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July 4 pool party safety

BY METRO CREATIVE CONNECTION

Americans gather in backyards across the United States in celebration of the nation's independence each July. Festivities often include delicious foods cooked on the grill, music, laughter, and, if there is a pool in the yard, hours of splashing around.

Pools are great places to cool off from the hot sun. But pools also can be dangerous. According to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, drowning remains the No. 1 threat to children. Previous July 4 drownings should serve as sober warnings to those planning to celebrate in and around a pool this Independence Day. Simple precautionary measures can save lives.

- Never leave a child unattended in a pool or around any body of water no matter how small, even for a minute.

- Teach children basic water safety.
- Avoid overloading the pool with too many boisterous swimmers, especially if adults, older kids and young kids are in the water. Small children can quickly get lost in the fray.
- Avoid swimming if you have been consuming alcohol.

- Designate a lifeguard, whether it's a hired, certified professional, or someone who has taken on the task and will keep eyes fixed on the pool at all times while swimmers are present.
- Establish rules and enforce them. Prohibit diving into shallow water and running around the slippery edge of the pool.
- Learn how to administer CPR to both children and adults.
- If a child goes missing, look for him or her in the pool first.
- Minimize the use of pool floats that can obscure

the view of the pool floor when there are many swimmers present.

- Keep a phone handy at all time. Promptly call for

emergency services if the need arises.

- Ensure everyone immediately exits the pool if thunder is heard or lightning

is seen.

- Turn off the filter pump while guests are swimming,

SEE POOL SAFETY, Page A4



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POOL SAFETY

FROM PAGE A3

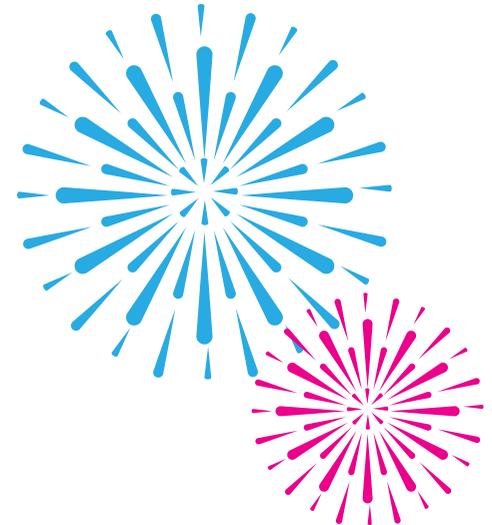
particularly to protect against entrapment on pool drains or pipes.

- The American Association of Pediatrics advises against allowing infants and toddlers in hot tubs. Older children should not be in a hot tub for more than 20 minutes at a time.

- Be sure the water

chemistry is balanced in pools and spas so that swimmers are not irritated by the chemicals and the water is sanitary. Also, keep in mind that swim diapers are not foolproof. Check youngsters often so that waste does not end up in the pool.

These are just some pool safety tips to keep everyone protected during July 4 festivities or anytime a pool is used.



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Things that go 'boom' in the summer night

BY METRO CREATIVE CONNECTION

Fireworks are staples of summer, when neighborhoods sporadically light up with multicolored splendor, and distant pops can be heard on a regular basis.

Most fireworks are made of a small tube called an aerial shell that contains various explosive chemicals, says the American Chemical Company. The shell has gunpowder and something called "stars," which give fireworks their color when they explode. The shell is housed in a mortar that will launch the firework into the air after a fuse is lit. Ultimately, a bursting charge of the firework explodes and ignites the black powder and stars.

If the stars are randomly placed in the shell, they will produce random patterns. But many fireworks are carefully created so that the stars are placed to allow for specific patterns when the firework explodes. The following are some types of fireworks that surely will be lighting up night skies, courtesy of Sky Bacon Fireworks, Jake's



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Fireworks, and American Pyrotechnics Safety & Education Foundation, and Pyro City.

- **Brocade:** This firework has a large number of trailing stars falling slowly in an umbrella pattern. It's one of the most common firework effects.

- **Cake:** Sometimes called a "repeater" or a "multi-shot aerial," a cake is a firework that has a single fuse used to light several tubes in sequence. They fire at a rapid pace and can sometimes feature more than 1,000 shots. Cakes are often used as part of a show's finale.

- **Chrysanthemum:** This is a spherical break of colored stars that leave a visible trail of sparks.

- **Crossette:** A crossette is a shell that contains several large stars that travel a short distance before breaking apart into smaller stars with loud crackling sounds. This creates a criss-crossing effect.

- **Dahlia:** This shell produces a starfish-like shape when it bursts.

- **Firecrackers:** These are more about bang than flash. They lay on the ground, and when the fuse is lit, will go off one after another with a loud bang.

- **Fish:** These produce an aerial effect that seems like several objects swimming through the air and only lasts a few seconds.

- **Fountains:** These fireworks shoot between four and eight feet into the air and are very colorful. They are sometimes called "driveway items" or "safe and sane" because they don't propel like other fireworks and may be safer for

SEE BOOM, Page A8

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We all scream for ice cream

BY METRO CREATIVE CONNECTION

Few treats are more popular on a warm day than ice cream. With its rich

flavor and cooling nature, ice cream is perfect in a cone, cup, cake, or even as a sidekick to a brownie or piece of pie. Summer may be

the season when ice cream is enjoyed the most — and many people have fond memories of chasing down the neighborhood ice cream

truck on summer afternoons — but ice cream is a favorite all year long.

The number of ice cream flavors is only limited by the imaginations of ice cream shop owners. New small-batch offerings come out each week at privately owned shops. However, despite the infinite number of flavor combinations, certain ice cream flavors are more popular than others. According to the International Dairy Foods Association 2022 Ice Cream & Frozen Novelty Trends Survey, these flavors are tops in the eyes of Americans.

1. Chocolate
 2. Cookies N' Cream
 3. Vanilla
 4. Strawberry
 5. Chocolate Chip
 6. Cookie Dough
 7. Butter Pecan
 8. Chocolate Chip Cookie Dough
 9. Caramel
 10. Salted Caramel
- According to a 2022

survey of 1,239 Canadians conducted by Narrative Research, these are the favored flavors among Canadian ice cream aficionados.

1. Chocolate
 2. Vanilla
 3. Mint chocolate (with no chip)
 4. Maple walnut
 5. Butterscotch
 6. Cookie Dough
 7. Cookies N' Cream
 8. Strawberry
 9. Moose Tracks
 10. Neapolitan
- Vanilla stands as the global ice cream favorite, but some key flavors also stand out in countries around the world. In Japan, Green Tea is a popular flavor, Venezuelans prefer Banana, and in Thailand Coconut reigns supreme.

Ice cream preferences vary across the globe. However, ice cream in all flavors and forms is a beloved dessert few can resist.

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BOOM

FROM PAGE A5 novices.

- **Pistil:** A pistil features a center sphere of stars that burst in a spherical shape. Pistils contain an outer sphere of stars as well.
- **Roman candle:** This firework has a paper tube that shoots flaming balls out of one end of the tube.
- **Strobe:** Similar to other fireworks with a spherical

break shape, this has the added effect of blinking components that makes it appear like shimmering water in the sky.

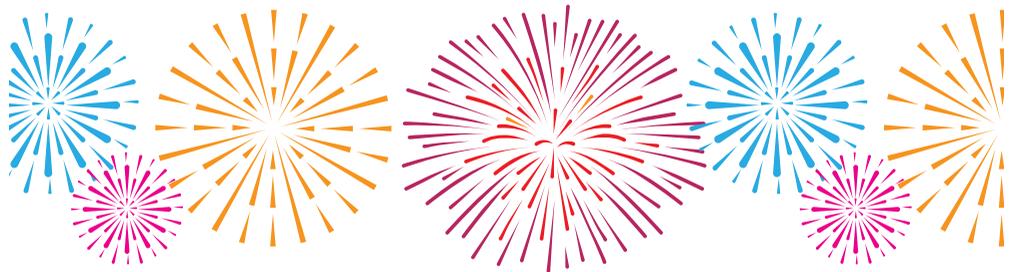
- **UFO:** This firework spins very fast and lifts high into the sky, where it bursts into a special aerial effect. They're sometimes called helicopters, sky flyers or planes.

There are many different types of fireworks that add bang and color to evening celebrations.

Area Fireworks Displays

- Albion — Wednesday, July 3, at dusk at the main Central Noble School campus
- Angola — Thursday, July 4, Angola Commons Park
- Avilla — Saturday, June 22, Avilla Freedom Festival, Eley Park, West Albion St.
- Buck Lake Ranch — Thursday, July 4, 10 p.m.
- Crooked Lake — Saturday, July 6, Crooked Lake
- Hamilton — Saturday, June 29, north end of the lake. View from Hamilton Public Beach.
- Garrett — Thursday, July 4 at dusk, Garrett High School

- Kendallville — Thursday, July 4 at dusk, with the Fort Wayne Philharmonic in Bixler Lake Park West.
- Lake James — Saturday, July 6, Pokagon State Park
- Rome City — Saturday, July 6, sponsored by Sylvan Lake Improvement Association.
- Topeka — Thursday, July 4, annual fireworks celebration and display after dark. Also daylong celebration in the town park with softball games and games for kids.
- Wolcottville — Saturday, July 6, 9:50-10:50 p.m., Big Long Lake Association



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- Joseph Campbell

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Tips to save when shopping for your July Fourth barbecue

BY METRO CREATIVE CONNECTION

Barbecues are part and parcel of July Fourth celebrations. Such get-togethers might be even more notable in 2024, when Independence Day falls on a Thursday. That means many people will likely be taking off on Friday, July 5, which adds another day to celebrate with friends and family around the grill this year.

Opportunities to entertain will abound this July, and that can take a toll on hosts' pocketbooks. As the holiday approaches, individuals planning to host a July 4 barbecue can heed these tips to save on food and supplies at the grocery store.

- **Ask guests to bring a side and/or beverages.** Hot dogs and hamburgers may garner the bulk of the culinary attention at a July 4 barbecue, but side dishes are necessary as well. When inviting guests, ask each to bring a side dish or dessert. Potato salad, mixed greens, pasta salad, chickpea salad,



GREEN SHOOT MEDIA

and other cold fare go well with traditional barbecue

favorites, and asking guests to bring these along can

save hosts substantial amounts of money. If guests can't bring food, ask them to bring beverages like soft drinks, iced tea, beer, or wine.

- **Shop ahead.** Hot dogs, hamburgers, chicken breasts, and other summer grilling favorites can be frozen and thawed out come the day of the barbecue. Shopping ahead for such items, as well as beverages, can help hosts spread out the cost of hosting, which can make it easier to manage the cost of throwing a party, particularly if the guest list figures to be sizable.

- **Consider less expensive cuts of meat.** If steak is on the menu at your Independence Day barbecue, consider purchasing less expensive cuts of meat. The Hearth, Patio & Barbecue Association notes that chuck cuts like flat-iron steaks and petite filets are flavorful cuts that won't cost nearly

as much as rib-eyes and New York strip steaks. Hosts also can save on burgers by purchasing ground beef and creating their own patties as opposed to purchasing pre-made hamburgers from their grocer's meat department. The HPBA notes that chicken thighs, legs or quarters also tend to be less expensive than chicken breasts.

- **Grill up healthy fare.** Vegetables are less expensive than meat and poultry, and there's many ways to prepare veggies over an open flame. Grilled vegetable skewers are flavorful and popular, and guests might appreciate some nutritious fare to counter all the less healthy items they're accustomed to eating at July 4 barbecues.

There's no shortage of ways to save money when celebrating July 4 in the backyard. This year hosts can celebrate to the fullest without breaking the bank.



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Sparklers are not child's play

BY METRO CREATIVE CONNECTION

Did you know that the average primary flame blowtorch burns at around 2,000 F? USFS National Technology and Development says wildland fires typically burn between 1,600 and 2,000 F. Aluminum, brass, bronze, copper, and cast iron also can reach melting points at or slightly below 2,000 F.

It's likely safe to say that parents would never let their children handle a blowtorch, wander into a forest fire nor touch molten metals, yet many seemingly have no concerns about children playing with sparklers during July 4 celebrations. The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia says people often treat sparklers much too casually, even though they can burn at temperatures of about 2,000 F. Children are allowed to hold and wave these red-hot metal rods like toys. Sparkler sticks pose a serious burn risk, and the sparks can cause additional burns and eye injuries, warns the CHOP. Young children who would not be trusted with



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other hot materials should not hold sparklers, warn health experts. Older children should be carefully supervised around sparklers and other fireworks.

Those who want to avoid any possible injuries on July 4 and during other summer celebrations would be wise to avoid sparklers in favor of safer forms of entertain-

ment. Here are some ideas.

- Glow sticks light up in the dark and can be worn or waved around safely.
- Fill water balloons with a mixture of glitter and water. When the balloons pop, it is a festive display.
- Send children around with canned string products that they can

spray on one another. If making a mess isn't an issue, shaving cream "fights" also can be fun diversions for children.

• Adults can lead by example and leave the fireworks displays to the professionals. Take a ride over to the seaside or where a town is hosting a fireworks display and enjoy the sights from a distance.

• Purchase battery-powered blinking lights, such as those sold at circuses or concerts. Kids can spend hours running around with them in hand. Less expensive flashlights purchased at a dollar store can create the same effect.

• Let children play with confetti cannons.

• "Snappers" or "poppers" could be an option if they are sold nearby. These are small noisemakers that explode and pop when they are thrown at a hard ground surface.

Sparklers may be festive and beautiful to behold, but they are not designed to be handled by children. Alternatives to sparklers are equally fun and much safer.

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Interesting facts related to Independence Day

BY METRO CREATIVE CONNECTION

Americans celebrate Independence Day every July 4. The holiday has become synonymous with summer fun, as grand fireworks displays and backyard barbecues are integral components of many people's July 4 celebrations.

As Americans and residents of the United States prepare for some festive Fourth of July celebrations, they can keep these interesting facts related to Independence Day in mind.

- There have been many iterations of the American flag. The American flag has become an iconic symbol of freedom recognized across the globe since the United States declared their independence from Great Britain in 1776. But few July 4 celebrants may know that the current version is the 27th iteration of the American flag. According to the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the current version of the flag officially became the flag on July 4, 1960.

- More than half of all Americans own an American flag. A 2023 poll from WalletHub found that 57 percent of Americans own an American flag. And that's not the only way Americans show their national pride, as the same poll found that roughly one in three Americans intended to purchase patriotic merchandise for July 4.

- The United States is not the only place to celebrate American independence. Such celebrations occur in various countries, including

Australia, Denmark, Ireland, and Norway. The festivities in Rebild National Park in Denmark is believed to be the largest celebration of American independence outside the United States.

- The National Hot Dog and Sausage Council estimates that 150 million hot dogs are consumed on July 4. Though there's no corresponding estimate related to how many hamburgers Americans eat on July 4, various reports suggest Americans eat roughly 50 billion burgers annually, so it's fair to conclude many a burger will be consumed this Independence Day.

- July is a popular month for nations to celebrate their independence. In addition to the United States, various countries, including Algeria (July 5), Argentina (July 9), The Bahamas (July 10), Belarus (July 3), Burundi (July 1), Canada (July 1), Cape Verde (July 1), Colombia (July 20), Kiribati (July 12), and Liberia (July 26), celebrate their Independence Day in July.

- John Adams, a Founding Father of the United States and the second president in the country's history, felt Americans should celebrate their independence from Great Britain on July 2. That's because the Continental Congress voted for independence on July 2, 1776. However, the Declaration of Independence was not approved for two more days, thus making July 4 the day to celebrate America's independence from Great Britain.