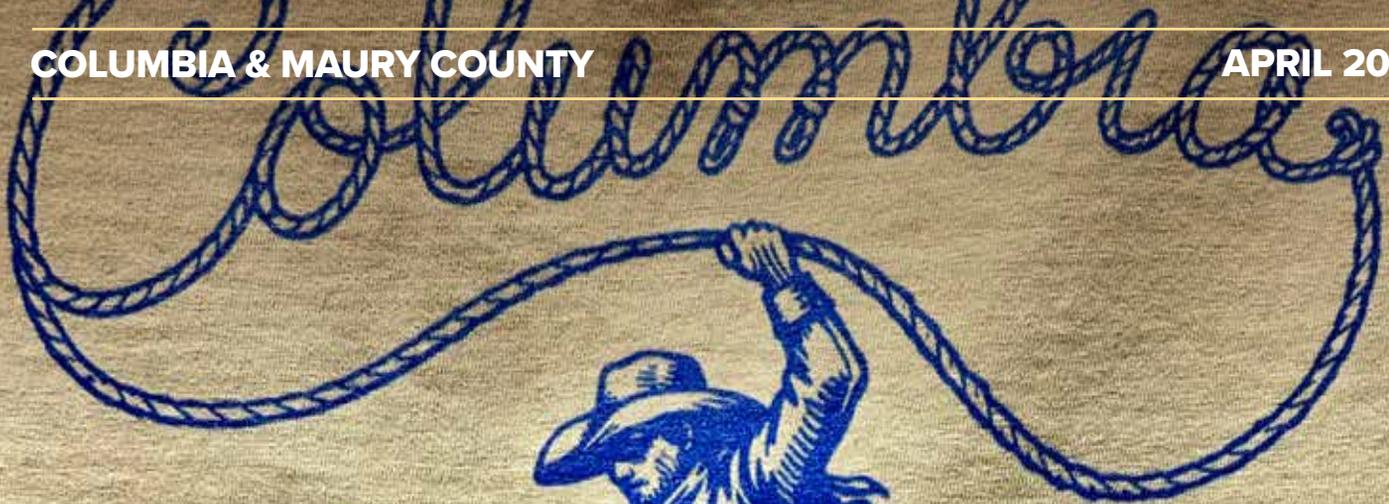


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*Mule Day has been a tradition in Maury County since the 1840's. We welcome you to celebrate this week-long festival of mule contests, crafts, vendors, storytelling, and excitement..... all culminating in our Mule Day Parade on Saturday April 11!*

**Sheila Butt, Maury County Mayor**



**Interesting Fact:**

*George Washington appreciated the quality of mules and is said to have been the first breeder of mules.*

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# Inside *{local}* April '26

**10**

## IT'S MULE DAY IN MAURY

Plan your visits and get ready for the annual event of the year

**16**

## MULE DAY SCHEDULE

A lot of exciting things happening in the community



ON THE COVER: Artwork courtesy of Visit Columbia. [visitcolumbiatn.com](http://visitcolumbiatn.com)

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2026

# MULE DAY



## THE PARADE

**2026 MULE DAY PARADE**  
**SATURDAY - APRIL 11 11:00 | DOWNTOWN COLUMBIA**

Mule Day is thrilled to announce the 2026 Mule Day Parade Grand Marshal: Sterling Marlin! A proud Maury County native, Marlin is celebrated for his back-to-back Daytona 500 victories in 1994 & 1995 and is recognized as one of NASCAR's top 75 drivers of all time! Inducted into the Tennessee Sports Hall of Fame, Sterling still calls this community home. His family has farmed this land for hundreds of years, and his roots run deep, just as his inspiring legacy does.



## COMMUNITY IMPACT

### MULE DAY WORKS SCHOLARSHIPS

After decades of charitable support that has largely taken place behind the scenes, the Maury County Bridle and Saddle Club and Mule Day have elected to focus their efforts on supporting CTE (Career & Technical Education) and Vocational Training. For nearly 50 years, funds raised from Mule Day have supported local schools and civic organizations, as well as multiple construction and site improvements at the Maury County Park.

Career & Technical Training and Vocational Training is an extremely broad umbrella, covering careers from linemen, welding, auto technicians, HVAC, and construction trades to medical certification, beauticians, pharmacy tech, administrative technology, criminal justice fields, and musical careers. Bottom line is this, Mules moved the world for hundreds of years, now Mule Day is working to positively impact the lives of young people in Maury County.



## QUEEN AND COURT 2026

The 2026 Mule Day Pageant was an incredible celebration held on Saturday, February 21, at Columbia State Community College. This wonderful event crowned its winners, pictured left to right: 4th runner-up, Lailah Webster; 2nd runner-up, Graciee English; 2026 Mule Day Queen, Ava Sykes; 1st runner-up, Phynlee Keeling; and 3rd runner-up, Cayley Crews. Congratulations to all! Photo by Mark Herron.



**SEE SCHEDULE OF MULE DAY EVENTS PAGE 16**

## CLOGGERS



# FUN PLANNER

## THE MULES ARE THE STAR OF THE SHOW

Each year the stars of Mule Day, the mules, take center stage in events such as feed time races, old-fashioned log pulls, the driving and riding mule shows, plus the Gaited Mule Tennessee State Championship and The Mule Pulling Tennessee State Championship.



## TAKE HOME A MEMORY

Commemorate your visit with a Mule Day souvenir. This year, pick up a T-shirt, cap, hoodie, hat, button, pin, mug, or other surprises at the Baker Building. The annual knife auction features collectible knives from past and current years, with only a limited number of knives honoring 2026 available for purchase.

## MORE FUN FOR EVERYONE

Mule Day's schedule offers much more than mules. The event will also include the Annual Fun Dog Show on Thursday, April 9th, at 1pm. This event highlights the best costumes, tricks, and much more.

On Saturday night, don't miss Clogging and Line Dancing. Held at the 4-H Ridley Center, the event will feature the Muletown Stompers and the Urban Cowboy Line Dancing Company. The Classiest & Trashiest Wagon Show is a new addition to Mule Day. Check the final schedule for its time and location, and join the fun, whether you prefer fancy or basic wagons.

Mule Day 2026 would not be complete without live music, the Liar's Contest, the Auctioneers Championship, craft fair, children's activities, food, and so much more. Visit [muleday.com](http://muleday.com) for the complete event schedule and plan your week.





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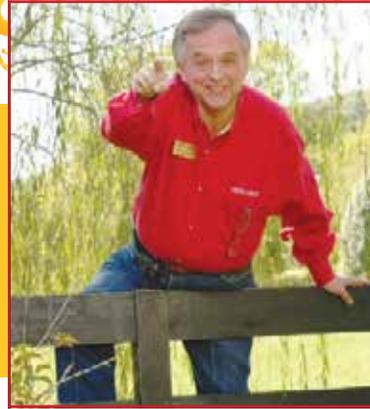
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# MULE DAY SCHEDULE 2026

## WEDNESDAY, APRIL 8th

Mid-Afternoon Wagon Train Arrives at Maury County Park

## THURSDAY, APRIL 9th

10 a.m. – 7 p.m. Craft Fair

10:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m. Live Music – Main Stage

11:30 a.m. Little Miss Mule Day – Columbia Central Auditorium

12:00 Noon Old Fashioned Log Pull – Main Arena

1:00 p.m. Mule Day Dog Show – Old Arena

2:00 p.m. Feed Time Race – Main Arena

4:00 p.m. Classiest & Trashiest Wagon Show - Main Arena

7:00 p.m. Bluegrass Music Fest – Columbia Central

## FRIDAY, APRIL 10th

9:00 a.m. Auctioneers at TN Livestock Producers Sales Barn – contest

10:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m. Mule Day Craft Fair

10:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m. Live Music – Main Stage

10:30 a.m. Riding Mule Show – Main Arena

Following Riding Mule Show, Jackpot Mule Races – Main Arena

12:00 Noon Driving Mule Show – Old Arena

3:00 p.m. Farm Pulling – Main Arena

5:30 p.m. Cart Barrel Races – Main Arena

6:00 p.m. Gaited Mule Show – Old Arena

6:00 p.m. Live Music – Ridley 4-H Center with Tony Malugin

7:00 p.m. Liars' Contest – Columbia High

## SATURDAY, APRIL 11th

6:00 a.m. Pancake Breakfast – Memorial Bldg

8:00 a.m. Maury Regional 5K Mule Kick Race – Riverside Park

10:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m. Mule Day Craft Fair

10:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m. Live Music – Main Stage

11:00 a.m. Mule Day Parade – Downtown

11:00 a.m. Mule Pulling – Main Arena – Followed by Miniature Horse Pull

2:00 p.m. Skillington Draft Mule Show – Old Arena

2:00 p.m. Knife Auction – Main Stage

6:00 p.m. Mule Town Stompers & Urban Cowboy Line  
Dancing at Ridley 4-H Center

# Welcome to Mule Day 2026!

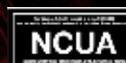


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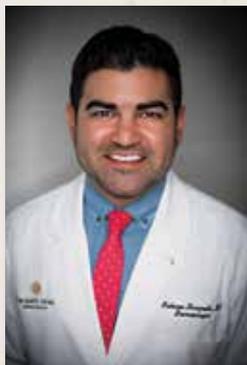
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# Great RECIPES

## Orange Shrimp Quinoa Bowls



### INGREDIENTS

CUP QUINOA  
CUP ORANGE JUICE  
1 TABLESPOON HOT SAUCE  
1 TABLESPOON HONEY  
1 TABLESPOON SOY SAUCE  
4 TABLESPOONS VEGETABLE OIL  
1 TABLESPOON LIME JUICE  
1 TABLESPOON WHITE MISO  
1/4 CUP BUTTER  
1 1/2 POUNDS SHRIMP, PEELED, DEVEINED AND TAILS REMOVED  
1/4 TEASPOON SALT  
1/8 TEASPOON PEPPER  
1 CUP MUSHROOMS, SLICED  
1 RED BELL PEPPER, DICED  
1 CUCUMBER, SLICED INTO HALF MOONS  
5 GREEN ONIONS, SLICED  
1 AVOCADO, SLICED  
1 TEASPOON SESAME SEEDS  
2 TABLESPOONS CILANTRO, CHOPPED

### DIRECTIONS

- Cook quinoa according to package instructions. Set aside.
- In medium bowl, whisk orange juice, hot sauce, honey, soy sauce, vegetable oil, lime juice and miso until combined. Pour one-quarter of liquid into separate bowl. Set aside.
- Add shrimp to remaining mixture and marinate 15 minutes.
- Heat large skillet over medium heat with butter. Add shrimp, salt and pepper. Cook 2 minutes on each side until pink. Add mushrooms and cook until tender.
- In two serving bowls, divide quinoa, bell pepper, cucumber, onions, avocado and shrimp. Sprinkle sesame seeds and cilantro over both bowls.
- Drizzle with reserved dressing.

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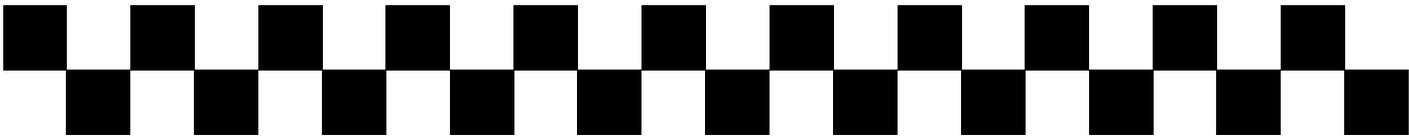
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