

Happy to be 'in a pickle'



Pickleball players took advantage of sunny weather at Coiner Park last week, moving to outdoor play from indoor play at Riverside Church. Soon, five courts will be open to the community for play.

COURTESY PHOTOS

BMD from A1

the organization has to build it. Misty Burris of Oregon Institute for a Better Way was sitting at her booth during last year's festival and had a thought.

"Last year we participated in the BMD and I was so excited, it was our first year of ever going and it was so neat," Burris said. "But it needed something for the kids. I told them I would be interested in facilitating it and encouraging the free-mind marketplace."

"I knew how to do the tie-dye walls. I saw it when I was sitting there last year and thought, 'What if I can create a zone in that whole space? What if we put the kids right in the center of it but really, they'd be in a different space?'"

The plan emerged: the group would shift its annual community tie-dye event to focus on creating a space for kids' zone.

While the group has traditionally tie-dyed in the past, this year it is asking for residents to join in to tie-dye large white sheets that will be incorporated into the infrastructure that will separate kids' zone from the rest of the festival.

Participants can watch while Burris and others tie-dye elaborate designs of turtles, buses and people before joining in to help dye sheets and pillow cases.

Festival coordinator Cindy

Weeldreyer said the addition of the kids' zone was a welcomed change.

"We are delighted to have Misty and her team planning what will be the most elaborate kids zone in BMD's 59-year history," Weeldreyer said. "We are grateful to South Lane Mental Health for sponsoring the dyes and to all who have donated sheets to us."

According to Burris, the kids' zone will "provide multiple thresholds of experience to entice the child mind of all ages from birth to beyond."

The first threshold begins with a large checkered path leading directly to an entrance through two living trees. A facade wall that is 14 feet wide and 8 feet tall, textured to resemble the bark of an ancient tree stump including a burl base with a 4-and-a-half-foot rabbit hole entrance. The entrance is

fabricated from wire, plasters and paints and is connected to a 6-foot-long tunnel in which the checker path leads participants inside — then curves up and over the walls and ceiling of the tunnel before ending near the exit shrinking in view.

The next threshold of experience begins in the transition from the tunnel into a 10-by-20-foot structure with a 7-foot ceiling constructed to "shrink" down to a 4-and-a-half-foot keyhole. Inside, the participant sees the ceiling and walls narrowing towards the keyhole exit. Kids will experience a view of upside-down and topsy turvy turning super tiny as they slip out the key hole.

The third threshold of experience takes place upon exiting the key hole to look back and see the facade wall of a quaint cottage house.

The fourth threshold of visual experience is the prismatic colors of the tie dyes tapestry walls.

Kids' zone is the third change to be announced for this year's BMD.

Earlier this year, the BMD board announced that, for the first time, the festival would be three days instead of four.

"BMD is all about tradition," said board president Cathy Simmons. "Yet as we go forward, circumstances force us to

make changes like this one with an eye on our bottom line."

Simmons previously noted that it cost approximately \$50,000 to host BMD each year. Last month, the board approved its 2018 budget of \$55,450.

"Sunday has always been a more quiet day with lower attendance," Simmons continued. "In our annual vendor survey, because of lower sales, many of them have asked us to drop Sunday so they can tear down early and move on to their next event. Up until now we haven't because we rely on Sunday's carnival revenue to pay our operational expenses."

Rainier Amusements, the third-party operator that contracts with BMD to provide the carnival, will begin tearing down rides on Sunday instead of Monday this year. According to BMD, this will save the festival operational, security, sanitary and entertainment costs.

"We're up against the county fair with all of these fluxes as a big event grows," Burris said. "The fact that this is all turning to community ... the grand marshals will be the winning football team, the push to do this enormous kid zone, and now the tie-dye events — they really took a turn back to their kiddos. Something cool is happening and it's going to grow."



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