

# Oakland News

By Linda Ross Aldy

The 2026 Legislative Session has a few "technical" days left on it. They adjourned and left town but held the session open for a few more days this week in case the Governor vetoes any bills or line-item appropriations they might want to override. We Oaklanders are very disappointed that we did not get the funds requested to purchase a much-needed fire truck but appreciate Sen. Ben Suber and Rep. Kevin Horan who led efforts to secure that for us. Congratulations to Water Valley, Coffeeville, and Grenada who did receive funding in the special projects bill.

Yalobusha, Grenada and Tallahatchie Counties have been approved along with 36 others for Individual Assistance following the Fern Ice Storm. Individual assistance can include grants for home repairs, low-cost loans to cover uninsured property losses, and other programs to help individuals and business owners recover from the effects of this disaster. Residents in the approved counties who sustained losses during the Jan. 23-27 winter weather are able to apply for assistance by registering online at [www.DisasterAssistance.gov](http://www.DisasterAssistance.gov) or by calling 1-800-621-FEMA (3362) or 1-800-462-7585 (TTY) for the hearing and speech impaired. The disaster number is: DR-4899.

I am looking forward to speaking briefly this week to the Yalobusha County Historical Society meeting. I am not Oakland's historian. That honor goes to many other people, including my mom, Margaret Ross,

Mike Robinson, and Miss Lizzie Earl. Barron Caulfield invited me to talk about what's going on in Oakland

and I can do that!

We celebrated Easter plus my sweet great-nephew's and my nephew's birthday on Easter Sunday with church, a big lunch, and multiple egg hunts. It was Kash Mastrangelo's 13th birthday on Saturday. He is my mother's first great-grandchild, so it was one of those birthdays that is hard to believe! We've had him for 13 years! His younger cousins adore him. His mom, Lindsey, and his whole family and community have surrounded him with love. I can't say enough about the hard work Lindsey has put into "raising" him. He is the sweetest, cutest, most well-mannered, loving, adventurous young man. He does love to sneak up on you when you least expect it! Kash, we love you so much! It was also his Uncle Ross Burney's birthday on Sunday. Ross is a few years older and wiser and has all the same characteristics including being a practical joker.

Our egg hunt started with eggs hidden for the great-grandchildren. They did a wonderful job of hunting the eggs and the treasures found inside them. We hope they found them all. Like many egg hunts, we have found pieces of plastic eggs and chocolate and even dollar bills in the yard following the first grass cutting after Easter. After the children had done their egg hunt, we asked them to hide eggs for their parents generation. They had a blast doing that. But the funniest part was that when we told the parents to go find the eggs, the little kids started running and pointing to where they had hidden the eggs. They had as much fun showing the adults where the eggs were as they did on their egg hunt! Obviously, we failed

to tell them NOT to show where they had hidden the eggs.

Speaking of treasures, the Bob Tyler Fish Hatchery has so much going on. The next big event is the 2026 Youth Rodeo on May 16. This is open for those under the age of 15. Registration starts at the Fish Hatchery at 7 a.m. and the participants should bring their own fishing equipment, bait, and containers to carry their catch home. For more information, contact the Visitor Education Center (VEC) at 662-563-8068.

The Youth Art Contests entries for the Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks are due by May 10. You can also contact the VEC at the number above for more information or go to: [https://www.mdwfp.com/visitor\\_education\\_center/youth-art-contests](https://www.mdwfp.com/visitor_education_center/youth-art-contests) for details.

The Fish Hatchery VEC also is hosting a history of Ford's Well presented by Mike Robinson on May 30 at 2 p.m. at the Fish Hatchery VEC. Mike is the retired Resource Manager for the US Army Corps of Engineers at Enid Lake. Ford's Well was dug in 1898, and because of its high mineral content, became popular in the early 1900s as a cure for many ailments. Visitors enjoy the area today as they dig into the past and enjoy recreational opportunities like the 27-mile Spyglass Hill horseback trail and interpretive area including buildings such as the blacksmith shop, cabin, outhouse, and more! The program is free with price of admission. Admission is \$2.50 for adults ages 18-59, and \$2.00 for youth ages 3-17 and adults over the age of 60.

Congratulations to Timothy Booker, Sr. for his recent election as President of the Oakland Area Chamber of Commerce. Cassandra Pipkin was also elected to the Board of Directors. We have a hard-working Board who love Oakland and the surrounding area. We believe in this area and the people.  
**(Cont'd on page 8)**



**LARGEST WATERMELON CONTEST**

**6-18 YEAR OLDS**

Yalobusha County

Water Valley Area Chamber of Commerce

**The Yalobusha County 4-H is partnering with the Water Valley Area Chamber of Commerce to bring you the 3rd Annual Largest Watermelon Contest for ages 6-18.**

**Two Registration and seed pickup days available:**

**Friday April 17th at the Extension Office in Coffeeville**

**OR**

**Saturday 18th across from Larson's in Water Valley**

**10:00am until 11:00am**

MISSY BURNEY 662.675.2730  
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**Tillatoba News**  
By Patcie Deck

Bubba Dukes is doing some better after his winter fall, said his mother, Diane Dukes.

I know Bubba is ready to be back at work. Men can't tolerate sitting around the house. They have to be up and doing something.

Lauri McCullar, of Oakland, is having a procedure done at the Vein Institute in Senatobia on Monday. It's a short procedure. She will be back at home resting the same day, said Terri Pullen.

Please keep Joanna Pullen in your prayers. She had to visit Le Bonheur Hospital Sunday after church. Joanna is Terri Dukes Pullen's granddaughter.

George P. Cossar state park is hoping to reopen soon, says Diane Dukes. They have a lot of eager customers ready to camp and play bingo.

Our visitor Thursday was Larry Franklin of Hardy. Larry was telling us that he and his wife Cheryl are moving to Winona this week.

Our Saturday company was Kurt and Elka Tillman from Germany and Kurt's mother, Patsie Tillman of Coffeeville and daughter Donna Garripoli of Grenada. Kurt and Elka spent 2 1/2 weeks with Donna. They left

Sunday going back to Dallas, Texas to catch their flight back to their home. Elka had made us a chocolate cream cake that was decorated so beautifully and was absolutely delicious. She had brought some of the ingredients for the cake from Germany.

Martha Box said she enjoyed visiting all the different churches because she gets to hug soooo many family and friends!

This past week she is working on getting strength back to all my sassy joints. Chiropractor visits with Dr. Poe are helping a lot. Working out at home is helping. Had a spectacular Fish meal at The Corner Store Friday. Those girls have it going on! Sister Joyce and I hung out Thursday At Lowe's after lunch at the Cracker Barrel.

Got to visit with friends Saturday evening. And with this foot surgery in 2025 followed by a soooooo bad sick for a week, I have missed getting out.

Great Visit at Pine Grove church yesterday. And it was Bro. Scarborough's Birthday! Well, he preached such a Jesus loves us message that had us so filled with the Spirit. What a Gift! Between him and Bro. Tommy



Darby we stay refreshed and Blessed, said Martha.

Happy birthday to Malinda Martain on the 16th, my sweet son, Timothy Sullivan, along with Julia Kerr and Ginny Sosabee celebrate the 17th, Sweet Jackie Griffis celebrates the 18th, Priscilla Mitchell celebrates the 19th. Mickey Reeves the 20th and Melba Rodger's the 21. May you all enjoy your special day.

**Recipe of the week: "Snickerdoodle cookies"**

- 3 cups of all purpose, flour
- 2 teaspoons of cream of tarter
- 1/2 teaspoon of salt
- 1- tsp. Baking soda. Set aside in a bowl add 2 sticks of butter
- 1 cup of granulated sugar
- 1/2 cup brown sugar
- two eggs, one at a time
- 2 teaspoons of vanilla and mix well.

In a separate bowl had a cup of white sugar and 2 tablespoons of cinnamon. After you add the wet ingredients to the dry ingredients, roll into a ball and dip in the sugar and cinnamon mixture. Do not flatten your cookies. The oven will do that cook in a 350° oven for 8 to 10 minutes.

**Thought for the day:** I read where it says think outside the box will someone please tell me where is the box?



# Who Is It?

Last week's "Who Is It?" was Gracie Summers. Andrew Edwards correctly identified the picture. Charlotte Reed last weeks "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.



**HONORED: The Pioneer in Leadership Award was presented to Mrs. Ruthie White on March 5,**



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