

# Oakland News

By Linda Ross Aldy

Oakland was selected for a grant to help us celebrate the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence from the America250 Mississippi and the Mississippi Humanities Council. Numerous groups have come together to organize events, including the Oakland Area Chamber of Commerce, Oakland Area Lions Club, Friends of the Library, Oakland Beautification Committee, the Town of Oakland, and our youth.

We have numerous activities planned to honor this significant anniversary in our country's history. Kicking off our celebration, our Yalo-Ribbon Festival on May 2 will feature Danica Hart who will add some patriotic music to her set. Our celebration will run through the fall with activities and events.

On Memorial Day, Monday, May 25 from noon until 2 p.m., the Oakland Lions Club is spearheading a Memorial Day Tribute Walk. If you have a loved one who died serving our country, please get in touch with Cassandra Pipkin by texting 662-360-5689 or emailing LaTonya Sayles at oaklandarealionsclub@gmail.com before May 9 to have your loved one included in the tribute.

We are also purchasing patriotic décor and flags to make the Town of Oakland look festive during our celebration.

July 4th will bring a community-wide birthday party with cake, ice cream, watermelon, music and possibly fireworks!

We are working to identify and collect oral histories and stories from our residents along with programs to be held sharing the history of the town, the railroad, schools, churches, and busi-

nesses. We are also planning a living time capsule for future residents to discover. Our annual Back to School Celebration will incorporate a related scavenger hunt along with a community picnic and music.

Our Oakland youth have elected to be involved by cleaning the two cemeteries inside the town limits. Stay tuned for details as we move through the calendar!

March 20 is not only the first day of Spring, but International Day of Happiness, and this year's theme, Social Media and Happiness, highlights potential challenges for our wellbeing as well as ways we can all use tech for good. Using social media in a healthy way includes 1. Being mindful of if, when, and how much you are on social media. Ask yourself what you really want to do instead of social media, such as listening to music, drawing, gardening, going for a walk, play with your children or pets. Set a timer so your scrolling is "a short snack rather than a wormhole." 2. Don't let scrolling be a substitute for real connections. Phone a friend for a chat, plan an adventure with friends or family, use social media to connect with supportive friends and communities. 3. Personalize your experience to support your wellbeing. Follow positive accounts, don't doom scroll, share uplifting stories, message and ideas, and be aware of misinformation. Be kind in social media comments.

The new World Happiness Report was just released. They report that the Nordic countries retain the top spots in the world happiness rankings, Finland is No.1 (again!), followed by Iceland then Denmark; Costa Rica has

jumped to 4th place.

The report also features new research on social media and happiness. It found teenagers using social media for long hours report much lower life satisfaction than light users. However not all screen time is equal: activities like messaging, learning and creating content are linked to higher wellbeing - while passive scrolling, gaming, and "browsing for fun" are linked to lower wellbeing."

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.



## Obituary



**Charlie Michael Shaw, Sr.**

It is with heavy hearts that we announce the passing of Charlie Michael Shaw Sr., affectionately known as "Mike," who left this world on March 18, 2026, at the age of 83. Born on May 9, 1942, in Water Valley, MS. Mike's life was marked by his intense love of family, patience for children, having a quick wit, and enduring spirit.

Mike began his education at Jeff Davis and later graduated from Coffeeville High School in 1960. Known for his adventurous spirit, he often delighted in skipping school to go fishing with his cousins, creating cherished memories that would last a lifetime. He was also the proud owner of a pet skunk named Oscar, embodying his playful and free-spirited nature. In 1961, Mike married the love of his life, Linda, marking the beginning of a strong and devoted partnership that would endure for decades. Together, they built a wonderful family whose lives are a testament to Mike's unwavering support and guidance.

Mike's career started in farming but soon transitioned to road construction, where his skills in operating heavy equipment flourished. A strong-willed and hard-working man, he dedicated himself to his craft, always striving for excellence. A true family man, Mike found joy in gardening, fishing, and deer hunting. He loved playing poker,



relished quiet moments spent sitting on his porch watching birds, and waving at passersby. His laughter, integrity, and gentle spirit will be deeply missed by those who knew him.

Mike is survived by his beloved wife, Linda; daughter Susan Shaw Burts (Kerry); grandchildren, Ashlynn Stark, Alaina Cardenas (Will) and Nathan Williamson; as well as great grandchildren Gracie, Mason, Zackary, and Charlie. He is also survived by his loving sister, Jeanne Evans (Steve).

A memorial service to celebrate Mike's life will be held on Friday, March 27, 2026, at 6:00 PM in the Henry Chapel at Seven Oaks Funeral Home. Prior to the service, there will be a visitation from 5:00 PM to 6:00 PM at the same location, where friends and family will have the opportunity to share their fondest memories of him.

As we gather to honor Mike's life, we reflect on the legacies of love and strength he leaves behind. May he rest in peace.

As well as his parents, Mike was preceded in death by one son, Charlie Michael Shaw Jr.; one daughter, Melissa Shaw Griffith; and sister Sandra Roberson.

## United Missionary Baptist Church Spring Revival

United Missionary Baptist Church will host its Annual Spring Revival on Tuesday, March 24 through Thursday, March 26, 2026, beginning nightly at 7:00 p.m.

We are honored to welcome Rev. Jono Reed, Pastor of Faith Culture Church in Coffeeville, Mississippi, who will serve as the guest evangelist for this special week of worship and spiritual renewal.

Everyone is invited to attend and receive a blessing through the preaching of God's Word, uplifting music, and fellowship.

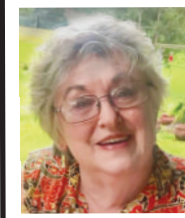
Rev. Calvin Hawkins, Pastor

## Philadelphia M.B. Church County Road 211 Oakland, Ms

We, the Philadelphia Missionary Baptist Church Women's Ministry, cordially invite you to our annual Women's Fellowship Conference (young ladies 18 and up) on April 18, 2026 from 10:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M.

Our theme for this year is: Mental Health and Self Care. Registration fee is \$10.00 each. You may pay at the door or mail to Sis Rosie Jenkins at P. O. Box 128, Oakland, Ms 38948. **This year we are doing a parade of shoes and hats.** We are looking forward to seeing you and your shoes and hats on April 18, 2026.

Sincerely yours,  
Philadelphia M.B. Church Women's Ministry  
Sis. Cassandra Parker, Coordinator  
Rev. Columbus Bell, Pastor



## Tillatoba News By Patcie Deck

Diane Dukes and Kathy Dukes went to Greenville Saturday and had lunch with Yvette Correo and visited for a while. Yvette is planning her vacation so we had to go see her before her trip. We have been true friends for 52 years. She told Kathy everybody needs a friend like your mother-in-law. That made my day, a true friend, she told Kathy that we are Blessed to have each other.

David and I enjoyed a surprise visit from Susan and Phillip Bell of Caledonia with lunch on Sunday. Susan brought chicken with all the trimmings and I had cooked a roast with potatoes and carrots. I had sliced strawberries to go with ice cream but we all ate so much no one wanted dessert. Daughter Donna Garripoli, also joined us and we had a wonderful lunch and visit.

Mark and Faye Hartley had the Easter Egg Hunt for church at their house. Lots of people came. Lots of fun and food.

The little children look forward to this part of Easter and Mark, Faye and Kristie always make it a big event for the children and for the grown-ups as well.

Debbie and Tommy McCool took a four day vacation the last part of the week. They stopped and picked up Tommy's sister, Alice Kelum, Thursday and went to Leland. They stayed with Tommy's sister, Patsy. His sister Dorothy and her husband Hubert came over and her son and grandson were there most of the time. We had cookouts each night and ate too much. While we were there we had a big yard sale two days. We did pretty good and got rid of a lot. Good visit but so glad to get home Sunday afternoon. We

missed our puppy dogs! Daughter Kimberly was puppy sitting for us.

My sweet sister, Ann Hudson of Grenada visited with us Friday morning. We always enjoy her visits. She can make me laugh when no one else can.

Son, Timothy Sullivan was weed eating Thursday and a rock flew up and hit him in the eye and needless to say he was in pain for a while. Being the son of a Taurus woman, he is stubborn like his mother and wouldn't go to the doctor. I fixed him a cold patch to put over his eye and he said it was better the next morning, but it certainly didn't look better to me.

Martha Box said she had a beautiful day Sunday. Martha loved the appreciation of Sister Sherry Darby Sunday. Bro. Webb certainly expressed what a great assistant she is! Not only to Pastor Tommy Darby, her husband, but to the church members, friends and neighbors. Great singing and worship throughout the service!

Met sister Joyce Stevans for lunch at Enid. Friend Mike Lovelace came in and it was great to visit with him. Great fish, great company and no dishes to wash! It was wonderful to see so many there that I had just enjoyed church with.

Not a bad start to the first tournament with the Mid-South Couples Bass Club, said JR Dukes. 2nd place and big fish with a 5.88. Turned that livescope to perspective mode and caught em throwing that prickly pear! JR's fishing partner is Ashlee Julian.

Celebrating birthday's this week are, Daisy Walton Burlison on the 23rd, Janett Baker Buice on the 24th, Wanda Kerr on the 26th,

Frankie Holliday, Ginger Box and Greg Knowles on the 27th, Sonny Champion on the 28th, Annie Claire Turner, Dwayne Nail and Lannie Wilbourn on the 29th, Frank Weir on the 30th, and Betty Osborn on the 31st! I hope you all have a wonderful time celebrating your special day!

### Recipe for the week: French Lace Cookies

Ingredients:

- 4 Tablespoons unsalted butter
- 1/2 Cup light brown sugar, firmly packed
- 1/4 Cup sugar
- 1/4 Cup light corn syrup
- 1 Teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 cup all purpose flour
- 2/3 cup finely chopped nuts, optional.

Directions:

Preheat oven to 350° and line a cookie sheet with parchment paper. In a medium-sized saucepan, combine butter, sugars, and corn syrup. Cook over medium heat, stirring, constantly, until sugar has melted and mixture just begins to boil. Once boiling remove from heat and stir in vanilla extract, salt, flour, and finely chopped nuts, if using, stirring until completely combined. Allow to cool for five minutes, then drop by one and a half teaspoons onto prepared cookie sheet, spacing the cookies three inches apart. Bake at 350 for 9 minutes, rotating halfway through baking. When the cookies stop bubbling and are light golden brown, remove them from the oven because they will burn quickly. Allow cookies to cool completely on the baking sheet. They won't be crisp until cooled.

**Thought of the day:** Nurse came in and said, "Doc, there's a man in the waiting room who thinks he's invisible, what should I tell him?" The doctor replied, "Tell him I can't see him today."



Last week's "Who Is It?" was Olivia Burns, Chaterika Martin, and Marissa Logan. No one 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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