

58th Annual Bohemia Mining Days

BMD 2017 starts with a bang, welcomes big crowds

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Each year, Cottage Grove splits in two. One side of the town becomes Lemati and the other, reverts back to the Slabtown of old recreating the rivalry of the city's founding. The tradition may have the city split down the middle but it's all in an effort to come together for four days to welcome tourists and residents alike to Bohemia Mining Days.

This year marked the 58th time Cottage Grove opened its

doors to tourists from around the region to explore the city's history as a mining and lumber dependent town. Between July 13 and July 16, the fictitious Bohemia City in Coiner Park saw hundreds of people wandering from booths to activities.

All four days were jam packed with events including a live music series that welcomed bands such as Home Free and Haywire to Bohemia Park. In Coiner, local merchants manned booths and feud games helped determine if Lemati or Slabtown

would be victorious in this year's contest. And in between the two parks, a carnival played host to kids and adults alike while three separate parades made their way down Main St.

According to festival coordinator Cindy Weeldreyer, the 2017 Bohemia Mining Days was a success with several "full-circle" stories from visitors as far away as Utah coming out of the four days of fun, games, contests, food and festival happenings.



PHOTO BY CINDY WEELDREYER

Former marshal Gary Williams passes on his badge to new marshal Bob Ehler.

The "feud" continues



PHOTO BY GREG LEE

The infamous feud contests included cherry-pit spitting (above), candlestick races and various other competitions to see once and for all who wins out Slabtown or Lemati.

PARADES, PARADES, PARADES



PHOTO BY GREG LEE

Bohemia Mining Days presented three parades over the course of four days including the Kiddie Parade photographed above that began at the Cottage Grove Library before marching down Main St. Saturday so the Grand Miners' Parade and to kick the festival off on Thursday, ladies climbed into their bloomers and paraded down Main St.

