

AHI

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Hawaiian chants. The trip led by Kimikeo, a Hawaiian elder. He brings a spirit through songs, prayers, and Hawaiian legends to our campers.

Before we even get into the canoes, he welcomes us into his ohana through blessings and song. Ohana means family, which is a big part of the camp experience. We then head out into the ocean in our outrigger canoes, learning Hawaiian lessons along the way to the ancient fish ponds. We get out of the canoes and walk to the sacred space that has been a part of the traditional Hawaiian culture for hundreds of years. One of his traditions is to bless us in a traditional Hawaiian prayer.

As Kimikeo blesses us with the ocean water from the ancient fish pond, he asks each of us our name. When he came to me, I said, "I am Ahi." He looked at me and said, "We need you." This hit me right away and I knew my name was meant to be. Kimikeo was saying that ahi was needed to help feed and keep his community healthy. I knew I was brought to Maui to do the same thing for the cancer survivors. Each day I worked and prepared meals, I remembered why I was at the camp.



Each time I return from camps, I remind myself every day that through cooking I can help people and be a vital part of my community.

In my Hood River community, I want to help people in the same way I do at camp. This outlook is what has inspired "Ahi's Ohana Catering." I am gradually working on building up business for my catering company. My vision is that the menus will have a lot of

Hawaiian and pan-Asian influences, both in the food I serve and the way I care for everyone. Yes, it has been a long-time dream of mine to own my own business and a catering company is an ideal avenue towards realizing that dream. But I also hope to utilize the catering company as a way to give back to my mainland ohana.

Mahalo and Aloha.



Photo courtesy of Tonia Farman

CHEF MARK 'Ahi' Whitehead works up some lunch at the camp on Maui. His fellow volunteers sang and danced for his 50th birthday at this spring's camp. From left are Molly Maher, Jeremy Saunders, and Tonia Farman.

County Fair comes July 22-25

The 2015 Hood River County Fair takes place Wednesday through Saturday, July 22-25, at the Hood River County Fairgrounds, 3020 Wy'east Road, south of Hood River near the community of Odell.

Gates open at noon each day, carnival rides begin at 1 p.m. General admission is \$7 per adult Wednesday through Friday, and \$10 per adult on Saturday. Children aged 6-12 are admitted for \$2 every day; children younger than 6 admitted free. Season tickets are available (\$24 for adults, \$5 ages 6-12 inclusive). Thursday is "Senior Day." Hood River County seniors pay \$5, as do military veterans showing an official veteran card. Fair parking is free.

Enjoy open class, 4-H, FFA, and commercial exhibits of all kinds, along with carnival rides and midway fun, exotic animals, fun daily acts, special entertainment every

evening—including star country music trio Gloriana on Saturday—great activities, and all kinds of delicious food.

Regular general admission prices to the fair are \$7 per adult Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, and \$10 on Saturday. Admission for children aged 6-12 is \$2. Children under 6 are admitted free. Season tickets are available (\$24 adults, \$5 ages 6-12 inclusive). Thursday is "Senior Day." Hood River County seniors pay \$5, as do military veterans showing an official veteran card. Fair parking is free. The fair opens each day at noon, carnival rides begin at 1 p.m. Check the schedule, as FFA and 4-H events begin earlier. Many favorite displays have moved to the blue gym this year from the gold.

Every day is "Bracelet Day" on Cascade Amusements carnival rides. Save

money on rides by purchasing a \$22 ride bracelet ticket for just \$17 in advance of the fair's opening. They're available in Odell at the fair office, Mid Valley Market, Hood River Supply, and J.J.'s; at McIsaac's in Parkdale; at Juanita's Market in The Dalles; and at Juanita's Market, Hood River Supply, and Columbia State Bank in Hood River, and must be purchased by 5:00 p.m., Wednesday, July 22. Each bracelet ticket purchased may be used on any one day of the fair, and is good for rides all day long. Carnival rides begin at 1:00 p.m. each day, and continue until closing. The fair gates open at noon each day.

For additional information about the Hood River County Fair, call the fair office at 541-354-2865, or check the website at hoodriverfair.org. Follow us on Facebook, too!

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