

# New BMD Coordinator no stranger to festival

Cindy Weeldreyer calls finding enough volunteers BMD's biggest obstacle

BY JON STINNETT  
The Cottage Grove Sentinel

Cindy Weeldreyer recalls the exact moment she fell in love with the Bohemia Mining Days festival and the community that hosts it each year.

Back in July of 1980, a big-city girl from New Orleans visited Cottage Grove with her brand-new boyfriend, Ralph Weeldreyer. During a ride on the Ferris wheel, it all clicked into place.

"This was when BMD was held out by the fire station where Hayden Homes is now," she said. "We were at the top of the Ferris wheel looking north, and I was just taken in by this little festival in a small rural town. I fell in love, but I had no idea at the time that this is where I would spend the rest of my life."

The Weeldreyers would marry in 1982; the next year, they settled in Cottage Grove, and Cindy began working with local youth ministry and, by extension, BMD's Grand Miner's Parade, in 1985. Following her stint as a Lane County Commissioner, Weeldreyer began volun-

teering regularly for then Festival Coordinator Sharon Jean in 2001; in 2012 she joined the BMD board of directors.

After last year's festival, which again featured a turnover in BMD leadership following the departure of Nancy Glines, Weeldreyer threw her hat (perhaps literally; headwear is one of her trademarks) into the ring to serve as the new festival coordinator.

"I told everybody that I was tired of having directors leave, that even if they could only pay me \$1, I would do this," she said.

Now, Weeldreyer said she will work to return the stability the festival enjoyed during Jean's decade-plus at the helm.

"If BMD was a bus, Sharon was the driver for all those years," Weeldreyer said. "I sat behind her, watching her make the stops. Now, I'm in the driver's seat and taking on all of the administrative duties on top of everything else. It's a challenge that I am rising to."

With regard to attendance in 2015, Weeldreyer said BMD is coming off "another wonderful year," and the plan for this



photo by Jon Stinnett

**Cindy Weeldreyer has been involved with Bohemia Mining Days since the 1980s and has been volunteering with the festival for over a decade.**

year's festival, which runs July 14-17 and pays homage to electricity with the theme "All that Glitters is not Gold," is to include more cultural offerings. The southwest corner of Coiner Park is now dedicated to such offerings including the popular Heritage Stage, which will host living history exhibits including blacksmith and fur trapping demonstrations.

The festival is "a little under" where organizers may like it, budget-wise, according to Weeldreyer, though she said BMD is "on good footing" in spite of a shoestring budget and recent financial woes. The biggest challenge, she said, always concerns finding enough volunteers to run an event largely dependent

upon their help.

"We'd like to find enough people to put it on so that our five board members aren't crazy busy and can enjoy the festival," she said.

Volunteer opportunities are spelled out on the festival's website, bohemiaminingdays.org. There, those interested can print out an application that can be mailed back or turned into the office of KNND 1400 AM. A volunteer orientation is scheduled for Wednesday, July 6 from 6-7:30 p.m. at the Cottage Grove Community Center, though Weeldreyer said that volunteers are still welcome after the orientation is held.

## Bohemia Mining Days countdown:

The 57th Annual Bohemia Mining Days festival is two weekends away. We have another jam-packed four days planned. Here are ways to get involved now to ensure another successful event:

BMD needs volunteers, parade entries and a few more vendors. Applications available in three ways: Pick up at Community Center/Library & City Hall, KNND and Sentinel offices. Download from [www.bohemiaminingdays.org](http://www.bohemiaminingdays.org) (under Join-In Menu). Call Cindy at the BMD Office 541-942-5064 and request one (For convenience, completed applications may be dropped off at KNND (thru mail slot in bottom of front door if locked)

Volunteer Orientation Meeting - Wednesday, July 6 from 6-7:30 p.m. Shepherd Room, CG Community Center

Especially looking for individuals and couples to staff Coiner Park info/welcome booths Thursday-Sunday, Treasure Hunt Checkpoints Friday-Sunday and help with Bohemia City set-up (Tuesday-Thursday) and tear down (Sunday/Monday)

BMD Carnival Discount All-day Ride Bracelets Available at CG & Creswell Bi-Mart and The Bookmine for \$22 each through Thursday, July 14 at 2 p.m. Help support festival operations and save \$5 off regular price. Save even more on Thursday's "BOGO Buddy Day" Buy one discount ticket, present it at the carnival ticket booth and receive a second all-day bracelet for free. (Buy early with limited number of advanced tickets available)

WANTED: Slabtown vs. Lemati 2015 Feud Winners Last year's Feud paperwork is MIA and there are three kids to honor in the Saturday morning parade. Please call the BMD Office with the names and contact info for the Slabtown and Lemati Mayors and the Lemati Sheriff.

## Music showcase brings jams to Bohemia Park

Joey Santavicca, General Manager of 432 Productions, described the first annual People's Pick Music Showcase, held Friday and Saturday at Bohemia Park, as a successful grassroots production. The event aimed to offer a new model for funding music performances locally, Santavicca said, and it benefited the Cottage Grove Music Association.

Santavicca said cooperation from the City, Cottage Grove Police and Bohemia Park officials was exemplary throughout the weekend.

Tommy Makinson of the CGMA said the group hopes to use the "resources available" locally, such as the Bohemia Park amphitheater, as a stable source of funding for music education programs and local arts education in local. The CGMA plans to host three events in partnership with 432 Productions next year with that goal in mind.



photo by Jon Stinnett

**Elena Leona of Elena Leona Project belts a tune during the band's Saturday afternoon set.**

## Council worksession talks flood fight

Effects of federal lawsuit still unclear

BY JON STINNETT  
The Cottage Grove Sentinel

Officials with the City of Cottage Grove's Planning Department say the changes they have proposed for city codes that deal with development in the floodplain do not go far enough to address changes in the way floodplain development is managed nationally. They add that it's too early to tell how those changes might play out at the federal level and how those changes may affect

Cottage Grove. The Planning Department presented details of its proposed code changes to the City Council during a worksession on Monday, June 27, a worksession that also dealt with a controversial biological opinion following a lawsuit involving the Federal Emergency Management Association (FEMA) and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Fisheries division.

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