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Olivia Anderson/Lewiston Tribune

Skyler Muhler, center, assembles cheesesteaks during the unofficial world record attempt for the longest Philly cheesesteak on Saturday at 7th and Main streets in Lewiston.

A RECORD OF MEATY PROPORTIONS

Lewiston once again sets the unofficial record for longest line of cheesesteaks

By ANTHONY KUIPERS
MOSCOW-PULLMAN DAILY NEWS

Your move, Philadelphia.

Local businesses and a nonprofit teamed up to break the world record for longest line of cheesesteak sandwiches Saturday at the annual Hot August Nights in Lewiston.

Happy Day Restaurants, Main Street Grill and the Boys & Girls Clubs of the Lewis Clark Valley organized the event, which took place in front of a hungry crowd near downtown's Main Street.

Lewiston first set the unofficial record in 2023 when these groups assembled a line of footlong sandwiches that stretched 722.8 feet. Philadelphia broke that record in March during an event at the Philadelphia International Airport by making 1,291 sandwiches.

On Saturday, a group of volunteers in Lewiston assembled 1,487 feet of cheesesteaks.

That number is the unofficial record. The Philadelphia record was certified by a Guinness World Records official, but no such official was brought to Lewiston because of the cost associated with that.

Tobe Finch, president of Happy Day Restaurants, said the ingredients used Saturday were locally sourced.

See RECORD, Page 3A



Olivia Anderson/Lewiston Tribune

LeeJohn Holmes sits in his 1966 Chevrolet C10 during the Hot August Nights Show and Shine Car Show along Main Street in Lewiston.

'Rocky Horror' rights money refunded

Lewiston Civic Theatre canceled production after anonymous letter objected

By MARY STONE
LEWISTON TRIBUNE

The Lewiston Civic Theatre will get a refund after dropping "The Rocky Horror Show" from its season lineup.

"We got our money back for the license," Executive Director Nancy McIntosh said.

She declined to share a dollar amount for "Rocky Horror," but McIntosh said licensing a show can cost anywhere from $1,200 to $10,000. Musicals, she said, are more expensive than straight plays. The total cost for a musical, with other expenses like music rights and set construction, can be upward of $20,000.



McIntosh

The nonprofit theater's board voted last month to replace "The Rocky Horror Show" with Agatha Christie's "And Then There Were None," after an anonymous letter objecting to "Rocky Horror" was delivered to Lewiston city councilors, Lewiston Mayor Dan Johnson and Lewiston School District Superintendent Tim Sperber. The letter, which called the production "obscene," was not sent to McIntosh or the Lewiston Civic Theatre board.

Cindy Zeliff, a costumer, actor and director who serves on the committee that helps choose civic theater shows, objected to the speed with which the theater board made its decision to drop "Rocky Horror." The show is currently doing well on Broadway, and previous civic theater screenings of the movie version, "The Rocky Horror Picture Show," were popular, Zeliff said.

Board member Sara Hearsey, who was installed as board president at the civic's annual meeting last week, said word of the anonymous letter forced the board's hand.

"For me the deciding factor was the threat to our performance space," Hearsey said via text message. "We knew the letter was sent to the school board, but we didn't know exactly what it said. If the school board were to agree with the letter writer, and decided to terminate our rental agreement for the old LHS, we would be forced to postpone ALL shows until we found another venue (and who knows how long that would take). As crummy as it feels, I want what is best for the theatre long-term."

The civic theater performs most of its shows in the old Lewiston High School auditorium on what's now called the Normal Hill Campus. The city of Lewiston provides $30,000 a year in funding.

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U.S. AND CANADA CUT OFF TALKS, RAMP UP TRADE WAR > PAGE 3C



VANDALS PUT EXCLAMATION MARK ON THEIR FALL CAMP > PAGE 1B

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Olivia Anderson/Lewiston Tribune

Mike Webster brings cheesesteak filling out of a heating element to keep alongside various stations of the table during the world record attempt for the longest Philly cheesesteak on Saturday at 7th and Main streets in Lewiston.



Cheesesteak-makers applaud as a phone timer is held up, marking their completion of the cheesesteak during the world record attempt for the longest Philly cheesesteak on Saturday at 7th and Main streets in Lewiston.

Olivia Anderson/ Lewiston Tribune



Car enthusiasts peruse the various vehicles on display during the Hot August Nights Show and Shine Car Show along Main street in Lewiston.

Olivia Anderson/Lewiston Tribune

Record

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The approximately 700 pounds of beef came from Happy Day's USDA butcher shop and the grains for the bread were sourced from Uhlorn Family Farms in Cottonwood. The produce was also regionally sourced.

Finch said the event was organized in part to put a spotlight on local food producers. The cheesesteak was chosen because it is a popular item at Main Street Grill, a Lewiston restaurant owned by Happy Day.

The event also benefits the Boys & Girls Clubs of the Lewis Clark Valley. All the proceeds from the ticket sales during the event were donated to the nonprofit, which totaled $13,502.

"It's what L-C and this region does, they just rally well and help their neighbors and community members," said Tony Mastroberardino, director of development for the Boys & Girls Clubs of the Lewis Clark Valley.

> On the web

See more pictures from both events at **lmtribune.com**

Mastroberardino said nearly 60 volunteers helped organize Saturday's event. It took just under 23 minutes for all the sandwiches to be filled with meat and cheese. Before each one was wrapped and given to a customer, Lewis Clark Valley Chamber of Commerce President Mark Losh made the unofficial count to confirm if the record was broken.

At the end, Queen's hit song "We Are the Champions" played over the loudspeaker to celebrate the achievement.

The patient customers who received their sandwich then walked down Main Street to marvel at the classic cars, pickups, motorcycles and specialty vehicles on display for Hot August Nights. More than 300 vehicles were on display.

Kuipers can be reached at akuipers@dnews.com.



Olivia Anderson/Lewiston Tribune

Lewis-Clark Valley Chamber of Commerce CEO and President Mark Losh eats a cheesesteak behind the world record belt during the world record attempt for the longest Philly cheesesteak on Saturday at 7th and Main streets in Lewiston.

Refund

from Page 1A

Response on social media skewed in favor of performing the show, with many comments critical of the anonymous letter writer and the board's decision to cancel. But McIntosh said the number of people directly contacting the theater was relatively low. Two of three phone messages left were anonymous. Several emails expressed support for the civic theater, she said.

"We've had many challenges in the last 10 years since I've had this job," she said. "We seem to just keep moving forward, and we're grateful to the people who are supporting us."

Auditions for "And Then There Were None" are at 2 p.m. today and 6 p.m. Monday at the theater's box office, 832 Main St. The show is scheduled for Oct. 16 through Nov. 1 at the old Lewiston High School auditorium.

"We're looking forward to it," McIntosh said. "It's a great script, and we're looking forward to just moving forward."

Stone (she/her) can be reached at mstone@inland360.com.

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