

Pumpkin search ends Wednesday

By TOM SPRING
Gazette assistant city editor

CIRCLEVILLE — Is the Great Pumpkin from Ross County this year? The world finds out when the courthouse clock strikes 12 Wednesday, the time of the first official activity of the 77th annual Circleville Pumpkin Show.

While the summer drought has had a tremendous effect on general crop production, pumpkins have escaped the brunt of the heat.

Last year Larry and Gary Schaffer, two brothers from Chillicothe, exhibited two 430-pound monsters that won grand prize. The year before it was Roger Kline of near Yellowbud.

Who has had the most luck at growing this year is anybody's guess. But while the summer heat may have shrunk the size of the fruit and vegetables, the traditional pumpkin tower and pumpkin, squash and gourd display will occupy its usual space on North Court Street Wednesday through Saturday.

Seven mile-long parades, some lasting 90 minutes, will highlight the 77th annual event at 3 and 8 p.m. daily except Saturday when the Queen's Parade will cap the festival at 8 p.m.

NEW entertainment this year includes a ventriloquist, a magician and a lasso act, says festival official Larry Priest. Other new attractions are the Flight One Air Force Band and the first Pumpkin Show 5-mile run.

Ross County bands performing include Joe Waters and the Appalachian Band, the Adelphi Community and Zane Trace High School bands.

Pumpkin carver Bob Spohn and Pumpkin Man will be back. Marching bands and other groups will provide continuous free entertainment daily from 11:30 a.m. until 10 p.m.

Exhibits of arts and crafts, contests ranging from hog calling to pumpkin pie eating and baking, and treats from pumpkin pie to pumpkin pancakes, pumpkin burgers and

Festival a magnet Page 6
Schedule Page 8

pumpkin soup will be offered to festivalgoers.

Rain is predicted for Wednesday, the day of the Little Miss and Miss Pumpkin Show parades. Contestants for the latter represent the junior and senior classes of Zane Trace, Westfall, Logan Elm, Circleville, Teays Valley and Amanda-Clearcreek high schools. Cheering sections from the schools will gather at the West Main Street platform for the judging after the 8 p.m. parade ends.

VYING for queen are:

Zane Trace senior Julie Barnhart, 17, daughter of Ralyn and Carolyn Barnhart of 2126 Ohio 180, Chillicothe, and junior Ginger Hatter, 16, daughter of Robert and Mary Hatter of Kingston.

Westfall senior Shawn Raines, 17, daughter of David and Karen Raines of 12459 Ohio 56 West, Mount Sterling, and junior Stephanie Timbrook, 16, daughter of Thomas and Harriette Timbrook of 12407 Cleo Road, Orient.

Logan Elm senior Julie Diane Harris, 17, daughter of the Larry Harris of 6586 Hitler Road No. 2, Circleville, and junior Julie Leist, 16, daughter of Jerry and Susan Leist of 22645 Morris-Leist Road, Stoutsville.

Circleville senior Jill Diane McGlone, 16, daughter of Fred and Connie McGlone of 896 Lincoln Drive, Circleville; and junior Lisa Leonhardt, 17, daughter of Norma Lambert of 118 W. Mill St., Circleville.

Teays Valley senior Diana Gail Felty, 17, daughter of Sandra Felty of Commercial Point, and junior Dana Carol Trimmer, 16, daughter of the Bill Trimmers of Ashville.

Amanda-Clearcreek senior Amy Jo Allen, 17, daughter of Robert Allen of Amanda and junior Corinna Diane Martin, 16, daughter of Bill and Loretta Reid of Lancaster.

Thursday's highlights are the Baby Parade at 3 and the Parade of Bands at 8 p.m.

(photo)

IA

came
cinder
to the
within

Clipped By:



mathew5554

Fri, Mar 22, 2019