

# Fireworks

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"Mystical Portal" has a strobe light that makes it look different from other fireworks.

There are also plenty of other items to entice customers, however, from "Killer Bees" to "Dragon Farts."

"Every kid that comes here is like, 'You gotta get a Dragon Fart,'" Hammond said.

One could also pick up a "Nite Siren," "Power Surge," "When Hell Freezes Over" or the "Big Bad Ass Fountain." There's even a hen that pops out an egg as it ignites.

But for 10-year-old Nat Blankenship, it's the tanks that stand out. "We use (the tanks) and we set them up against each other with sparklers, and we see which one gets more ignited," Nat said, adding that he also likes the "Killer Bees."

In terms of cost, the stands offer something for every pocket. Firework prices start as low as 39 cents, and many items are less than \$1. Some of the more explosive items, like the Mystical Portal, are more than \$20. Since retail vendors in Oregon can sell fireworks only for a limited time each year, Hammond said people also stock up on fireworks for weddings, birthdays and the New Year.

Still, not everyone can fork out the cash for the holiday goodies. Senior Matthew Wiehr said he usually doesn't buy fireworks because he can't afford them on his student budget.

"I'll just watch the big display," Wiehr said. While some people might be excited about creating a Disney

World-like display, not all types of fireworks are legal in Oregon.

"Illegal fireworks in the State of Oregon are the ones that fly in the air or explode," said Deputy Fire Marshal T.J. Johannsen. She added that it is also illegal to use fireworks that move more than 12 feet on smooth ground or act in an uncontrolled manner. Illegal fireworks include firecrackers, roman candles, mortars, aerial spinners and crazy jack jumping jacks. Also, missile, sky and bottle rockets are prohibited, as well as explosive devices such as cherry bombs, ash cans and silver salutes.

Johannsen said the state does not allow the flying fireworks because they may end up in areas with grass or other combustible materials and start a fire.

"Where they land is uncontrollable," she said. According a press release from the fire marshal's office, fireworks caused 312 fires in Oregon in 2002 that together resulted in property damages exceeding \$688,000.

In addition, Johannsen said the potential for injury is high with fireworks that explode. In 2002, there were 61 firework-related injuries reported in emergency rooms and clinics.

Johannsen advised merrymakers to be careful about where they light fireworks, and to always have an adult present when using them. She added that pets should be kept inside since many are frightened by the noise.

Besides firework stands, several department stores such as Wal-Mart and Target also sell fireworks.

Contact the reporter at [ayishayahya@dailyemerald.com](mailto:ayishayahya@dailyemerald.com).



Jessica Waters Emerald

Fireworks Factory Outlet employee Renee Hammond describes the many sparkling, noise-making legal fireworks available at their sales tent on West 29th Avenue and Willamette Street.

## CAMPUS BUZZ

Thursday

"Caravan to Cuba" (potluck picnic to greet the 13th Pastors for Peace Caravan to Cuba), 6 p.m., First United Methodist Church. For more information, contact CISCAP at 485-8633 or via e-mail at [ciscap@efn.org](mailto:ciscap@efn.org).

## Fourth of July

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to draw thousands more this year.

"We brought in more people than we were expecting last year," Hamilton said. "This year we hope to be a little more prepared and organized a lot tighter."

This year's Freedom Festival is being partnered with Maude Kerns Art and the Vineyard festival. The wine and art show features the works of hundreds of artists, food, a variety of wines to taste and live music.

The fireworks show will feature 685 shells with nearly 100 powerful 5-inch shells. The Freedom Festival has not used 5-inch shells since leaving Autzen Stadium in 1995.

"This is the oldest and largest fireworks display in the county, so we want to make sure that it's great," Hamilton said. The firework show is expected to begin about 10 p.m.

Admission is \$5 for adults from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. and \$3 after 8 p.m., and \$1 for children 12 and under. Parking is \$2 per car or \$1 with a Bi-Mart card. All parking for the Freedom Festival will be at Autzen Stadium. Handicapped parking will be at the entrance lot to the Alton Baker Park parking lot. Lane Transit District shuttle service will also be available.

The Eugene Pro Rodeo will feature a firework display at 10 p.m., but plenty will be happening before the show.

The rodeo has events all weekend, but on Thursday attendees can enjoy bull riding and cattle roping at 7:30 p.m. At 9:30 p.m., spectators will have the opportunity to watch a monster truck and motorcycle stunt show.

Rodeo volunteer Malcom McRae estimates that about 6,500 people will attend the event, and warned that tickets may be sold out by the

day of the show.

Advance tickets are available at Bi-Mart and Knecht's Auto Parts for \$12, or \$14 at the gate. Admission for children ages 6 to 12 is \$6 and children younger than 5 can attend for free. Parking is \$2.

The Butte to Butte is the oldest and largest road race in Eugene, consisting of a 10 kilometer run and a 4.5 mile walk. The 10k race begins at the foot of the Donald Street Hill at East 43rd Avenue and ends at Skinner Butte Park. The entry fee is \$16 with an event shirt or \$10 without a shirt through July 3. The fee on the day of the run/walk is \$22 with a shirt or \$16 without.

The run and walk both begin at 8 a.m. Shuttles will be provided to take participants from East Fifth Avenue and Pearl Street to the start of the race from 6:50 to 7:30 a.m.

Contact the reporter at [shoikeda@dailyemerald.com](mailto:shoikeda@dailyemerald.com).



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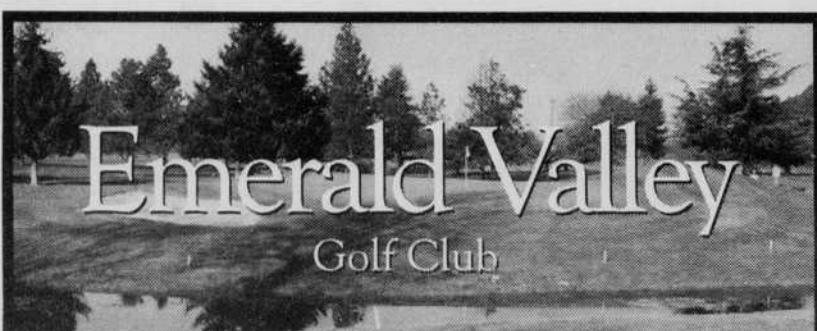
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### SAFETY BRIEF

#### Fire marshal offers firework tips

With more than 11,000 fireworks-related injuries nationwide each year, people may want to take extra precautions this year for a safe Independence Day holiday. The Oregon Office of the State Fire Marshal has several suggestions to ensure celebrations are free from injuries and property damage.

- Always purchase fireworks from licensed firework locations. Avoid illegal fireworks which may be dangerous, like bottle rockets.

- Read and follow all instructions carefully when using fireworks.

- Always keep fireworks outdoors and away from flammable materials.

- Adults should always be present when fireworks are being lit, keeping matches and lighters away from children. Fireworks should also be kept away from small children. Even seemingly harmless items like sparklers can be dangerous, and children may get burned if they touch them.

- Fireworks should never be pointed at people, pets, cars or buildings.

- Keep a bucket of water close by to

soak used or misfired fireworks. Never try to re-light a "dud" firework.

- Do not try to change or make your own fireworks.

- Since 18 percent of fireworks accidents involve eye injuries, the Oregon Health Sciences University Casey Eye Institute also advises people to use eye protection like goggles when lighting fireworks.

- To completely minimize the risk of injury, people can attend professional public fireworks displays since the potential for injury is higher when fireworks are used at home.

— Ayisha Yahya

## SUSHI STATION

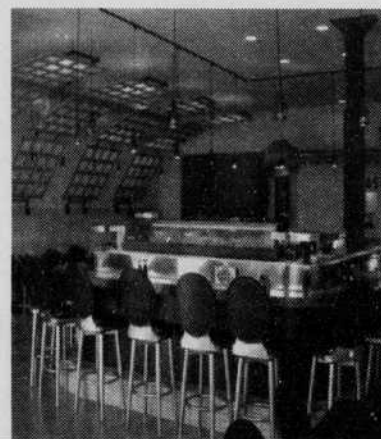
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