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The Feud is coming!

Bohemia Mining Days readies for another reprise
of Cottage Grove's classic quarrel

BY CINDY WEELDREYER
For The Sentinel

Organizers of Cottage Grove's annual Bohemia Mining Days Festival say it's time for Grovers to pick their side in the third-annual "Slabtown vs. Lemati Feud" during the 2015 edition of the festival, scheduled for July 16-19. This year's theme, "By Wing, by Wheel, by Engine of Steel," focuses on the community's early modes of transportation.

In the first contest since the feud's revival at BMD, Slabtowners were victorious the first year by a very narrow margin. Lematians came roaring back in 2013 and 2014 to claim the Feud Rock Trophy (which is now on display in the window of the Bohemia Gold Mining Museum on Main Street).

Organizers wished to thank Lemati Mayor Maison Russell and Slabtown Mayor Martina Susec, along with Lemati Sheriff Colin McDowell and Slabtown Sheriff Bryce Johnson, for their service to the citizens of their respective towns in the past 12 months. These officials will be honored as part of the BMD kickoff press conference at the Bohemia Gold Mining Museum on Friday, June 26, at 3 p.m.

For newcomers, this very old feud between two factions from Cottage Grove's earliest days in the 1890s was rekindled in a new way in 2012. Residents who live on the west side of

the Coast Fork of the Willamette River are "Slabtowners." Those who live on the east side of the river are Lematians, but for those playing from out of the area, organizers recommend choosing Slabtown, because it has a much smaller geographic area and population.

During the four days of BMD, citizens of the two towns compete in a variety of free and friendly old-timey games, such as the Two Towns Tug o' War, and the Cherry Pit Spittin' Contest. Fancy-dancy costumes are the rage for the Feud's dress-up day and Saturday's costume contest. Cold, hard cash is awarded to the best outrageous and ficti-

tious story that goes with each costume in three categories: men, women and kids.

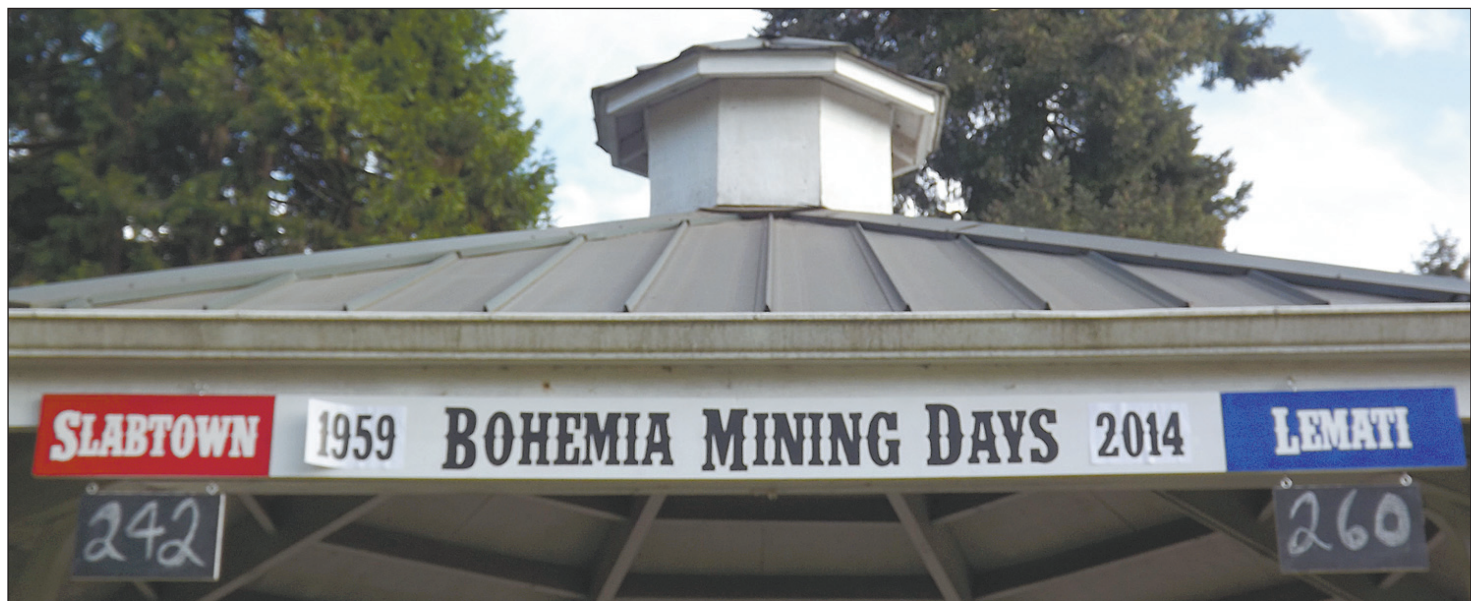
Speaking of cash... BMD highly encourages everyone to drop some in the antique election boxes in Bohemia City Hall to earn more points for their favorite town.

The top point earners from each town at the end of Sunday will be declared the new mayor and will proudly preside over their respective town until the next feud begins.

For more information visit www.bohemiaminingdays.org or call the festival office at 541-942-5064.



Contest organizer Jake Boone is pictured with his Bohemia Deputies: Colin McDowell, Maison Russell, Martina Susec and Bryce Johnson, at the end of Bohemia Mining Days in 2014.



The final tally from the 2014 Feud shows the folks from Lemati coming out on top by just a few points. The contest was won by Slabtown in 2012 with Lemati also winning in 2013.



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WATER SAFETY TIPS

Whether it's a trip to the beach or a dip in the community or backyard pool, you can ensure that swimming is as safe as it is fun by following a few basic safety tips.

THERE IS NO SUBSTITUTE FOR ACTIVE SUPERVISION

Actively supervise children in and around open bodies of water, giving them your undivided attention.

Whenever infants or toddlers are in or around water, an adult should be within arm's reach to provide active supervision. We know it's hard to get everything done without a little multitasking, but this is the time to avoid distractions of any kind. If children are near water, then they should be the only thing on your mind. Small children can drown in as little as one inch of water.

EDUCATE YOUR KIDS ABOUT SWIMMING SAFELY

Every child is different, so enroll children in swimming lessons when you feel they are ready. Teach children how to tread water, float and stay by the shore.

Make sure kids swim only in areas designated for swimming. Teach children that swimming in open water is not the same as swimming in a pool. They need to be aware of uneven surfaces, river currents, ocean undertow and changing weather.

Whether you're swimming in a backyard pool or in a lake, teach children to swim with a partner, every time. From the start, teach children to never go near or in water without an adult present.

You can start introducing your babies to water when they are about 6 months old. Remember to always use waterproof diapers and change them frequently.

DON'T RELY ON SWIMMING AIDS

- Remember that swimming aids such as water wings or noodles are fun toys for kids, but they should never be used in place of a U.S. Coast Guard-approved personal flotation device (PFD).

TAKE THE TIME TO LEARN CPR

We know you have a million things to do, but learning CPR should be on the top of the list. It will give you tremendous peace of mind – and the more peace of mind you have as a parent, the better.

Local hospitals, fire departments and recreation departments offer CPR training.

Have your children learn CPR. It's a skill that will serve them for a lifetime.

These Safety Tips brought to you by
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