

BUCKAROO BREAKFAST • SUNDAY, AUG. 3, 6-10 A.M.

70 YEARS OF HOME-COOKED FLAVOR

by Molly Hover, *The Bulletin* Special Projects / Photos courtesy of Buckaroo Breakfast

The sun is just rising above the horizon as volunteers stoke the fires and ready the equipment and food for the crowds that will undoubtedly pour through the gates.

The smell of home-cooked food — eggs, bacon, sausage, pancakes, pan bread and coffee — waft through the campsite at the north end of the Deschutes County Fair & Rodeo grounds.

Welcome to the annual Buckaroo Breakfast!

This year is a special one for the Buckaroo Breakfast as it has been a tradition of the fair for 70 years. The Breakfast will be held Sunday, Aug. 3 from 6 to 10 a.m. for a very reasonable \$8 per adult and \$5 per child, while children ages 6 and younger eat for free.

Coordinators Kerry and Sue Fuller will be celebrating their second year as the Top Hand's of the event — a job that requires them to bring all the moving parts of such a large-scale event together for the community that enjoys it. They are not without help though. Over 200 volunteers each year show up at the fairgrounds to make the event run smoothly.

"Many long time Central Oregon families have been

involved in the Buckaroo Breakfast since the beginning," said Sue Fuller. "The Campbell clan has been making the wood-fired pan bread for decades."

Volunteers like these make it possible to feed over 1,600 people in just four hours.

Before the guests arrive at the Buckaroo Breakfast, the volunteers must put their month of careful planning into action and, as Fuller said, "turn the breakfast into a reality." As tradition dictates, the entire meal is cooked over wood-burning stoves for which the fires are lit at 11 p.m. the night before and tended throughout the night by dedicated volunteers.

The amount of food is no small task either.

"It takes approximately 280 pounds each of sausage and bacon, 25 cases of eggs, 15 cases of potatoes ... 200 pounds of flour and 224 pounds of pancake mix just to get the basics started," Fuller said.

In addition to this, 36 pounds of coffee is also bagged



and boiled before 6 a.m. the day of the breakfast.

Although the food is the star, the tradition runs much deeper. A band also performs for the guests and volunteers — this year it will be country band Three Quarter Short — much like the military bands did during World War II when the breakfast first began.

However, it is the people that participate each year who contribute to the history and spirit of the Buckaroo Breakfast and are the reason why, as Fuller said, "for the past 70 years it has continued without pause."

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS AREA

An informational experience for fairgoers of all ages

by Molly Hover, *The Bulletin* Special Projects

VFW may stand for Veterans of Foreign Wars, but it really stands for much more. The presence of such an area at the Deschutes County Fair & Rodeo (DCFR) is both informational and humbling.

For the last seven years, the VFW area has been a part of the DCFR in between the Sheep Barn and the food court. Bob Cusick, a coordinator of the area, has been involved for the last several years and helps man the booth and answer questions for fairgoers.

As a Vietnam veteran with the Marine Corps himself, Cusick understands the importance of featuring such a booth at the fair.

"I'll have elements from all the different organizations: American Legions, Vietnam Veterans of America, Disabled American Veterans (DAV)," Cusick said. "Plus I'll have personnel from the Veterans Support Center in case anyone needs counseling or wants information about counseling."

Last year, the VFW area was able to secure a travelling half-scale Vietnam veteran wall, a huge accomplishment and an even bigger reminder of those who have served. This year, fairgoers can expect to find a plethora of information about the veterans organizations, counseling for PTSD for themselves or a family member, representatives from the various military branches, the Red Cross. The National Guard will also be on hand with some equipment.

The exposure that this brings to the different veterans organizations in Central Oregon is a large part of why the DCFR donated this area to the VFW in the first place. There will also be an opportunity to sign up for a membership through these various organizations.

"Primarily, it's just to let the public know what we're doing here in the veterans organization in the local area," Cusick said. "Come down and say hello."

