

Free food awaits county fair visitors

By Sam Dieter

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No county fair is complete without food, and the Thomas County Fair will have several free meals lined up again this year in the middle of fair week.

The first of these is a barbecue, served at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday. The Thomas County Fair Board sponsors the meal, which comes, fittingly enough, on the same day as the 4-H grand open class swine, sheep and goat shows.

Audrey Hines, the secretary for the board, said the board members cook and serve the barbecue beef, along with chips and watermelon. The McCarty family farms donates the meat and KXXX radio station provides the watermelon, she said, and the Lions Clubs help serve the food.

"I don't know if they will this year, they usually do so and probably will (help)," she said.

For those willing to get up early, there is a free breakfast Thursday.

The Thomas County Community Foundation is serving eggs, sausage, hash browns, biscuits, fresh fruit, orange juice and coffee at 7:30 a.m. in the 4-H building. Virginia Umberger, who runs Sunflower Kitchen Bakery, caters the meal.

Melinda Olson, executive director for the foundation, said this will be the seventh time they serve the breakfast.

"It's just something we do for the community, to just sort of say thank you for supporting the 4-Hers," Olson said. "It was just something, you know, that they though could be done to give back to the community."


Many foundation members are involved with area 4-H clubs, or have kids who participate, she said. The meal was also meant as a way to make people aware of the foundation and what it does.

One of the main services it provides, Olson said, is give out quarterly grants to area non-profits and government entities, like schools and churches. The grants are for specific programs and service projects.

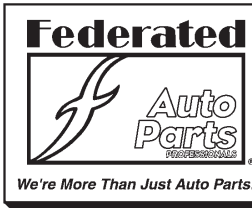


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Breakfast will be served just like last year's Thomas County Fair, pictured here, and it will be free at 7:30 a.m. on Thursday in the 4-H building. Free barbecue will also be featured during this week's festivities as a way to thank those who support 4-H.



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