



Contact: Emily Janowski
publicity@sonomacountyfair.com
(707) 545-4200

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BUZZ AND COOKIE BUZZINI HONORED WITH THE 2018 AWARD OF EXCELLENCE IN THE HORSE INDUSTRY

Couple honored for dedication and commitment to the Equine Industry

SANTA ROSA, CA – June 19, 2018 – For over 40 years Buzz and Cookie Buzzini have continued to pass on their all-encompassing knowledge and wisdom in the riding and rodeo industry. With extensive backgrounds in the horse industry and a combined passion for providing a place for kids to ride and learn, the Buzzini's are helping to form and maintain the vibrant horse community enjoyed in Sonoma County. The Sonoma County Fair Board of Directors is pleased to present the 2018 Award of Excellence in the Horse Industry to Buzz and Cookie Buzzini.

Both of them grew up in California, and miles apart in very unassuming neighborhoods. Buzz grew up the third generation in his family to take an interest in horses and rodeo. During the day, those on the rodeo circuit had day jobs in downtown San Francisco in what Buzz remembers as "butcher town". The district in the Bayview sector of San Francisco, was an industrial community of butcher shops, tanneries, wool pulleries, tallow works, all supported by the barge and railway system for transportation of goods. Every day after school Buzz would join his uncle and the rest of the rodeo circuit leaving their day shift in butcher town and practice his riding and roping at McLaren Park, where shows and rodeos were hosted. He also worked for his uncle who cared for an arena and stables over in Daly City in exchange for time in the arena to practice.

At the same time in Burbank California, at the Beverly Hills Stables, Cookie was 7 years old and following in the footsteps of her mother. Her mother was an avid English rider. Cookie said when her mother purchased her first horse for her, she decided to head in a different direction, and taught herself to ride western instead.

In 1980 Buzz and Cookie were married and purchased Double Tree Ranch. Buzz said he can remember when he was a kid; he promised himself someday he would buy a ranch and build a



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horse facility. "I wanted to make sure kids had a place to come to if they wanted to practice. Time spent in the arena and on a horse keeps kids out of trouble, for me it's always been about them."

Buzz worked for the phone company until retirement in 1990. Cookie was on the ranch giving lessons and traveling to horse shows with kids she was training. Her fondest memories of being in the horse industry were giving lessons. She loved going to shows, and seeing her kids succeed. "My kids always did well at horse shows and it made me so happy, people used to hate when we would come to a horse show because they knew these kids would be steep competition."

Today, Buzz and Cookie are enjoying retirement from rodeo and horse shows, and now run beef cattle at their ranch. Buzz still offers lessons and they are members of the California Horseman Association, American Cowboy Team Roping Association, the Novato and Petaluma Riding and Driving Club and are lifetime members of the Sebastopol Wranglers.

The Sonoma County Fair is proud to present the 2018 Award of Excellence in the Horse Industry to Buzz and Cookie Buzzini. The Fair celebrated the honor during its annual Awards Ceremony on Tuesday, May 22 at the Fairgrounds. Buzz and Cookie received the award and trophy, designed by Keith Christie and donated by the Sonoma County Trail Blazers. They will also be recognized on Farmer's Day at the Fair, Sunday, August 5 in Chris Beck Arena.

Join in a "Salute to Heroes" at this summer's Sonoma County Fair from August 2 to August 12! In addition to tributes to the many heroes of Sonoma County, visitors to the Fair will find all the makings for a fun-filled family outing. A floral tribute to the beauty of Sonoma County, free entertainment and tasty fair foods are just the beginning. From the exhibit buildings filled with your neighbors' works of art to the livestock in the barns; from the cheering horse race fans to the screams of excitement in the carnival, the Fair has something for everyone. For details, visit SonomaCountyFair.com or call (707) 545-4200. Like us on Facebook, and follow us on Instagram and Twitter to keep up with the fun. See you at the Fair!