

The Coffeeville Courier

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Minister R. Frank Nichols

Minister Nichols spoke to over 100 attendees Monday morning at the Mt. Moriah Association building during the celebration of Dr. Martin Luther King. Retired police chief from Starkville received many awards in law-enforcement, the military and in the community, including being recognized by the Mississippi House of Representatives for exemplary service. Although Minister Nichols has achieved many firsts and many accolades, he is first and foremost, a servant.



Mt. Moriah District Missionary Baptist Association Honors Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Moderator Calvin Hawkins (left) introduces Minister R. Frank Nichols, keynote speaker, to more than 100 attendees at the Mt. Moriah Association building Monday morning, January 19th, 2026. The celebration was outstanding.



Pirate Basketball Winding Regular Season Up

Pirates traveled to Calhoun City last week and dropped both games.

Lady Pirates faced Coach E and her Lady Wildcats and it was all Lady Wildcats. The final was Lady Wildcats 53 to Lady Pirates 35 dropping the Lady Pirates to 1-2 in district play. Sherri Upshaw put up 13 in the contest but the press was tough from the Lady Wildacts. Lady Pirates will face Houlika Tuesday evening at 6 pm at 1 Pirate Drive. Houlika comes in looking for their first win of the season and Pirates seek their fourth win of the season. Lady Pirates desperately need a win in hopes of being a 4 seed in the district tournament.

Pirates took a licking at Calhoun City dropping the game 77-50 making them 1-

2 in district play and 6-12 over-all. Pirates will host a tough Houlika team Tuesday evening and then travel to Baldwin and Vardaman Thursday and Friday. This week will decide where the Pirates stand in the district rankings and will determine whether or not they will be a 3 or 4 seed going into the tourney.

Senior night will be February 3rd as the Pirates host South Panola. Lot of basketball left to play and both teams have a good shot at making the State Tournament.

See Y'all at the game!!



OAKLAND'S YALO-RIBBON FESTIVAL FEATURES DANICA HART

May 2nd Event in at Swearingen Park in Oakland

With headliner Danica Hart, formerly of Chapel Hart, and increased awareness of Oakland's Yalo-Ribbon Festival, organizers have chosen to move the event to the larger James Riley Swearingen Walking Track and Park. This year, the Festival takes place on Sat., May 2 from 2 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

"We are often asked about the name of the festival. The Yalo-Ribbon Festival was named in honor of the oak trees discovered by settlers with a twist on the Yalobusha County location and the famous Yellow Ribbon song of welcome and redemption," said Sue Donohue Smith, Oakland Area Chamber of Commerce Executive Director. "This year promises to be our biggest event yet. We are shifting to an afternoon/early evening event and moving

to a larger space."

The Ed and Becky Meek Foundation is once again sponsoring the Festival's Music Stage. The sponsorship is in memory of Ed's mother Ernestine Priddy Meek, who lived and worked in Oakland in Ed's early childhood, as well as his cousin and her husband the late Fae Priddy Ross and Thomas Ross who were also a part of the fabric of the town for many years.

The Festival begins at 2 p.m. with arts and crafts vendors, food trucks, the kid zone, and the now traditional Oakland Cake Walk. Music throughout the Festival will include curated DJ selections along with live music.

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