Contest Corner

Grovers go all-out for victory



Slabtown (at right) eventually prevailed over Lemati in a close contest to win the Two Towns Tug O' War.



Shawna Bratton used a refined technique to become the top Fuse Winder.



photo by Grea Lee



photos by Sam Wright

BMD's Jake Boone with costume contest winners, from top, Helen Banneck, Niko Susec and Steve Coady.

Cottage Grove on parade









Grand **Miners Parade** winners

Grand Miner's Award Friends of the Cottage Grove Public Library

Bohemia Ambassador Award CG Prospectors and Golddiggers

Mavor's Award

Feud winners, 2016

Twenty Miles by Wheelbarrow Jennalyn Kruger Paul Kruger

Fuse Winder First: Shawna Bratton Second: Kris Worley

Thread the Needle Chance Ralston Creed Lufkin

Candlestick Run First: Niko Susec Second: Chance Ralston

Diggin the Dark Jennalyn Kruger Bryden Huffman

Costume contest Men: Steve Coady Women: Helen Banneck Child: Niko Susec

Beard, Stately Steve Dick Beard. Untamed Ian Carter

Two Towns Tug-O-War

Cherry Pit Spitting, Accuracy Men: Will Davey Women: Noe Valley Child: Bene Susec

Cherry Pit Spitting, Distance Men: Scott Boxberger, 42 ft. Women: Jessica Downey, 27 ft. Child: Chance Ralston, 26 ft.

Historical

Treasure Hunt Friday \$100 winner: Anne-Marie Hallwyler Saturday: Jordan Kraker Sunday: Shawna Bratton \$200 bonus winner: Levi Wood

Mayors and such

(Winners of the Bohemia Deputies contests)

Slabtown Mayor: Niko Fusec Lemati Mayor: Chance Ralston Slabtown Sheriff: Kira Shively Lemati Sheriff: No participants

Kids deliver at CT melodrama

BY SAM WRIGHT The Cottage Grove Sentinel

To accompany the Bohe-I mia Mining Days celebrations this weekend, the Cottage Theatre hosted an original melodrama written by Keith Kessler called "As the Butter Churns...Or All that Glitters is not Gold." It was another presentation of colorful fun and big laughs, but the play separates itself in that the entire cast was under the age of 15.

into marrying the villain to avoid foreclosure on her library.

The actors and actresses were wonderfully cast, as Conforth

photo by Bruce Kelsh

Friends of the Library parade members Samantha Duncan, Amber Sherman, Jace Meyer, and Mary McNamara led two electric cars and took home the Grand Miners Award.



The Prospectors and Golddiggers took home the Ambassador Award.



photo by Matt Emrich The Rosie the Riveters had a ball at BMD.



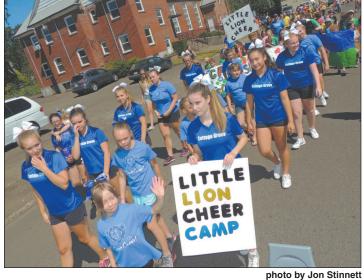
The Bloomers Parade returned to celebrate Women's Suffrage on Thursday.



Madeleine Sisson goes royal as the Red Queen in the Storybook Theater float.



Competition was fierce in the Gold Dash 500-meter kids' run.



Little Lion Cheer Camp brought spirit to Friday's Kiddie Parade.

Shampoo Dolls Salon

Judges award Lauraine's ATA Martial Arts

Festival Award Cottage Grove Rodeo

Spirit Award One More Time Marching Band



Ben Price brought smiles with his tiny bike.

Executive Director of the Theatre, Susan Goes, organized a group of over 30 kids between the ages of nine and 14 in a performance that acts as a compliment to the BMD festivities.

The play is set in the late 19th Century, when electricity had just swept the nation. The small Oregon town of Leaven-Worth has been taken hostage by the Butterworth mafia, led by butter Tycoon Big Paddy Butterworth (Cormac Mayhue) and his butter bandits. Big Paddy has schemed the town into his pocket, and everyone is in debt to him. His final plot is to steal all of the money raised at the "Stairway to Leaven" festival, forcing foreclosure on homes and businesses and achieving "total town domination."

The heroine of the tale is the town librarian and family member of the city founders, Ms. Brulee Brioche (Kenady Conforth). Ms. Brioche is pressured

BMD

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As has been customary in recent years, the 2016 Two Towns Feud brought the historically "combative" towns of Lemati and Slabtown, two relics of Cottage Grove's early history, back to duel it out in a series of games. This year, it would be Slabtown (basically the area west of the Coast Fork of the Willamette River) prevailing 118-117 in the closest Feud in years.

On Saturday, appreciative crowds lined Main Street for a packed Grand Miners Parade.

Weeldreyer, who took the

perfected the innocent "sweet girl" look, melting the hearts of the audience. And Mayhue's butter-blonde head and pompous persona evoked plenty of "boos" and hisses, though he was able to get some laughs every once in a while, too.

By the first introduction of each character (or even by just looking at the program) it's easy to tell that Kessler went wild with puns. Bread and butter puns were so ubiquitous that it went past the point of ridiculous and back to cheeky and funny.

But perhaps the biggest assistants to the comic relief were never center stage. The "Town Curmedgeons," Loe and Bea Holde (Campbell Conforth and Kira Carver), were two senile old women who made witty and cynical commentary as the plot moved along and taking the pun game a step further when it got overwhelming on center stage.

The melodies were playfully directed and choreographed by Janet Rust, and the songs took buttery spin-offs of hits like "Surfin' USA" (Churnin' USA).

In this appropriately themed melodrama, it was impressive to see such a large group of young people achieve coordination and flair in their singing, dancing and acting. It was an encouraging display of youth acting.

BMD helm after years of serving as a volunteer, called serving as festival coordinator "a blast," though she was quick to highlight the work of others in making the event happen, even singling out festival board members Joel Reiten, Cathy Simmons, Jerry Vaverka and Jimmy Schapper for their efforts.

"The festival would not exist without the efforts of so many," she said. "I'm thankful for everyone, especially those who took on a double shift when we were short-handed."