



THE IDAHO WORLD

"The Noblest Motive Is The Public Good"

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Personal Fireworks Banned from Independence Day Celebrations

Written by Janet Juroch

Garden Valley -- The Greater Garden Valley Chamber of Commerce had a meeting with the members to decide on the firework situations in Crouch on the 4th of July. Good planning and additional security last year made only a small difference in the chaos in the center of town. City leaders have taken a hard look into how to manage the use of illegal fireworks in the center of the City of Crouch.

There are divided feelings about the handling of a huge influx of people that grows to larger numbers every year. Literally thousands of people show up with loads of fireworks and alcohol. The unsponsored personal fireworks are set off in

the middle of town. This has been going on for many years with the idea of centralizing fireworks in town and having emergency resources close by. Over the years, word of mouth has turned this into an event of epic proportions. And safe and sane is no longer respected.

Some businesses, generally the restaurants and bars, thrive with the big influx of people on that one night. The majority of the people come to see the parade and then settle in around the designated area for setting off fireworks. This all happens after 6:00pm when other businesses are already closed.

Many mixed feelings have kept the 4th of July going in Crouch, but now the Chamber and local property owners

decided it was time to do something different before something serious happens. Diane Caughlin, President of the GGVCC says, "It is only a matter of time." Emergency responders will not have to be trying to manage the fireworks in town that usually last 3 to 4 hours. Instead all resources can concentrate their efforts to take care of the other emergencies.

Fireworks are set off in the center of town on Old Crouch Road. That road is *not* owned by the city. The Crouch Bridge to the stop sign at the intersection is owned by property owners of the businesses. These property owners do not want people trespassing on their property and setting off the fireworks any longer. Property owners and city leaders along with the Sheriff's office will be working together to enforce the "no fireworks" decision.

Member of the Chamber agreed to work with private property owners and business owners to continue with chamber sponsored activities but NOT allow any fireworks in town. The only fireworks are the Chamber fireworks that are set off at dusk.



Fireworks in Crouch on the 4th of July. Photo by Janet Juroch

Plans for a media campaign will be in full force to keep the word circulating: "Don't bring your fireworks into our town".

The city council of Crouch is working on an ordinance following the Idaho fireworks law which is saying no illegal fireworks can be set off. That is law and it can be enforced with a city ordinance. Basically, by not allowing any fireworks in town, no one has to decide what is considered legal or illegal.

The effort now is to re-es-

tablish firework rules following Idaho law. Members of the Chamber Board all agree this will be a big task but with the 4th being on a Tuesday, they feel it is a good time for resetting rules for the purpose of safety. What was once a simple idea...to set off personal fireworks in town and keep them out of the forests has turned into a chaotic event. These new plans can deter excessive use of illegal fireworks and alcohol and bring back a more family style tradition to celebrate Independence Day in Crouch.

Happenings

Horseshoe Bend - Thursday, March 16, Community meeting-Volunteers needed to help save the 21st CCLC (HSB Afterschool Program) HSB Middle School (Pearl room) 6:00 p.m.

Horseshoe Bend - March 20 thru 23, HSB Schools Art Show-Monday, Tuesday, Thursday noon-3:45, Wednesday noon-7 p.m. HSB High School Gymnasium

Horseshoe Bend - March 22, HSB Middle/High School Parent/Teacher Conferences 4 p.m. - 7 p.m.

Crouch/Garden Valley: March 4th is the Annual Kid's Art Show. The Gallery uses a portion of proceeds from memberships and art sales to fund scholarships for students participating in art classes. For more information call/email: 208.462.6860 or gvca.gv@gmail.com

Idaho City Food Pantry: At the Senior Center every 2nd and 4th Wednesdays from 11:30am to 2:00pm.

Garden Valley Food Pantry: Open 2nd and 4th Fridays of the month from 4- 5 pm, located at the Calvary Chapel Church on the Middlefork Road in Crouch. Donations can also be made at the GV Market where there is a barrel at the front of the store. Volunteers are always welcomed. Contact Toni at 462-6929 or 462-4620.

Horseshoe Bend: Pantry is open on the 2nd & 4th Friday of the month, located at the Annex, by the Horseshoe Bend School.

Crouch: Al-Anon support group for friends and family of alcoholics meets weekly at Crouch Community Church on Tuesdays at 6:00 p.m. in the library.

NOTE: The Happenings section covers non-profit events in Boise County

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Mountain Bluebirds consider nesting, hopeful for the coming of spring. Photo by Eileen Capson

HSB School Levy Passes: 155 -74