



AUBURN

RURAL HEALTH INITIATIVE NEWSLETTER ISSUE 11: February 2026

[View as Webpage](#)

## Rural Health Spotlight

**Sumter County Community Health Fair: Bringing  
Wellness to You**



Special thanks to all the Community Health Fair vendors who attended the event at the Gainesville Community Center to provide Sumter County residents with beneficial health information and on-site testing. The health fair played a significant role in promoting well-being and expanding access to health resources. Community members were able to connect in great company, supporting their health.

Simone Williams also played a pivotal role in facilitating, as an OnMed CareStation Administrative Specialist, in coordinating and facilitating this incredible event.

Significant contributions were made by: Auburn University; Alabama Cooperative Extension System; the Health & Wellness Education Center; CHEAR/SWAHII;

University Medical Center; Southern Care; UWA Nursing; West Alabama Mental Health; UAB Pediatric Division; UAB Urogynecology; West Alabama Cardiovascular; Legacy of Hope; Tuskegee University Extension System; and the Rural Alabama Prevention Center. Their great efforts do not go unnoticed, serving as a valuable resource for their community.



## Student Spotlight



**Karoline Reeves**  
**VP of External Affairs for Rural Health Connect**

“As the VP of External Affairs for Rural Health Connect, I have been so grateful for the experience to be part of something bigger than my own professional ambitions. Through RHC, I have been able to help battle against the health disparities across Alabama, immersing myself into the community of Lafayette and seeing firsthand how intentional connection and support can improve overall access to healthcare. As someone hoping to pursue a healthcare role as a physician assistant, this organization has shown me that

health equity requires building trust and showing up, all positive lessons that I will carry with me into my future career!”



## Let's Get Physical!

Ready to get active? Come join in on a beautiful morning for the Eloise Carey Community Walk! Everyone is invited!

The event will take place on February 21, 2026, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. The event will be held at the OnMed Care Station at the Boligee Center in Boligee, Alabama.

Participants can expect a joyous, relaxed, and friendly atmosphere while engaging in light physical activity that supports community health initiatives. There will be additional resources about local health to strengthen your fitness journey!

This is a great opportunity for neighbors and friends to come together for a celebratory walk with lively company!



## Go Red Lunch and Learn Wellness Day

The Sumter County Extension invites you to a community health wellness program on February 17, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. The event will be held at the Livingston Community Center, located at 101 Country Club Rd, Livingston, AL.

Community members can expect to learn about the importance of heart disease and HIV awareness. Offering health education, heart screenings, and exercise activities to get active! Members will have the chance to ask questions and take the next steps to prioritize health.

RSVP by February 13!  
Contact Johnnie at 205-523-5894 to reserve your spot.

## Mark Your Calendar

### Step Into Health Session # 3

- February 12, 2026
- 11:45 a.m.
- Ashland, AL

### Go Red Lunch and Learn Wellness Day

- February 17, 2026
- 10:00 a.m.
- Livingston Community Center, Livingston, AL.

## **A Deep Dive into Depression and Anxiety**

- February 20, 2026
- 9 a.m.
- Central Alabama Community College

## **Eloise Carey Community Walk**

- February 21, 2026
- 10 am to 12 pm
- OnMed Care Station at Boligee Center location in Boligee, Alabama

## **2026 Alabama Rural Health Conference**

- Wednesday, March 18 – Friday, March 20, 2026
- Embassy Suites Birmingham–Hoover, AL
- Hosted by: Alabama Rural Health Association

## **Stay updated on all events!**

### Facebook pages

Visit Chambers County:

<https://www.facebook.com/chambershealthwellness/>

Visit Greene County:

<https://www.facebook.com/p/Greene-County-Commission-100064291143692/>

Visit Hale County:

<https://www.facebook.com/HaleCountyAlabamaExtensionOffice>

Visit Sumter County:

<https://www.facebook.com/AlabamaCooperativeExtensionSystemSumterCounty/>

Visit Wilcox: <https://www.facebook.com/WilcoxCountyAlabamaExtension/>

## **Ways to Connect**

### **For Faculty**

[Propose a Program](#)

[Request for Research](#)

[Search for Funding](#)

### **For Students**

[Apply for Internship](#)

[Become a Volunteer](#)

### **For Community**

[Ambassador Program](#)

[Become a Volunteer](#)

## **Our Locations**

**Chambers County**

*Chambers Community Health and Wellness Center*  
404 9th Ave SW, LaFayette, AL 36862  
Mon–Fri: 8 AM–8 PM | Sat: 1 PM–6 PM  
(334) 459-0173  
Ms. Leah Sledge [lns0007@auburn.edu](mailto:lns0007@auburn.edu) (334) 864-9373  
Ms. Debra Ward [warddeb@auburn.edu](mailto:warddeb@auburn.edu) (334) 459-0173

### Greene County

*Boligee Community Center, 17404 County Road 20, Boligee, AL 35443*  
Mon–Fri: 9 AM–6 PM  
Ms. Iris Sermon — (334) 844-5442 | [ics0017@uburb.edu](mailto:ics0017@uburb.edu)

### Hale County

*Akron Public Library, 207 1st Ave South, Akron, AL 35441*  
Tue: 8 AM–5 PM | Wed & Thu: 8 AM–12 PM | Fri: 5 PM–8 PM  
Ms. LaTarsha Tubbs — (334) 844-4017 | [lct0012@auburn.edu](mailto:lct0012@auburn.edu)

### Sumter County

*Gainesville Municipal Complex, 10900 State St, Gainesville, AL 35464*  
Mon–Fri: 8 AM–6 PM  
Ms. Shakeria Williams — (334) 844-5029 | [ssw0046@auburn.edu](mailto:ssw0046@auburn.edu)

### Wilcox County

*Elijah Tracey Shaw III Community Center, 17349 AL-5, Catherine, AL 36728*  
Regular Hours:  
Mon/Wed/Fri: 9 AM–1 PM | Tue/Thu: 1 PM–6 PM  
Shanicqa Davis — (334) 844-3011 | [smd0122@auburn.edu](mailto:smd0122@auburn.edu)

Give Now

Check out our socials for more information!



Auburn University Outreach and Alabama Cooperative Extension System are addressing significant health disparities across rural Alabama in partnership with the Colleges of Pharmacy, Nursing, Human Sciences, Liberal Arts and with full engagement of the communities involved.



Auburn University Office of Public Service | 101 O.D. Smith Hall | Auburn, AL 36849 US

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)



Try email marketing for free today!