

Cottage Grove Est. 1889 Sentinel

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Jay the Magician performs at BMD (see A6)

BMD bounces back

By Damien Sherwood
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Bohemia Mining Days (BMD) made a much-anticipated return to Cottage Grove last weekend. Despite swirling uncertainty about its many layers of execution, the festival was largely deemed a success – an accomplishment evoking both relief and gratitude from many of the organizers.

“I can’t say enough for our production crew,” said BMD President Don Williams. “All of these people have put in hours and hours and hours – not just an hour here and there, but hours of time and energy and/or money.”

After choosing to cancel last year amid coronavirus safety and financial uncertainty, similar issues challenged the organization to find solutions and work-arounds for this year’s festivities.

Normally a three-day event, this year’s festival took up only the July 17-18 weekend, but still managed to squeeze a whirlwind of events and performances into its schedule as it moved

see **BMD** on A10



Members of the South Valley Athletics cheer camp show off their moves and vocal chords in the parade.

PHOTO BY DAMIEN SHERWOOD/COTTAGE GROVE SENTINEL



“Gang” members rushed to pose for photographers between their re-enacted shootouts.

PHOTO BY SOPHIA EDELBLUTE/COTTAGE GROVE SENTINEL



A band of bikers flash their rides during the Grand Miners Parade on Saturday.

PHOTO BY SOPHIA EDELBLUTE/COTTAGE GROVE SENTINEL

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WEATHER

Sunny with a high of 82 and a low tonight of 51.

Full forecast on A5

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Students in the AKHS garden collect shallots, which will be stored and used later in the school’s cooking class.

DAMIEN SHERWOOD/COTTAGE GROVE SENTINEL

Al Kennedy garden continues to grow

By Damien Sherwood
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Students in Al Kennedy High School’s (AKHS) summer conservation program spent their Monday morning happily collecting shallots in the school’s garden. The shallots will go into storage and eventually be used in the school’s the sustainable foods class.

The alternative high school’s garden produces a healthy list of vegetables. Depending on the time of year, fava beans, basil, tomatoes, collard greens, garlic, broccoli, lettuce, carrots or cabbage may be growing.

There is also an orchard in the works which will eventually bear fruit to add to the community pot.

see **GARDEN** on A9

Cowboy Buck and Elizabeth bid farewell

By Sophia Edelblute
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Last Saturday and Sunday the 17 and 18 of July, otherwise known as Bohemia Mining Days weekend, tunes of Patsy Cline, Bob Dylan and a song called “Penguins and Polar Bears,” written by elementary school kids, acted as a set of swan songs for an iconic duo.

Cowboy Buck and Elizabeth performed for what will be their last time at BMD as they were elected as grand marshals of the Grand Miner’s Parade. After nearly 20 years of fun and songs at BMD, they are retiring to Oklahoma to be with family.

“We kind of planned for it. It just happened a couple years sooner than we had planned for, so it’s okay. And who could know that Covid was gonna change the course of life?” said Elizabeth.

She and Buck were not

able to do a reunion or retirement tour of sorts because of the timing, but “we always joke and say ‘we’ll come back some day and do a tribute to ourselves.’ So we’ll be back someday,” she said.

The two have been traveling the Pacific Northwest for roughly three decades teaching kids to write music and perform through their “education through entertainment” program.

Now, after so many years, some of the kids the duo visited in school are all grown up with kids of their own. But they still remember the time Buck and Elizabeth taught them to make music.

“I’ve had kids come up and say ‘do you remember this song? I wrote this line.’ They remember their own song,” Buck said. “Because I would sit with them when we wrote the song and say ‘who wrote this line?’ And they would raise their

see **FAREWELL** on A8

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