



PHOTOS BY GREG LEE AND ZACH SILVA

BMD from A1 for family fun and capturing of happy memories. Those memories were cut with their cameras a lifetime

one-day short of year's past after the BMD board decided earlier this year to cut Sunday from the schedule.

"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."

According to BMD organizers, attendance was down from previous years from vendor to attendees and the board cited the Lane County Fair as the biggest draw away from Bohemia City.

Earlier this year, Weeldreyer received numerous calls from long time vendors saying how much they enjoyed participating. She said they apologized for not coming this year because their profits would be greater by vending at the county fair. The vendor county dropped from an average of 80 to 65 for the festival's 59th year.

"Early estimates indicate a loss of more than \$3,000 in vendor revenue, which is one third of the festival's income. Another vendor disappointment was a no show

by the much publicized climbing wall vendor from Portland," Weeldreyer said.

While some vendors were a no show, the traditional live shows returned this year, with a play written and directed by Jennifer Mandeville-Schulz and the same three parades graced Cottage Grove streets with a total 327 people taking part.

And no BMD would be complete without the feud.

Returning for its 7th year, the feud pits residents who live on the west side of the Coast Fork of the Willamette River against the residents who live on the east side.

Created in 2012 by city councilor (and then BMD President) Jake Boone to resurrect the actual feud from the late 1800s that sadly became so bitter it literally split the town into two different towns for a short time. The feud consists of several games over the course of the three days from cherry spitting to candle running.

This year's champions and winner of bragging rights for an entire year was the Lemati side of town with a score of 173 to Slabtown's 136.

Simmons called this year's event a success, noting, "The board is deeply grateful for the incredible dedication of our hard-working logistics crew," Simmons said. "We are very thankful for the above and beyond effort the week of long days these men invested to set up and tear down Bohemia City."

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**2018 Symphony in the Park**

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