

Kevin Bacon, Ian Tyson to headline at August event

High Country Cowboy Gathering expands to two-day event with music and family events.

By Christine Smith
Dubois Frontier Editor

Two big names will headline the 2010 Dubois High Country Cowboy Gathering, which has expanded to include two full days of family-oriented activities on Aug. 20 and 21. Kevin Bacon and the Bacon Brothers Band will take center stage Friday night and Canadian music legend Ian Tyson will anchor the weekend on Saturday night. Bacon is fresh from receiving a Golden Globe Best Actor Award for his role as LtCol. Mike Strobl in the HBO film "Taking Chance." Strobl escorted Lance Cpl. Chance Phelps body home to Dubois after he was killed in action in Iraq in April 2004. Tyson, who is a legend among folk, cowboy and western music enthusiasts, is making his third appearance in Dubois.

The concert will be held on an outdoor stage that will be set up at the end of Stalnaker Street next to the Headwaters Center.

NOD– Needs of Dubois– the nonprofit group that has hosted the gathering's first three years, is this year partnering with the Chance Phelps Foundation to organize the event, which will also include a two-day street fair centered in town park.

In addition to food and beverage vendors, booths will be available both days for retailers, craftspeople, and artisans to sell their wares.

Additional activities will also take place throughout the day. Chainsaw carving contests, pig wrestling, bed races, chicken poop bingo, cow chip tossing, dunk tank, stick horse races and kids activities and games are just some of the events being discussed by organizers.

"It's going to be a whole town event for families," said Sally Jardine, who has taken on the overall event organization with Gretchen Mack. "We really want to bring business to town– and this will."

After expenses are met, proceeds from the event will be split between NOD and the Chance Phelps Foundation, but both Jardine and Mack believe the revenue generated from a large influx of people will help all of Dubois, not just their own projects.

"Obviously, we want to raise money for both organizations, but town is hurting and we want all the businesses to benefit," said Mack.

"I would definitely say this is going to bring a lot of business to Dubois," Jardine said. "I'm expecting between 500 and 700 people."

Expenses for bringing in top entertainment "will be huge," Jardine said, "we need as much help as we can get."

Along with ticket sales, sponsorships are being sold to offset the costs of both concerts, and vendor booths will come with a fee.

As always, volunteers are desperately needed to pull off an event of this size, and Jardine and Mack are hopeful residents and businesses will come forward to make the weekend a success.

Volunteers are needed to help organize specific activities as well as work at the gathering. Vendors are encouraged to call and reserve booths as soon as possible and any local bands or musicians who are interested in volunteering to take the stage to provide music during the day can call and sign up.

“Ideas and suggestions are welcome,” said Jardine.

Jardine can be reached at 455-2606 and Mack at 455-2413. NOD meets the first Tuesday of each month at 5:30 p.m. at Jardine’s home. The meetings are open to anyone interested in helping with this event or any other aspect of the group’s mission, which is to reach out and aid community members who are in need.