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MARCH 2023

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Inside *{local}* March '23



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MULE DAY 2023

Schedules, history, events,
and all the fun

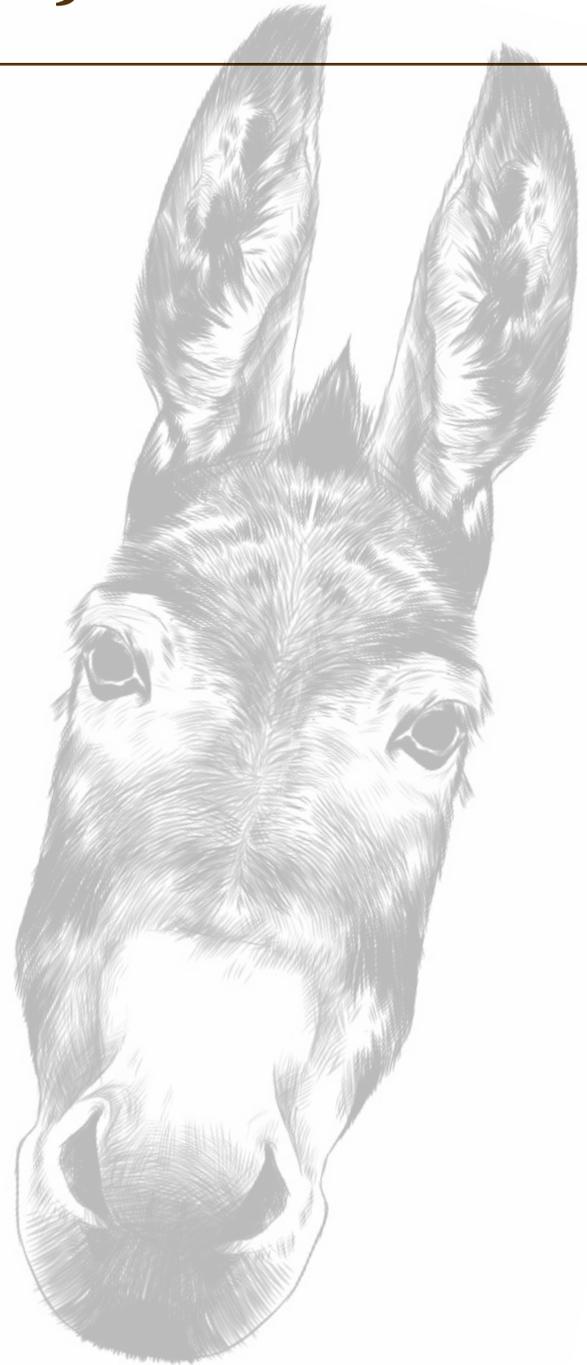
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ON THE COVER: *Addyson Codling is crowned Mule Day Queen by Kayla Gibson the 2022 queen. Photo by Rachael Houston.*

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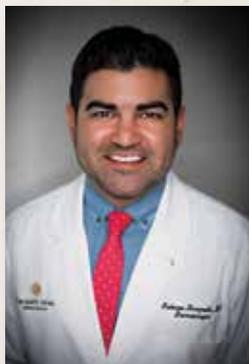
For more information, please go to harpethvalleydermatology.com or call us at **615-905-8083**.



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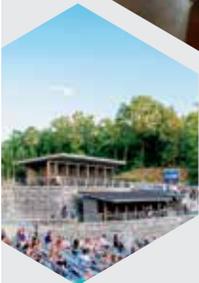


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2023

MULE DAY



PAM WINDSOR

MARCH 30 – APRIL 2 | Organizers have been hard at work behind the scenes, and this year's Mule Day festival, sponsored by the Maury County Bridle and Saddle Club, will be bigger than ever. The four-day event celebrating Columbia's heritage as the "Mule Capital of the World" features mule shows and competitions, arts and crafts, live music, food concessions, a wagon train, a parade, and so much more.



MULE DAY HISTORY

"This is a celebration of the mule," says Louise Mills, who has helped organize the festival for more than two decades. "It goes back to the 1800s when it was a one-day livestock and mule market, then in 1934 when we held the first Mule Day, and from there has kind of built itself to where it is today. In the early days, it went by different names, like Breeder's Day or First Monday when it was a one-day event. But when we took it over as a club, we started going four days."

EVENTS, PARADES AND MORE

The festival is centered in Maury County Park, with things kicking off on Thursday, March 30th. One event you can catch early, however, is the Wagon Train. It's a longtime favorite.

"The Wagon Train is allotted 50 wagons, and they go to a designated location and ride out every day into the country and back to their camp at night," says Mills. "On Wednesday, they make their way into Maury County Park. You can go down to the front of the park and see everything that's coming through."

Mule Day is well-known for its spectacular parade, which takes place outside the park.

"The parade is a high point of the festival because it's in downtown Columbia. It takes place on Saturday, and there are usually around 350 entries."

Thousands always gather along the parade route, so if you plan to go – get there early. It starts at 11:00am.

While Mule Day is built on tradition, there are often new additions.



Photos courtesy of Louise Mills and Mandy Mills



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2023 MULE DAY



The Queen and Her Court (L to R) **Addyson Codling**, Mule Day Queen. **Graicee English**, 1st Runner up. **Anissa Grimes**, 2nd Runner up. **Kennedy Bragg**, 3rd Runner up and **Ava Sykes** 4th Runner up.

CROWNING A QUEEN

“We do try to change up some things,” Mills explains. “We have an annual Queen’s contest, and we choose a queen, and she and her court reign over the festival. The age range for that is between 15 and 21. This year, for the first time ever, we’re having a contest for newborns up to age 14.

Photos courtesy of Rachael Houston.





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2023

MULE DAY



GENERAL INFO

Admission for the festival is \$10 per day (kids under 12 get in free), or you can buy a \$25 pass that gives you access to all four days. Mills notes that since it's a family-centered event, some restrictions exist.

"We do not allow alcoholic beverages in the park or downtown around the parade. We want to keep it family-oriented, plus liquor and animals generally don't mix very well."



GREAT PEOPLE MAKE IT HAPPEN

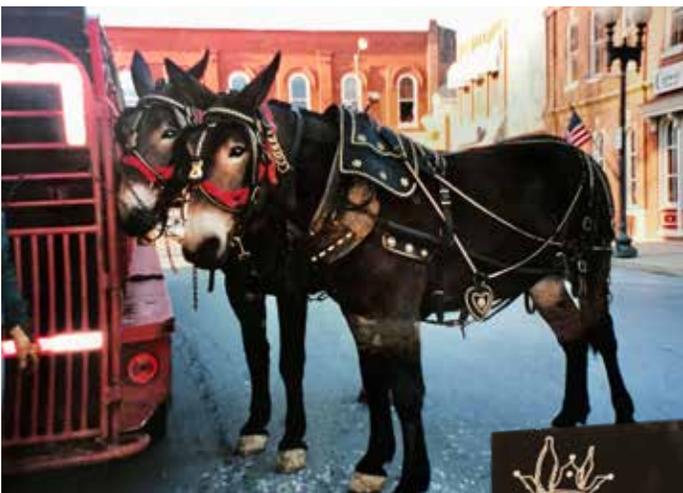
There is extensive planning that goes into putting Mule Day together every year. Mills credits great people and sponsors for making it happen.

"We have a lot of good workers who chip in and get it done." The festival not only provides a lot of fun and great memories for everyone who attends, once it's over and the bills are paid, proceeds go back into the Maury County community, supporting local schools and other organizations.

It's such a wonderful event, Mills, who worked as office manager for the festival for 22 years before recently retiring, couldn't give it up. She's still helping part-time.

"I love it. I love the people I work with, as well as the people who come and visit us. They look forward to it, and I look forward to seeing them every year. It's such a neat event; once you get involved, you just can't quit."

For more information, you can email info@muleday.com or call (931) 381-9557.



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2023

MULE DAY



SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

THURSDAY, MARCH 30

10:00 am - 7:00 pm	Arts & Crafts/Flea Market
10:00 am - 7:00 pm	Live Music at Main Stage
12:00 Noon	Old Fashioned Log Pulling Competition - Main Arena
1:00 pm	Dog Show - Old Arena
2:00 pm	Feed Time Race - Main Arena
2:30 pm	Border Collie Herding Demonstration
4:00 pm	Jackpot Mule Races - Main Arena
4:00 pm	Miss Mule Day Pageant Newborn to age 14 - Old Arena
7:00 pm	Bluegrass Music Fest - Columbia Central High School

FRIDAY, MARCH 31

10:00 am - 7:00 pm	Arts & Crafts/Flea Market
10:00 am - 7:00 pm	Live Music at Main Stage
12:00 Noon.	State Auctioneer Contest - Tennessee Livestock Producers Sale Barn
12:00 Noon	Driving Mule Show - Old Arena
4:00 pm	Cart Barrel Races - Main Arena
6:00 pm	Gaited Mule Show - Old Arena
6:30 pm	Live Music - Ridley 4-H Center
7:00 pm	Liars' Contest Mule Tales - Columbia Central High School

SATURDAY, APRIL 1

8:00 am	Maury Regional 5k Race
10:00 am - 7:00 pm	Arts & Crafts/Flea Market
10:00 am - 7:00 pm	Live Music at Main Stage
11:00 am	Mule Day Parade - Downtown
11:00 am	Mule Pull - Main Arena
12:00 Noon	Skillington Draft Mule Show - Old Arena
6:00 pm	Bluegrass Music, Line Dancing & Mule Town Stompers at Ridley 4-H Center

SUNDAY, APRIL 2

9:00 am	Worship Service - Main Stage
9:00 am	Riding Mule Show - Old Arena
10:00 am - 2:00 pm	Arts & Crafts/Flea Market
12:00 Noon	Gospel Singing - Main Stage
12:30 pm	Riding Mule Show - Main Arena

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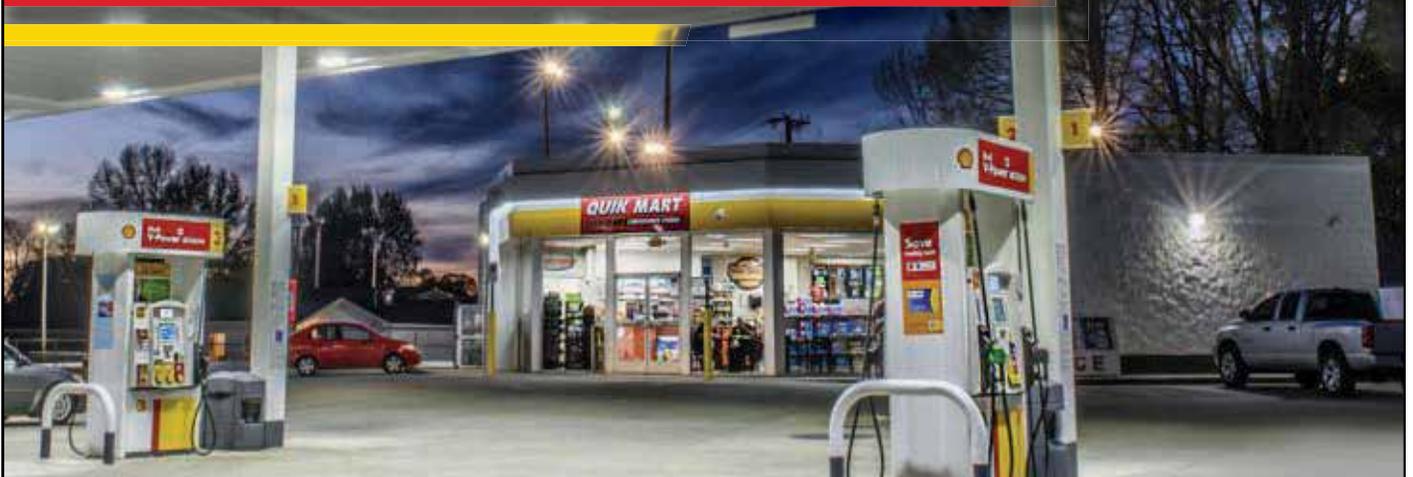
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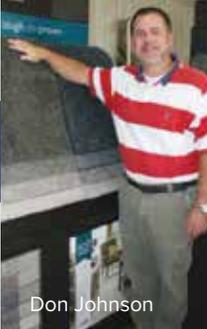
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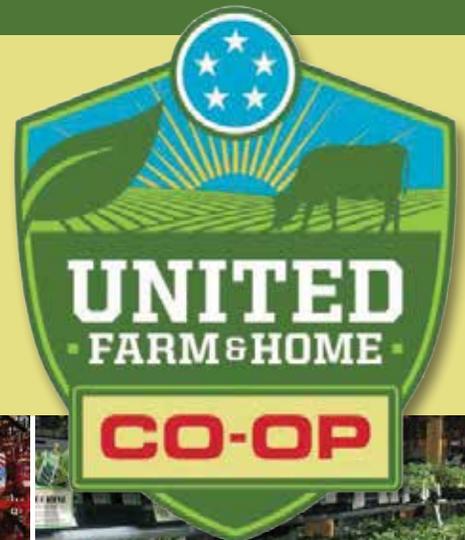
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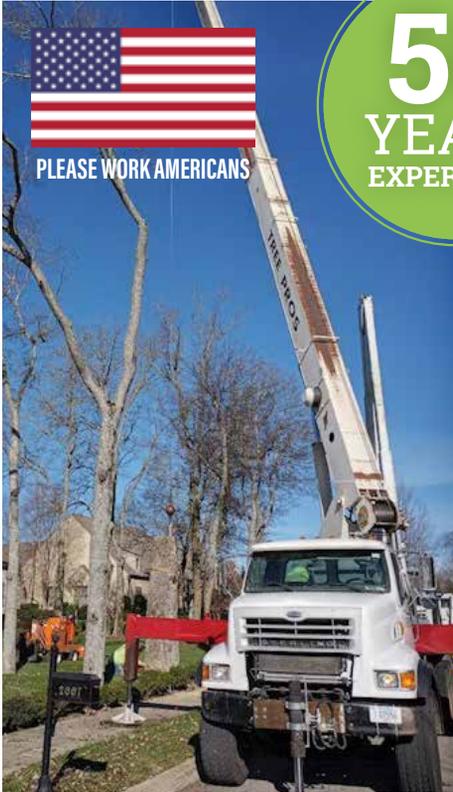
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George Gore, Jaime Gore, Tracy Bryan, Robert Adair. Photography by Robbie Mathis

ELECTRICAL CONTRACTOR SERVES COLUMBIA AND THE REST OF MIDDLE TENNESSEE

BY JASON ZASKY

Since 1993, Southern Electric of TN has been the go-to electric contractor for Giles, Marshall, and Lawrence counties. But since early 2021, the locally-owned company has been under new ownership, with the founder's daughter Tracy Bryan and three longtime employees purchasing the business and extending the service area into Maury, Williamson, and the surrounding areas.

"A lot of cities like Pulaski and Hohenwald don't have electricians," says office manager and co-owner Jaime Gore, explaining why the company has long done business in Giles and Lewis counties. "But we've branched out, and we now go as far as Dickson, Murfreesboro, and Mount Juliet," not to mention the likes of Franklin and Brentwood.

As to the type of calls received, it's a lot of what you'd expect from electricians that focus on residential and light commercial work.

"We get a lot of calls about outlets and switches not working. We also change out a lot of light fixtures and electrical panels and install a lot of chandeliers and ceiling fans," says Gore, whose husband George is another co-owner, as is lead residential technician Robert Adair. "We also do a lot of remodels and new construction," she adds.

That said, spring is a great time for homeowners to make improvements to outdoor living space, with deck lighting, dedicated pool or spa circuits, and motion detection security lighting among the most commonly-requested upgrades. Southern Electric can

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< FROM PAGE 26

also help with generator installation and maintenance, not to mention parking lot lighting and storage unit lighting.

Of course, it's always a good time to be thinking about safety.

"If breakers are tripping, that needs to be checked. If outlets are loose or outlets/switches are hot to the touch, those need to be looked at," says Gore before reminding of the importance of equipping your home with properly installed, hardwired carbon monoxide detectors and smoke detectors.

The four co-owners and all the electricians employed by Southern Electric want to help.

"We like working with people. If customers need help, we are willing to work with them," says Gore, before noting that Southern Electric offers financing plans, as well as discounts for teachers, senior citizens, veterans, firemen, and police officers.

Southern Electric also maintains ties with the community, sponsoring teams at local schools and sponsoring the annual golf tournament of the Tennessee Children's Home.

It's all in keeping with the family-oriented atmosphere at the company, not to mention the vibe of the company's hometown.

"I love the family atmosphere and the fact that there are so many local and family businesses in Spring Hill. It's also nice being in close proximity to everything you might need," offers Gore, who says she looks forward to the continued growth of Middle Tennessee counties in the coming years.

"We would like to see the business grow further," she concludes. "We want to be everyone's go-to electrical contractor."

For more info visit www.callsouthernelectrictoday.com or see their ad on page 23



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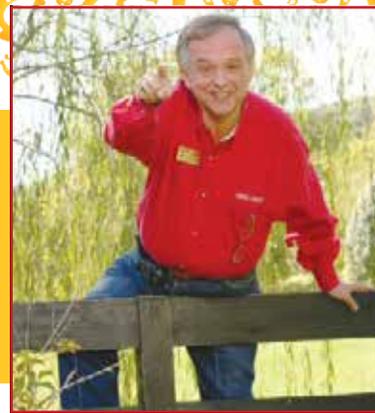


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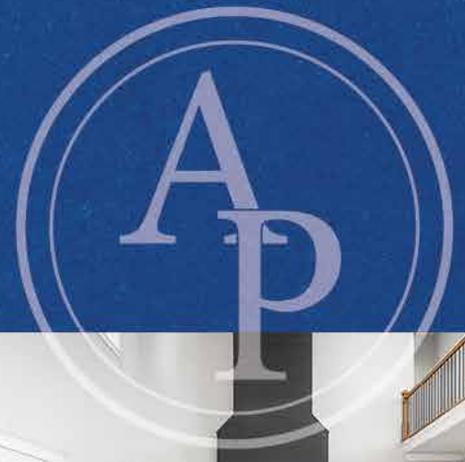
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