

Oakland News

By Linda Ross Aldy



Our Oakland Area will celebrate with an old-fashioned birthday party to celebrate America's 250th birthday. It will be July 3rd at the Swearngen Walking Track and Park from 5:30 to 7 p.m. Bring a chair! We'll have small prizes for best decorated chair, costume, or bike. We will have music provided by our DJ, watermelon, birthday cupcakes, lemonade, and just visiting with friends and neighbors. We'll also have a small parade around the track. Just a small-town, old-fashioned gathering. Y'all come!

On July 4, Friends of Cosar will host a pop-up Shop from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Vendors are invited. A Golf Cart Parade begins at 7:30 p.m.

Visiting in Oakland recently has been Linda Bland. She and her Aunt Mary Ann Johnson visited Mother recently to do some historical and genealogy research. Linda's grandparents were Ivory and Pattie Lou Johnson. Her mother, Mary Lee Johnson, was born in Oakland. There is a great article about Linda's family and their journey in the Quad-City Times of Davenport, Iowa. Linda became the first Black woman to serve on the Rock Island, Illinois City Council when she was elected in 2025. She attended school here and earned a degree in data pro-

cessing at Northwest Mississippi Community College. Mother thoroughly enjoyed the visit!

The Ross family held our reunion this past Saturday at the Fish Hatchery. I don't know how many we had, but we filled the place up. The kids loved feeding the fish, seeing the aquarium, and just running around outside. There were a few children in attendance who had never been so I walked up to a little girl and told her I was her cousin Linda. She said, "I know that. Everyone here is my cousin. That's why it is called a family reunion." She was a recently turned 6-year-old from Huntsville! She spoke with great authority and was cute as she could be! The adults enjoyed visiting and looking at pictures of days gone by and history on Scotland where a good part of our heritage originated. Many thanks to Andrea Ross for the work she puts into pulling our family together each year. She is married to Brett Ross who is the grandson of our precious Aunt Audrey who passed away last year just months shy of her 102nd birthday.

As a part of our reunion theme, our friend Erin Roach dressed as a Scottish lady and welcomed us to the guest register and posed for

many pictures. She shared with me that her book "Seven Men, Minus One" has been nominated for the 2027 Agatha Christie Award! In addition, she and her fiancé Bertron Hamill have completed their first joint book, "The Sea Tales of Felae, Descent." It is available on Amazon. They are a very talented couple. They are working to clear some land in Oakland to build a house. And I mean that literally. They are physically clearing the land themselves. They love having projects they can work on together and getting their land ready to build on is certainly a major project!

I wrote last week about attending the concert that is Mississippi's major part of the America250 celebration and that I would update you on the broadcast date for the event. Mississippi Public Broadcasting (MPB) is scheduled to broadcast the televised United in Song: A Mississippi America250 Celebration on August 2, 2026. The concert itself took place on June 20, 2026, at the Mississippi Coliseum in Jackson. Check your MPB station schedule for the time. They typically broadcast these type events in the evening. I know of two folks with area connections who were in the choir—Gay Lynn Haynes of Oakland and Rose Marie Sellers Caulder who grew up in Oakland.

Mississippi Public Broadcasting (MPB) has recently been filming in our area! The Enid Depot restaurant hosted the Southern Dish show on June 18. They filmed for hours and will broadcast the show early next year. Senator Lydia Chassaniol of Winona is the show's host. Sen. Chassaniol represented the Oakland area as our Senator until the redistricting changed the lines for the 2024 legislative session. She is known for her expertise in the kitchen and her show is going to be a great hit!

Our Oakland Mayor and

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Board along with hundreds of other municipal officials throughout the state are in Biloxi this week for the annual Mississippi Municipal League Conference. This is a huge conference with multiple tracks of education and training. Bring us back some great ideas. Mayor Stephanie Patterson said it is an opportunity to come together to learn, network, share ideas, and discover new ways to strengthen our communities. She has served on the planning committee for several years.

Don't forget our Montessori Pre-School infor-

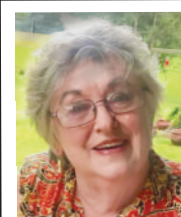
mational meeting at the Oakland Chamber Building, 304 Holly Street, Oakland, at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, July 7. Brooke Fly Spears of Water Valley, a highly respected Montessori educator and trainer with more than 15 years of classroom experience, will be leading our discussion. We are excited to be getting a new roof on our "future home", so things are moving along. We need people who are interested in becoming

teachers as well as those who want to learn more about the Montessori approach. Our first class should open in Fall of 2027 but could be a little earlier if we are ready before that. This will start with 3 and 4-year-olds.

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



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Tillatoba News

By Patcie Deck

Happy 4th of July!

It was a great day in the neighborhood Saturday for Kat Benson and Junior Dukes. Junior proposed to Kat and she said yes!! We are all so happy and excited!

Brandon McClanahan of Jackson visited his dad Freddie Wayne and his uncle Bobby Joe and other relatives Sunday. "It's always good to see him," said his aunt, Lila Myrick.

Martha Box says LIFE goes on with us trying to do as we used to. I had to change my "Get Up and Go to My Can't Getter done days."

Martha is waiting on granddaughter Marissa Jackson to birth that Baby! Planning for July 2nd.

Wonderful Church service at Willow Springs today. What an encouraging message. And you know I so love to hear my love ones sing. Happy 61st Anniversary to Pastor Tommy Darby and his lovely wife Sis. Sherry! Together they work so well for the church.

Your writers neighbor, JR Dukes and Ashley Julian have been busy lately catching a lot of big Bass! They should have that freezer about full.

Thank you, Scotty and Stephanie Chambers for the

tomatoes. We enjoyed them on sandwiches and in a salad.

Diane Dukes reports George P. Cossar State Park will have a "250 years of freedom celebration" on Saturday July 4.

Buckley Shaved Ice will be there helping cool everyone down with some delicious flavors.

Darlene's Sweet Treats will be there with her mini cake bar.

You pick your chocolate or vanilla cake and frosting and toppings.

Also John Luke's 3D creations will be there.

Come on out and enjoy some treats and celebrate with us, says Diane.

The park is open 8am - 5pm.

If anyone is interested in being a vendor please call the park @ 662-623-7356 and press 2.

There is no vendor fee.

We are hoping everyone will come out and help us celebrate and enjoy the park.

Kat Benson and family



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members enjoyed a trip to Disney World this past week.

Adam Chambers has been fighting with a kidney stone (8mm) for about a month and it got worst. He got scheduled for surgery Monday the 22. Surgery went great Thanks to Doctor Straughan. Very nice man. Adam came home with stents and alot of pain. We made it till Thursday the 26th. It was time for them to be removed. Our little ducks wasn't definitely in a row that morning. We made it past the Tillatoba creek bridge and Adam said, "Are you kidding me?" We had a flat in my brand new vehicle on the interstate. The valve stem just broke. We had to be rescued by Adam's mom, Jennylou Chambers. Dale and Claude Dorris had to put my spare on because Adam couldn't lift anything. Sunday the 28th, Adam was feeling better so we decided to go to Sam's in Madison, Ms. Before we went to Sam's, we ate at a place called Half Shell Oyster House in Madison. It was delicious.

John Box went to Missouri and bought a nice truck. I know your sweet wife Arica is proud as well as your sister-in-law, Jacque Chambers.

Happy birthday to Dixie Fernandez, twins, Brad and Brian Holliday and Kathy Dukes on July 3, Linda Wilkes and Bart Haltom will celebrate the 4th, Amanda Ferguson the 5th, Scott Wolfe, my Texas friend on the 6th. I pray you all have a wonderful day and lots of cake and ice cream.

Recipe for the week: Tomato hush puppies

3 eggs
3 teaspoons baking powder.

1 1/2 tablespoons salt
1 chopped onion fine
1 tablespoon shorting
2 tablespoons flour.
1 1/2 cup sweet milk
2 cups, diced tomatoes
Use enough meal to make a thick dough.

Shape into small balls and drop into hot grease. Drain on paper towel. use half of this recipe until using for a large crowd.

Thought for the day....

Some days I can go out looking like a million dollars and not see a single person I know. Other days I go out looking like crap, suddenly it's a class reunion!



Last week's "Who Is It?" was Coley Little Bailey and Todd Bilingley. Dianne Brewer correctly identified 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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