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INSIDE, 7A

Montgomery Advertiser

TUESDAY, JUNE 2, 2026 | MONTGOMERYADVERTISER.COM

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Rural King expands in Alabama

Jennifer Lindahl
Montgomery Advertiser
USA TODAY NETWORK

Shoppers in Prattville have a new shop for everything from farm supplies to grilling gear, and they might leave with more than what they came for.

Rural King has opened its seventh Alabama location, celebrating with three days of grand-opening events from May 29-31.

Here's what to know about Rural King's opening.

Rural King grand opening in Prattville, Alabama

The family-owned retailer marked the grand opening with storewide specials and giveaways.

The store also continues a longtime Rural King tradition of offering free coffee and popcorn to shoppers, available near the entrance as customers browse. The Prattville location is also pet-friendly, allowing customers to bring dogs inside and even offering free treats for four-legged visitors.

The Prattville store features a mix of

national brands including Carhartt, Wrangler and Black Rifle Coffee Company, along with products for livestock, pets, automotive needs, power tools and seasonal goods.

Company leaders say the new location reflects continued growth across Alabama and a focus on communities with deep agricultural roots.

"Opening our new store in Prattville is an exciting step for Rural King as we continue to grow our presence in Alabama," Chief Operating Officer Michael Ladd said. "We're proud to invest in the area by creating jobs and providing fam-

ilies with the quality products, trusted brands and family friendly service they depend on."

The store also includes updated features, such as mobile and self-checkout options, while keeping traditional customer service touches, like in-store service and community-oriented offerings.

Beyond retail, Rural King says it supports local youth organizations like 4-H and FFA, as well as veterans and first responders through partnerships including the Gary Sinise Foundation.

See **RURAL KING**, Page 2A



A ribbon cutting ceremony is held for the newly renovated Regency Park Community Center in Montgomery on May 27. PHOTOS BY MICKEY WELSH/ADVERTISER

Regency Park Community Center reopens

Sarah Clifton
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One of Montgomery's community centers has reopened after being closed for updates.

The Regency Park Community Center has unveiled a series of improvements that are designed to better serve children, teens, adults and seniors across Montgomery, the city's Parks & Recreation Department said.

Included in the updates are a fully renovated gymnasium, an esports and computer lab, and an enhanced security system, which the city said makes the space "more welcoming, inclusive and engaging than ever."

The renewal of the space is just one instance in a long list of overhauls to public spaces the city. The city's community centers are a large focus in



The swimming pool is seen as a ribbon cutting ceremony is held for the newly renovated Regency Park Community Center.

See **CENTER**, Page 2A

Keep a close eye on the Gulf as storm develops

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The 2026 Atlantic hurricane season begins in just a few days, and forecasters are already monitoring conditions across the Gulf, where warmer-than-average water temperatures could support storm development early in the season.

NOAA data showed Gulf waters running above normal on May 28, an important factor because warm water can help tropical systems organize and intensify faster.

Although the current stretch of tropical moisture is mainly expected to bring rounds of rain to Florida, forecasters say residents along the Gulf Coast – including Alabama – should stay alert as summer approaches and conditions in the tropics become more active.

Alabama has been stuck in an unsettled weather pattern for much of the past week. A stalled front lingering across the region has kept deep Gulf moisture flowing into the state, leading to repeated rounds of downpours and thunderstorms.

Many parts of Alabama have picked up several inches of rain in recent days, prompting flood watches and warnings in some areas as saturated ground and slow-moving storms increase the risk for localized flooding.

The active stretch serves as another reminder that Gulf Coast weather can be disruptive quickly, even before hurricane season ramps up.

Meteorologists also warn that a quieter or "below-average" seasonal forecast does not reduce risk for states along the Gulf. Storms can strengthen rapidly close to shore, leaving coastal communities with less time to prepare.

As of May 28, the National Hurricane Center was not tracking any threats in the Atlantic basin, and forecasters said the tropical waves currently moving off Africa are typical for this time of year and not considered a concern.

See **STORM**, Page 2A

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