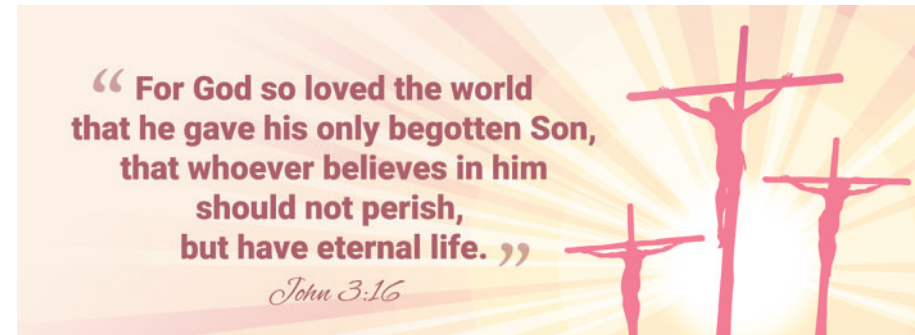
- 1 cup Sour Cream
- 2 1/2 cups shredded cooked chicken
- 3/4 lb bacon, cooked and crumbled
- 1 cup freshly grated Parmesan Cheese (optional)

Bring a large pot of well salted water to a boil. Cook the pasta according to package directions until al dente. Drain, tossed with the olive oil and set aside to cool. Stir the seasoning mix with the sour cream. When the pasta is cool toss with the sour cream mixture, chicken, bacon, and Parmesan cheese. Chill for at least one hour before serving cold.

Thought for the day: Make sure your kilt is short enough to do a jig, but long enough to hide your Lucky Charms!



Last week's "Who Is It?" was tGuy Dale Shaw.Sarah Williams and Jean Scobey 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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