



**2025**

# **MULE DAY**

**APRIL 3-6**  
**COLUMBIA, TN**



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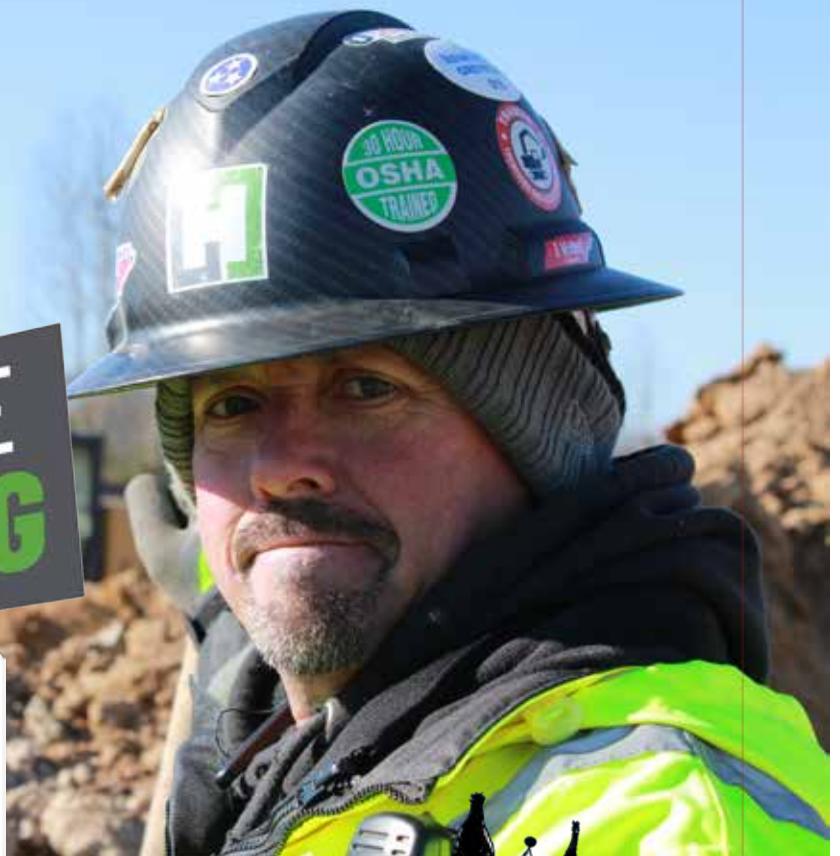


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2025**



# Welcome to Mule Day 2025



**I WOULD LIKE TO PERSONALLY WELCOME EVERYONE TO THE 2025 MULE DAY CELEBRATION.** This year will feature all the shows you know and love, like the Tennessee State Gaited Mule Championship, Mule Pull, Draft Shows, exciting and informative exhibitions, arts and crafts, plus all the great food Mule Day is famous for.

Plus, a couple of world-renowned mule men: World-famous mule trainer, Steve Edwards will be conducting multiple clinics, with an emphasis on solving problems, proper saddle fitting and tacking up your mule properly. We are excited to announce the Mountain Mule Packers, that helped with the hurricane relief efforts in North Carolina, will be joining us this year.



They stepped up when the storms hit Western North Carolina and East Tennessee. They will be the 2025 Grand Marshal of the Mule Day Parade. Mike, Michelle and their team will be at the Maury County Park Friday and Saturday with their pack mules. Come visit with true American Heros and get a selfie with the most famous mules in the world.

We encourage people to arrive early and enjoy some of the sites and attractions of beautiful Columbia and Maury County, like our quaint downtown shopping district, great local food and numerous antebellum homes.

We, the Mule Day committee, lowered some of our prices last year to try to make it an affordable family

friendly event. We are proud to say we have kept the prices the same as last year.

The Mule Day Office opens in January. If you have any questions, please call us at 931-381-9557 or email at [info@muleday.com](mailto:info@muleday.com). Looking forward to seeing you at Mule Day.

*Harvey Spann  
Mule Day Committee Chairman  
President, Maury County Bridle and Saddle Club*



## About the Cover

Mule Day is proud to welcome the Mountain Mule Ranch Packers, the heroes of Hurricane Helene, to Columbia for Mule Day. To learn more about their story of strength, endurance and generosity see page 24. Come to the Maury County Park on Friday & Saturday to meet the mules and humans that impacted hundreds of desperate people.



Photo courtesy of Western Mule Magazine

# 2024 King Mule *June*

***2024 Grand Champion "KING MULE", "June" owned by Joe Wickey from Centerville, Michigan receives the crown from 2024 Mule Day Queen, Anissa Grimes and the Queens Court.***

# Welcome Visitors



## Mule Day Welcome on Behalf of City of Columbia

On behalf of our 45,000+ residents, it is my honor to welcome you to the City of Columbia and one of the best, most unique annual events in the

United States: Mule Day!

Whether this is your first Mule Day, or you've attended all your life like me, I am confident Mule Day 2025 will be an experience to remember.

A 1941 New York Times article, in its coverage of Mule Day, noted that the City of Columbia was located in the 'bluegrass lands of southern Middle Tennessee,' and welcomed 60,000 visitors from 29 states. Today, 80 years later, we are pleased to welcome over 100,000 visitors from all 50 states and from countries across the globe.

I often wonder what the group of citizens whose 'idea' led to the establishment of Mule Day would think about the Columbia of 2025.

We are a city with a renewed sense of vibrancy; a city on the forefront of growth and prosperity; and we are a city that appreciates its past but has an ever watchful eye to the future.

I think they would be proud of our city; and whether you live here or are just passing through, it is my hope that you are proud of this city, too.

During the weekend's festivities, we encourage you to explore all that Columbia has to offer. Visit our historical downtown district, check out our 'Arts District,' enjoy recreational activities at one of our many parks and greenspaces, and visit the James K. Polk Ancestral Home and Museum. You'll be glad you did!

I hope to see you out and about over the Mule Day weekend. If you have any comments about our community, or would like to learn more, my door is always open.

Come back and see us real soon!

*Chaz Molder*  
City Mayor, Columbia  
[chaz.molder@columbiatn.gov](mailto:chaz.molder@columbiatn.gov)



## Maury County Welcomes You to Mule Day 2025!

It is our honor to have you join us for the 2025 celebration of Mule Day in Columbia, Tennessee, one of the most beloved traditions in Middle Tennessee!

Every year, this exciting event brings together locals and visitors alike to celebrate our rich agricultural heritage, the vital role of mules in shaping our history, and the spirit of community that makes Columbia a truly special place.

Since its inception, Mule Day has grown into a one-of-a-kind event that honors the hardworking mules that played a crucial role in the development of our region and our Nation.

Today, Mule Day is not only a celebration of these incredible animals but also a time to showcase the talents, stories, and traditions of our community. From the outstanding traditional parade to the exciting mule races and shows, daily craft fair, liar's contest, the presentation of the Mule Queen and her Court and the State Auctioneer's Contest there is something for everyone to enjoy. In addition to the events at Maury County Park, we invite you to explore our lively downtown, indulge in local cuisine, visit our wonderful antique shops and immerse yourself in the music, games, and fun for all ages.

As we come together in 2025, Mule Day serves as a reminder of our shared history and the resilience that defines us. It's a time to honor the past while celebrating the present and looking forward to the future. Whether you're here for the first time or returning for another year, we hope you experience the warmth, hospitality, and excitement that make Mule Day in Columbia a tradition unlike any other. We are glad you have chosen to be a part of it!

You are our honored guests.

Sincerely,  
*Sheila K. Butt*  
Maury County Mayor



Mule Day OFFICE  
PO Box 66, Columbia, TN 38402  
931-381-9557  
[www.muleday.com](http://www.muleday.com) •• [info@muleday.com](mailto:info@muleday.com)

Office Hours  
JAN: Mon–Wed 9-3  
FEB: Mon–Thur 9-3  
MAR & APR: Mon–Fri 9-3

# a day in MAURY COUNTY

## START YOUR DAY



Start your day at one of our many coffeehouses with a handcrafted coffee and fresh pastry. In the mood for a larger breakfast? Try Puckett's Grocery & Restaurant to enjoy a classic southern breakfast with options like biscuits and gravy or their skillet cinnamon roll.

Mid-morning, tour one of the many historic homes and civil war sites in Maury County, such as the ancestral home of the 11th President of the United States, James K. Polk, in Columbia. Another terrific option is Ripa Villa, located in Spring Hill. It is a Greek Revival-style mansion built in the early 1850's by Nathaniel Cheairs IV. The estate played a significant role during the Civil War, particularly during the battle of Spring Hill on Nov. 29, 1864.

Not a history buff? No problem! Enjoy the beautiful, natural scenery of Maury County. Explore scenic hiking trails and waterfalls, paddle or fish along the serene Duck River or at the picturesque Williamsport Lakes, and savor fresh finds from our vibrant Farmers' Markets.



Once you've worked up an appetite for lunch, you have bountiful options! Maury County boasts a thriving local restaurant scene. Satisfy your European cravings at Grecian Family Restaurant and Bakery in Spring Hill or with authentic Italian flair at Mama Mila's. If you find yourself in Mt. Pleasant, don't miss Mt. Pleasant Grille, a casual restaurant offering classic American fare, ice cream, and a full bar. And those are just a few options – from sandwich shops to steakhouses, fish & chips to pad thai, we have it all!

## MID-DAY



Spend the afternoon shopping in one of our locally owned boutiques or antique shops. Not in the mood to shop? Take in some art at the Cherry Theater/ Pryor Art Gallery at Columbia State Community College. Families with young children will enjoy a stop at aMuse'um Children's Museum, while activities for every age can be found at Tenn Pin Alley. Those looking for adventure can turn to Fisher's Off-Road Tours for a true backroads experience.

## AFTERNOON



If wine, beer, or cigars are of interest to you, you're in for a treat. Check out Amber Falls Winery in Hampshire or Grinder's Switch Winery in Columbia to sip local wines. Whiskey Alley Saloon or Ransom Spirits & Provisions offer a casual yet refined menu paired with craft cocktails, a dedicated wine list, and extensive top shelf liquor selections. Visit Bad Idea Brewery for a local beer and a sandwich from Ollie & Finn's Counter. Don't forget to visit Briarworks Pipes & Cigars. Located in a spacious lounge in a 1940's warehouse, they offer premium cigars, tobacco pipes, craft beer, cocktails, and darts.



## EVENING

Cap off your day with a dining experience featuring locally sourced menus. Visit Papa Boudreaux's Cajun Café in Santa Fe, a laid-back eatery serving Cajun delights like boudin balls, blackened shrimp cheese grits, and beignets. For a more upscale experience, head to River Terrace, where you can enjoy traditional Cajun and Creole dinners with stunning river views. Check out Prime & Pint, a steakhouse that doubles as a butcher shop, offering steaks, cocktails, and small plates in a casual setting. If you're not ready to call it a night, enjoy an evening of live music at Puckett's, The Mule House, Rebel Bar and Grill, or The Boondox—just to name a few!

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# Schedule of Events



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## MONDAY, MARCH 31st, 2025

9:00 a.m. .... Wagon Train Departs. .... Page 12

## WEDNESDAY, APRIL 2nd, 2025

Mid-Afternoon ..... Wagon Train Arrives at Maury County Park. .... Page 12

## THURSDAY, APRIL 3rd, 2025

10:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m. .... Mule Day Craft Fair ..... Page 14  
 10:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m. .... Live Music – **Main Stage** ..... All Weekend  
 12:00 Noon. .... Old Fashioned Log Pulling Competition – **Main Arena** ..... Page 33  
 1:00 p.m. .... Mule Day Dog Show ..... Old Arena  
 2:00 p.m. .... Feed Time Race – **Main Arena** ..... Page 19  
 4:00 p.m. .... Classiest & Trashiest Wagon Show. .... Main Arena  
 4:00 p.m. .... Little Miss Mule Day – **Old Arena** ..... Page 10  
 5:00 p.m. .... Steve Edwards Fixing Mule Problems & Saddle Fitting Clinic ..... Main Arena  
 7:00 p.m. .... Bluegrass Music Fest – Columbia Central High School ..... Page 33

## FRIDAY, APRIL 4th, 2025

8:30 a.m. .... Steve Edwards Fixing Mule Problems & Saddle Fitting ..... Main Arena  
 9:00 a.m. .... Auctioneers at TN Livestock Producers Sales Barn – contest ..... Page 31  
 10:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m. .... Mule Day Craft Fair ..... Page 14  
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 Following Riding Mule Show. .... Jackpot Mule Races – **Main Arena** ..... Page 48  
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 6:00 p.m. .... Live Music – Ridley 4-H Center with Tony Malugin ..... Page 32  
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## SATURDAY, APRIL 5th, 2025

6:00 a.m. .... Pancake Breakfast – Memorial Bldg. .... Page 34  
 8:00 a.m. .... Maury Regional 5K Mule Kick Race ..... Riverside Park  
 10:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m. .... Mule Day Craft Fair ..... Page 14  
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 2:00 p.m. .... Skillington Draft Mule Show – **Old Arena** ..... Page 44  
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## SUNDAY, APRIL 6th, 2025

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 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. .... Mule Day Craft Fair ..... Page 14  
 11:00 a.m. .... Mini Mania Show – **Old Arena** ..... Page 23

**NOTE:** Wagon Trains coming into Columbia should call the Mule Day office at 931-381-9557 with arrival day and time to ensure help from local police with traffic.

# Maury County Park Map



- Green Entrance - Outside Fence Area
- Red Entrance - Gate 1
- Blue Entrance - Gate 3
- Yellow Entrance - Gate 4
- Black - Exit Only

- |                              |                      |
|------------------------------|----------------------|
| ● Mule Day Office            | ① Campers            |
| Ⓐ Parking Lot                | Ⓜ Parking            |
| Ⓑ Stadium Campers            |                      |
| Ⓒ Parking Lot (Sr. Citizens) | ③ Trailer Drop       |
| Ⓚ Vendor Parking Lot         | ④ School Campers (S) |
| Ⓔ Campers Inside Fence       | Ⓚ Vendor Check-in    |

**OLD ARENA:** Front  
**MAIN ARENA:** Back





# Little Miss Mule Day

The Little Miss Mule Day Pageant with divisions for ages 0-14 will take place Thursday, April 3, 2025 in the walking horse arena at the Maury County Park. Attire for this pageant is western wear.

- Baby Miss (0-17 months)
- Toddler Miss (18-35 months)
- Tiny Miss (3-4 years)
- Petite Miss (5-6 years)
- Little Miss (7-8 years)
- Young Miss (9-10 years)
- Pre-teen Miss (11-12 years)
- Junior Miss (13-14 years)

## 2024 Little Miss Mule Day Division



**Baby Miss: 2nd RU: Karli Hoffman, Baby Miss Mule Day: Elisha Mangrum, 1st RU: Phoenix Nicholson**



**Toddler Miss: 2nd RU: Remington Partee, Toddler Miss Mule Day: Levy McKay, 1st RU: June White**



**Tiny Miss: 2nd RU: Adalyn Mae Rose, Tiny Miss Mule Day: Ellie Potts, 1st RU: Bonnie Jean Tietgens**



**Petite Miss: 2nd RU: Adalee McCanness, Petite Miss Mule Day: Chevelle Hoover, 1st RU: Nicole Bates**



**Little Miss: 2nd RU: Molly Tate, Little Miss Mule Day: Landry Thomason, 1st RU: Iris Houston**



**Young Miss: 2nd RU: Aubrey George, Young Miss Mule Day: Emma Colvin, 1st RU: Ziva Grimes**



**Pre-teen Miss: Pre-teen Miss Mule Day: Brinley Lake**



**Junior Miss: 2nd RU: Kynleigh Woodard, Junior Miss Mule Day: Madalyn Hughes, 1st RU: Alexis Price**

Registration for the Little Miss Mule Day pageant begins at 3pm on April 3rd, and the pageant begins at 4pm. All contestants must arrive and be registered before 4pm.

Please follow @muledaypageant on Facebook and Instagram for further registration information and pageant updates!



**PLAN NOW FOR  
MULE DAY 2026  
APRIL 9-12**





# Mule Day Queen Pageant

**Mule Day Queen Beauty Pageant is a Life Altering Experience – And Loads Of Fun!**

**2024 Mule Day Queen & Court**  
Mule Day Queen - Anissa Grimes  
1st Runner Up - Kennedy Bragg  
2nd Runner Up - Graciee English  
3rd Runner Up - Shae Klamert  
4th Runner Up - Ava Sykes



*Fan Into Flame Photography*

**2023 Queens, Addyson Codling, crowns 2024 Queen, Anissa Grimes**



At the Tennessee State Capital from left - 4th RU: Ava Sykes, 3rd RU: Shae Klamert, Rep. Sheila Butt, 2024 Queen: Anissa Grimes, 1974 Queen: Kimberly Williams Willis, 1st RU: Kennedy Bragg, 2nd RU: Graciee English



From left - 2nd RU: Graciee English, 3rd RU: Shae Klamert, 1st RU: Kennedy Bragg, 2024 Queen: Anissa Grimes, Honorary Queen: Carly McGee, 4th RU: Ava Sykes



*Fan Into Flame Photography*

**The 2025 Mule Day Pageant** will be held on Saturday, February 22, 2025 at 7PM in the Cherry Theater at Columbia State Community College. We will crown a Queen and her court consisting of 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th runners up. Contestants must be 15-21 years of age and a resident or student in Maury County. Cash awards will be given to the Queen and her court.

The Queen and her court will make appearances at all Mule Day events, be interviewed by local radio stations and newspapers, take a trip to the State Capitol in Nashville, and take part in other functions to promote our Mule Day event. Follow @muledaypageant on Facebook and Instagram for application details or contact the Mule Day Office.

# The Wagon Train



*Photo by Mandy Mills*

**THE WAGON TRAIN, THE KICK START TO MULE WEEK!** The wagon train was started as advertising for Mule Day to get people excited for the festivities to come by the weekend! Since 1995 the Wagon Train has traveled through rural communities for two days until it makes its way to Maury County Park on Wednesday. Observers can gather on Lion Parkway Wednesday midafternoon to welcome the Wagon Train into the park. The 2024 Wagon Train was held in Santa Fe and was hosted by the Maury County Coon Hunters Club.

The 2025 Wagon Train information will be mailed to past participants. All participants **MUST** pre-register through the Mule Day Office before the ride. No one will be allowed to register on location. If you would like to join the 2025 Wagon train you can contact the Mule Day office for more information at 931-381-9557.

**All participants "MUST" pre-register through the Mule Day Office before the ride. No one will be allowed to register on location. For more information contact the Mule Day office at 931-381-9557. ABSOLUTELY NO ALCOHOL ALLOWED.**

# MEET ME ON THE SQUARE

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- Columbia Cars & Coffee
- Second Saturdays at The Factory
- Muletown Flea Market

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# At Maury County Park

## Festivities Begin

Mule Day festivities begin Thursday at 10AM. See Schedule of Events for complete list of activities.

## Park Admission

Thursday, Friday, Saturday, \$10, 10am - 7pm, Sunday, \$5, 10am - 2pm. Weekend passes available for only \$25. All campers are required to have weekend passes whenever they arrive. Please get them when you make arrangements for camping. Price includes state amusement tax and are good for all in park activities, excluding rides.

## Craft Fair

We have one of the largest craft fairs in the area! Stop by for a unique shopping experience. With over one hundred vendors we have something for everyone. Shop handcrafted jewelry, art, quilts, home decor, apparel, furniture, western tack and clothing, toys, and more. The event only happens once a year so don't miss it!

## Concessions – Food

Italian sausage and peppers...roasted corn...pizza...philly cheese steaks... onion blossoms...kettle corn...hot apple fritters...funnel cakes...ice cream...nachos...lemonade...cotton candy...and of course hamburgers and hot dogs. As you enjoy the activities of Mule Day be sure to sample all your favorite foods. All food concessions are open until 7:00 PM, and are inspected by the Tennessee Health Department. For more information contact the Mule Day Office.



## Pickin' and Grinnin'

There will be live music throughout the entire event. There will be a variety of musical entertainment ranging from bluegrass to hillbilly. Come on out and show off your singing talent or just bring a chair and listen to various musical groups pick and grin. Stage in Arts & Crafts-Flea Market area.

## Children's Entertainment

Be sure you take your children to the entertainment section, where they will find all kinds of rubber inflatable's to bounce around on, face painting, vendors with games etc. This section which is located to the left of the **Old Arena**.

## Commercial Vendors

Limited vendor space is available at Maury County Park. Booth sizes range from 10' to 35' frontage and 10' to 20' in depth, depending on the location. Vendors with big rigs are encouraged to set-up starting Tuesday afternoon or all day on Wednesday, but everyone must be operational by 10AM on Thursday. Corporate Sponsors & equine related vendors will receive priority for new vendors.

## MULE DAY OFFICE

The Mule Day and Maury County Bridle and Saddle Club office is now located in the Exhibit Building, in the Front Parking Lot, as you enter Maury County Park, across the street from the Log Cabin.

During Mule Day week, we will continue to operate out of the Information Center, at the top of hill in front of the barn (stalls).



### Mule Day Office

PO Box 66,  
Columbia, TN 38402  
931-381-9557  
www.muleday.com  
info@muleday.com

#### Office Hours:

January: Mon - Wed / 9-3  
February: Mon - Thur / 9-3  
March & April: Mon - Fri / 9-3

**DISCLAIMER:** Under Tennessee Law, an equine activity sponsor or an equine professional, or any other person is not liable for an injury to or the death of a participant in equine activities resulting from the inherent risks of equine activities pursuant to TENNESSEE CODE ANNOTATED, SECTION 44-20-103.



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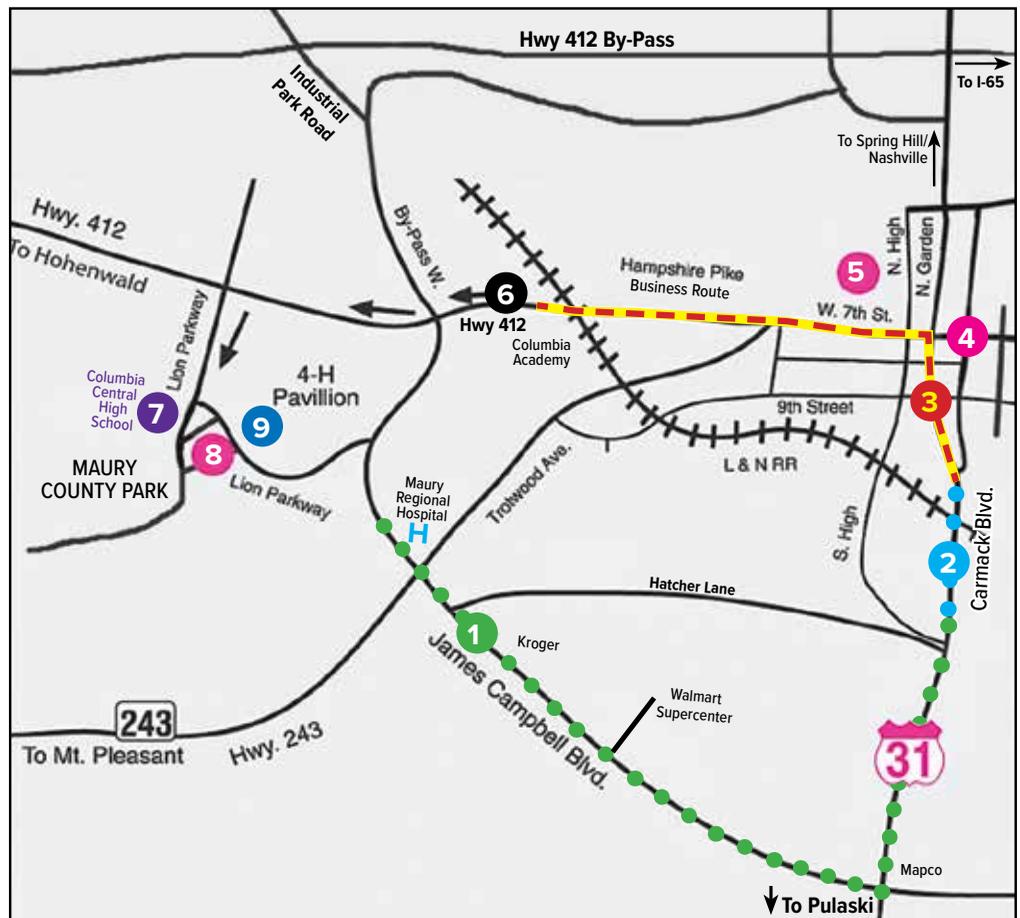
Bar

LEGEND

- 1 Route from Park to Parade Line-up  
..... James Campbell Blvd.
- 2 Parade Line-up  
..... Carmack Blvd.
- 3 Parade Route  
..... Carmack Blvd. & West 7th
- 4 Maury Co. Courthouse  
..... West 7th
- 5 Memorial Building  
..... West 7th
- 6 Columbia Academy Front Gate  
..... West 7th
- 7 Central High Auditorium  
..... Lion Pkwy
- 8 Maury County Park  
..... Lion Pkwy
- 9 Ridley 4-H Center  
..... Lion Pkwy



Photo by Hoofprints Photography



# EXPERIENCE MULETOWN

How to maximize your visit to Columbia during Mule Day:

Welcome to Columbia, Tennessee, a “South’s Best” Top 10 Best Small Town by Southern Living. Each year, thousands gather in “Muletown” for Mule Day, a cherished tradition spanning over 150 years. This four day celebration honors Columbia’s history and community spirit, culminating in the iconic parade on Saturday. While Mule Day festivities take center stage, Columbia offers so much more to explore. Whether you’re a local or a visitor, take the opportunity to experience all this vibrant town has to offer.



## First Fridays in Downtown Columbia

Experience Columbia like a local by attending First Fridays, a monthly event held from April to December in Downtown Columbia. Organized by Columbia Main Street, this lively gathering runs from 5 PM to 8 PM and showcases the local community. Stroll through the streets filled with vendors, food trucks, and musicians. Additionally, many shops stay open late, offering special activities and “Insider” experiences.

## Outdoors & Recreation

For those seeking outdoor and recreational activities, Columbia has plenty to offer. Try your hand at disc golf or enjoy a friendly round of miniature golf. For high-energy fun, check out go-karting, bowling, or axe throwing. If you prefer a more relaxed activity, take a painting class and bring home a creative keepsake from your trip.

[www.muleday.com](http://www.muleday.com)



## Explore the Columbia Arts District

Branch out to Columbia's Arts District, a rapidly growing hub of creativity. Discover colorful murals, public sculptures, and unique shops that reflect the town's artistic spirit. Savor delicious food from local eateries and admire works by talented artists displayed throughout the district. The Arts District is a testament to Columbia's vibrant culture and is a must-visit destination for anyone who loves art and creativity.

## Visit the Factory at Columbia

For a blend of history and shopping, head to the Factory at Columbia. This 1958 vintage shirt factory has been transformed into a charming marketplace that houses some of the area's most beloved merchants. Browse through its offerings and enjoy a slice of Columbia's unique charm in this beautifully repurposed space.



## Step Into History

Columbia's rich history extends beyond Mule Day. Take a tour of historical museum homes, dive into the cultural trail app, find the historical markers throughout town, and more. Each site offers a glimpse into the past and stories that shaped Columbia into the town it is today.

## Plan Your Visit!

With so much to see and do, Columbia invites you to make the most most of your Mule Day visit. For more information and inspiration, visit [www.VisitColumbiaTN.com](http://www.VisitColumbiaTN.com).



### Check-In Center

The Red Top Log Cabin at the entrance to Maury County Park will be used as a Check-in Center for exhibitors, concessionaires and people bringing equipment that need assistance.

Our visitors that know where they are going, have the correct paperwork, etc. need not stop at the cabin. The cabin will be open through Friday evening.

The Information Center within the park will still be open and is there to assist everyone with general information, official Mule Day pins, bumper stickers, etc.

### Golf Carts/ATVs at Park

No Golf Carts or ATVs are allowed inside "the fenced-in area" at Maury County Park, except for those that have a "handicapped sticker" or Mule Day Officials. All operators must have a current drivers license.

### Process For Vendor Registration

Vendors that had a booth at Mule Day 2024 will receive an application during early January 2025, along with other information, including insurance requirements for Mule Day 2025. Payment with completed application must be received in our office by February 15th or the space will be given to other vendors that have applied. New vendors may start calling during January, and will be placed on a waiting list until space becomes available. Contact us via email at: [info@muleday.com](mailto:info@muleday.com)

### Riding After Dark

The Mule Day Committee strongly advises that when riding after dark (in or outside the park) please have something reflective on yourself, your horse and/or wagon and cart. This rule is for safety reasons.

### Disclaimer

State Law requires that your animals have proof of an Equine Infectious Anemia (Coggins) Test, done in the last 12 months must be presented for verification before animals are permitted on the grounds or to participate at Mule Day functions.

Equine that are sold require the Coggins done within the last six months. Further, Tennessee State Law REQUIRES everyone from out-of-state to have a health certificate on equine entering Tennessee. The health certificate is only good for 30 days from the time it is issued.

Horseback and Muleback riding is allowed in designated areas at Maury County Park until 10PM. Riding at a walk except in the arenas.

Under Tennessee Law, an equine activity sponsor or an equine professional, or any other person is not liable for an injury to or the death of a participant in equine activities resulting from the inherent risks of equine activities pursuant to TENNESSEE CODE ANNOTATED, SECTION 44-20-103.

### Camping

Limited camping is allowed in the Park. Spaces must be reserved by advance payment received by February 15th. First time campers should call ASAP in January to be placed on a waiting list. Rates: \$160.00 with electricity and \$60.00 without electricity. All campers are required to have a gate pass. No bus transportation to parade from Park is available. All reservations should be made through the Mule Day Office. **No alcoholic beverages allowed in camping or Park area. No horse stock will be allowed in electric camping area.** Original Proof of Negative Coggins Test Required for all animals entering the park. **Dogs must be on a leash at all times. Your campsite must be cleaned up before you leave.**

### Stalls

Limited stall space is available for \$75, inside stall, \$50 outside stall (only 2 animals per stall, except miniature mules & donkeys that are separated by panels inside stalls). Reservations from last year's stall renters must be accompanied by advance payment which must be received by February 15th or stalls will no longer be held. First time stall renters should call ASAP in January to be placed on a waiting list. After February 15th, first time stall renters on the waiting list will be notified of stall availability. Stall renters receive one vehicle pass - a vehicle pass per each stall rented will no longer be issued. No jacks in portable stalls. **No horse stallions allowed anywhere in Maury County Park on Mule Day weekend.**

NOTE: The show barns (covered barns) will only be rented to persons having mules, Jacks or Jennies. Horses will not be allowed in show barns except those that have been grand-fathered in. Persons wishing to get stalls for horses will be allowed to use outside stalls.



# Feed Time Race

Thursday 2:00 PM

## FEED TIME RACE — 2 PERSON TEAMS

### TIMED INDIVIDUALLY AGAINST THE CLOCK AT A WALK OR TROT

A timed event in which there are 2 "lanes" with 4 pallets each equally space the length of the arena. The 2 pallets closest to the start line will have 6 bales of hay each stacked on them. Each team will leave the start line and load all 6 bales on their ground slide. Stop at each of the next 3 stations and unload 2 bales at each station. Make the turn around the final pallet and start loading the bales back on their ground slide. Stop at the final pallet and unload all 6 bales back onto the last pallet. IN THE FASTEST TIME! Call Mandy Mills 931-982-0061.



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# Mule Day: Impacting our Community



**MEMBERS OF THE MULE DAY COMMITTEE ARE OFTEN ASKED QUESTIONS LIKE,** “where does all the money go” or “what does Mule Day do for Maury County”? These are all reasonable questions, that I’ll attempt to answer.

First one is the elephant in the room, where does all the money go? Before addressing WHERE it goes, let’s start with how it gets EARNED! Most Mule Day attendees have no idea that there are more than 150 volunteers who work to produce Mule Day, many year-round! Or that the base cost of producing Mule Day is between \$150-175,000.00 per year! Approximately a third of that total

is spent just on insurance and security. All of which BEFORE the first person walks through the gate! And if the weather doesn’t cooperate on Friday and Saturday breaking even can often be a challenge.

It ain’t all dolled up mules, corn dogs, fancy wagons and queens!

Most years we are blessed with weather good enough to allow for a net profit, which is used to produce the next Mule Day and support the charitable efforts of the Maury County Bridle & Saddle Club.

Did you know that for nearly 50 years funds raised from Mule Day

have supported local schools, civic organizations, multiple construction and site improvements at the Maury County Park? Plus, school programs, scouting organizations, Maury Magic Riders, the bath houses, arenas, RV hookups at the park and more have all benefited from the success of the Mule Day Festival.

2024 marked the 50th Year of the annual Mule Day Celebration and as a way to improve and concentrate our charitable efforts the Maury County Bridle and Saddle Club and Mule Day have elected to focus these efforts on providing scholarship support for CTE (Career & Technical Education) and



Vocational Training to the youth of Maury County. The first class of Mule Day WORKS recipients are currently enrolled and earning certificates in fields such as, welding, electrical, office management and medical technologies (learn more about Mule Day WORKS on page 28). Our hope is that these four

young people will grow into productive members of our community.

In addition to the charitable work, what else does Mule Day do for the community? Good question! One of the biggest things that Mule Day does for Maury County and the city of

Columbia is the promotion of tourism. Parade attendance estimates range from 150,000 to 250,000! Not to mention the thousands who visit the park during Mule Day. Fact is, nearly every Mule Day attendee spends money while they're visiting on everything from fuel, meals, hotels, souvenirs, shopping... the list is endless. This surge in visitor spending has a huge impact on the sales tax revenue of Maury County, the City of Columbia and surrounding communities.

Everyone would agree that economic impact is important, but there is another part Mule Day plays that, in our busy modern lives might be easily overlooked, and that is the Mule itself. Mules are tied directly into the very foundation of Maury County. As one of the premier historical areas in the entire state, Maury County's rich history of agriculture, mining, commerce and trade can all be traced back that unique equine hybrid called, the Mule.

We hope you enjoy Mule Day 2025.



# It's time to **Spring** it on.



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### Maury Co Bridle & Saddle Club Officers

**Standing L to R:** Donald Goad, Executive Board Member, Mark Cox, Vice President, Bernie Schwartz, Executive Board Member, Mandy Mills, Treasurer & Mule Day WORKS Committee, Brady Carr, Advertising Director & Mule Day WORKS Committee Chair, Brad

English, Executive Board Member

**Seated L to R:** Rebecca Gilbert, Office Manager, Harvey Spann, President & Chairman of the Mule Day Committee, Louise Mills, Executive Board Member, Makenzie Smith, Secretary



# Mini Mania Show

Sunday 11:00 am

**HAVE YOU EVER SEEN A 40" TALL MULE PULL A WAGON?** If you have not seen these "Miniatures" perform, this is something you must see! These animals are the "Pets" of the Equine Industry. They are well trained to pull carts, wagons (small wagons, that is), jumping over poles, pole bending, and other obstacles, etc...

This show will provide additional entertainment on Thursday afternoon, as there will now be something going on in both arenas, for the start of our many activities at Maury County Park.

Again we will name a "King" mini mule and "King" donkey based on show points.

Youth driving will be required to wear helmets — we will have a few for people to borrow.



Photo by Zachary Puckett



Photo by Zachary Puckett



Photo by Charlie Barbeisch

Performing in  
the Old Arena

For more information contact the Mule Day office 931-381-9557.  
See entry information and competition rules on page 50.

# 2025 Mule Day Parade Grand Marshals



**MULE DAY IS PROUD TO WELCOME THE MULE HEROES OF THE GREAT SMOKEY MOUNTAINS TO COLUMBIA.** When hurricane Helene hit the mountains of East Tennessee and Western North Carolina causing catastrophic flooding, Mountain Mule Packer Ranch stepped into the chaos, saving lives and giving hope.

Mike and Michele Toberer were in the final preparations for another “training mission” when the devastating storm hit and immediately jumped to action. But, like every hero story there’s always, “the rest of the story.”

Mike’s packing career began in Northern California doing what packers there do, taking visitors into the mountains to enjoy the back country of the Sierra Nevada Mountain ranges that are only accessible by foot or atop a good mule. Kicking off each spring with a week at Bishop Mule Days followed by dudes and trail riders in the summer months and hunters in the fall and winter, their life as mule packers wasn’t much different than the other packers in their area.

That all changed on 9/11, with the War on Terror. Through family connections to the military, Mike was asked to help train soldiers who would need to have a basic understanding of mule packing to operate effectively in the rugged mountains of Afghanistan. In 2012, Mike & Michele decided moving to North Carolina to be closer to the special forces teams they would be training was necessary. Mike is honored to assist in training some of the most elite soldiers to work in some of the harshest conditions on the planet. It was during



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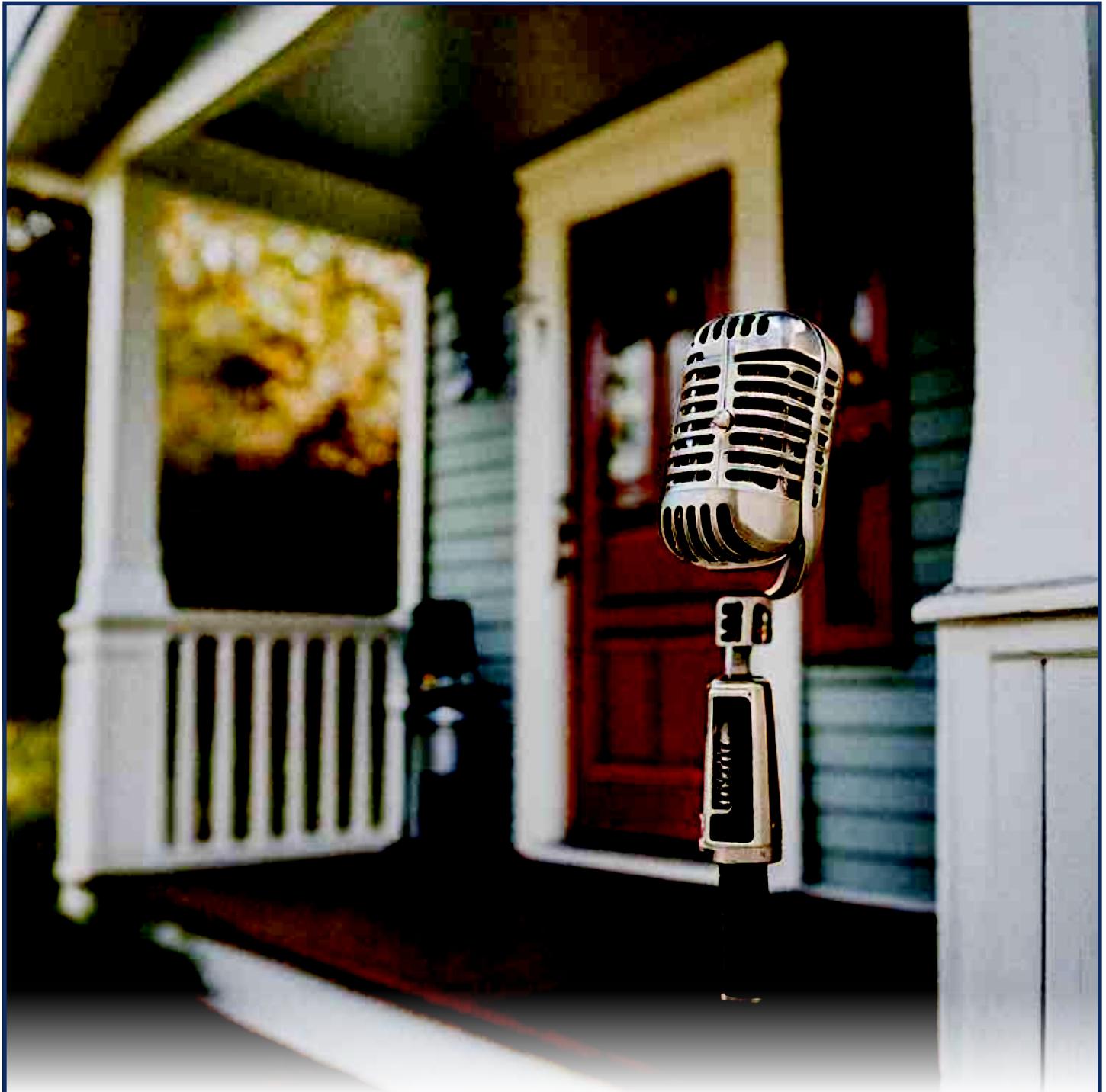
*from page 24*

the spin up to another training mission in late September, 2024 when Helene struck with an unimaginable level of destruction to electrical transmission lines, roads, bridges, interstate highways and entire towns and villages wiped away.

With the “training mission” cancelled due to the enormous devastation of the hurricane, and the realization that hundreds of people were now trapped in remote areas throughout the mountain region, Mike, Michele and their mules stepped forward to help their fellow man. As humble and unassuming as the mules that make up his pack string, Mike didn’t set out for internet fame or notoriety. But after a few posts on social media and local news stories, the word was out and their story went viral. Encased within the story of how the Mountain Mule Packer Ranch helped its fellow man were hundreds of other stories that showcase the giving nature

of the American people. The number of generous volunteers who donated supplies, feed for the mules, offers to haul, sort and deliver to staging areas the items needed by those now trapped in remote areas would be impossible to list – suffice it to say – many a tough packer and soldier were brought to tears by the generosity shown.

The Columbia Mule Day Committee is happy to welcome Mike, Michele and their Hero Mules to our fair city. They will be at the Maury County Park all day Friday visiting with fellow mule men and greeting the public. Yes, you can actually get a picture with THE MULES who changed so many lives. Then Saturday morning the Mountain Mule Packer Ranch will lead the 2025 Mule Day Parade as the Grand Marshals. Please join us on Mule Day to offer a warm Maury County welcome to the entire Mountain Mule Packer team.



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# Class of 2024 Mule Day WORKS Recipients



TOP: Class of 2024 enjoy a luncheon hosted by Prime & Pint. (L-R) Harv Spann, Maury Co Bridle & Saddle Club President & Mule Day Committee Chairman, Garrison Mills, Mandy Mills, Mule Day Committee & WORKS Committee Vice-Chair, Autumn Conley, Tyler Maxwell and Brady Carr, Mule Day WORKS Committee Chair.

RIGHT: Brady Carr, Mule Day WORKS Committee Chair, presenting the first scholarship to the very first recipient, Emma Parks with parents, Jill & Joey Parks. Emma is studying medical sonography at Weatherford College in Weatherford, Texas.



## Mule Day WORKS — What is it?

Studies show there are two kinds of people in Maury County. Those that absolutely LOVE Mule Day and everything about it! And those that hate the crowds, longer wait times at every restaurant in town and sitting through stoplights two or three times. To those in the latter category, please take a moment to learn about Mule Day WORKS.

2024 marked the 50th Mule Day Celebration recognizing the history

and contributions of the unique hybrid equine, the Mule. Known for its strength, stamina and intelligence the mule has played an integral part in the history of Maury County and America. To honor this legacy while recognizing the pressing need and shortage of skilled trades people the Maury County Bridle & Saddle Club and Mule Day have chosen to offer “blue collar” sponsorships to the young people of Maury County.

Career & Technical Training and Vocational Training is an extremely

wide-ranging umbrella, covering careers from lineman, 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 WORKS will help the young people in Maury County move forward with a rewarding career.

The first ever Mule Day WORKS class of recipients showcase the broad nature



**TOP LEFT:** Tyler Maxwell, flanked by mother and father, Lauren and Brian Maxwell. Tyler is enrolled in the Electro-Mechanical Technology Program at Tennessee College-Applied Tech in Hohenwald, TN.

**TOP RIGHT:** Autumn Conley, is joined by her class advisor, Trina Schmidt and friend Mariana Alcala. Autumn is in the Business Technical Certificate program at Columbia State Community College, Columbia, TN.

**LEFT:** Garrison Mills, flanked by mother and father, Mandy and Joey Mills. Garrison is currently enrolled in the Welding Technology Program at Tennessee College-Applied Tech in Hohenwald, TN.



*Special Thanks to Prime & Pint for generously hosting the 2024 Mule DayWORKS Recipients Luncheon.*

of “the trades” as well as the quality of young people raised in Maury County. From welding and electrical training at TCAT Hohenwald, office technology at Columbia State and medical sonography at Weatherford College in Texas the Mule Day WORKS Committee couldn’t be prouder of this special group of young Maury Countians.

This group are the pioneers, the first for many to follow. At least that is our hope, so if you have a young person who will be searching for a career path soon, encourage them to learn more

about Mule Day WORKS by visiting [www.MuleDay.com/WORKS](http://www.MuleDay.com/WORKS)

If you are a business or civic organization that would like to join us in this effort to impact our community, we have a Mule Day Partnership Programs to fit every size organization and every budget and we assure you that every partnership dollar goes straight to the bottom-line enabling Mule Day to continue to grow this program.

Last, but certainly not least, if you are one of those who may not be a huge

Mule Day fan, we get it – but please remember the bigger the crowd, the longer the lines, the more times you must sit through that stoplight equal **MORE YOUNG PEOPLE WE CAN IMPACT!**

Thanks for your patience. We’ll see you at Mule Day.

*Mule Day WORKS  
Committee Chairman  
Brady Carr*

[www.MuleDay.com/WORKS](http://www.MuleDay.com/WORKS)





# Driving Show

Friday 12:00 Noon



This show demonstrates how well mules work to wagons and how well they are trained to both "lines" and voice command.

A lot of time and practice, along with driving skills make everything come together for this event. As you watch this show you will soon learn how the driver gets the mules attention and also how he gets them to go in the direction he wants them to go.

In the first two classes we have log skidding. This is with the driver using ONE line or NO line to guide the mules between the pilings. The best part of these two classes is when the driver uses only voice commands. This takes a lot of training and time between the driver and

his mules. During the old days this was a much more common practice than today. The voice command is better with mules that are used for logging so as not to tangle lines in the trees.

Classes three through nine, the mules and horses are hitched to wagons or carts. In class five, the ladies show the men how to drive. In class six, notice how well the mules and drivers work together to back, cross obstacles, and turn in the correct direction. Please notice that the teams are matched in color, size, and uniformity. Now sit back and enjoy the afternoon show of skills and see how well these sometime stubborn animals show off just how smart they truly are.

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**MAURY REGIONAL  
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**Ricky Skillington  
931-637-1664**

**See entry information and competition rules on page 50.**

# Auctioneers Championship

Friday, April 4



Caleb Taylor 2024 Junior Champion



Will Gregory 2024 MDAC Reserve Champion



Tucker Kail 2024 MDAC Champion

Hosted by the Columbia Breakfast Rotary Club.  
Producers Livestock Sale Barn  
1231 Industrial Park Road, Columbia, TN 38401

2025 will mark the Mule Day Auctioneers Championship's 14th year of crowning a Mule Day Auctioneer Champion. Professional auctioneers from across the country come to Columbia each year to compete in what has become one of the top auctioneer championships in the Southeast. Auctioneers who have competed say it is one of the toughest championships to win.

The 2024 MDAC saw thirty-four professional auctioneers from ten states compete in the Pro and Rookie Divisions and seven junior auctioneers from three states compete in the Junior Championship. Tucker Kail, Tennessee was the 2024 MDAC Champion, Will Gregory, Kentucky was Reserve Champion, Trevor Hooley, Georgia was Rookie Champion, Caleb Taylor, Georgia was Junior Champion, and Cash Menees, Missouri was Reserve Junior Champion.

In April of 2012, Justin Ochs, Tennessee was the first MDAC Champion and Jacob Massey, Tennessee was Reserve Champion. Mule Day Auctioneer Champions have gone on to claim two World Livestock Auctioneer Championships, four International Pro and Junior Auctioneer Championships and many State Auctioneer Championships.

A panel of four judges score each auctioneer in five categories:

- Introduction/Initial Command (1- 20 points)

- Clarity of Chant-Voice Quality (1 – 20 points)
- Bid Catching (1 – 20 points)
- Execution of Sale (1 – 20 points)
- Would You Hire this Auctioneer (1 – 20 points)

The MDAC is a real “LIVE AUCTION” with each auctioneer bringing items to auction. People attending the MDAC get to experience a real live auction with the excitement of bidding and buying items. The MDAC has become one of the most attended events during Mule Day.

The Columbia Breakfast Rotary Club hosts the Mule Day Auctioneers Championship and funds the Club's College Scholarship Program, which to date has awarded \$80,000.00 in college scholarships. Mark your calendar for Friday, April 4th and be with us at the Producers Livestock Sale Barn located at 1231 Industrial Park Road, Columbia to see which auctioneer will claim the 2025 Mule Day Auctioneer Championship. Free Admission, Free Parking and Food available to purchase.

## MDAC CHAMPIONS

- 2024 Tucker Kail, TN
- 2019 Chuck Bradley, AL
- 2014 Trey Morris, KY
- 2023 Andy Beaumister, TX
- 2018 Jeff Bynum, AL
- 2013 Jacob Massey, TN
- 2022 Joshua Houston, TN
- 2017 Junior Staggs, TN
- 2012 Justin Ochs, TN
- 2021 Shawn Hagle, AZ
- 2016 Mike McAlister, TN
- 2022 Cory Craig, ILL
- 2015 David Whitaker, IA

For Information contact Eddie Ables at (931) 698-2220 or at [biddernow@gmail.com](mailto:biddernow@gmail.com) or Eddie Allred at (931) 212-8150 or [eallred2223@gmail.com](mailto:eallred2223@gmail.com)

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Learn more about our future at  
[MauryRegional.com/CareReimagined](https://www.MauryRegional.com/CareReimagined).



*Rendering by Wold Architects & Engineers*



## **LIVE MUSIC!**

**Friday, April 4, 6:00 PM  
4-H Ridley Center**

Tony Malugin brings his country vocals and line dancing fun to every event! Grab your boots & come on out!!

The event will be at the 4-H Ridley Center (located across from Maury County Park). Admission will be \$7.00 for adults and \$4.00 10 years and under.

M&M Catering will be catering this event. The Mule Day Queen and Court will visit the event.

**For information call, Tony  
Malugin at 931-698-5263**



# Log Pulling Competition

Thursday 12:00 Noon



## OLD FASHION LOG PULLING COMPETITION

The Log Pulling competition is a popular event showcasing how important mules have been to agriculture and the logging industry. Judged by Sheriff Bucky Rowland and the crowd, the Old Fashion Log Pulling brings a load of excitement to the Maury County Park.

For more information  
call Mandy Mills 931-982-0061.

# Bluegrass Music Fest

Thursday 7:00 PM (doors open 6:30 PM)



Columbia Central High School next to park.  
Admission \$10.  
Tickets available through Mule Day Office or at the door.

This is the 13th Annual Bluegrass Fest featuring Columbia's own GRASSKICKERS a hard driving bluegrass group made up of Phain Smith and Randy Drane on guitar, Tom Winters on mandolin and fiddle, Ray Welch on banjo and Shane Green on bass. They will be playing hard driving Bluegrass some Newgrass along with some old country tunes. If you are looking for some good entertainment for Thursday night... This is it! There may be a surprise or two.

Call 931-626-6637 for additional information

# Liars' Contest

Friday 5:00 PM

The Mule Day Liars' Contest is a fun-filled event with tall tales and good clean fun. The contest will be held at Central High School, which adjoins Maury County Park and is sponsored by the Rose Hill Cemetery Association. Tickets are \$5.00 for adults and \$4.00 for students. There are 2 divisions of competition: Adults 18 and over and Students 17 and under. Cash prizes in both divisions, adult winner will also receive a beautiful trophy buckle. Participants are to register with the clerk at the contest.

The master of ceremonies, Maury County's own Adam Southern, will call the performer to tell a tales of no longer than five minutes. Prize money is awarded in each division. First place winners from previous years are not eligible for the prize money, but they are invited to tell one of their favorite stories and should also register with the clerk at the contest. Please email [rosehillcolumbia@gmail.com](mailto:rosehillcolumbia@gmail.com) with any questions.

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## Culleoka Lions Club Pancake Breakfast

Saturday 6:00 AM – 11:00 AM

Start the big day off with some delicious pancakes at the Pancake Breakfast located at the Memorial Building on West 7th Street.



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# Gaited Mule Tennessee State Championship

Friday 5:00 PM

At the Tennessee Gaited Mule State Championship you'll enjoy watching the very best gaited mules from Tennessee and across the entire United States strut their stuff.

This event highlights the gaited mule, which is any mule that has a smooth gait other than a walk, and one which is distinct from a trot. Whatever the gait may be called, its primary virtue is smoothness. The gaited mule can be ridden farther without discomfort from the bouncing one will experience at a trot and at a more manageable pace than a canter.

So come out and watch riders of all ages and mules from all "gaits" of life strut their stuff to be declared the Tennessee State Champion.

For more information, contact Phain Smith 931-626-6637. See entry information and competition rules on page 50.





# Mule Pulling Tennessee State Championship

Saturday 11:00 AM



Sponsored by:  **Bobcat**  
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Come see what all the hollerin' is about! Watch as mule teams compete for the Championship title by seeing who can pull the most weight, the longest distance. You will be amazed at the capabilities of even the smallest mule teams as well as the men who drive them. So come on out and show these mules some love as they show off their muscles!

For more information, contact Brian Osborne 615-200-2399  
See entry information and competition rules on page 50.





These little guys pack a big punch when it comes to pulling which proves that bigger isn't always better!

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# Souvenirs

We have a lot of “News” for Mule Day 2025!

The souvenirs will be in a NEW location! This year we will be located in the Baker Building. That’s correct, no more tent, so now you can shop in comfort.

This year the students of Columbia Central High School will be designing the New logo for the Mule Day 2025 “Ears though the Years” merchandise. In addition to the souvenirs, students will be taking pictures, videography, operating a drone, and various other printed media.

Our vendors will be adding several NEW options to the T-shirts, hats, tumblers, coffee mugs, pins, buttons, and buckles we already provide. Stay tuned!



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# Mules Come Walking

Mules come walking over the holler.  
Mules come walking. They carry our water.  
When mules come walking, bet your bottom dollar.  
The mule will come walking up over the holler.  
Mules haul medicine, shovels, and lights,  
They bring supplies to where helicopters  
can't hike.  
The mules are smiling; the muleтары is now fabled.  
That's why the mules get top seat at the table.  
So, if you see mules where vehicles can't reach  
It's best to just stand there, pretending you've  
lost speech.  
The mules will muster, and you'll get the honor  
Of seeing the mules go over the holler.

—**Kelly Riedesel or Weaverville, NC**  
*Inspired by the Mountain Mule Packers valiant  
team effort of the Mountain Mule Packers and  
our soldiers who stepped up in the aftermath  
of Hurricane Helene*



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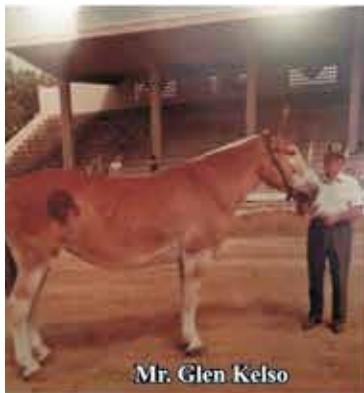
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Mr. Glen Kelso



Mr. L. C. Tabor



Mr. Leon Oliver



## Editorial

# Tennison

I HAD COME TO GET A STORY...AND BOY DID I GET A STORY!

**W**estern Mule Magazine published its first issue in February 1994. Armed with little more than a true respect and love for mules, mule history and All THINGS MULE, and maybe more importantly a loving wife who said she would follow me anywhere. At the time, there were a handful of people across America who were training mules, training mules for various disciplines, trainers with knowledge and an understanding of these wonderful mules. I have always been a curious guy, and I have always sought to know more. I wanted to hear from these folks who raised mules, used mules, worked mules, rode mules, and trained mules and I felt others did, too. Some of those trainers became contributors and others began to put on clinics, produced videos, and some produced well-trained mules offered for sale to the public. We have been blessed by all who have been willing to share their knowledge.

Thirty-one years ago, my wife Neta and I traveled to Columbia Mule Day; I had been versed on the event and was told of its long history with mules. I had come to get a story and boy did I ever get a story! I've been telling that story now for over thirty years about this part of America and its mules. Columbia, Tennessee is enthralled with a rich history of mules and their ways. Rich in agriculture, the timber industries and as a valuable commodity to the region and outside the region. In this part of Tennessee's history, the mule has very much affected the lives of its people; mules played a huge roll in the region's agriculture, commerce, and trade. Folks here knew a good mule when they saw one, not everybody does. They bred to produce good mules here, and raised good mules, not everybody could, and they knew how to handle them, train them, work them, buy, and trade them. Not all communities endorsed mules in American history...Columbia, Tennessee did, and today they celebrate it, calling it Columbia Tennessee Mule Day!

Thirty-one years later that girl (Neta, my wife) who came here with me, all those many years ago, will travel with me once again to Columbia Mule Day in Columbia, Tennessee. Mule Day has become a spring ritual for Neta and me. A time to once again see many friends we have made over the years. It's become a reunion, and we never fail to make new friends each year. We are always excited to experience the history here that is so embedded in this mule town. As a great bonus during this time of year we witness the beauty of spring exploding on those Tennessee Hills. The blooming Dogwoods and fresh mowed grass are a welcome sight and smell. Great mules gather here from Tennessee, Kentucky, Missouri, Alabama, Georgia, Arkansas, and many other states. Some of the best mules in all the world. It's truly something special to see.

Not a year has gone by that something NEW hasn't shown up at Mule Day. Just when you think you've seen it all, something we've never seen before comes along. I saw my first twenty mule team hitch here at Columbia Mule Day twenty-eight or twenty-nine years ago; the hitch was impressive enough, also impressive were those twenty mules tied around flatbed hay wagons with their harness and collars laying on the wagons in front of them. I thought they would have the harness eat up by morning and the wagons, too...they didn't. I've seen two of the biggest mules I have laid eyes on and the smallest mules I've ever seen. Mule colors of every description, good mules, and bad mules...

*Continued.....*



Today mostly good mules. At Columbia Mule Day, there will inevitably be a kid, boy or girl, coming down the street riding on one of a pair of some big team of big pretty mules with both hands on the hames and a smile from ear to ear. It will forever remind me of my childhood. I know that feeling.

I have so many stories to tell of Columbia Mule Day, of events, happenings, of mules and those who own them, stories of mule men and women who have left us, but their memories have not. From the late Mr. Glen Kelso, Johnny Kelso's daddy, when asked, "How many runaways you been in?" His answer I'll never forget, Mr. Kelso said, "Why mules don't run away...they'll run maybe a quarter a mile... That ain't away."

The late Mr. L. C. Tabor, Greg Tabor's daddy, I asked him, "Those that didn't use mules in the area back then, why didn't they?" His answers were always wise and simple, "Awww, horse folks like the horses, we mule folks liked the mules, and got along with them."

Mr. Leon Oliver, who is still with us, raised Jackstock, Jennies, Mules and Cremello horses. Back in 1995, Mr. Oliver was sittin' in his wagon waiting for the parade to start. Mr. Oliver had his wagon hooked to as fine a jack as you'll lay eyes on, hooked next to the jack was a fine gray dappled stud horse. I sat back and studied this for some time. Looked like a wreck waiting to happen to me. They stood dead still, never moved a foot, one never as much as looked at the other. I couldn't take it anymore, I went to him and asked, "How do you get by with that?" On came the biggest ole' smile and he said, "Ahh, that's just the way they are...they've always got along." It wasn't the last time I saw them hooked side by side, I saw them many years in the Mule Day Parade. I remind him of it every year.

I have many more stories to tell of Columbia Mule Day. It's an event where you'll make a tradition yourself. Thirty plus years later, Neta and I still love Columbia Mule Day. If you're at Mule Day come by the *Western Mule Magazine* booth, located at MULE CENTRAL, in the big tent, on Mule Alley, across from the Mule Day Office. Please stop and say Hi! Neta Tennison, Ben Tennison, Larry Wade of Jacksons Western Store and Tim Haney want to meet you. Jacksons Western Store has been coming to Mule Day for thirty years now. YOU COME. IT'S A BUCKET LIST EVENT!

Take a deep seat, sit back, and enjoy *Western Mule Magazine*. Your comments are always welcome.  
May God Bless.

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# Skillington Draft Mule Show

Saturday 2:00 PM



The beauty contest of Mule Day, (see page four, which reflects the "King Mule" for 2024). The draft mule has been the foundation of Mule Day, since day one, either in this show, Mule Pulling, used in the Parade to pull wagons, or the basis for our Wagon Train.

This show starts at 2:00 PM after the Mule Day Parade. It is held in the **Old Arena** with the Jack (the father of the Mule) and Jennet classes first, graduating to the Draft Horses (the mother of the Mule).

Class eight begins the segment of the show that leads to who is going home with the top prize of Mule Day 2025 and that is the "KING MULE" trophy. The judge is looking for long legs, long ears, and a good build. During this show you will notice there are classes for both Horse Mules (male) and Mare Mules, singles or in pairs.

Be sure and cheer for the best looking mule you see and let the Judge know your preference.

Ricky Skillington 931-637-2217  
Charlie Skillington 931-637-1664  
See entry information and competition rules on page 50.





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# Mule Day Knife Auction

## Saturday 2:00 PM, Main Stage



The Mule Day committee is excited to present the 2025 Mule Day knife. It is described as a “pocket worn, old Redbone corn-cob jig, medium Stockman”.

The Stockman packs 3 steel blades in a convenient but practical pocket knife.

The clip blade is commonly used as a multi-purpose blade and preferred for detail work. The second blade allows for added strength at the point making it great for carving, achieving a clear cut. The spade blade is commonly used as an all-purpose utility blade.

Each of the knives are boxed, serialized, and etched with the Maury County Bridle and Saddle Club logo. There will also be 100 non-serialized knives available for \$85

each, first come first served. Knives 1 through 10 will be auctioned off at the mainstage in the Maury County Park on Saturday, April the 5th, 2025 at 2:00. Knives will go to the highest bidder above the minimum \$85 bid, with the money going to various charities. Collector’s knives can be picked up at the Mule Day office in the Exhibition Building (near the main entrance), during Mule Day, (April 3–6, 2025).

If collectors are unable to pick up their knives, they can mail a check (\$85 for each knife), to the address below, adding \$10 per knife (\$5 for each additional knife) for shipping. Make checks payable to MCBSC Mule Day knives; P.O. Box 66, Columbia TN 38402. Knives that have not been purchased for at least two years will have their collection number forfeited.

Collectors wishing to place their collections up for sale, or anyone interested in purchasing a collection, please call the Mule Day office at 931-381-9557. We may have several small collections available for anyone wishing to start their own.

\*\*Knives that have not been purchased for 2 years forfeit collection number\*\*\*



MTMS focuses year round toward promoting the heritage of the rural work mule through school and community events, working mule exhibitions and wagon trains. The MTMS Mule show is held annually the 2nd Saturday in May in Woodbury TN. The May wagon train is Thursday & Friday before the May Mule Show. The September Wagon Train is held in September. Visit the MTMS website for more details.

*invites you to*

- \* **Become a Member**
- \* **Attend the Annual MTMS Mule Show**
- \* **Attend the MTMS May & September Wagon Trains**

## Middle Tennessee Mule Skinners Association

[www.midtnmules.com](http://www.midtnmules.com)

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL: 615-849-6867**

# Clogging & Line Dancing

## Saturday 6:00 PM

Saturday night's event will open with the local talent of the Muletown Stompers from 6:00 PM to 7:00 PM. This group has been clogging for Mule Day for several years.

Urban Cowboy Line Dancing begins at 7:00 PM. Urban Cowboy is Nashville's premier line-dancing company. Throw on your boots and get ready to dance! They will be teaching and dancing.



Tony Malugin will play during breaks.

This event will be at the 4-H Ridley Center (located across from Maury County Park). Admission will be \$7.00 for adults and \$4.00 10 years and under. **For more info call Tony Malugin, 931-698-5263**



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# Riding Mule Show

Friday 10:30 AM

Versatile, adaptable, dependable are all words mule lovers use to describe their mules, and you'll see why at the Riding Mule Show. These amazing equine hybrids will compete in everything from Western Pleasure, Halter, Gaited Pleasure, plus many FAST FUN AND EXCITING speed events like Run-Ride-Lead, Rescue Race, Barrel Racing, the ever-popular Panty Hose Race and the RUN FOR THE CASH – Jackpot Races. The Riding Mule Show is an exciting way to kick off your Friday morning celebrating America's most amazing hybrid – the Mule.



*Sponsored by:*



For more info contact  
the Mule Day Office  
931-381-9557.

See entry information and  
competition rules on page 51.



# Worship Service

Sunday 9:00 AM

Join us at the **Main Stage**.

Everyone welcome to join us as one of the member churches from Maury Baptist Association leads in worship. Come as you are and bring a friend! Sponsored by Mule Day and the Maury Baptist Association.



# Cart Barrel Races

Friday 5:30 PM

This Fast and Funny event is a crowd favorite. Plus, you never know who might be driving for the first time! Mayor to Mule Day Queen, watch it once and Cart Barrel Racing will surely become one of your favorite Mule Day Events.



## Dixie Longears

*'The Mule Magazine from the South'*

Dixie Longears shares stories about you ... the 'longear' lovers. Dixie enjoys covering events, shows, festivals, wagon trains, trail rides, sales etc. when mules and donkeys are involved. Look for Dixie Longears at Columbia Mule Day 2020, smile for the camera, tell us a story, or share an upcoming event for our calendar. Jeff & Cindy enjoy the socializing ... our four, blonde, social-friendly, long-eared beauties, enjoy petting and an occasional 'cookie'.

Dixie Longears & Odle Farms Proudly Supports Columbia Mule Day ... See you soon -- Jeff & Cindy Odle  
[www.dixielongears.com](http://www.dixielongears.com) • [cindy@dixielongears.com](mailto:cindy@dixielongears.com) • 615-904-5356





# Entry Information & Competition Rules

## PG 23 MINI MANIA SHOW

Sunday 11:00 AM

1. Obstacle Driving – Open
2. Pole Bending – Mini Donkeys
3. Pole Bending – Mini Mules
4. Youth Driving – Single Hitch or Team Hitch – Exhibitor Age 17 & Under
5. Adult Driving – Single Hitch or Team Hitch – Exhibitor Age 18 & Over
6. Snigging – Mini Mules
7. Snigging – Mini Donkeys
8. Halter – Weanling/Yearling – Mini Mules
9. Halter – Weanling/Yearling – Mini Donkeys
10. Coon Jumping – Open (Mini Donkeys and Mini Mules must be 3 Years & Older)
11. Halter – Mini Mules – Age 2 & Over
12. Halter Jennets – Mini Donkeys – Age 2 & Over
13. Costume Class
14. In Hand Trail – Open
15. Halter Geldings – Mini Donkeys – Age 2 & Over
16. Lead Race – Open
17. Halter Jacks – Mini Donkeys – Age 2 & Over
18. Panty Race – Open
19. Solid Color – Open
20. Spotted Color – Open

Miniature Donkeys and Miniature Mules Only. Registration begins at 10 a.m. - Show starts at 11 a.m. Presentation of: King Mini Mule and King Mini Donkey, Entry Fee: \$10 per Class, Payback: 1st \$25, 2nd \$15, 3rd \$10 (Checks will be Mailed to Winners), Ribbons Awarded 1st thru 5th Placings. The TN Donkey ASSociation Show Rules will apply. Please contact Show Chairman for copy. Show Chairman, Lydia Spears [miniacre@bellsouth.net](mailto:miniacre@bellsouth.net), 931-796-4920 or 931-626-1731

## PG 30 Driving Show

Friday 12:00 Noon

\$5 Entry Fee Per Class. Payback \$60, \$50, \$40, \$30 and \$20. Chairman of this show is Ricky Skillington 931-637-2217 & Charlie Skillington 931-637-1664.

1. Skidding – 1 Mule to Slide 1 Line and/or Voice Commands
2. Skidding – 2 Mule to Slide 1 Line and/or Voice Commands
3. Draft Horse Hitch

4. Mule Hitch-Show Wagon, 2 Mules
5. Mule Hitch-Lady Driver, 2 Mules
6. Youth Driving
7. Skill Driving – 2 Mules Driving Skills and Teamwork to be Judged
8. Unicorn Hitch – 3 Mules
9. 2 Mule Hitch – Any Wagon EXCEPT Show Wagon
10. Mule Hitch – 1 Mule
11. Mule Hitch – 4 Mules

## PG 35 Gaited Mule Tennessee State Championship

Friday 5:00 PM

Entries from All States Welcome! Sponsored by the Maury County Bridle & Saddle Club. Entry office opens at 3:30. AGMA Rules Apply. Shoe Size no Larger Than 1/2 x 1 1/2. English or Western Attire. No Canter in Any Class. \$15 Entry Fee Per Class. Payback 1st Place \$50, 2nd Place \$30, 3rd Place \$20, 4th Place \$15, 5th Place \$10. For more info contact the Mule Day office 931-381-9557 or Phain Smith at 931-626-6637.

1. Gaited Mule to Halter – Open
2. Trail Pleasure Racking Men 18 and over
3. Style Racking – Riders 17 and under
4. Men Riders on Gaited Mules Riders 18 and over Walk & Favorite Gait
5. 4 Years and under Tennessee Walking Mules – Riders 18 and over Specialty
6. Trail Pleasure Racking Ladies 18 and over
7. Gaited Mules – Riders 17 years and under Specialty
8. Western Gaited Trail Pleasure – Walk and Favorite Gait, No Caveson, One Hand Riders 18 years over
9. Lady Riders on Gaited Mules Riders -18 Years and over Walk and Favorite Gait
10. Riders 50 and over on Tennessee Walking Mules – Flat Walk and Running Walk
11. Western Gaited Trail Pleasure – Walk and Favorite Gait, No Caveson, One Hand Riders 17 years and under
12. Trail Pleasure Racking Riders 17 and under
13. Gaited Mules Riders 50 and over Walk and Favorite Gait
14. Style Racking – Riders 18 years and over
15. 5 Year and Over Gaited Mules –

Riders 18 years and over

16. Speed Racking – Riders 18 years and over
17. 5 Years and over Tennessee Walking Mule State Championship  
\*Specialty means No Canter

## PG 36 Mule Pulling Tennessee

State Championship

Saturday 11:00 AM

The Tennessee State Mule Pulling Championship is in the Main Arena. Weigh in is from 8 to 10 AM There will be seven classes with a \$10 entry fee. Ribbons are awarded in each class. \$100 for Champions in Small, Medium and Large. Prizes \$100, \$80, \$60, \$40 and \$20. Overall Champion Team will receive a Trophy Belt Buckle. Mule Day Jackets will be awarded to the Champions of each class.

- Pull slide 10 ft. / Sled weights 1,000 lbs.
- Small Mules pull between 11' ropes (percentage) 0 - 1,000 pounds / 1,005 - 1,500 pounds
- Medium Mules pull between 12 ft. ropes 1,505 - 1,900 pounds 1,905 - 2,100 pounds
- Heavy Mules pull between 14 ft. ropes 2,105 - 2,300 pounds 2,305 - 2,500 pounds
- Single Overweight pull between 14 ft. ropes Pull slide 15 ft. 2,505 - 2,700 pounds.

For More Information on the Tennessee State Mule Pulling Championship Contact: Brian Osborne 615-200-2399

## PG 44 Skillington Draft Mule Show

Saturday 2:00 PM

\$5 Entry Fee Per Mule. Payback \$40, \$35, \$30, \$25 and \$20. No horse stallion of any age allowed in any class. Chairman of this show is Ricky Skillington 931-637-2217. The Draft Mule classes are as follows:

1. Best Jack - 2 years old & under
2. Best Jack - 3 years old & over
3. Best Jennet - 2 years old & under
4. Best Jennet - 3 years old & over
5. Best Draft Horse - 1 year old & under
6. Best Draft Horse - 4 years old & under (No Stallions)
7. Best Draft Horse - 4 years old & over (No Stallions)
8. Best Pair Horses - Open (No Stallions)

9. Queen's Choice Best Draft Mule, either sex. Sponsored by Western Mule Magazine
10. Best Mare Mule - 1 year old
11. Best Pair Mare Mules - 1 year old
12. Best Horse Mule - 1 year old
13. Best Pair Horse Mules - 1 year old
14. Best Mare Mule - 2 years old
15. Best Pair Mare Mules - 2 years old
16. Best Horse Mule - 2 years old
17. Best Pair Horse Mules - 2 years old
18. Best Mare Mule - 3 years old
19. Best Pair Mare Mules - 3 years old
20. Best Horse Mule - 3 years old & over
21. Best Pair Horse Mules - 3 years old & over
22. Best Mare Mule - 4 years old & over
23. Best Pair Mare Mules - 4 years & over
24. Best 4 Mules
25. Champion Mare Mule of Show  
Winners of Class
26. Champion Horse Mule of Show  
Winners of Class

27. Grand Champion of Show to be Crowned "King Mule"

### **PG 48** Riding Mule Show Friday 10:30 AM

There will be a high point award given to the top youth and adult exhibitor. All classes on the showbill will count except the ones marked with an \*. \$5 Entry Fee Per Class (except Leadline). Payback will be 1st \$35, 2nd \$25, 3rd \$10 and 4th \$5. If you have any questions concerning the Riding Mule Show, please contact Brad English 931-698-7342

1. Halter
- \*2. Leadline NO ENTRY FEE (Ribbons Only)
3. Gaited Pleasure
4. Walk-Trot 17 & Under
5. Walk-Trot 18 & Over
6. Gaited Trail Pleasure
7. Western Pleasure 17 & Under
8. Western Pleasure 18 & Over
9. OPEN Western Pleasure

10. Trail Starting at 12:30 PM - Main Arena
11. Run-Ride-Lead
- \*12. Rescue Race
13. One Barrel 17 and Under
14. One Barrel 18 and Over
15. Catalog Race
16. Potato Race
- \*17. Panty Hose Race
18. Barrels 17 and Under
19. Barrels 18 and Over
20. Arena Flags  
Arena Flags:

**RUN FOR THE CASH** — Jackpot Races Immediately after Riding Mule Show

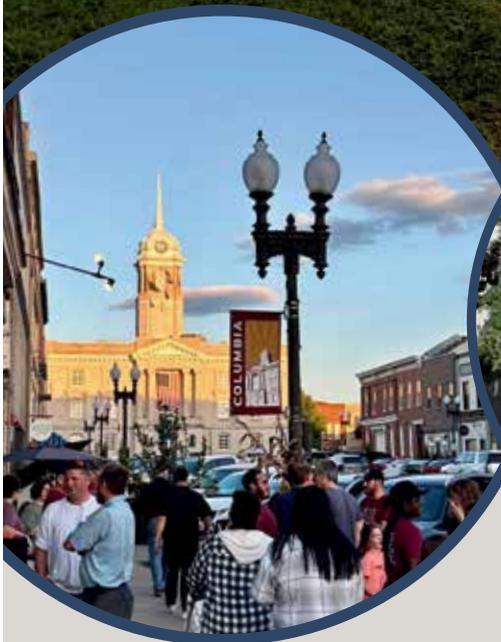


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# PARADE ENTRY FORM

## MULE DAY - COLUMBIA, TENNESSEE

Parade is on Saturday, April, 5<sup>th</sup> 2025

### Ears Through The Years: Decades of Mule Day

**NO POLITICAL BANNERS  
ATTACHED TO WAGONS**

#### PARADE REQUIREMENTS

Anyone wanting to participate in the parade should send a brief description of their parade entry to the Mule Day Office 931-381-9557, or P.O. Box 66, Columbia, TN 38402 by March 1st. They will be notified by mail of their lineup number by March 22nd.

All entries must be in place and ready for judging by 10 a.m. Judging is in the assembly area before the parade begins and the entries will be judged on originality, and appropriateness to Mule Day, Judge's decision will be final.

No cars, trucks, vans or tractors will be accepted as entries except those decorated as floats, pulling floats, or carrying beauty queens, political figures, etc. No campaign signs, bicycles, motorcycles, go carts, dune buggies, lawn mowers or 4-wheelers permitted on parade route.

No entry in the parade shall wear or display any costume, flag, sign, banner, standard or insignia, which in the sole discretion of the Mule Day Committee of the Maury County Bridle and Saddle Club, is judged to be offensive according to community standards recognized by said Committee, or which in said Committee's sole judgment would be repulsive, or cause fear or anxiety to a large portion of the Community and/or might incite people to violence.

Alcoholic beverages are prohibited in assembly area, along parade route and at Maury County Park. Anyone who does not comply will be subject to arrest and will be PULLED FROM THE PARADE ON THE SPOT. Nothing is to be thrown from or passed out from parade entries or by anyone participating in parade. ABSOLUTELY NO BALLOONS OR BUBBLE MACHINES ALONG PARADE ROUTE. Likewise, parade entrants must be suitably dressed. Shirtless riders will not be permitted to participate in the parade. Dogs must be on a leash on Parade route.

State Law requires that your animals have proof of an Equine Infectious Anemia Test (Negative Coggins Disease) at all events during Mule Day. This test must have been done in the last 12 months. See disclaimer on page 14. Rules continue on next page.

#### AWARDS

Best Mule & Wagon Entry - 1st place \$100.00  
Best Mule & Wagon Entry - 2nd place \$75.00  
Best Pony Mule & Wagon Entry - 1st place \$100.00  
Best Pony Mule & Wagon Entry - 2nd place \$75.00  
Best Commercial Float - 1st place \$100.00  
Best Commercial Float - 2nd place \$75.00  
Best Mounted Mule Entry - 1st place \$100.00

Best Mounted Mule Entry - 2nd place \$75.00  
Best Mounted Costumed Entry - 1st place \$100.00  
Best Mounted Costumed Entry - 2nd place \$75.00  
Best Club Float - 1st place \$100.00  
Best Club Float - 2nd place \$75.00  
Best in Show - 1st place \$100.00

Description of Entry: \_\_\_\_\_

**CHECK ONE:** Animal Powered  or Mechanical . Length of parade entry:     feet

If you will haul a political figure please check here . Do you wish to be judged?  YES  NO

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

#### ACCEPTANCE OF RESPONSIBILITY & RELEASE OF LIABILITY

As consideration for being permitted by the Maury County Bridle and Saddle Club to participate in the Mule Day Parade and/or activities, I do hereby waive any claim and release the Maury County Bridle and Saddle Club and all of their owners, officers, members, affiliated organizations, land owners, agents and/or employees for any injury or death caused by or resulting from my participation in any activity.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Participant or Parent or Guardian

Sponsored By:



# Parade Rules

The Mule Day parade is one of the highlights of the festivities and is attended by more people than any other event or activity during Mule Day. Each year the parade grows and the organizers strive to make it bigger and better than the year before. We are at a point where for the time being we can no longer make it bigger, but we can continue to make it better. The line-up area is going to be shorter for the parade and therefore **we ask only pre-registered entries show up on the day of the parade.**

All parade participants should pre-register thru the Mule Day office prior to March 1st. The parade is for approved entries that are pre-registered and assigned a line-up number through the office. If you have not pre-registered, we ask you come out and watch the parade, but not attempt to be a participant.

All participants are asked to adhere to the parade rules.

1. Proof of current Coggins Test required for all equine
2. No balloons or bubble machines in the parade or along the parade route
3. No alcohol allowed in the parade or at the park
4. Horse and mule riders will ride four abreast
5. Shirts and shoes must be worn
6. No passing in the parade. You must stay in your spot.
7. No riding backwards in the parade
8. Nothing is to be thrown or given from parade entries to spectators. This includes candy, t-shirts, passes, tickets, trinkets, etc.
9. No bicycles, motor bikes or four wheelers in the parade
10. Mule riders will ride in front of the MCB&S Club wagon train
11. Entries should stay in the center of the street and follow the center line
12. Floats should adhere to the current theme
13. Entry number should be displayed on both sides of entry
14. Anyone not obeying parade rules will be asked to leave the parade
15. Mounted riders are asked to register as a group and will be assigned a parade number. Other mounted riders will be placed in the back of the parade and will be required to ride in an organized manner.
16. These rules are intended for everyone in the parade and are necessary to make a safe and enjoyable parade for both participants and spectators
17. !! NO CAMPAIGN SIGNS !!
18. !! NO FLOATS OVER 60 FEET IN LENGTH !!

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