

Local

Beef

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Since around 9:30 a.m., the Cattlemen meanwhile had been barbecuing about 190 pounds of tri-tip, 45 roasts at a time, purchased from Cash n' Carry in Pendleton, Becky Harrell said.

The roasts were marinated overnight in a special sauce, a “secret Cattlemen’s recipe,” the men jokingly said. Harrell, White, Mackenzie and McKim worked together to prepare the roasts, and White mechanically sliced them into thin strips later on.

The meal included baked beans, corn on the cob, three different types of salad, rolls, fruit and vegetables, prepared by Arendell and Koontz, and ice cream for dessert, provided by the Cattlewomen.

The students ate lunch and played outside, periodically returning to get some more beef and ice cream from the volunteers.

Bob Harrell said, “We started over in Brooklyn (Primary School), and did it there for a year, and then came over here (to South Baker School),” explaining that, “We didn’t think that

they had enough beef on the menu.”

He said they began the tradition at Brooklyn, because their daughter, Lexi, who’s now in the 8th grade, was in the 3rd grade at the time, and there was a concern about the lack of beef served in area schools, and education about agriculture in the community.

The choice to continue presenting the beef feed at South Baker comes from the opinion of the volunteer group that the students are old enough to understand the message being conveyed, and are young enough not to have heard it too many times, resulting in redundancy.

Beef for Schools, a program initiated by the Baker County Livestock Association (BCLA) in 2010, has played a major role in supplying donated beef, in the form of hamburger, from volunteer livestock producers, not only filling the need for more meat on the menu, but with from 90 to 100 head of cattle donated so far. That translates to thousands of dollars in savings for area schools.

Anthony Johnson, outgoing Curriculum Director and interim morning principal, said about the beef feed, “It’s a wonderful

experience for kids. I don’t think many of our kids are from ranching and farming backgrounds. This is a great education for them. The kids did well today.” He gave the presentation high praise, stating it’s important to know where our food comes from, and the processes involved.

Walt Wegener, outgoing Baker School District Superintendent who was also present, said, “It’s a great event. You want to say something really, really positive about the Cattle-

women, and what they do for the kids. We love it, and the kids count on it. We get parents saying, ‘Can we come for lunch today?’”

An average of about 20 parents a year have attended the lunch.

The barbecue lunch was a success once again, and according to Beth and Wannie Mackenzie later, “there was no spare meat left.”

The group plans on another barbecue beef lunch presentation next year.



Todd Arriola / The Baker County Press

Students at South Baker received some tasty samples outside on the playground.

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Howard F. Bronson, MSJ, is the author of several popular self help books including: *Good Idea! Now What?* (Time/Warner), *How To Heal A Broken Heart in 30 Days* (Penguin/Random House), *Dog Gone* (Bestsell) and *Early Winter* (Bestsell) among others. His works have appeared in over 200 newsletters in the health care and legal industries. He wrote this book after years working with troubled marriages.

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