

Oakland News

By Linda Ross Aldy

We hated to cancel our Memorial Day Tribute Walk honoring those who died in service, but we will incorporate a tribute into our July 4th Celebration. In the meantime, the Oakland Area Lions Club has a virtual tribute on their Facebook page. Let's hope weather cooperates a bit better for July!

As a part of our America250 Mississippi and Mississippi Humanities Council grant, we have been able to order American flags that will fly down Hickory Street. It's going to be so pretty and I can't wait to see them in place. It was quite the adventure ordering them. I never knew how many parts and pieces were required! Obviously, a flag and a pole, but there are also clamps and brackets and banding straps, plus it required me to know the diameter of the poles in town. They are NOT the same throughout! Thanks to former mayor James Riley Swearingen who took the time to measure a number of poles so that I could get the order right. Then, in an effort to squeeze our dollars, everything had to be ordered from a different supplier. I have a mental vision of what this will look like and hope it turns out that way!

In the spirit of remembering, the Vietnam Memorial Traveling Wall will be in Olive Branch from June 4-8 at the Olive Branch Soccer Complex. According to their website, the wall is a 3/5 scale of the Vietnam Memorial in Washington DC, it stands six feet tall at the center and covers almost 300 feet from end to end. It is a reminder of the great sacrifices made during the Vietnam War. I have had the opportunity to visit the Memorial in Washington, DC and it is remarkable and

moving. Thanks to Rosemary Irby for making me aware of this.

Rosemary, who was in the last graduating class from Oakland High School, created and runs the "If You Grew Up in Oakland" Facebook page. She does an incredible job of keeping us all together and all up to date.

Congratulations to Chuckie Moore who has been named for the third year as section leader in the Mississippi Valley State University Choir. This puts Chuckie on the Executive Board of the Choir's leadership for the 2026-27 school term. It has been such a joy following this talented young man's musical career. A few years ago, he cancelled his birthday plans with his friends to show up in Oakland and sing for our town's Christmas event. Not many college students would do that.

Two new names of graduates have been shared with me. Mykaylon Sally and Brittany Russell were shared by Della Faye Kendrick and Dianne Lyons, respectively. We wish these graduates much success in the next chapter of their lives.

Margaret Ross had a stream of visitors this past week. Wendell Carven is a regular who drops off his Greenwood Commonwealth for her. Mother is a voracious reader of newspapers. Wendell often just sticks the paper inside the screen door, but he came in and visited a bit on Sunday. Pam Brewer and her granddaughter Zoey of Oxford stopped by as did Mother's neighbor Joy Mullen and her houseguest, Lee Denley Faust. Lee grew up in Oakland and Charleston and now lives in Virginia and in recent years has come to visit the area annually. My cousin Mel Ross and his

wife, Linda, from Southaven also visited. It's been interesting through the years as both she and I are named Linda. I call myself the "original" Linda Ross and we laugh at sharing the name. Coach Mickie DeMoss was also a visitor. Mickie and sister Carol coached together at Auburn and have stayed great friends. Mickie coached with Pat Summitt at Tennessee, was head coach at Kentucky and coached many other places including in WNBA. Mickie is a great cook and is always welcome wherever she goes because of her funny personality and she always offers to cook!

Mother attended what we affectionally call "Lunch Bunch" which are the attendees at the Timothy Booker, Sr. Oakland Senior Citizens Center. This week they learned that there will be a bus provided by the Area Agency on Aging for those 60 and over to run errands and go to doctor's appointments.

Oakland's days will be Monday and Wednesday. This is exciting, but they are closed as I write this so I will have to get more details for next week's column.

Mother and Ms. Bessie Earl are considered to be two of Oakland's matriarchs and often get to visit during Lunch Bunch. As a part of our America250 grant, we will be doing oral history interviews and these two ladies will certainly be a major part of capturing memories of Oakland.

Oakland's Farmacy Marketplace is not only offering The Sweet Spot Creamery for all things ice cream, but they just started offering hot lunches along with their cheeseburgers and deli foods. The reports coming in on the lunch service are great. I'll be giving a personal review soon! I can already promise you'll love the cheeseburgers!

Let me know if you have news to include. Contact me via email at oaklandarea-



Chuckie Moore of Oakland has been named to the MVSU Choir Executive Board for the third consecutive year. Moore serves as section leader in the choir.

Photo by Kelly Paris



chamber@gmail.com or text or leave a message at 601-853-3942.

Hubbard (Hubcap) Lewiel

Funeral services were held Friday, May 15, 2026, in Melrose Park, Illinois at First Baptist Church for the late Hubbard (Hubcap) Lewiel.

Born October 4, 1946, in Coffeerville, to the late Ethel and James Lewiel he entered eternal rest on May 5, 2026 at his home in Country Club Hills, Illinois. He was married to the late Emma Dora (Townes) Lewiel of Hardy, Miss. And to this union two children were born. He later married Rublestine (Ruby) Lewiel and they shared 54 years together, and were the parents of two daughters.

He leaves to cherish his memories and love, his wife, Roblestine, three daughters, Tracy, Tinisha and Courtney, one son, Hubbard (Andre) Lewiel, all of Illinois, his grandchildren, and great grandchildren, two sisters, Pearly (Clifton) Hall of Broadview, Illinois and Earlene Townes, of Coffeerville, Ms, one brother, Hubert (Rosie) Lewiel, of Southfield, Michigan. And, his extended family, friends and community.

Bible verse: Peace I leave with you: Do not let your heart be troubled and do not be afraid.

John 14:27



Tillatoba News By Patcie Deck

Diane Dukes says she is trying to get her swimming pool open for the summer. Maybe next week, but I got everything out, just putting it where it goes is a a job by itself. Heather Henderson who owns Blooming Farms, made Diane a beautiful flower arrangement to go out by the pool area. Thanks, Heather.

Henry and Shea Hood moved Lee Jackson to Miss State for the next two years.

Tim and Emily Little and daughter Scottie, spent some time in Destin Florida. They enjoyed it, especially Scottie!

Sadie Harper had the lumbar epidural block Thursday morning. Sadie said the hard part was going to be doing nothing for three days to let the injection work.

Debbie McCool said they have nothing planned for the weekend. Tommy will be working. I'll get a 3 day weekend, closed Monday.

Congratulations to a sweet young couple, Anthony Franklin and Makayla Rikard who were united in marriage last week.

Martha Box says Jesus is still real, still keeps me up and trying to be the Superman I used to be!

Stayed about house all week piddeling as old Mississippi grannies say! Great lunch at Corner Store Wed. And also enjoying fish with Brother Jesse here at the Corner another day!

Have coffee with the neighbors at the Truck Stop, Monday thru Friday at 3 pm. "Y'all come see us , Martha said!"

"Happy Memorial Day to you all," says Debbie McCool.

Tommy and I actually got up early this morning and went to Batesville for break-

fast. Haven't done it in awhile. Then just went riding for a while. Ended up in Clarksdale. Road around looking. We lived there many years ago so went by old places, nothing is the same there anymore.

Happy birthday to Meg Daves who celebrated May 24, Mary Brett Hartley who starts our June birthdays by celebrating hers on the 1st, Teddy Ford on the second.

Your writer and daughter, Donna, spent the day Sunday doing a little work in the house. I made a big pot of chicken and dumplings and we enjoyed them very much.

Recipe for the week: Onion Baked Pork Chops

- Ingredients:
 1 envelope, Lipton Onion Soup Mix
 8 pork chops
 2/3 cups dry bread crumbs
 2 eggs, well beaten
 Preheat oven to 350°.

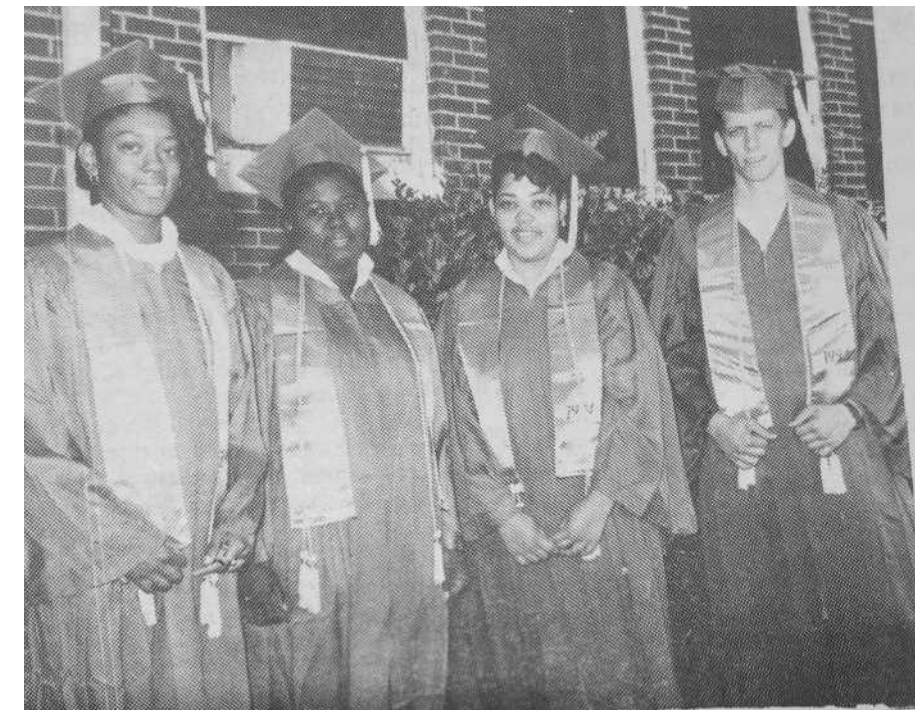
Combine onion soup mix with the bread crumbs. Dip chops in egg, then in the bread crumb mixture, coating well. Place in lightly greased, large, shallow baking pan and drizzle, if desired, with melted butter. Bake, turning once, one hour or until chops are tender.

Thought for the day:

When we choose not to focus on what is missing from our lives, but are grateful for the abundance that is present, we truly experience heaven on earth.



Who Is It?



Last week's "Who Is It?" was A group of young people from thr Coffeerville Church of Christ, they are (LtoR) Karen Langley, Angela Purday Vonda Varner, Tammy Williams, (Back,LtoR) Ken Purdy,Allen Dogan, Kevin Surrette, Rob Clay and Joey Purdy. We had several who knew some of the young people on the picture. 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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