



Tuber Times

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Spectacular Spud Museum

Potatoes versus Projects

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There has been great discussion on where to progress with the museum and what should be shown online. As there is to be a museum that people may visit in person, not all of the collectables will be shown on the website. Many are safe in storage waiting to be placed on permanent display.

As we work on creating an environment for the growth of the museum, we must also maintain our original goal, education. Some of the projects are already displayed online. This is where most of the progress from this time forward will be viewed. For your current viewing pleasure and educational delight, we have added video of the Sea Monkeys and the Triops. These are a couple of projects in the aquarium setting and more will happen.

Other projects will include plants, electronics, models and other easy to watch and understand concepts. Currently, we are working on a small robot and a large garden project. These projects will be pho-



Sir Spudsolot - A Custom Spud

tographed and edited into "slideshows" and occasional video will be offered.

Smaller files will be offered online for easier viewing and eventually entire class projects will be available on CD-Rom for classroom use. Our goal is to use the available resources to invite education and create a support for the education system not dependant on tax dollars. It is important that we are there for the future of the children.

Special points of interest:

- * Technology Update
- * Projects
- * Around the Town

Technology Updates

As was previously planned a new camera was added to our technology pool. This camera allows up close pictures and videos that could not be accomplished without this upgrade. The results are already showing in the updated projects section.

More upgrades are needed to provide a better educational experience. Soon there will be more computer programs, com-

puters and other tools to make the website better. Of course this does happen with an out of pocket expense. We are taking our time and making wise investments to make sure this is a long lived project that everyone may enjoy.

As we acquire more technology updates we are please to let you know. Also, we welcome any suggestions. It is important

Idaho State Gem

The Star Garnet is the State Gem of the Gem State, Idaho. This unique gem stone is only found in India and Idaho. The wonderful property of this particular type of garnet is that it displays the optical phenomenon that looks like a star. The star image reflected usually displays four to six of these points.

On February 25, 1967 this stone became the Idaho state gem. It is more rare than star rubies or star sapphires throughout the world.

Garnets are from a family of minerals including aluminum, chromium, calcium, silicon, oxygen, magnesium, manganese, iron, and vanadium that are placed into several classifications of garnet. The chemical formula for the star garnet is noted as $\text{Fe}^{++} 3\text{Al}_2 (\text{SiO}_4)_3$. This unique stone can be found near St. Maries, Idaho.

(from page 1) make sure that everyone has access and has input for the website.

By time this newsletter is prepared there will already be some additions and changes for the website. More will be added as we approach the fall season.

Access is very important for our viewers. We do not add too much flash to the website pages as we know not everyone has the state of the art computer at home, school or even at a local library. We are keeping as simple as possible to make sure that practically everyone will be able to use the website.

As part of the changes, we have altered the Newsletter design to make it easier to share and enjoy. Please pass the newsletter along as well as the website information.

Around the Town Events

In January there was a special event at the Coeur d'Alene Library. Once a year there is a building event using Legos. We were lucky enough to have Todd, a member of the Museum Staff and my son Jacob, who has autism to go and take picture of this wonderful event. LEGO-Rama was held on the 18th of January this year and was for children to provide built projects that had to remain within certain dimensions.

There were many entries and all were wonderful and showed the creative spirit. A few adults brought some spectacular projects in for viewing.

Prizes were only for certain age groups but it was worth the show. This event is being edited into a "slideshow" and will be available online soon. A new web page will be built to accommodate these special events. For more information, you are able to visit www.cdalibrary.com as this event was hosted by the Public Library Youth Department sponsored by The Friends of the CDA Library.

Built for fun and
adventure...just
imagine the Lego
building
innovations.

Museum Staff

As we were preparing to incorporate and applying for our non-profit organization licensing, we have changed the museum staff. An interview with Todd, the museum consultant, will be done. On the website a couple of staff members have been removed due to circumstances that will not be currently mentioned.

This was an administrative decision that was very difficult at best to do; however, was very necessary. We do apologize for any inconvenience in regards to this matter.



Four Ray Star Garnet

Spectacular Spud Museum

Phone: 208-699-3408

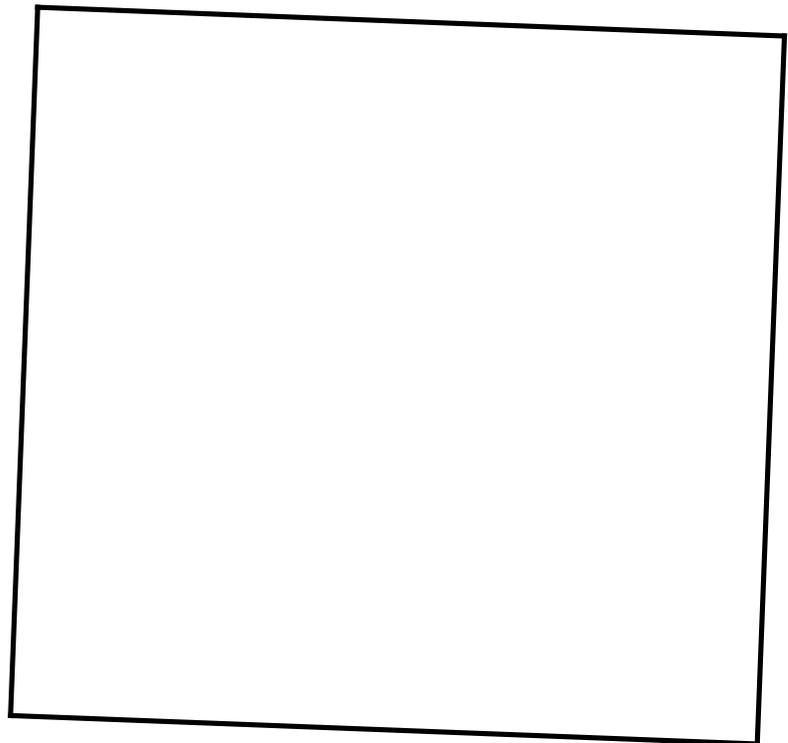
Email:

admin@spectacularspudmuseum.com

A child's education is not small potatoes.

www.spectacularspudmuseum.com

Spectacular Spud Museum



Spokes Spud Corner

I have been quite a busy potato lately. My goodness, I have a travel itinerary that will match the busiest executive out there. There are several field trips that are being planned. You will have to follow along on the website calendar to keep up with me.

Taking care of standard spud issues is an ongoing matter. The website must be updated deadlines met and projects tested and meeting the Spud approval prior to using them for education and or display. Not all of the projects selected work out and some that are considered excellent for our children have unforeseen drawbacks. Please be assured we will discuss those projects as well and make sure that our young tots are educated without any negative circumstances.

If we feel a project is for a differ-

ent age group, you will be advised. Kit difficulty and expense will be made know for you so you will understand that we care about the results and the expense.

Some kits or projects that are too expensive will be documented and the results viewable so that the learning opportunity will be there but your pocket will not feel any hardship.

Oh my, I have to run. I will be writing again in December. If you have suggestions or questions we are only an e-mail or phone call away.



Professor B at the Post Falls Dam