

Czech it out

Yukon starts October off strong celebrating community's heritage

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A Yukon tradition like no other returns as the calendar switches into October.

The Oklahoma Czech Festival returns with events throughout Saturday, Oct. 1 celebrating Yukon's rich Czech history.

2022 CZECH FESTIVAL

WHEN: Saturday, Oct. 1

WHERE: Yukon, Oklahoma

DETAILS: This is the 56th year celebrating and working to preserve the area's Czech and Slovak heritage.

The festival begins at 8 a.m. Saturday morning. People from all over line up around Main Street from Garth Brooks Boulevard to 3rd Street, part of historic Route 66, to watch the Czech Festival Parade that starts at 10 a.m.

President of Oklahoma Czech Inc, Marjorie Jezek, talked about the expectations for the parade.

"The parade, I heard, is going to be bigger than any parade we've ever had," Jezek said. "It starts at 10 a.m. and goes down Route 66 from Garth Brooks to 3rd Street."

Pageant contestants will be featured in the Parade, as well as civic and youth groups, dancers and more. The theme for the year is Everything Czech.

Festivities eventually head to the Oklahoma Czech building (located at 5th and Cedar) with Czech and Slovak folk dance performances occurring throughout the day.

Singing and dancing happening throughout the afternoon will all be in Czech. A beer wagon will be under the tent serving beer during the festival.

Foods like kolaches and klobasy sausages are prepared by the Oklahoma Czechs, Inc ahead of



The Oklahoma Czech Festival returns Oct. 1 with traditional dance, music, food and fun for all ages. The day begins with the annual parade at 8 a.m. down Main Street. FILE PHOTO

time. Be sure to get kolaches early, since they are usually sold out of them before noon.

Members and volunteers make kolaches on multiple nights of each week, with this year totaling 24,000 kolaches being prepared for the festival by these groups.

Arts and Craft booths, along with festival food vendors, will be present for the festival. West of the Czech building on the street will be the 167 craft booths.

"They've got everything you can imagine for sale," Jezek said.

The 2022 Oklahoma Czech Royalty (which includes a Queen, Junior Queen, Prince and Princess) will be coronated at 4 p.m. The royalty coronation ball concludes the festival at 205 N. Czech Hall Road, known as historical Yukon Czech Hall.

"This is our 56th year trying to preserve Czech heritage and Slovak heritage around Yukon," Jezek said.

Come out to Yukon on Oct. 1 and experience that heritage firsthand.

Chickasha to host Rock Island Arts Festival

The 14th annual Rock Island Arts Festival (RIAF) 2022 is only a few weeks away, Sept. 30 - Oct. 2.

Festival activities are held in the beautiful and historic Train Depot area of downtown Chickasha on east Chickasha Avenue. Sponsorship opportunities are still available.

At least 65 vendors have registered for the Festival and include artists, crafters, businesses, community groups, food trucks, breweries, wineries, musicians, performers and more. The latest updates

can be found on the website www.rockislandartsfestival.org.

Children's activities will be held around the depot area. Our dunk tank is back again this year to help raise funds for future CAAC artistic endeavors. Sign up to "take the plunge" for the arts!

There are no fees to enter the Festival or to park. All the live music and other performances are free, too.

For additional information, to become a sponsor or signup for the dunk tank, email director@rockislandartsfestival.org

OR call (405) 274-7547.

Again this year, the Rock Island Arts Festival is pleased to have other major events held in conjunction with the Festival activities, including the 5th annual 'Oklahoma Food Truck Championship' Competition and Chickasha's 'Rock Island Ride' charity bicycle event, both on Saturday.

The RIAF is a multi-faceted, family-friendly arts event organized and facilitated by the Chickasha Area Arts Council (CAAC) each fall

since 2009.

In March 2019, the Chickasha Area Arts Council was honored by having its 10th annual 'Rock Island Arts Festival' recognized as Chickasha's 'Event of the Year for 2018' by the Chickasha Chamber of Commerce.

The Chickasha Area Arts Council is a local 501c3 non-profit, all volunteer organization. Contributions made to the CAAC, RIAF and its other programs may be tax-deductible. The CAAC is located at 521 W. Chickasha Avenue.