

Oakland News

By Linda Ross Aldy

It is hard to believe we are already staring down the calendar at school starting! The Oakland Chamber is once again hosting a Back to School Kick-Off. It's from 10 am till noon, Sat., July 25, at the Swearngen Walking Track and Park. The Lions Club is collecting school supplies and those will be available along with sno-cones, hot dogs, water games, watermelon and more! Girl Scouts, 4-H, Vets for Youth and more will be on hand to share information about wonderful youth organizations in the area. Friends of the Library will be there and have patriotic themed bookmarks for students to color. One of the most fun events promises to be the Oakland Volunteer Fire Department providing a fire hose demonstration at 10 a.m.

Cossar State Park is presenting Dancing in the Park from 10 am-4 pm on Sat., Sept. 5. Vendors are invited and should call the office at 662-623-7356 and press 2 to get signed up. They will have the mechanical bull ride for \$5 a ride. There will be a \$2 entry fee at the Park Gatehouse.

Friends of Cossar State Park met this past Sunday afternoon and discussed the major projects for which they need more volunteers! If you can paint or help replace borders around the playground or if you have chain saws and want to help our Park, the major projects are to paint the playground equipment, put the new borders around the playground, and clear the hiking trail, the Friends of Cossar need you!

Congratulations to Oakland's Pilgram Rest Church of God in Christ on their 62nd anniversary. Mary Ann Johnson, an active member there, shared that Pastor

L.D. O'Bryant started the church and is still the Pastor! She said they started out meeting in people's houses, then a chicken coop type house, then a traditional white church building and now they have one of the prettiest buildings in Oakland, out on Hwy. 51. Mayor Stephanie Patterson welcomed the people and Superintendent Michael C. Hickmon of Abundant Harvest in Charleston was the Guest Speaker. Ms. Johnson said people came from all over the state and some from Atlanta and Memphis to help celebrate the anniversary. After the service, they fed all of those folks estimated to be 250 to 300.

We had a wonderful group of parents and interested community members last week at our Montessori School community informational meeting. Brooke Fly, a long-time Montessori leader, shared information with us about the Montessori program. The five core areas of Montessori at all age levels include Practical Life, which includes everyday life skills such as learning to pour water, cleaning off tables, and practicing "grace and courtesy"; Sensorial skills which refine the five senses and teach children to observe, classify, compare and categorize; Mathematics; Language; and Cultural Studies which encompasses science, geography, history, botany, zoology and art and music. It has a fascinating history led by Maria Montessori who was an MD who developed the Montessori approach to education in the very early 1900s. Google her for more information. A few famous Montessori students include the founders of Google and the founder of Amazon.

My newest daughter-in-

law, Rosy, is a child and family therapist and very knowledgeable about the Montessori program bought one of the special "learning toys" or Montessori materials for her 1-year-old and had it here at Mother's this past weekend as we celebrated baby Huckleberry's first birthday. She wanted to see how all the children of different ages played with it. It was really interesting to watch. They ALL, from age 12 to 9-month-olds, played and interacted with these large stone-like toys. They are a little like big turtle shells—one side is sort of hollow and the other is rounded a bit. The babies turned the components into a bowl and dropped things into those, learning to sort without even knowing it. The older kids stacked them and stood on top of the tower it created, some balancing on one leg! One of the older toddlers put one of the "bowls" on top of his head like a very large hat.

Rosy's heritage is Korean so we had a really fun 1st birthday with a Korean tradition of placing items on a tray that represented different facets of life. Some were things like a long string for longevity or coins for wealth. Others were possible career choices with medicine represented by a stethoscope, leadership by a medallion, engineering and architecture by a pencil, agriculture by a tractor, law by a gavel, education by a book, and athletics by a ball. Each guest got to guess ahead of time what she would choose and dropped their name into a jar with a picture of the corresponding item. Then the tray is placed on the floor and the baby crawls to it and selects something. She had to chose it and hold on to it for a bit. She touched several, but finally selected the tractor! We then let the other two crawling babies do the same and they both chose the ball. It was fun. In our case, there were three people who had

put their name in the tractor jar, so they each won a prize. Just down the street, there was a baby shower for Nick Knowles and his wife Carrie who are expecting their first baby in September. We wish you much joy and happiness!

We have several in our community who we want to wish speedy recoveries. We are including Faye Tackett, Carol Williams, and Artie Hoff. I'm sure there are others, but these are the ones reported to me.

The Oakland Area Chamber is excited to welcome Lori Gray to our board. Lori is employed with Grays Power Supply. Grays is Oakland's second largest employer and I am always amazed to find out what Michael Gray is planning next! Right now, he is building space to increase the size of the wine and liquor shop and to add several new businesses just off the interstate. If you are looking for space in Oakland, check out the space he is building just west of the Shell station.

One of Chamber members and biggest supporters is Cypress Creek Farms between Oakland and Coffeeville. Some just call it the watermelon shed, but they are in full swing and the melons are better than ever! Thanks to Cypress Creek for always donating to our events both as sponsors and



Huckleberry Choses Her Future--In the Korean tradition, when babies celebrate their first birthday, the baby choses from an assortment of items which may lead to a future career. Guess what Huckleberry chose!

See more pictures on page 7.



with watermelons! It is a very large operation and while you and I can drive up and buy a few watermelons, cantaloupe, and other goodies, they have big 18-wheelers pulling in from all across the South getting loaded for buyers. Recently, a woman from Chicago showed up with a big truck and trailer and loaded up. Yalobusha County melons

are literally going places we might not have ever imagined. Thanks to the Burneys and my sister, Janet Ross Caulder, for their support.

Thanks for reading and for telling me you are reading! It's really nice when I get a note or run into someone who lets me know they enjoy seeing what's going on in Oakland.

Yalobusha County melons



Tillatoba News

By Patcie Deck

Love and sympathy to the Larry Moore Hunter, family of Grenada.

Mr. Larry Moore Hunter, 79, of Grenada, passed away Friday, July 10, 2026 at The Magnolia at Oxford Commons in Oxford.

Survivors include his loving and devoted wife, Rebecca Conway Hunter; daughters, Amanda Hunter Brown(Riley) of Mantee and Lora Elizabeth Hunter(Chanelle) of Oxford; son, Gregg Hunter of Eupora; sister, Peggy Nutt(Danny) of Vienna, GA; nine grandchildren, and two great grandchildren.

Tillatoba Baptist Church VBS started Sunday afternoon, July 12-15 starting at 6 PM. The title for this year's VBS is Illumination Station.

Diane Dukes reported it might've been 28 to 30 present for the first night. Not as good as last year but everybody had a good time.

Those helping with VBS are Diane Dukes, Virginia Beavers, Terri Dukes, Sam Pullen, Lori McCollums, Diane Loftin, Bubba Howe and Mark Hartley. Mark does the popcorn and it's de-

licious. Diane Dukes was slipping a few pieces of it while Terri wasn't looking. (Diane is not supposed to be eating popcorn.) She said it smelled so good that she could not resist! And we all enjoyed it very much.

Diane said Brother Rickey preached a good sermon Sunday morning.

Debbie McCool reports keeping her son-in-law, Jason Beavers, busy this week. He pulled the carpet up in our living room and put down a wood floor. One more coat of varnish and we get to go home! It looks beautiful.

Freda Weir said they are just trying to stay cool. I'm afraid that's not easy these days, Freda!

Martha Box said this daddgumm heat is absolutely axycray (crazy in pig Latin!) Bakersfield California 116 degrees in the shade was more tolerable than this week at Tillatoba Ms.

Princess Millie Kate, my new little great granddaughter, came by to see me Friday. As she was lying snug on Aunt Lillie's shoulder, she heard GiGi's voice. 1 week old and she raised her

head and shoulders and looked about! Lol, we all almost jumped to attention, said Martha!

It was a great ride over to Pine Grove Church Sunday. Wonderful Word per Bro. Scarborough. God's greatest creation among all His creations is the Way of Salvation for us all Jesus!

Sure enjoyed all the singing and Joy felt there.

Loved the visit with friends and family. And special moments with my Gboy Josh, such a handsome guitar picking sweetheart!

Missed Jake, hope he will be home next week.

Jacque Chambers said she has been busy taking care of the sick folks on The Compound.

Our visitors this week were Jason Beavers Bobby Ray Jackson and our daughter, Donna.

Celebrating birthdays this week are Patrick Darby on the 17th, Dale Dukes on the 18th, Holly Paige Dukes and Tommy McCool on the 19th and Patricia Lindley on the 21st. I hope you all have a wonderful time celebrating your special day!

Recipe for the week: Orange Chicken over Rice
Ingredients:

- 1 bag of Popcorn Chicken
- 3 cups of water
- 2 cups of rice one jar of orange marmalade
- 1 cup of barbecue sauce

6 tablespoons of soy sauce

Cook chicken according to package directions. Boil 3 cups of water, rinse rice, cook according to directions. In a bowl, combine orange, marmalade, barbecue sauce, and soy sauce. Add cooked chicken and toss in the sauce. Add rice to a bowl, top with the coated chicken, serve and enjoy.

Thought for the day... I hate it when people ask me if I did anything exciting over the weekend. Like I'm over here skydiving...I'm old. I went to Walmart, did some laundry, ate too much food and took a nap.



Who Is It?



Last week's "Who Is It?" was Mark Scobey. Sarah Williams, who remembers taking the picture and his mother, Jean Scobey 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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