

State's sweetest celebration

32nd Honey Festival scheduled for Dec. 3 in Minco

By Jayson Knight
Staff Writer

The date for Minco's 32nd Annual Honey Festival was announced the last week of August by the Minco Chamber of Commerce. This year's Honey Festival will be Saturday, December 3, located where Highways 81 and 36 intersect, about 30 minutes southwest of Oklahoma City on Highway 81.

This year's festival will include attractions of all kinds, some traditions, and some things never seen at the Honey Festival before.

The day will begin at 7 a.m. with a pancakes and sausage breakfast sponsored by First National Bank and hosted by the chamber at the First United Methodist Church, located at the corner of North Highway 81 and Pontotoc Street in Minco.

Indian tacos will be served from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Minco Assembly, located at 309 SW Caddo Street in Minco.

A Honey Bake-Off will be held at the Minco Senior Center, located at 221 Main Street. Food entries will have to be turned in at the senior center by 11 a.m., and judging will begin at 1 p.m. Contestants must bring their recipe to be eligible to win.

Inside Minco City Hall, located at 202 Main Street, free samples of milk, chocolate milk, and cheese will be provided by Braum's Dairy and the Minco Chamber of Commerce.

A kids tractor pull contest, for kids 12 years or younger, will begin at 12:30 p.m. next to city hall, and registration for the contest will be at 11 a.m.

Santa will be featured downtown from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. during the festival. 21st Century Santa is in need of new, unwrapped toys for their upcoming toy drive. For more information, give them a call at (580) 301-4538.

The Little Miss Honey Bee will be held one day prior, Friday, December 2 at the First Baptist Church's Family Life Center.

For more information about the pageant, contact Shelby Morgan at (405) 535-8001.

An arts and crafts show with over 100 vendors throughout three buildings will feature individual crafts, jewelry, gifts, honey baskets, along with wood and iron crafts. For more information on the arts and crafts show, or to get



involved, email mincohoneyfestival@att.net or call (405) 642-7136.

Thompson Carriages will be offering carriage rides for \$5 per person at Veteran's Park. Children five and under can ride free.

"Son of a Beekeeper" Lucas Ross will be performing at the arts and crafts show from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Ross is a Minco native who has appeared in films, on television, and many regional commercials.

The event will also feature tours of the Great Plains Cotton Gin and Ross Honey Company. The Great Plains Cotton Gin is located 1.25 miles east of the four-way stop on Highway 37 and will conduct tours hourly from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Ross Honey Company, located at 109 Belle Street, will host tours from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Honey, candy, and gifts will be available at the honey plant, which is operated by Jimmy and Glenda Ross.

Minco Chamber spokesperson Deana Walje said Thursday, September 15, "We are working on the arts and craft show and we've had many people that have already replied to their invitations to be here. I feel like that is going to be a great place to be. Our kiddie tractor pull, that is always a big draw. The kids really get into that and they really enjoy it. That is a very interesting thing for children this year.

"We're also going to have a man here that's going to be doing axe throwing, which has become a real popular, fun thing for people to do, so that should be interesting. We'll also have a lot of good food trucks. We have our honey plant and cotton gin tours, which are amazing, and if there are people who have not been to those, they really need to go through both of those two tours. We're going to have our carriage rides available for people, Santa Claus will be here and so we're really expecting another really good day."

The last two Minco Honey Festivals powered through the COVID pandemic, and with a few additional safety concerns here and there, it was very much the same as always. While weather can always be a factor, it will not deter the Minco Honey Festival.

"That was a complete blessing that all that went the way it did," Walje said of the festival persisting through the pandemic. "The weather was good and we were able to have everybody outside because that was the only way we could do it and it worked out wonderfully. It really did. We've been really blessed. Even if the weather is bad, we'll just go ahead and do it. Those who can come, please do, and we will have a good time, and just do the best that we can."



Patrons of the Minco Honey Festival enjoy a carriage ride during the Minco Honey Festival.

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