



Middletown Days Grand Marshals, Makaila and Kevin Benjamin

Benjamin Ranches is family owned and operated by husband and wife, Kevin and Makaila, and 2 adorable yet crazy boys, Braydon age 6 and Bryce age 3.

This family has donated the beef that we raffle off for Middletown Days for several years. They raise the grass fed steer, and process it for the lucky recipients. The Middletown Central Park Association is very appreciative for the time, energy and effort in this endeavor to support our Park.

Kevin was born and raised in Lake County. After graduating from Kelseyville High School, he enlisted in the Army. His home base was in Ft. Stewart Georgia where he served for 5 years, 2 of those he was deployed.

His deployment to Iraq was from 2009-2010

Always pushing to further his ranks in the Army, Kevin was determined to finish 2 of the hardest schools the branch had to offer. In 2011 he graduated not only from Sniper school but also one

of the most challenging for him, Ranger School. His final tour was to Afghanistan in 2012-2013. He loved serving in the Army and probably would have made it a career if it were not for a small-town rancher named Makaila that he just had to marry.

Makaila Benjamin is a 6th generation Rancher. Her great, great Grandparents, Les and Irene McIntire took over the ranch in 1920. The original ranch was founded in 1856, purchased by Les' grandfather in 1890. It is the second oldest ranch in Lake County. Known as the McIntire Ranch, they raised Herefords cattle and Pigs.

Les and Irene were part of the original foundation of the county ranchers who started the Lake County Cattlemen's Association and Lake County Cow Bells. Over the more recent years, the ranch has made the transition from cattle and pigs to include sheep.

Married in 2014, they worked to save towards building their goal of raising cattle and hogs. Their focus was on financial stability to support their future family. They decided to start a business raising and processing meat for their local community, friends and family. They named their ranch 2M Benjamin Ranches. The "2M" was her great, great grandparents' brand which they incorporated into their name to honor them and keep their memory alive.

After the COVID lockdown, they noticed more people were looking for healthier meat for their families. Grass fed beef fit the marked need. The rest, so to say, is history.

They lease several acres of grassland in the county to raise their cattle, along with the current McIntire ranch that is owned by Makaila's parents, Ted and Jackie Rodrigues. Kevin processes the meat. They have included hogs and sheep in the meats that they offer. Their life dream is coming to fruition. They are proud to be part of the Lake County ranching community and are always stepping up to promote the 4-H and FFA livestock projects every year.

They appreciate the honor of being asked to represent Middletown Days Parade and Rodeo as the Grand Marshals for this event.