

# DANICA HART COMES TO OAKLAND'S YALO-RIBBON FESTIVAL

## Saturday Event in at Swaengen Park in Oakland



*Rebel guards the large mound of yellow ribbons which will soon be hung all over Oakland as it prepares for Saturday's Yalo-Ribbon Festival. Oakland Area Chamber Executive Director Sue Donohue Smith claims Rebel who was helping her out at the Chamber Office.*

Volunteers in Oakland have been cleaning Swaengen Park and hanging yellow ribbons to welcome guests to the 5th Yalo-Ribbon Festival. With headliner Danica Hart, formerly of Chapel Hart, and increased awareness of Oakland's Yalo-Ribbon Festival, organizers have moved the event to the larger James Riley Swaengen Walking Track and Park at 61 Walnut St. This year, the Festival takes place on Sat., May 2 from 2 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. There is no charge to attend.

Vendors, including arts and crafts and food trucks, will be on hand as well as a number of non-profit exhibitors.

Friends of Cossar State Park will be conducting a petition drive to improve funding and resources at Cossar.

The Kids Zone will include an inflatable maze,

balloon art, lawn games, and plenty of running and playing space.

The ever-popular Oakland Cake Walk will start at 2:45 p.m. Tickets will be available at the Chamber of Commerce booth at the Festival until 10 minutes before the walk starts. Cakes and baked goods are the prizes.

DJ Bobby Murphree often describes the cake walk this way, "A cake walk is like musical chairs except you win a wonderful home baked cake or baked goods to take home if you are standing on the magic number when the music stops!"

Miss University Cameron Davis will make an on-stage appearance at 3:15 and then spend time with youngsters who would like to visit and get photos made.

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. Attendees are encouraged to bring chairs or blankets for seating. No coolers are allowed.

The Stayin' Alive Singers from DeSoto County will open the live music portion of the evening at 4 p.m. The singers are people over 60 who love music and entertaining. They perform at venues around north Mississippi including retirement homes, churches, car shows and community events. Music from the 1950's, 60's and 70's is their signature sound.

Headliner Danica Hart takes the stage at 5 p.m. A powerhouse country vocalist known for her heartfelt storytelling and a Mississippi native, her goal is to leave the audience encouraged and inspired. A portion of her performance is provided from a grant by the Mississippi Humanities Council and the America250 Mississippi Commission.

"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.

"The crowd should brush up on the words to 'Tie A Yellow Ribbon 'Round the Old Oak Tree.' We are expecting a sing-along led by the Stayin' Alive Singers," Smith said.

Follow the Chamber on Facebook at Oakland Area Chamber. Go to [www.oaklandareachamber.com](http://www.oaklandareachamber.com) for upcoming events and membership information.

## Coffeeville . . .

( Cont'd. from front page )

and is a member of Southside Church of Christ, where she has taught children's church, Sunday School, and ladies' Bible class. Meg's message will be a blessing to those who attend the luncheon, and we are thrilled to have her speak.



*Enid Depot Restaurant has been recognized as Mississippi's Most Iconic Restaurant by Business Insider. The restaurant was named Best Steakhouse in Mississippi in 2025.*

Oakland Area Chamber of Commerce presents

# Yalo-Ribbon Festival

## Saturday, May 2

2:00 PM – Swaengen Park  
61 Walnut Street – Oakland

- Cake Walk**
- Children's Zone**
- Food Trucks**
- Vendor Booths**
- Music All Day**

**Stayin' Alive Singers – 4:00 PM**

**Danica Hart – 5:00 PM**

Vendor Applications:  
[oaklandareachamber.com](http://oaklandareachamber.com)

**DON'T FORGET:**  
Bring chairs or blankets  
Coolers NOT allowed