Jacob Burns grew up around the Buckwheat Festival and its royal court while showing animals with 4-H.

Running for King Buckwheat is also something Burns’ mom, Jaime, has always wanted him to do, he said.

“So, I’ve seen it every year. And I just decided that I wanted to give my shot at it,” Burns said.

Burns said the judge’s home visit was pretty relaxed and he got to talk to them about his animals.

“I have two hogs, and I’ve raised hogs since I was 9, which is when you’re allowed to start raising them,” Burns said. He enters the hogs he raises in the market hog sale.

The second, formal interview was a little more intense, Burns said. He said the selection process taught him you really have to be prepared and do your research for the formal interview.

“I’m just really excited to have a festival again and be able to see all the people and just kind of see everybody come back here,” Burns said. “I mean, because it was empty last year. Real quiet.”

Jamie said she was “super proud” and excited when Burns told her he was going to try out for king.

Burns is excited for the buckwheat cake eating contest and prefers his cakes less sour with butter and syrup.

“I’m an eater,” he said. “So, I’m not too worried about anybody else up on the table.”

Burns is a defensive end and tight end on the Preston High School varsity football team.

“So, that takes up most of my time right now,” Burns said.

When football season ends Burns said he goes right into basketball. He is on the varsity team as a power forward or center.

First runner up to King Buckwheat J.J. Reese is Evan Harsh.

“Burns is a defensive end and tight end on the Preston High School varsity football team. When football season ends Burns said he goes right into basketball. He is on the varsity team as a power forward or center. First runner up to King Buckwheat J.J. Reese is Evan Harsh.

Evan Harsh

Burns is excited for the buckwheat cake eating contest and prefers his cakes less sour with butter and syrup.

“I’m an eater,” he said. “So, I’m not too worried about anybody else up on the table.”

Burns is a defensive end and tight end on the Preston High School varsity football team.

“So, that takes up most of my time right now,” Burns said.

When football season ends Burns said he goes right into basketball. He is on the varsity team as a power forward or center.

First runner up to King Buckwheat J.J. Reese is Evan Harsh.

TWEET @WillDean_DP
Come Home to Preston County!

The 79th Annual Preston County Buckwheat Festival 2021

All our best from your friends at Greer Industries, Inc.

greerindustries.com
Honoring Queen Ceres

Miracle-Ear
Hear A Better Day

BE HONEST...
Are you hearing as well as you should be?

Experience the Miracle-Ear Difference!

Special Offer
Buy One, Get One
50% Off
Select Models 4.3, 4.8

Financing Available & Many Insurances Accepted

Miracle-Ear Difference!

Clint McCandless
Owner/ Specialist
304-202-1196

RIVER HOUSE LODGE & RIVER HOUSE BOATS
OPEN SEASONALLY MAY - OCTOBER

43 E. MAIN STREET, ROWLESBURG, WV 26445
LODGING, BOAT RENTALS & SHUTTLES
304-454-2095

Linda Huggins
Preston County Clerk
www.prestoncountyclerk.wv.com

Celebrating the
26TH AMENDMENT
and the
Preston County Buckwheat Festival

October 16th • 3-7 pm • Downtown Morgantown on High Street
Sample the best beer available from down the street, across the country, and around the world
- and never leave town! There’s food, music, local vendors, and more.
Listen to some alt country tunes from literary rock’n’roller William Matheny!
Get your tickets today at www.hopsonthemon.com

We can help you find a home... and Joe and Ayla can help you
Bring home the Bacon!
Support our youth at the Preston County Buckwheat Festival Livestock Sale!

MountainPath Properties, LLC
304-304-9080 (Office) • 1-877-202-3991 (Fax)
1301 N. Mountainair Highway Box 200 South Charleston, WV 26302
www.mountainpathproperties.com

Fourth Annual
Hops on the Mon
Craft Beer & Food Festival
downtownmorgantown.com
From princess to queen — Gregory reigns over fest

BY WILLIAM DEAN
WDean@DominionPost.com

KINGWOOD — Keely Gregory liked her experience participating in the Buckwheat Festival as a junior princess so much she decided to compete for the title of Queen Ceres.

“I really enjoyed getting to meet the girls,” Gregory said. “And I enjoyed being a role model for the county. And I wanted to do that again.”

And so she is, as Queen Ceres LXXIX. She’ll reign over the 80th Preston County Buckwheat Festival this week.

Gregory said she “absolutely loves” kids and is excited for the opportunity to interact with them. There’s no need to be shy around her.

“Her favorite part is when young girls come up and say, you know, can I have a picture,” the queen’s mother, Erin Gregory said.

As part of her royal duties, Gregory and the maids of honor spoke at Energy Express, a six-week summer reading and nutrition program run by WVU Extension, about the process of running for queen.

They told the youngsters education is important as GPA is considered.

“And pretty much I just tell them to be themselves because that’s what I did,” Gregory said. “And I mean, it worked for me. Just be yourself and try not to be the quote-unquote, fake version of yourself.”

Erin Gregory could not be more proud of her daughter. “We grow some good kids in Preston County.”

She said her daughter is very driven and a great person.

The queen is a member of Key Club and likes to volunteer.

The competition was her first, as she said, she didn’t really have to compete for junior princess. That process included reading a speech in front of her classmates and having them vote for her.

There were three parts to the queen selection process: interview, three-minute speech and 30-second promotional speech for the Buckwheat Festival.

Gregory said her promotional speech was kind of catchy and rhymed.

“Normally, you have to do a costume for those, but due to the craziness of COVID, and not having it in front of the public, we didn’t have any costumes this year,” the queen said.

Being the first Queen Ceres to reign over the festival after the COVID-19 pandemic stopped the 2020 Buckwheat Festival is a little extra special, Gregory said.

“I kind of have a sympathetic heart for the queen and king last year because they didn’t get to do anything. And I think they’re gonna incorporate them in the parade somehow, too,” she said. “So I’m just lucky that we’ve even had this opportunity to do this.”

TWEET @WillDean_DP

The coronation of Queen Ceres and King Buckwheat will take place at noon Friday at the Craig Civic Center in Kingwood.

Queen Ceres LXXIX Keely Gregory will reign over the 80th Preston County Buckwheat Festival this week. At left, the queen poses with King Buckwheat J.J. Reese in a field of buckwheat in Preston County.
Preston County Buckwheat Festival

Everything you’ve missed is back!

Parades
4-H & Home Exhibits
Car Show

Arts & Crafts
Livestock Shows
Carnival

Fireworks
Fair Food
Horse Pull

Buckwheat Cake & Sausage Dinners

September 30 - October 3

buckwheatfest.com

We can help you find a home... and Joe and Ayla can help you Bring home the Bacon!

Support our youth at the Preston County Buckwheat Festival Livestock Sale!

MountainPath Properties, LLC
Melissa “Missy” Hartsell, Broker
304-568-8877 (C/I)
204-964-0086 (Office) • • 978-293-3191 (Fax)
13801 W. Mountaineer Highway Box 209 Arthurdale, WV 26520
www.mountainpathproperties.com
King Buckwheat passionate about agriculture

BY WILL DEAN
WDean@DominionPost.com

KINGWOOD — King Buckwheat J.J. Reese was going to be an escort but decided to give running for the title a shot.

“My parents talked me into it, honestly. But I secretly wanted to do it,” Reese said. “But I signed up. And I was originally just gonna be an escort. And then I decided, know what, I’ll just give it a shot. If I win, I win if I don’t, no big deal. So I tried out.”

Reese’s dad, Mike Reese, said they were driving down the road one day when Reese said ‘Dad, I think I want to run for King Buckwheat.’ ”

Reese was the last one to sign up, Mike Reese said.

Reese said the selection process was a lot different than he imagined. There was an interview at his family farm, where he was asked by judges about how things work.

“When I took them up to my chickens, they asked like, what kind of chickens I had, how many eggs I get a day,” Reese said. “And they asked how much profit we make off of everything that we have.”

Reese said the farm has a 30-by-90-foot-high tunnel greenhouse, two pigs and “too many” chickens.

The second interview took place at the Kingwood Volunteer Fire Department’s community building. Reese said he was asked all about the state and county’s agriculture — a topic he’s passionate about.

“’I definitely wasn’t expecting them to come to like my house, per se to come interview me. I was just expecting, like, an interview at like, here, for instance,” Reese said.

The various parades are Reese’s favorite part of being king.

He said any guys thinking about running for king should just go for it — it’s a lot of fun.

“I’d say just go for it. I mean, kind of like what I did. I was kind of nervous, you know, going into like a pageant per se,” Reese said. “But it’s not what you’d expect. And it’s actually a lot of fun.”

Reese is also looking forward to the buckwheat cake eating competition and is confident in his ability to win.

One of Reese’s hobbies is hunting squirrels, describing himself as a “big-time squirrel hunter.”

“It’s just more of an adrenaline rush. You’re not like sitting in a tree stand or blind all day; you’re actually walking around looking for squirrels.”

The 80th Preston County Buckwheat Festival kicks off Wednesday with livestock shows, buckwheat cake dinners and the carnival. Livestock will begin arriving to the festival grounds Tuesday.
Maids of honor to Queen Ceres LXXIX are Lyndsey Buckley (left photo) her escort Jacob Burns and Kiley Christopher and her escort Evan Harsh.

“It’s pretty much the same thing. Like there were people that I talked to that day that I haven’t talked to that much since we started high school. So we all basically came together and supported one another as we went through this whole process. And we were all happy for each other.”

Bucklew said the competition is hard, but you really learn to push yourself and grow as a person — while having fun.

“Getting selected on the court, you will create friendships and bonds as you go through the whole process,” Christopher said. “I’ve even noticed from the few parades and time that we’ve spent together we’ve already gotten closer.”

Both girls are president of their local 4-H clubs. Christopher is president of Lenox Royal Workers while Bucklew leads Sandy Pals.

Parade schedule
Firemen’s Parade — 7:30 p.m. Thursday
School Day Parade — 2 p.m. Friday
Farmer’s Parade — Noon Saturday
PRINCESSES

Hannah Cramer
Alexis Miller
Emily Knotts
Olivia Mitchell
Allie Martin
Molly Mazza

Victoria Noonan
Emily Knotts
Olivia Mitchell
Allison Wilson
Allie Martin
Hannah Cramer

Mountaineer Country Ice Cream
72 Flavors Hand-Dipped!
(304) 284-9877

Mountaineer Gun Sales
The Area's Largest Fishing Store!
304-284-9811
BUCKWHEAT CAKES

Violet Kadiri left, (top photo), then 2, eats buckwheat cakes as her mother Alicia looks on at a previous Preston County Buckwheat Festival at the Kingwood Volunteer Fire Department Community Hall. A previous royal court (bottom, left photo) kicks off its Buckwheat Festival with a buckwheat cakes and sausage dinner. Nina Sheets (at left, front) and Lori Rodeheaver make buckwheat cakes for hundreds of diners at the fire hall. Dinners will be served at the fire hall from 4-8 p.m. Wednesday, 11 a.m.-8 p.m. Thursday, 8 a.m.-8 p.m. Friday and Saturday, and 8 a.m.-3 p.m. Sunday.

The Dominion Post file photos
## 2021 Buckwheat Festival schedule of events

### Tuesday
- 9 a.m.-5:30 p.m. — Market livestock arrive (beef, lambs and goats only)
- 2-8:30 p.m. — Exhibits registered in Memorial North Building
- 6-7 p.m. — Market livestock arrive and picture taking
- 7-8 p.m. — Market lamb and goat weigh-in and picture taking

### Wednesday
- 5-8 a.m. — Market swine arrive
- 8 a.m.-3 p.m. — All remaining livestock arrive
- 8 a.m. — Market goat showmanship followed by show
- 9 a.m.-3 p.m. — Market swine weigh-in and picture taking
- 1 p.m. — Market lamb showmanship followed by show
- 4:8 p.m. — Buckwheat cakes and sausage dinners
- 6 p.m. — Carnival opens
- 6 p.m. — Buckwheat cake eating contest
- 6-9 p.m. — BINGO
- 6:30 p.m. — Judging of market steer

### Thursday
- 8 a.m. — Market swine showmanship followed by show
- 11 a.m.-8 p.m. — Buckwheat cakes and sausage dinners
- Noon-10 p.m. — Arts & Crafts open
- Noon-10 p.m. — Exhibit buildings open
- Noon — Carnival opens
- Noon — Geocache contest begins
- 4 p.m. — Judging of feeder calves and prospect market steer
- 5:30 p.m. — Purebred sheep show and trophy presentation (closed to the public)

### Friday
- 8 a.m.-8 p.m. — Buckwheat cakes and sausage dinners
- 8:30 a.m. — Ladies and Shepherds lead
- 10 a.m. — Judging of purebred/crossbred beef
- 10 a.m.-9 p.m. — Arts & Crafts open
- 10 a.m.-10 p.m. — Exhibit Buildings open
- 10 a.m. — Carnival opens
- Noon — Coronation of Queen Ceres and King Buckwheat at Craig Civic Center
- 2 p.m. — School Day Parade
- 4:10 p.m. — BINGO
- 5:30 p.m. — Purebred sheep show; breeding goat show
- 6 p.m. — Beef showmanship
- 6 p.m. — Gun Blitz at Craig Civic Center
- 10 p.m. — Fireworks (rain date Saturday)

### Saturday
- 8 a.m.-8 p.m. — Buckwheat cake and sausage dinners
- 10 a.m.-9 p.m. — Arts & Crafts open
- 10 a.m.-10 p.m. — Exhibit buildings open
- 10 a.m. — Carnival opens
- Noon — Farmer’s Day Parade
- Noon — Geocache contest ends
- 2 p.m. — Draft horse pull at baseball field
- 4-10 p.m. — BINGO
- 4 p.m. — Youth livestock sale in Cow Palace
- 7 p.m. — Big Bucks Bingo in Craig Civic Center; doors open at 5:30 p.m.

### Sunday
- 8 a.m.-3 p.m. — Buckwheat cake and sausage dinners
- 10 a.m.-1 p.m. — Registration - Antique, Rod & Custom Car Show at Civic Center
- 10 a.m.-3 p.m. — Car show open for viewing
- 10 a.m.-4 p.m. — Arts & Crafts open
- 10 a.m.-4 p.m. — Exhibit buildings open
- Noon — Carnival open
- 1-4 p.m. — BINGO
- 1:30 p.m. — Irish Road Bowling on Pleasantdale Road
- 4 p.m. — Drawings for $10,000 and commemorative rifle
- 5-6 p.m. — Remove exhibits from Memorial North

---

Above, children enjoy one of the carnival rides at the 2018 Preston County Buckwheat Festival. At right, crowds start to gather for one of the many parades held during the five-day festival. Due to COVID, the 2020 festival was canceled, but the annual event is back this year. Officially opening Wednesday with rides, crafts and more, livestock and exhibits will start entering festival grounds behind the Kingwood Volunteer Fire Department Tuesday.
We have ROOTS where others have branches

- Born here, headquarter here.
- Locally owned for more than 100 years.
- Bank with people you know and trust!

We’re local and proud of it!

Clear Mountain Bank

www.clearmountainbank.com