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Palisade Peach Festival Celebrates Western Colorado’s Peaches

By Sharon Sullivan

Boxes of peaches, peach pastries, peach-scented toiletries, and other peachy items will be at the **Palisade Peach Festival in western Colorado, Friday and Saturday, August 21 and 22.**

Attendees can watch local chefs prepare peach-inspired cuisine, purchase peach infused salsas, eat sandwiches made with peaches, sip peach wine, and more. Peaches will also be for sale – either individually or by the boxful. The Palisade Chamber of Commerce event takes place in the town’s Riverbend Park, along the Colorado River.

“We hope to have free peaches again this year,” said Kylynn Hoisington, community engagement coordinator for the Palisade Chamber. “Last year Talbott (Farms) donated enough peaches that everyone got a (single) peach.”



Peach Day celebrations have been taking place in Palisade and elsewhere since the 1880s, according to the Palisade Historical Society and Museum. The Palisade Chamber of Commerce has hosted the annual peach festival since 1980.

The Palisade High School band will be peddling its popular peach cobbler, and Kokopelli Farm Market will be offering its peach hand pies. Vendors will also be selling other peach-related items, as well, such as soaps and scrubs, Hoisington said.



Price of admission includes live music throughout the weekend performed by a slate of Colorado-based bands. Velvet Daydream, a 1970s-inspired Boulder band, is the headliner on Friday, with the country-rock Sean Moon Band headlining Saturday’s music. Wowzers, a funky 80s/90s music band; Anthony Peebles, who performs folk and country-inspired music; and a rhythm and blues inspired artist called Chuck Jay are among the artists scheduled to perform Friday and Saturday.



On Friday, there will be a drone show titled “Stories in the Sky,” presented by the Colorado Tourism Board, starting around 8:30 p.m. “It should be a super cool experience,” Hoisington said.

The Peach Fest happens Friday from 3-9 p.m., and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Tickets for a weekend pass range from \$20 for kids, ages 3-12, \$30 for seniors, or military members, and \$40 for adults. Day passes are also available.

While parking will not be available inside the park — except for people with disabilities — there will be free shuttles that leave from Palisade and Central high schools, and Mount Garfield Middle School, Taylor Elementary, and Palisade Christian Church.

To purchase tickets, or for more information visit: www.palisadecoc.com

