

Great Entertainment Revs up annual Kolache Festival

Local organizations, churches and the bakery have been busy preparing thousands of kolaches for the upcoming Prague Kolache Festival set for Saturday, May 3. Around 25,000 visitors are expected to fill the streets of this small community to enjoy the Czech celebration which features the fruit-filled pastry, named for the event. Favorite varieties of the kolaches include cherry, apricot, poppyseed, apple, prune, strawberry, pineapple and cream cheese.

Theme for the 49th annual festival, “American Made – Czech Pride” will be carried out during the 11 a.m. parade.

Beautiful Czech costumes feature sequined velvet vests, embroidered large puffy sleeves, and decorated white aprons over a brightly colored skirt. These costumes will be showcased by the Prague Czech Folk Dancers who perform at 10:30 a.m. and 12:40 p.m. at the grandstand. The royalty contestants are also dressed in the native costumes and the winners of the queen, jr. queen and princess titles revealed at 6:00 p.m.

Featured attractions at the grandstand include Shawna Russell, a rising Oklahoma star, country-rock singer and songwriter. She just released her debut CD “Goddess” on March 4. A freestyle bicycle stunt team from Texas will put on two shows and High Speed Boom, a 70’s classic rock band from OKC just named the top cover band by *Oklahoma Gazette* will perform at 5 p.m. The Jim Green Magic Show will be set up one block west of the stoplight to perform all afternoon.

Entertainment at the grandstand is from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. The Schedule:

- 10 a.m.- Dream Catcher’s Dance Co.
- 10:30- Prague Czech Folk Dancers
- 10:50- American National Anthem and Czech National Anthem
- 11 a.m.- Parade
- 12:30- Preview of Events, Contest Winners Announced
- 12:40- Prague Czech Folk Dancers
- 1:00- Costume Judging (5 yrs.-adults)
- 1:40- Freestyle Bicycle Stunt Team
- 2:00- Shawna Russell
- 3:00- Polka Lessons
- 3:20- Leaf Lights (Band)
- 4:00- Blues Extravaganza (Band)
- 4:30- Jim Paul Dancers
- 5:00- High Speed Boom (70’s Band from OKC)
- 5:30- Beseda Dancers (Czech Dance)
- 6:00- Royalty Crowning
- 6:45- Kolache Eating Contest
- 7:00- Polka Street Dance
- 10:00- Fireworks

A Food & Wine Contest is open to the public. Everyone is invited to bring homemade kolaches, bread and wine to Park Pavilion #1 for bragging rights plus prize money and trophies. Contest judging at 10 a.m.

Other activities include an Arts & Crafts Show at BancFirst parking lot, carnival, gospel music stage, Czech import outside market featuring cut crystal vases, stemware, embroidery and trim, a Beer Garden with music by a DJ, Wine & Gourmet Food Pavilion, 20 food booths, pony rides for children, and other vendors. A Bull Buck Out is scheduled for Friday at 7 p.m. and Saturday at 2 p.m. Registration will be taken at the event, books close 30 minutes before each event: Open Bulls (19 and over), Junior Bulls (18 and under), PeeWee Bulls (14 and under), Youth Steer Riding (12 and under), Calf Riding (9 and under), Mutton Bustin (6 and under).

Gospel Stage Schedule: 12:30- The Hargroves, 1:00- Master’s Voice, 1:30- Jarrod Vanderslice, 2:00- Logan/Jones, 2:30- Yo Yo Collins, 3:00- The Hargroves, 3:30- Master’s Voice, 4:00- Jarrod Vanderslice. There will also be inflatables for the kids. This stage is located next to Sonic.

All activities are located along Main Street (Highway 62).

The evening is highlighted with a Polka Street Dance with a lively Czech band providing the music. The dancing includes several folk dances which are easy to learn, just watch the crowd and follow along. At the conclusion of the dance is a beautiful fireworks display.

Prague is located about 45 miles east of Oklahoma City on Highways 99 and 62, exit I-40 at mile marker 200, then 7 miles north.

For further information call the festival office 405-567-4866 or praguekolachefestival.com.