



Buckwheat Festival

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BUCKWHEAT FESTIVAL

'80 Years of Memories'

BY KAITLYN EICHELBERGER

Keichelberger@DominionPost.com

Preston County's Buckwheat Festival is preparing to celebrate "80 Years of Memories."

Everyone is invited to join Preston County for four days of parades, carnival rides and games, livestock shows and sales, arts and crafts, and Preston County's famous buckwheat cakes.

During the Great Depression, buckwheat was grown as an "insurance crop" because of its hardy nature and short growing season. In 1938, Preston County farmers came together to celebrate the year's harvest. Thus, the annual Buckwheat Festival began, named after one of the area's most important crops.

Observed nearly every year, only cancelled during World War II and in 2020, the festival is a hallmark of memories for residents of Preston County. This significance inspired this year's theme, said General Chairman Nick Taylor.

Last year, as Taylor drove home with his family on the final day of the festival, his children sat in the backseat reminiscing about the celebrations. At that moment, the theme for 2022 became clear.

"I wanted to center this year's theme around memories because really, at the end of the day, that's what we do at the festival," said Taylor. "We create memories."

The event acts as a gathering for the community, and youth are a big part of the festivities.

"It really highlights a bright spot of our county and in our youth, particularly our youth that are involved in agriculture. These kids are hard workers," said Taylor. "The kids showing are from here and

they're representing their town, their county, their communities and their families."

The festival's royalty courts are another example of this, comprised of county residents from elementary to high school. Holding the titles of King Buckwheat and Queen Ceres LXXX are James "Jimmy" Peaslee of Albright and Taylor Holt of Fellowsville.

"To me, the festival highlights our youth," said Taylor. "Whether it's our marching bands or our livestock association or our royalty court, you really see some of the best we have to offer from our youth at the festival. I think that's really special."

To mark the anniversary, WVU's Pride of West Virginia will be performing on Saturday and a new craft beer festival has been added to the lineup on Friday. Another vital aspect of the festival, the arts and crafts fair is a full house of new and old vendors, said Taylor.

Completely volunteer-run, the Buckwheat Festival is by the community, for the community.

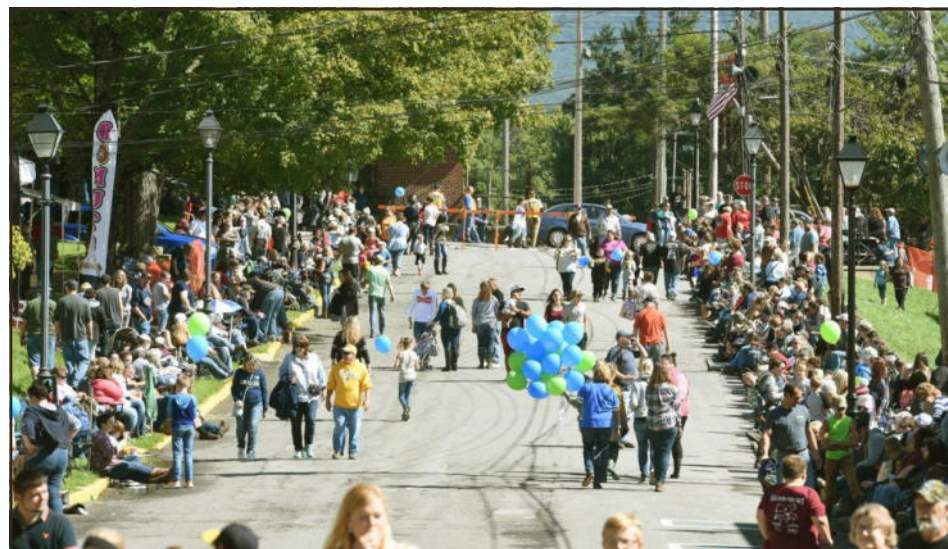
"We're an army of volunteers," said Taylor. "There's so many people that spend countless hours getting this festival off the ground, and it's pretty amazing to see what can be done by a lot of people with a passion to do this."

With all aspects of the festival returning to normal since 2020-21, festival organizers are looking forward to a strong turnout. There's something for everyone to enjoy.

"Hopefully everyone will be able to come back and join us and start making memories again."

TWEET @DominionPostWV

THE SCHEDULE



The Dominion Post file photo

Crowds gather for all the events and activities of a past Preston County Buckwheat Festival in Kingwood. This year's festival kicks off Thursday with a carnival, livestock judging, the Firemen's Parade and more and runs through next Sunday.

Tuesday

9 a.m.-5:30 p.m. — market steer, lambs and goats arrive

9 a.m.-8:30 p.m. — market swine arrive

2 p.m.-8 p.m. — exhibits registered in Memorial North Building

6-7 p.m. — market Steer weigh-in and pictures

7-8 p.m. — market lamb and goat weigh-in and pictures

Wednesday

7 a.m.-1 p.m. — market swine weigh-in and pictures

8 a.m.-3 p.m. — all remaining livestock arrive

8 a.m. — sheep showmanship followed by market lamb show

9 a.m.-3 p.m. — Memorial North exhibits judged (closed to the public)

1 p.m. — goat showmanship followed by market lamb show

1-2 p.m. — feeder calf and prospect market steer weigh-in

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. — swine showmanship followed by market swine show

11 a.m.-8 p.m. — buckwheat cakes and sausage dinners

Noon-10 p.m. — arts and 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 followed by breeding goat show

8:30-10 p.m. — BINGO (closed during parade)

7:30 p.m. — Firemen's Parade
9:30 p.m. — Fireman Day trophy presentation (closed to the public)

Friday

8 a.m.-7 p.m. — buckwheat cakes and sausage dinners

8 a.m. — Ladies and Shepherds Lead

9 a.m. — Royalty Breakfast (by invitation only)

9:30 a.m. — judging of purebred/cross-bred beef/dairy cattle

10 a.m.-9 p.m. — arts and crafts open

10 a.m.-10 p.m. — exhibit buildings open

10 a.m. — carnival open
Noon — Coronation of Queen Ceres and King Buckwheat (football field)

2 p.m. — School Day Parade
3:30 p.m. — Lamb Dressing Contest (Cow Palace)

4-10 p.m. — BINGO
6 p.m. — beef showmanship followed by supreme champion showman

6 p.m. — 1 Hour Flash Bash (Craig Civic Center)

SEE SCHEDULE, P-4

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SCHEDULE

FROM PAGE P-2

6-10 p.m. — Craft Beer Festival (Community Building, Mill Room)
10 p.m. — fireworks (rain date Saturday)

Saturday

7:30-9:30 a.m. — Ag Olympics (Cow Palace)
8 a.m.-7 p.m. — buckwheat cake and sausage dinners
10 a.m.-9 p.m. — arts and crafts open
10 a.m.-10 p.m. — exhibit buildings open
10 p.m. — carnival opens
Noon — Geocache Contest ends
Noon — Buckwheat Mile
Noon — Farmer's Day Parade
2 p.m. — WVU Marching Band Field Show (approximate time)
2 p.m. — Youth Livestock Award Ceremony
4 p.m. — Youth Livestock Sale (Cow

Palace)
4-10 p.m. — BINGO
6 p.m. — Big Bucks Bingo - Craig Civic Center - Doors open at 4:30 p.m.
9-11 p.m. — remaining livestock removed from barns

Sunday

8 a.m.-3 p.m. — buckwheat cake and sausage dinners
10 a.m.-1 a.m. — Car Show registration (Civic Center)
10 a.m.-3 p.m. — Car Show open for viewing (Civic Center parking lot)
10 a.m.-4 p.m. — arts and crafts open
10 a.m.-4 p.m. — exhibit buildings open
Noon — carnival open
1-4 p.m. — BINGO
1 p.m. — Irish Road Bowling registration, Pleasantdale Road
4 p.m. — drawings for \$10,000 and commemorative rifle
5-6 p.m. — remove exhibits from Memorial North



The Dominion Post file photo

NEW THIS YEAR, A CRAFT BEER FESTIVAL WILL BE HELD FROM 6-10 P.M. FRIDAY IN THE MILL ROOM.

The Cow Palace hosts several livestock shows and sales during the Preston County Buckwheat Festival. This is the 80th year for the annual event held in Kingwood by the Kingwood Volunteer Fire Department and numerous volunteers.



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The Preston County Buckwheat Festival 2022 royalty court, from left, escort Chayce Andrew, Maid of Honor Averil Adams, Queen Ceres Taylor Holt, King Buckwheat James Peaslee, Maid of Honor Natalie Stemple and escort Carson Kidwell. The 80th annual Buckwheat Festival is Thursday through Oct. 2 in Kingwood.

William Wotring/The Dominion Post

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QUEEN CERES LXXX



William Wotring/The Dominion Post photos

Taylor Holt is Queen Ceres LXXX and will reign over the 80th Preston County Buckwheat Festival this week.



Natalie Stemple



Averi Adams

The Buckwheat Festival begins Thursday.

Holt makes dream come true with crowning

BY KAITLYN EICHELBERGER

Keichelberger@DominionPost.com

As a little girl, Taylor Holt dreamed of being Queen Ceres of the Preston County Buckwheat Festival, an agriculture fair and carnival held annually in Kingwood. After months of working for the title, Holt has earned the title of Queen Ceres LXXX.

Preston High School senior and Fellowsville native, Holt decided to compete for Queen Ceres to share the opportunity with younger generations and act as a role model.

"It seems like every year the [number of] people who go out for [Queen Ceres] just keep getting smaller, and smaller and smaller," said Holt. "So I wanted to show children that it is still such a great opportunity."

Holt, who has a speech impediment, wanted children to see that nothing should hold them back from pursuing what they love.

"A bunch of people told me I wouldn't get Queen Ceres because of my speech impediment," said Holt. "I wanted to show people not to let a disability hold you back; to still go out and do whatever

you want."

After applying, participating in multiple pageants, interviewing with judges and giving speeches, Holt was chosen as this year's Queen Ceres.

"This was my first pageant ever," said Holt. "So honestly, I didn't know what I was doing and I didn't know what to expect. But I enjoyed it so much."

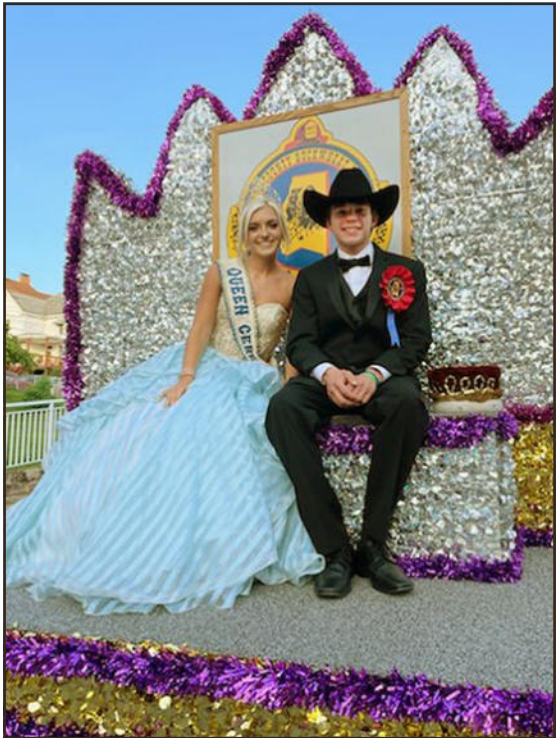
Since winning the title in April, Holt and King Buckwheat, James "Jimmy" Peaslee, have participated in 10 parades, attended the State Fair of West Virginia, visited various Preston County schools to speak to students, volunteered for the Food for Preston event and more.

Their next step? The Buckwheat Festival Thursday through Oct. 2.

The theme for this year's festival is "80 Years of Memories." After spending so many years attending the Buckwheat Festival, Holt looks forward to the special memories this year will bring.

"I get to create a ton of memories every year that I cherish forever," said Holt. "I'm very excited to see what memories I get to create this year."

TWEET @DominionPostWV



The coronation of Queen Ceres Taylor Holt and King Buckwheat Jimmy Peaslee will be at noon Friday at the Preston High football field. Also Friday, the Preston County Buckwheat Festival will feature a Royalty Breakfast, judging of some of the livestock, the School Day Parade and a Lamb Dressing Contest. New to the festival is the Craft Beer Festival, which takes place from 6-10 p.m. Friday in the Mill Room of the Community Building. The Buckwheat Festival kicks off Thursday and runs through next Sunday.

Submitted photo

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KING BUCKWHEAT



James “Jimmy” Peaslee, of Albright, is the 2022 King Buckwheat. He is a Preston High School senior and a fourth-generation farmer.



Carson Kidwell



Chayce Andrew

Peaslee has passion for Preston and agriculture

BY KAITLYN EICHELBERGER
Keichelberger@DominionPost.com

After years of competing in the Preston County Buckwheat Festival’s livestock shows, James “Jimmy” Peaslee has achieved a longtime goal — earning the title of King Buckwheat.

Preston High School senior and Albright resident, Peaslee is a fourth-generation farmer raising goats, sheep, cattle, chickens and a hay crop on his family farm.

“He has a passion for representing the county and agriculture,” said General Chairman Nick Taylor. “He’s shown animals for a lot of years.”

Peaslee is an active member of the Preston County FFA Chapter, the Lenox Loyal Workers 4H Club and the Preston County Livestock Association.

Before the final pageant, Peaslee was interviewed by judges and provided a

tour of his farm.

Since his crowning, Peaslee has traveled the county accompanied by Queen Ceres Taylor Holt. The pair have taken part in 10 parades, attended the State Fair of West Virginia, visited Preston County schools to speak to students, volunteered for the Food for Preston event and more.

“I have had a really fun time with the court doing all the parades and events,” said Peaslee.

Thursday through Oct. 2, Peaslee will represent Preston County at the Buckwheat Festival and continue to participate in the fair’s livestock shows.

“With the Buckwheat Festival coming up, I am really looking forward to exhibiting my livestock and spending time with the court and others involved in the festival,” he said.

TWEET @DominionPostWV

“... I AM REALLY LOOKING FORWARD TO EXHIBITING MY LIVESTOCK.”

James “Jimmy” Peaslee
King Buckwheat



Taylor Holt and Jimmy Peaslee will represent Preston County during the upcoming Buckwheat Festival in Kingwood. Both are seniors at Preston High School.

Honoring King Buckwheat

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BUCKWHEAT FESTIVAL SIGHTS



Clockwise from above: Cow Palace will be the place to go to see livestock such as this cow during the Buckwheat Festival. Check out the parades such as this Firemen's Parade from 2021 in which Central Preston Middle band participated. There will be parades Thursday, Friday and Saturday. Carnival rides will again be part of the activities Thursday through Sunday.

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My name is Samantha Stone and I am serving as the President of the Preston County Livestock Association. Our organization is youth-driven and works diligently to educate youth in and promote agriculture. PCLA seeks to work in conjunction with local 4-H groups and the Preston County FFA Chapter to ensure that the junior membership of PCLA has an annual youth show and sale for their consigned market livestock projects.

Special Thank You

The Preston County Livestock Association would like to extend a special thank-you to the Kingwood Volunteer Fire Department, the Preston County Extension Office, Farmers Day Chairman, and the countless volunteers and businesses that support our organization. Without monetary contributions, in-kind donations and manpower, the show and sale would not be possible. We thank you and look forward to seeing you all at the 80th Annual Preston County Buckwheat Festival.

The Preston County Livestock Association, in cooperation with the KVFD, the FFA chapter, and the 4-H Clubs, are proud to sponsor the annual Buckwheat Festival Junior Livestock Sale.

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WOLFE'S EXCAVATING

The youth exhibitors would like to invite the public to the Youth Livestock Shows September 28th and 29th, and the sale October 1st, at 4 p.m. in the Cow Palace.

FIELD OF BUCKWHEAT



Kathy Jenkins, of Albright, submitted this photo of a field of buckwheat blooming just outside of Masontown, in Preston County, in 2018. Buckwheat is a hardy crop with a short growing season. In 1938, Preston County farmers came together to celebrate the year’s buckwheat harvest and the Buckwheat Festival began. According to healthline.com, Buckwheat belongs to a group of foods commonly called pseudocereals. These are seeds that are consumed as cereal grains but don’t grow on grasses. Quinoa and amaranth are two other common pseudocereals. Buckwheat, despite it’s name, is not related to wheat and is gluten-free. In addition to buckwheat flour, it is ground for tea and noodles. Buckwheat has become popular as a health food due to its high mineral and antioxidant content. Its benefits may include improved blood sugar control.

Submitted photo

**55th Annual
AUTUMN GLORY FESTIVAL
October 12-16, 2022**

SPONSORED BY:

*Just 20 minutes north of
Morgantown, WV!*

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Greene County, Pennsylvania



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1-877-280-TOUR (8687)

Upcoming Events

Oct 1-2

FIM North American
Continental Championship

Oct 8-9

Harvest Festival

Oct 9

Save A Horse Stable
Open House

Oct 12-16

Tribute to Heroes
Veterans & First Responders

9/11 NEVER FORGET
Mobile Exhibit

Oct 22

Mystery Road Rally

Oct 22

Farm to Fork

Oct 30

Scratch Block
Aluminum Casting

SCAN ME



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GREENE COUNTY
Pennsylvania

Family Fun, Outdoor Recreation, and Scenic Fall Foliage!



Proud Co-Sponsor of The Pride of West Virginia at the Buckwheat Festival!



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