

DISCOVER MOUNTAIN LIFE

SUMMER 2010

# sun valley

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# RAINBOW

**GENERATION LOST?**

**MOUNTAINS  
OF POSSIBILITIES**

**IDAHO'S ATTICS**

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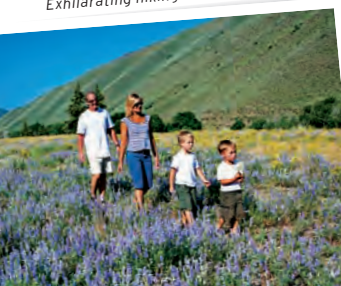
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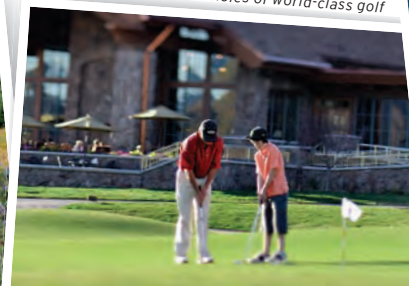
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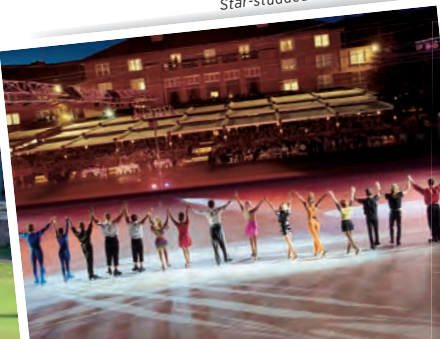
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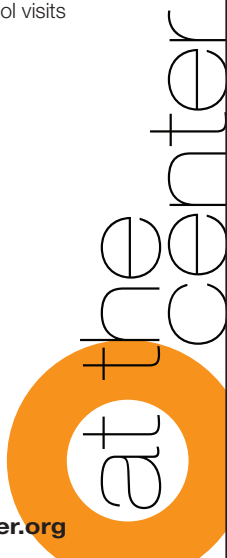
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# features

### cover story

## 12 Born at the Headwaters

Jason D.B. Kauffman tracks the travails of the valley's rainbow trout.

## 18 Generation Lost?

Wherefore art thou, youth of Ketchum? Trevon Milliard investigates.

## 22 One Man in the Mountains

Matt Leidecker discovers the serendipity and surprises of hiking his home turf.

## 26 Inside Idaho's Attics

Van Gordon Sauter peeks into Idaho's marvelous museums.



# departments

## recreation

### 30 Frontier Modern

Hailey's celebration of Independence Day is a marriage of heritage and the modern world, much like the town itself.

*By Tony Evans*

## living

### 34 High in Idaho

Weddings that brave and celebrate Idaho's elements.

*By Sabina Dana Plasse*

## arts

### 38 The Idaho Bookshelf

Words that illuminate and enshrine this great state.

*By Van Gordon Sauter*

## dining

### 40 Chef's Specialty

Jeff Keys on tamales.

*By Tony Evans*



# regulars

### 8 Valley View

Slices of Sun Valley mapped

### 10 By the Numbers

Valley wildlife

### 50 Sun Valley Social

Photos of fun and frolics

### the guide

<b>42</b> Gallery guide	<b>48</b> Equipment rentals
<b>43</b> Dining guide	<b>48</b> Outfitters
<b>46</b> Summer calendar	<b>48</b> Lodging
<b>47</b> Summer essentials	<b>49</b> Gear



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**Karl Weatherly** (*Frontier Modern*) specializes in sports/action, contemporary lifestyle and travel photography. After receiving a B.A. in film production from UNC, he pursued studio photography in New York. Karl was chief photographer for Jeep/48Straight and Seattle Seafair and a staff photographer for the Seattle Goodwill Games and USOC (Vancouver Olympics). He is a three-time winner of a national photojournalism award and is represented by Getty Images and Corbis.



**Jason D.B. Kauffman** (*Born at the Headwaters*) is a freelance outdoors and environmental writer and photographer. His work explores topics including endangered wildlife, threatened wildlands, backcountry travel, food and sustainable living. He has been published in a dozen publications, including *Sun Valley Guide*, *Backpacker Magazine*, *Newwest.net* and the *Idaho Statesman*. Jason often collaborates with his wife, photographer Elizabeth Belts Kauffman. View samples of their work at [www.alpenglowpress.com](http://www.alpenglowpress.com).



**Trevon Milliard** (*Generation Lost?*), an *Idaho Mountain Express* newspaper reporter, took the job sight unseen in 2009. He knew instantly upon reaching Ketchum that he had lucked out. Growing up in Whitefish, Montana, Trevon's no stranger to mountain towns. His favorite activities are backpacking, snowshoeing and mountain biking. Trevon's work has appeared in the *Bozeman Daily Chronicle*, *Habitat*, the *Missoulian* and *Hungry Horse News*.



**Matt Leidecker** (*One Man in the Mountains*) moved to the valley when he was 4. Matt guides on the Middle Fork of the Salmon River and worked for five years with Sun Valley Heli-Ski guides. He is currently the academic director for the SVSEF. He has published a collection of his Middle Fork photographs, as well as two white-water guidebooks. His newest project, *Sun Valley Hiking*, will be out soon ([sunvalleyhiking.com](http://sunvalleyhiking.com)).







**Van Gordon Sauter** (*Inside Idaho's Attics*) was the least successful anchorman in the history of commercial broadcasting. His ratings for the early news in Chicago were so abysmal that the company sent him to France to run the CBS News Paris bureau, a decidedly off-air position. He later became executive vice president of the CBS Broadcast Group. He lives in Gimlet.



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Life in this valley is a struggle, especially if you are a tiny, newly spawned rainbow trout. If you are an energized, educated 20-something, hoping to forge a life in the fresh waters of the Wood River Valley, it is downright daunting. But no matter your origin, your reasons for being here likely include crystal-clear waters, brilliant blue skies, towering, magnificent mountains and breathtaking vistas. But what also lies in wait for those who persevere here is a sense of community, belonging and camaraderie among fellow survivors.

This issue of the *Sun Valley Guide* explores these themes. Taken together they provide a snapshot of life in the Wood River Valley, a time capsule of sorts. They explore the challenges, interests, diversions and experiences of the people, places and creatures that live here, right now.

In *Born at the Headwaters* (page 12), follow the life cycle of the valley's native fish, the rainbow trout, and learn why its greatest challenge is one of man's creations.

In *Generation Lost?* (page 18) Trevon Milliard tackles the most pressing question in our valley's short history, one that has far reaching implications for the future of our towns: Where have all the young people gone?

Then, take a break, relax and remember why we struggle to make it work here, why it's a wonderful place to be. Let Matt Leidecker be your guide to some of his most treasured hiking experiences (*One Man in the Mountains*, page 22). Follow the native guide as he charts and explores his home turf for a new guidebook, and discovers some surprises along the way.

Finally, embrace the success stories of life in this wild West. *Inside Idaho's Attics* (page 26) takes us on a tour of the conservators of central Idaho's heritage, a peek inside the museums that may one day be showcasing slices of life in the Wood River Valley circa 2010.



Jennifer Tuohy, Editor-in-Chief  
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PHOTO BY DAVID N. SEELIG

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1st place, Web Site General Excellence  
1st & 2nd place, Serious Feature  
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COVER: RAINBOW TROUT BY JASON D.B. KAUFFMAN





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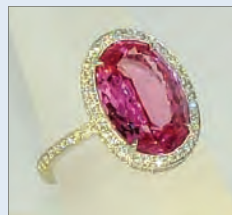
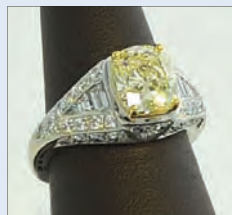
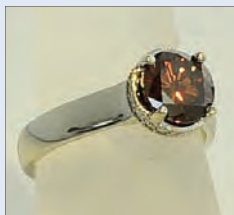
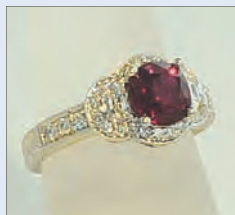
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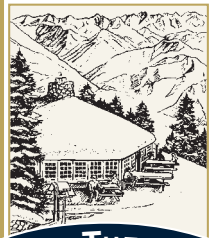
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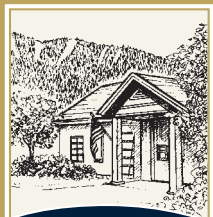
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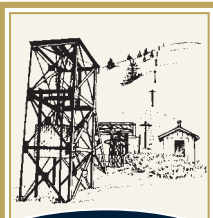




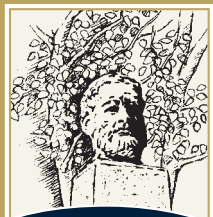
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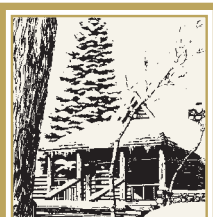
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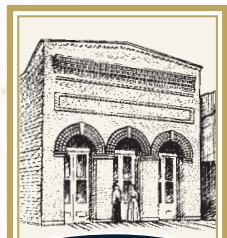






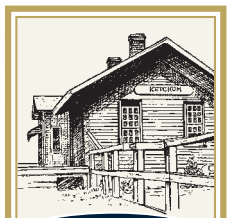
## slices of **SUN VALLEY**

From mining heritage to skiing lore, the Sun Valley area is famous for its history, and as one of the oldest on-mountain ski lodges can now attest to, it's not just the winter that holds the keys to our heritage. So take the new gondola up to the Roundhouse this summer and get a bird's eye view of our 10 top spots for parlaying with the past. For more ideas for Sun Valley summer fun see page 47.



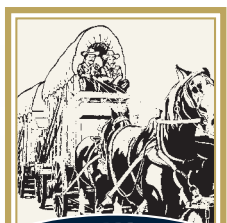
**HISTORIC BRICK BUILDINGS**

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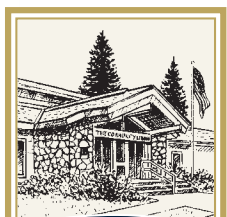
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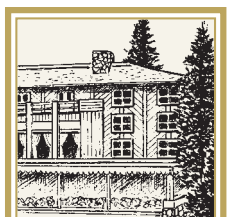
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## by the numbers [valley wildlife]

Compiled by Pat Murphy

Estimated number of elk situated west of the valley in 2009: **1,632**

Estimated number of elk situated east of the valley: **2,048**

Number of elk harvested in the 2009 season west of the valley: **189**

Number of elk harvested east of the valley: **236**

Number of deer harvested west of the valley in the 2009 season: **315**

Number of deer harvested east of the valley: **592**

Estimated number of mountain goats in the  
Boulder and Smoky mountain areas in 2009: **146**

Number of pronghorn antelope in the  
Little Wood and Muldoon drainages in 2009: **200**

Number of wolf packs within a 100-mile radius  
(Phantom Hill pack, Little Wood pack, Soldier Mountain pack,  
and numerous sightings in the mid-Wood River Valley area): **3 or 4**

Number of wolves shot in the valley of the 10 hunted in the Southern Mountains Zone: **3**

Total acres in The Nature Conservancy's Silver Creek Preserve  
and conservation easement area: **9,500**

Number of bird species spotted there in 2009: **200**

Estimated number of sandhill cranes in the 2009 fall survey of Silver Creek: **381**

Number of bald eagle nests: **2**

Estimated number of red-tailed hawks: **100**

Estimated number of migratory bird species: **30**

Number of rare Siberian accentors, a small,  
shy and sparrow-like bird, spotted (in 1996): **1**

Number of rare hooded crane species from Siberia spotted (in 2010): **1**

Number of choice Wood River Valley fishing spots geared  
toward families and the likelihood of catching fish: **5**  
Number of types of hunting and fishing licenses issued by the  
Department of Fish and Game for the 2009 season: **20**

Estimated number of fish species in the Big Wood River: **11**

Estimated number of rainbow trout over 8 inches (per river mile): **1,329**

Estimated number of beaver ponds along the Big Wood River: **12**

Number of permanent Department of Fish and Game officers in the Wood River Valley  
area tasked to "protect state's fish and wildlife as well as inform and educate public,  
assist biologists in research and enforce other state laws as certified peace officers": **1**



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# BORN AT THE



# HEADWATERS

THE BIG WOOD RIVER  
IS A PLACE WILD  
RAINBOW TROUT  
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INSPIRING  
GENERATIONS  
OF ANGLERS.



BY JASON D.B. KAUFFMAN  
PHOTOS BY JASON D.B. KAUFFMAN &  
ELIZABETH BELTS KAUFFMAN



# W

With a well-timed swish of her powerful tail, the female rainbow trout maneuvers into place. Sleek and 15 inches long, she's discovered her spot in the clear, cold waters. Alongside her, a large male rainbow keeps pace.

It's early May. Dripping snow-banks still crowd the shores along the upper North Fork of the Big Wood River where the pair swims.

Sweeping her tail vigorously in a peculiar sideways motion, the female scours a depression in the red, brown and yellow cobble. Into this, she releases 2,000 bright pink eggs. Bobbing and weaving on the same currents, the male releases a steady stream of milt to fertilize the eggs.

With another series of sweeps above the hole she's dug—called a redd—the female covers the fertilized eggs with cobble.

The adult rainbows don't remain long. Better feeding opportunities, deeper holes and safer cover from predators are calling. Riding along on the high spring flows, they return to their normal haunts in the Gimlet stretch of the Big Wood River, just south of Ketchum. They may or may not live to spawn another spring.

Back up at the headwaters of the North Fork, an amazing life journey has just begun.

EVEN AT THE HIDDEN HEADWATERS OF THE NORTH FORK,

LIFE ISN'T EASY FOR  
THE NEWBORN  
RAINBOW TROUT.





No other fish has so completely haunted the dreams of so many anglers as that ruler of dancing streams and churning rivers, the rainbow trout. Generations of American anglers have elevated the brightly hued *Oncorhynchus mykiss* to the pinnacle of a rough hierarchy of freshwater fish species, observes Anders Halverson in his book *An Entirely Synthetic Fish*.

One can hardly blame the angler who equates the nobility of the rainbow with the jagged summits, tall trees, deep gorges and big skies that embrace its clear-water birthplaces. "He is the aristocratic buccaneer of big waters," Halverson writes. "His heritage is the deep, boiling rifts, swift currents and dancing whirlpools."

He may as well be describing the Big Wood River. And perhaps he is. Halverson spent a portion of the 1990s writing for Ketchum's *Idaho Mountain Express* newspaper. One cannot live and work alongside a river as lovely and trout-filled as the Big Wood for long and have it fail to seep into his very being.

Many an angler has devoted his or her life to chasing the darting shapes of rainbows among gin-clear streams and rivers. Rainbows aren't the most challenging to net—the cagey brown trout of European descent makes a convincing argument for that title. Nor are rainbows the easiest to tempt—that trait is generally awarded to cutthroat and brook trout, who inhabit remote streams where lighter angling pressure translates into less-wary fish. But the rainbows are the perfect quarry for the dedicated fisher of freestone rivers and streams. According to Halverson, "Angling for rainbows in the vertical tumult of racing water is trout fishing raised to its supreme eminence."

Even at the hidden headwaters of the North Fork, life isn't easy for the newborn rainbow trout. Not all the eggs were fertilized, and there's no guarantee that those that were will survive beyond a few days. Most do not. But for a few, a mixture of chance, lucky placement in a protected crevice between the rounded cobbles, and the fact that the stream contains very little choking sediment means survival.

Within 20 days, dark-colored eyes appear in the center of each of the eggs. Fisheries biologists call this the "eyed egg stage." Protected by the cobble, the eggs remain in this state for several weeks.

In one of those narrow crevices between the cobbles, one of the developing rainbows—a female—nudges out of her egg. She's a sack fry now, or alevin, a stage indicated by the pinkish egg yolk connected to her slender body. The yolk will continue to nourish the tiny, hiding trout for another week or two.

Hunger finally drives her out of the protective cobble. Immediately caught up in the swift, early-summer current, she's carried downstream with other surviving fry to deeper holes and larger water. Her egg yolk gone, a process biologists call "buttoning up," she's now a full-fledged fry.

Somewhere miles downstream, the fry—now barely three-quarters of an inch long—is swept into a peaceful eddy just upstream from Ketchum. Fortunately for her, she winds up near an overhanging shore, where a submerged tangle of roots provides cover. Many of her siblings are not so fortunate, as birds skim them off the surface of the water. Dark shapes that race by in the faster current—hungry brown trout—gobble up others.

By August of her first year, the young rainbow has grown to 4 inches. Finally able to swim in swift bursts, she makes short forays into the current in search of aquatic insects. She'll need all the nutrients she can get as summer turns to fall, the trees lose their leaves and the real challenges of winter close in.



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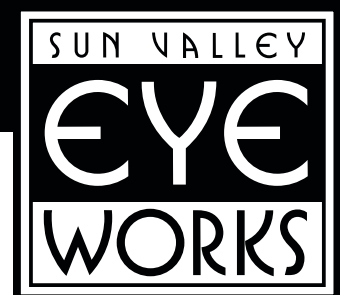
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Redband rainbow trout have swum the free-flowing rivers and creeks of present-day Idaho since well before recorded time. It's believed this ubiquitous fish (one recent survey found 1,329 rainbows 8 inches or longer for every mile of the Big Wood) arrived sometime after Shoshone Falls formed on the Snake River, in the aftermath of the earth-shaping Bonneville Flood some 15,000 to 60,000 years ago. The falls kept rainbows from invading farther into the upper Snake River, a stretch occupied by Yellowstone cutthroats.

Redband rainbows and steelhead trout are the same species; the only difference is steelhead migrate to the ocean as young smolts, whereas redbands remain in freshwater streams.

In contrast to other Idaho streams, where Yellowstone and westslope cutthroat flourish, the Big Wood is believed to have been the exclusive haunt of the redbands. That is until humans began to alter the nature of the ecosystem for the benefit of fishermen.

Her first winter is a cold and snowy one. As the frigid weather robs the Big Wood of incoming flows for months on end, the river drops to its lowest levels. Pushed from her hiding spot in the protected web of roots by the receding water, the 5-inch female trout is forced to swim in the same currents as larger predatory trout. Fortunately, slower metabolisms brought on by winter mean larger fish are feeding less.

By late April, the spring warm-up sends the river overflowing its banks. It's one of those rare, once-in-a-decade floods. Suddenly, the female rainbow has more places to swim and hide as the swollen river crests. Slower flows passing through the treed floodplains provide the rainbow with an escape from the raging river.

Months later, the female trout, now in her second summer, begins to feed on the insect hatches that have made the Big Wood famous. All the fish in the river—rainbows, introduced brown and brook trout, and native mountain whitefish, a species that's often overlooked—gorge on the bounty. By fall of her second year, the female rainbow is 8 inches long.

Two years pass, and still she survives, feeds and grows. One summer day, spying a fat fly as it hits the dappled surface of the water, she darts after the nutritious insect and scoops it up.

It's a mistake, but one she'll survive. The angler delicately removes the artificial dry fly from her mouth and releases her into the current. She's joined nearly a third of her wild counterparts estimated by biologists to have been caught and released by anglers on the Big Wood River.

By the autumn of her third year, the rainbow is an impressive 12 inches and full of vigor. She doesn't sense it yet, but profound changes are in store next spring.

"HE IS THE ARISTOCRATIC BUCCANEER OF BIG WATERS.

HIS HERITAGE IS THE DEEP, BOILING RIFTS, SWIFT CURRENTS AND DANCING WHIRLPOOLS."

ANDERS HALVERSON  
AN ENTIRELY SYNTHETIC FISH





Wild rainbow trout face a hazardous existence. Threats to their well-being come from both above and below.

But the more insidious threat facing all trout today are introduced fish. On the Big Wood, as in other regional rivers and streams, non-native brown and brook trout now swim alongside native inhabitants. These outsiders compete for the river's limited space and food.

A related threat to wild rainbows is perhaps the most bizarre of all: other rainbows. Or more specifically, hatchery-reared rainbows with a genetic pedigree more complicated than a mixed-breed pooch at the animal shelter.

For more than a century, hatchery managers across the West—including here at the Hayspur Fish Hatchery near Picabo—have crossbred rainbow brood stock with different strains scooped from rivers and streams far and wide. They selected rainbows for traits such as the flashiest coloring, best fighting ability and greatest growth potential. Transplanting these hybrids into rivers helped sustain the rising class of anglers who wish to fill their wicker creels with the night's dinner. Wild stocks simply could not—and still cannot—sustain the pressure of anglers who keep their catch.

Thrown into rivers like the Big Wood by the thousands, these mixed-heritage rainbows began to interbreed with native redbands. The result was an across-the-board decline in genetic diversity, resulting in a breed of fish less prepared to survive the rigors of a wild stream life. Other species of native trout on other rivers have not been immune, either.

The result: In today's human-modified world, few fish deserve the "native" moniker. Most are simply called "wild."

Today, thanks to the marvels of artificial propagation, the rainbow—truly native only to the Pacific Rim, which stretches from Mexico, through the Pacific Northwest and Alaska, and on to Russia's Kamchatka Peninsula—exists in streams, rivers and lakes on every continent except Antarctica. In the U.S., hatchery opera-

tions ensured the expansion of their range from sea to shining sea.

Fortunately for the wild rainbows of the Big Wood, which still have some redband genetics running through them, changing policies have slowed or perhaps even halted this slide toward hybridization. In 2000, the Department of Fish and Game began emphasizing the preservation of wild fish in Idaho. Today's hatcheries only produce sterile rainbows for transplanting.

In more and more places where rainbows weren't native inhabitants, wild-life agencies have begun authorizing the removal of introduced populations of *Oncorhynchus mykiss*. This summer, anglers are being encouraged to keep any rainbow they catch on the South Fork of the Snake River in eastern Idaho, whose native trout is the Yellowstone cutthroat.

The death knell hasn't been sounded for hatchery fish, however. The preliminary results of a five-year study that concluded last year suggest that when modern transplant procedures are followed and streams are not overloaded with artificially reared fish, hatchery operations have no measurable impact on wild fish.

That's good news for the segment of the sporting public with whom hatchery put-and-take programs are very popular. If the results of the study are born out—something fisheries managers across the West will be waiting to see—it means wild and hatchery fish may be able to coexist.

Today, hatchery rainbows are introduced in the Big Wood only above Ketchum and on tributary streams like Warm Springs Creek and Trail Creek. That protects stretches below Ketchum and Hailley, managed for wild trout, from being overrun with small hatchery rainbows, which would certainly upset the valley's catch-and-release, wild-trout purists.

"They would find it offensive to find 8- to 10-inch (hatchery) fish on the end of their lines," said Doug Megargle, Fish and Game's Magic Valley regional fisheries manager.

It's early April. Passing snow squalls speckle the surface of the upper Big Wood. A third winter has passed. The female rainbow, now more than 13 inches long, feels an urge she's never felt before. Something pulls her upstream.

As she swims upriver mile after mile, the healthy rainbow trout smells something familiar. It's the individual chemical makeup of the stream in which she was born.

Following her natural homing instincts, the rainbow fights against the North Fork's strong current, finally arriving in the same pool-and-riffle stretch of her birth. Like her mother, she pairs up with a male rainbow. Brief parental duties completed, they ride the high spring flows back downstream.

Many rainbows in the Big Wood live up to seven years and make multiple spawning runs. In her case, two more spawning seasons will pass before the female rainbow trout—finally spent by the rigors of her wild stream life—perishes.

Up at the wild headwaters of the North Fork, the next generation of rainbow fry soon wiggle out of the red, brown and yellow cobbles. ■

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# GENERATION LOST?

ONCE DOMINANT AND THRIVING, IS THE SUN VALLEY 20-SOMETHING TEETERING ON EXTINCTION? **TREVON MILLIARD**, 24, INVESTIGATES THE DESTRUCTION OF THEIR HABITAT AND HOW TO ENCOURAGE THEIR REINTRODUCTION. PHOTOS BY **MARK OLIVER**, 28.





# SEVERAL SIMPLE INDUSTRIAL BUILDINGS

sit on a disjointed, one-block stretch of Ketchum's Leadville Avenue. No signs or colorful logos welcome customers, but next to one door hangs a white flag displaying a mint-green polar bear to break up the monochromatic mix.

The door opens into a skinny room, filled with a row of tables supporting 40-year-old sewing machines. Stacks of pink, blue, green and orange cotton fabric overflow the high-walled shelves running the length of the room. Each stack is cut into the shape of a short-sleeved shirt.

In a back room Jeremy Bull, 27, and Alex Floyd, 25, sit at their desks, chairs back to back. They are co-founders of this fledgling organic-cotton polo shirt company, Collared Greens.

Coming to Sun Valley, Idaho wasn't Bull and Floyd's plan following graduation from college in Virginia with degrees in economics. It wasn't even Plan B. They planned to enjoy the ski-bum lifestyle in Jackson Hole, Wyoming, for a couple of years. By chance, a friend, Randy Ashton, proposed they help him start a polo shirt company in Sun Valley. A new course was set.

A brief hiatus out West is something of a rite of passage for East Coast college grads. But Sun Valley isn't usually on the radar. Most of Bull's and Floyd's friends back home had never heard of Sun Valley, and neither, according to a 2008 survey, have three-quarters of Americans. Their story is something of an anomaly. Twenty-somethings are just not coming to Sun Valley in the droves they once were.

In 1975 Carol Knight arrived sight unseen, age 25. "I had never seen Sun Valley. And I just had this image in my mind that this is a place I'd like to go—Sun Valley, sun," said the school-teacher from Minnesota. The 1970s were a booming decade. The number of 20-somethings here doubled between 1970 and 1980. Many of them, like Knight, worked back-to-back menial jobs until they started their own businesses, a number of which still thrive today.

By 1980, one in every four Blaine County residents was in their 20s, according to the smudged, type-written census report of the day.

By 2008, while the county's resident population had more than doubled to 21,700, the estimated number of 20-somethings decreased by 312 to 2,123. "People have to start coming soon to replace us," said 75-year-old Sun Valley resident Bill Wright of the Sun Valley Resort Area Marketing Committee, tasked with investigating the failing health of the economy here.

Examination of decennial census data shows the 1970s as the one-and-only mass migration of young adults into Sun Valley. In 1980, the dominant age group, percentage wise, was in their 20s. A decade later, it was the 30s, next the 40s, and now the 50s. Every decade, the valley's controlling age group is 10 years older—meaning it's the same people. They're just getting older.

Baird Gourlay, 51, a member of this dominant age group, moved here in 1980, skied for a month, maxed out his credit cards, and then got a job working as a bank janitor. "I told my dad I was cleaning up in banking," he said with a smile. Gourlay eventually fell into the sports business and co-founded PK's Ski and Sports in 1981.

Currently a member of the Ketchum City Council, Gourlay is a champion for affordable housing to attract and retain young adults. Because, as he is all too aware, if the trend of an aging population continues, in two decades Sun Valley's dominant group will be those over age 70.



**Previous page:** Bull & Floyd head out to enjoy one of the benefits of living in Sun Valley—world-class fly-fishing.

**From top:** Mark Goodman and friend; Jan Hege-wald; Kellee Havens (left) and Barclay Thompson; Pedal (the dog) and Brendan Coyle; Jeremy Bull (left) and Alex Floyd.



# BULL AND FLOYD ARE HAPPY HERE,

but it comes with a price. Work a lot and make a little. “We didn’t pay ourselves for the first year,” Bull said. “We were making shirts for free and bartending at the [now closed] Cavallino Lounge.” Now they pay themselves to live, but that’s about it. “A night job is still a part of it,” Bull said. “And we’ve got a firewood business on the side. It’s a struggle, but we’re surviving.”

Even though the business is established and growing—60 stores currently sell their shirts and neckties—they have been singularly unsuccessful in drawing their friends out here. The problem isn’t convincing them the valley is worthwhile—photos on Collared Green’s website and Facebook page do that. “Our friends are generally sitting in their ties in a cubicle and they’ll look at these pictures. That’s kind of an exciting part of their day,” Bull said.

But taking the leap to Sun Valley is another story. “They’ll literally talk about it and talk about it and talk about it,” Floyd said. “But as soon as it’s time to pull the trigger, they say, ‘I can’t do it.’”

“It’s hard to get somebody to drop something that’s stable to take a chance,” Bull added. And that blind leap is getting harder. In this economy, none of their friends feels like making that risky long jump.

# BUMMING AROUND A SKI TOWN

for 20-somethings, while once de rigueur, is fast becoming the exclusive domain of the trust-funder. While Blaine County’s residents are in the top 1 percent of America’s richest people—per capita personal income here is \$65,500, while the national average is \$40,500—it’s hard to find a way to make ends meet in Sun Valley.

That’s because \$65,500 a year is not a reality. Similar Western ski-resort counties—such as Aspen in Pitkin County, Colorado, and Jackson Hole in Teton County, Wyoming—also have unusually high income levels per resident. Teton County ranks second in the nation with \$131,000 per person, and Pitkin County ranks sixth with \$93,600. Blaine County is 25th.

“This puts Teton, Pitkin and Blaine counties in a singular class of wealth as ski-resort communities,” said Bob Youngman, a Sun Valley city councilman who is also studying the current economic cycle. His research shows these resort counties are exorbitantly wealthy because half of all residents’ income comes from investments, not jobs.

In fact, Sun Valley workers and business

owners make on average \$32,000 annually, just slightly above the \$27,000 national average, despite the much higher cost of living. In Aspen and Jackson workers make 50 to 63 percent more than Sun Valley workers. “In the end, that’s why people don’t live up here,” Youngman said. “They don’t get paid enough.”

The lack of career diversity in Blaine County adds to this disparity. “We have a hugely overeducated workforce here,” said 31-year-old Jon Duval, a Boston native who moved here at age 27. “There’s always that comment about bartenders with Ivy League degrees here.”

Resort economies rely on 10 sectors of industry: construction, retail, real estate, accommodations, restaurants, professional services, administrative services, finance and insurance, health care, and arts, entertainment and recreation.

These industries accounted for 80 to 90 percent of total workers’ earnings in all three ski resorts, according to the U.S. Bureau of Economics’ 2008 county reports.

In Jackson and Aspen, each sector makes up 5 to 15 percent of total workers’ earnings, meaning each piece of the pie is about the same size. The economies in those towns are diverse and balanced, incorporating many kinds of jobs.

In Sun Valley, construction, retail and real estate overwhelmingly dominate, accounting for 50 percent, while each of the seven other sectors represents 5 percent or less. “If there’s no diversity, you’re trapped, just like a miner in a mining town,” Youngman said.

Creating diversity presents a chicken-and-egg problem: The valley needs to attract young, ambitious workers to build a diversified economy, but career-aspiring workers won’t come here unless those jobs are available.

Take Barclay Thompson, 25, who first visited Sun Valley last June and “fell in love with the place.” She returned for the winter, but moved back to Portland, Oregon, and her job as an event coordinator at Nike. “That’s where my career was,” she said. “I always wanted to move out here, but I didn’t want to move out here and not further my career.” Fortunately, she happened upon a job opening at Scott, based in Ketchum, and reversed her route. “Here I am: day four.”

“We look up to guys like Scott and Smith,” said Alex Floyd. Both those businesses started in Sun Valley (Scott USA in 1958 and Smith Optics in 1965) and have attracted numerous workers like Thompson over the decades. Collared Greens could relocate to attract those long-lost cubicled friends. But, like the founders of Scott and Smith, they want to be here. Plus, “handmade in Sun Valley, Idaho” has a nice ring to it.

However, Scott and Smith are the examples trotted out ad nauseam as evidence of Ketchum’s ability to attract talented workers. The firms started half a century ago, and since then, few others have arisen to produce quality jobs.



# YOUNG LIFE DOES PERSEVERE IN UNASSUMING POCKETS

of the community, like oases in a desert. One such is a house across the street from Ketchum's Atkinson Park. And, like an oasis, most don't know it's there until they summit the closest dune. No cliché Bob Marley blankets serve as curtains, no beer cans in the yard or other obvious signs mark the presence of recent college graduates.

Inside live three roommates in their 20s, and a large shaggy dog of Burmese-Pyrenees origins named Pedal. The house, affectionately nicknamed the Ketchum Community Campus, is more like a dorm, with young tenants constantly coming and going.

Kellee Havens, 26, is the matriarch of the house. She moved to Ketchum from Portland, Oregon, in 2006 and knows of the temporariness this place holds. This summer, four friends are leaving after only a couple of years in the valley, worn down by the expense of living here. Wants can outweigh needs for only so long.

Havens works at the health club Zenergy and the Ketchum Grill restaurant. She'd like to drop one of her jobs "in the future." But the phrasing makes it apparent that it won't happen anytime soon. Yet, she doesn't have any plans to leave. For both her and her boyfriend, Brendan Coyle, 27, that big mountain in their backyard keeps them here. "Skiing is definitely a draw for me," Coyle said. However, the Dollar mountain groomer/parks attendant admits, "It's a little tough. It definitely helps to hold multiple jobs."

The house's newest addition, 25-year-old Nick Smith, moved from Spokane, Washington, in November on the advice of a friend. "The lifestyle seemed very tantalizing," he said. "So I moved down, and worked every night so I could ski every day."

Now he works at the Ketchum Grill and as a wine distributor for Tastevin. He'd like to make Sun Valley his home, but the difficulty of sustaining himself scratches a question mark at the end of most sentences. "How do you keep people of that age group in the valley?" he asked. "Really, there isn't a way. Everyone who is in our age group either has a pretty unique situation or multiple jobs."

So where are these much-needed career paths going to spring from? The trouble is that companies with the potential to be the next Scott and Smith, like Collared Greens, need more cash to get started than their predecessors, especially to acquire property.

Mark Goodman, 26, knows firsthand the cost of building a business. He's an associate planner for the city of Ketchum, having moved here in 2006, and sees how much money goes into new endeavors. "It's different now," he said. "To open up a big business on Main Street, you've got to have millions of dollars."

This property price explosion trickles down to workers hoping to establish a home here but unable to afford more than a rented condo. In the 1970s, the median Blaine County home cost \$87,000 in today's money—five times the average worker's yearly salary. It was affordable and comparable to the rest of the country.

From 2000 to 2008, the median home cost went from \$360,000 to \$600,000, while the average worker's salary actually dropped by \$2,000, falling to \$32,000 a year—making it almost impossible to buy a home in the north or south valley. The result is young families no longer set their roots deep into the valley soil by buying a home; instead they rent. With that comes the flexibility, and sometimes willingness, to leave. "As you get a little older and get out of your 20s, renting a place is more and more a negative," Goodman said. "Right now, I don't care. But I don't want to be paying someone else's mortgage forever."

However, the recession has created a chink of light, producing opportunities for the younger working class to buy a home in Hailey and Bellevue. House prices have fallen, and Windermere real estate agent Debra Hall said she's doing something she couldn't a year or two ago: selling south-valley homes to people in their 20s. Townhouses in Hailey are going for less than \$100,000. "That, to me, is one of the positives," she said. "We have a lot of things that draw people here, but we want people to live here and start businesses here."

One example is the Cornerstone Bar and Grill, a new 121-seat restaurant that just opened in Ketchum. The owners, Erik and Meg Vorm, purchased the dilapidated 1884 brick building on Main Street a year ago, just after the economy tanked. "Everyone was on the sidewalk watching the car wreck," Erik said. "No one was walking into the street to help out."

Lower prices allowed the Elkhorn couple to buy the building, fix it up and provide a quality job to 31-year-old Jan Hegewald, who designed the bar area and now acts as bar manager. He had floated from job to job since moving here in 2002, at age 22. Now his roots are firmly planted.

"The whole idea is Ketchum 2010 and beyond," he said, describing the frosty white bar he designed—illuminated at will by multi-colored LED lights. "And beyond" is an important concept for Hegewald, a member of the Ketchum Community Development Corp.'s economic development team pushing to diversify the economy by recruiting location-neutral businesses, such as Collared Greens. The CDC also wants more affordable housing (such as Northwood Place, which will have 32 units available this fall), and gives small loans to start-up businesses (25 loan applications have been received to date).

But if you build it, will they come? New housing and new business opportunities coupled with a revitalized, youth-orientated Sun Valley Resort (a new terrain park, gondola and superpipe are all aimed squarely at the younger demographic) are steps in the right direction. But without the tangible promise of a real community—where a footloose 20-something can begin to sow the seeds of a stable future—why would they?

Kellee Havens wrestles with this dilemma every day as she works two jobs just to get by. "To be honest, I can't see myself anywhere else. I'd *like* to make it work here..." ■



*In his pursuit to chronicle the wide and ranging trails of the Wood River Valley and beyond for his new book, **Sun Valley Hiking**, Matt Leisecker learned that his longtime home still holds the power to surprise him.*

*Photos by Matt Leisecker.*

# ne man in the mountains

It takes a lifetime to develop a relationship with the landscape. My connection to the mountains surrounding the Wood River Valley grew slowly. After trailing behind my parents to high-mountain lakes as a toddler, racing the ski runs of Bald Mountain with the Sun Valley Ski Education Foundation and honing my nascent camping skills through the outdoor program at The Community School, I gained the confidence to continue exploration on my own.

Understanding a landscape means more than just knowing the local trails. So, when I decided to write a guidebook to the Smoky, Boulder and Pioneer mountains, I determined to not only hike as many of the trails as I could, but to also delve into the geology, history and politics of this land.

The following vignettes and photographs are a small window into my discovery and exploration of the mountains out my backdoor.



# Pioneer Mountains

## *Fall Creek & Surprise Valley - Discovering New Terrain. August 8, 3:49 pm.*

It has been raining on and off most of the day. Following a thousand foot climb through steep switchbacks and granite spires, we top out in Surprise Valley. My hiking partner, Danny Walton, and I have already explored the Moose Lake basin and hiked several miles out the Fall Creek drainage. Now, from an overlook, we pause to contemplate this first-time view of jagged peaks, including the 11,878-foot Standhope Peak, which appears and disappears behind drifting clouds. The sun's rays slash briefly across our afternoon vista before the clouds let loose with a barrage of hail. Patches of bright red scarlet paintbrush stand out against the 2 inches of fresh snow.



## *Arrowhead Lake - Climbing the Arrowhead Arête. September 25, 11:29 am.*

The high peaks of the Smoky, Boulder, and Pioneer mountains capture the small towns of Ketchum, Hailey and Bellevue between skyscraping, snow-capped summits. To truly experience the mountains they must be climbed to their lofty summits. So, I set out to explore an arête in the Pioneer Mountains for potential inclusion in my book. At the top of Wildhorse Canyon, on the north side of the Pioneer range, I come to Arrowhead Lake. The precipitous north faces of Hyndman and Old Hyndman peaks reflect in the mirror-like surface of the lake as I scramble to a notch in a thousand foot knife-edged arête that rises from the lake. Though we were prepared for belayed climbing, the technical challenges of the ridge did not demand it, but the exposure and risk of such an environment is not for everyone. Once at the top, I reward myself with a turkey sandwich and a Snickers bar. As I bask in the crisp, clear air of a beautiful September afternoon, I realize how deep my connection to these mountains has become.





## *Trail Creek - Adventures with my Daughter. July 18, 11:40 am.*



Three years ago, the broad gravel footpath along Trail Creek would not have been a favored destination for me. Three years ago, I did not have a daughter. One of the more rewarding parts of mapping trails is sharing them with Sarah. Most of the time, I load her in the backpack and head down the trail, offering a steady stream of raisins and Cheerios over my shoulder. From that cozy perch she has summited peaks, visited high mountain lakes, and peered into the dark tunnels of open mine shafts. Along Trail Creek, I explore at her pace. We squeeze mud through our fingers, throw rocks into the creek, and even take a quick swim. I had no idea there was so much to do in a quarter-mile stretch of trail just east of Sun Valley Resort.



## *South Ridge of Silver Peak - Full Moon traverse. September 3, 9:02 pm.*

# *Boulder Mountains*

One late summer's eve, I took advantage of clear skies to make a full-moon traverse of the south ridge of Silver Peak, on the southern end of the Boulder range. As I gain the ridge at the mouth of Silver Canyon, crepuscular rays slash through hanging clouds down the Big Wood Valley. Farther along the sharp, rocky ridge, I watch as the moon rises over Boulder Peak. From the top, pale, moonlit summits stretch out in every direction. Somewhat reluctant to descend after such a magical experience, I am thankful for the light of the moon to lead me home.



# Smoky Mountains

*Placer Creek - Discovering the Details. July 24, 11:35 am.*



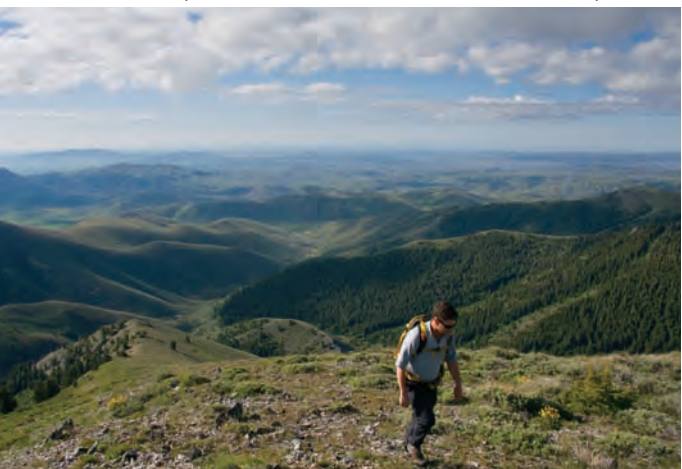
Partway up Placer Creek, on a tributary at the northern end of the Warm Springs drainage, I stop to take a GPS reading at a stream crossing. Surrounded by the sound of a gurgling creek, I notice several shepherd inscriptions dating back to 1979. Beyond the shady oasis, a vibrant, lupine-covered ridge beckons. I take out the map to plan a future side trip. Had I been pushing to follow the pace of a normal mountain bike ride, I would have missed out on these hidden highlights of the day.


*Warfield Creek - Geology defines the landscape. July 22, 7:29 pm.*



In the shady confines of Warfield Canyon, west of Ketchum, I jump across a tributary of Warm Springs Creek. Here, pinched between steep talus walls that drop 1,000 feet to the valley floor, the trail has to fight for real estate. In a few strides, I emerge into the broad, sunny headwaters of Warfield Creek. It's as if I have crossed a threshold into a different landscape. Warfield Creek crosses two geologic boundaries. The first, near the mouth of the canyon, takes hikers from the eroded sandy hillsides of the Rooks Creek granodiorite into the talus-forming sediments of the Wood River Formation. The second transition opens into the convoluted landscape defined by the rocks of the Challis Volcanics. These different formations give a true sense of how the valley's underlying geology drives the character of this landscape.

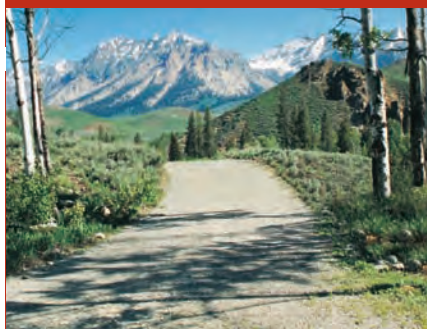
*Kelly Mountain - South Valley Hiking. June 18, 10:16 am.*



Foot travel on public lands surrounding the southern Wood River Valley towns of Hailey and Bellevue is unrestricted. Many big, open ridges lead to summits of prominent peaks, offering stunning vistas of the high-desert landscape. One that drew my attention was Kelly Mountain, sitting along the ridge dividing Deer Creek and Croy Canyon. I set out to link the ridges of Red Elephant Creek (six miles out Croy Canyon) in a perfect loop across the top of Kelly Mountain. From the summit, we enjoyed views of the snow-capped Boulder and Pioneers to the north, and a sea of spring-green ridges to the south. And I realize that hiking in the south valley is limited only by a paucity of imagination. 



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# INSIDE IDAHO'S



# ATTICS

*FROM FAIRFIELD TO CLAYTON,  
VAN GORDON SAUTER  
TOURS THE CONSERVATORS  
OF CENTRAL IDAHO'S HERITAGE.*

*PHOTOS BY DAVID N. SEELIG*



The old cemetery is north of Fairfield and some distance off a road that leads up from the Camas Prairie into the Soldier Mountains. On a cold winter morning, with a few inches of snow tenaciously gripping the gravestones, the cemetery seems bleak if not foreboding. But the burying ground is well tended and one senses a place where, in warmer weather, people come with regularity to place flowers and remember ancestors—some who died so long ago they're not known personally to any living descendent.

The small towns of Idaho are places where people venerate history and those who labored at it and then moved on. Some locals are flummoxed when asked for directions to a cemetery. Their visits began at such an early age they never once thought about how to get there. It's instinctive. A Fairfield woman, directing visitors to the cemetery, said you could find it by turning left at the crossing where "that windmill stood before it fell down."

Many towns around here, birthed with fevered optimism, also fell down, decomposed and vanished when the ore was exhausted or the railroad grew arthritic or winters became insufferable.

Ketchum, Hailey and Bellevue beat the odds and survived; however, try to find defining evidence of Vienna or Sawtooth City.

Residents who cherish the past have stood up to sustain local history through museums, drawing on the same spirit that for decades has celebrated their ancestors and cemeteries and landmarks. The little museums are Smithsonians writ small, which is not derogatory. They are the attics of their communities, where conscientious oldsters and baffled children breaking down their late parents' households send memorabilia. Devoid of meaningful budgets, or the technology of contemporary museum presentation, the good souls dust off, prop up, exhibit and explain whatever they can as best they can.

There are tools and clothes and cash registers and furniture. And always there are the photographs, some of now unidentifiable people, stern looking elders in layers of suffocating clothes, staring into the lens with grim determination that no doubt characterized their struggles with mountains or drought or eroded faith.

Ultimately, it is all fascinating. The visitor becomes a detective, an amateur anthropologist, a novelist, trying to figure out why and how people once lived here. And what happened to them? Why did a once flourishing town become a crossroads of haggard structures and rusted pickups and scruffy saloons? Or, how did a tenuous community morph through a series of identities to become a stable and firmly rooted presence in for the long haul?

As always, the hosts in these museums are polite, energized by curiosity about what they consider so precious—their very lifeblood, their history, and their ancestors.

**The Old City Hall museum** is one of the most striking buildings on Bellevue's Main Street. Opposite page: Mike Kalenik unfurls the American flag in front of the Clayton Museum.



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## CLAYTON MUSEUM

One Ford Street, Clayton  
Open May—September  
208.838.2467

This is an Idaho jewel. First of all, the trip up here is sensational. The 92 miles or so from Ketchum over Galena Summit and then north along the Salmon River is one of the most stunning motor routes in America. Clayton was a productive silver town, with bountiful mines (Climax, Faithful Boy, Rob Roy and the Bayhorse area), strung out along narrow Kinnikinic Creek.

A smelter went into operation in 1880 at the point where Kinnikinic flows into the Salmon River. The smelting company, based in Omaha, created a company store that was operated by contractors into the 1950s. The old store, with many of its original features and fixtures, is the local museum.

The exhibits are varied, logically presented and great fun to mosey around. The local guides are well informed and some are fine raconteurs. They are full of pride for a town (population 27) that created great wealth, personal dramas and intriguing artifacts. It is a comfortable day trip. A short drive north is Challis, which has a state-operated mining museum, a local history museum, nifty home cooking, some bracing Old West bars and clean motel rooms. Go.

## STANLEY MUSEUM

State Highway 75, Stanley  
Open daily Memorial Day—Labor Day,  
11 a.m. to 5 p.m., 208.774.3517

Virtually all of Stanley qualifies as a historical museum. Living through the Stanley winters will turn you into a certifiable historical figure or you'll be on the first hound to Phoenix with the snowmelt. The museum is in the old forest ranger's cabin (a renovated, relocated ice cabin has been set next door) near the confluence of Valley Creek and the Salmon River.

The whole operation is getting a jolt of new management and updating. Visit the museum and then the town. And imagine living here when the USA Today weather map not infrequently identifies Stanley as the coldest place in the Lower 48.

## KETCHUM-SUN VALLEY HERITAGE & SKI MUSEUM

Washington & First Street, Ketchum  
Open 12-4 p.m. (not Sunday)  
208.726.8118

Located on the old Forest Service property just off Main Street in Ketchum, each building has its own focus. A dedicated director and the volunteer staff, operating with baling wire, duct tape and contagious enthusiasm, have created rewarding places to visit.

The exhibits are varied and easy to grasp, and visitors get a keen sense of the harrowing (comparatively) early days of skiing and the tumultuous youth of a town sustained by silver and sheep until Averell Harriman rolled in with his resort scheme.

The facilities are painfully and inexcusably underfinanced. A potentially great community asset languishes because of inadequate financing. That said, the museum provides a gratifying experience that too few Wood River Valley residents have experienced.

## BLAINE COUNTY HISTORICAL MUSEUM

218 North Main Street, Hailey  
Open daily, May 31—October 31,  
11 a.m. (1 p.m. Sundays) to 5 p.m.  
208.788.1801

In the middle of Hailey's Main Street, discover the ultimate Idaho attic.

From a grade-school classroom to an engrossing exhibit of political buttons and paraphernalia, it's great fun. The exhibits are interesting but so, too, is the astounding serendipity of it all.

Again, the spirit is sustained by the staff's energy and conviction, not by any consequential financing that would allow a more cohesive presentation. Don't miss it. Anyone who lives in this valley should see the museum's glimpses of a valley life that preceded the era of glitter and glam.



THE LITTLE MUSEUMS  
ARE SMITHSONIANS  
WRIT SMALL, WHICH IS  
NOT DEROGATORY.



**From top:** Furnishings from the Gannet post office are housed in the Blaine County Historical Museum. The interior of the Clayton Museum includes a meticulously restored general store. Blaine County curators Bob MacLeod and Teddy Daley display items from the Joe Fuld Collection of political paraphernalia, one of the largest in the country. Mining wagons on display at Clayton Museum.



## OLD CITY HALL MUSEUM

206 Main Street, Bellevue  
Open summer weekends  
208.788.7529

This Bellevue Main Street centerpiece gives new meaning to the term "loving hands at home." Those hands have produced a very local museum in a city hall that began life as a storage area for the town's fire-fighting gear.

The building is unmistakable. Its signature icon is the old bell tower on the roof, which tilts alarmingly out of kilter with the lines of the building. Mining machinery litters the yard. Out back are a historic jail structure and a miner's cabin. This is a place for people who have a real curiosity about Bellevue.

The locals work hard at the museum and do original research into the community and its history. Bellevue is enjoying new vitality as the valley's population moves south. People here don't need the buzz of Sun Valley and Ketchum to find the piquancy and romance of their little town.

## CAMAS COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

124 East Camas Ave, Fairfield  
Open July 3-4, July 30-31, Aug. 21 & Labor  
Day weekend, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. 208.764.3359

Fairfield is small-town America, away from the hustle and self-importance of the Wood River Valley. The museum, housed in the old train station, is a relentless succession of images and objects that spark curiosity and bewilderment.

Fairfield is a low-rent town with great pride. Someday, the local feeling goes, another train, a gravy train, will roll into town: the ski mountain in the Soldiers, the new airport, whatever. Until then, Fairfield celebrates its history and invites visitors to the Camas Prairie, which has a vivid history and a stark beauty. But don't think this is some hayseed, backwater town. One of the best museum guides is a noted American author who lives there part of the year on a small ranch with her photographer husband. More than most, Judith Freeman knows the value of a cluttered attic for spinning a zesty yarn. ☞

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## frontier **MODERN**



Hailey's celebration of America's birthday represents a marriage of heritage and the modern world, much like the town itself.

By Tony Evans

Photos by Karl Weatherly

**T**he 1883 Hailey Fourth of July Parade got off to a rough start. Despite the new town's rising fortunes, Grand Marshal Baker's scheduled "procession of the horrors"—a 19th-century Independence Day tradition featuring grotesque costumes—fizzled due to low attendance. While a few colorful floats trotted down a dusty Main Street, the hired band played only briefly before catching the train south to Bellevue in pursuit of a livelier audience. Many Hailey-ites followed.

Only businessman H.Z. Burkhardt's spectacular Japanese fireworks display finally brought the town alive. An explosive display of full-sized paper dragons, elephants and other animals erupted from behind Carbonate Mountain, followed by volleys of Roman candles and other pyrotechnics. For the grand finale, Burkhardt set the sky alight with a flaming balloon. Combined with a bonfire in front of the Hailey theater, the general impression was that this booming mining town was on fire.





Fourth of July Parade, Main Street 1913



Courtesy of Blaine County Historical Museum







the fourth's festivities are a  
**CELEBRATION**  
 of the city's  
**ROUGH-AND-TUMBLE**  
 past.





Within a decade that boom went bust, and for the next century Hailey's flame would flicker and sputter in the cold shadow of the increasingly grandiose towns of Sun Valley and Ketchum. In 1936, the development of America's first destination ski resort shined a limelight on the northern towns that could be seen around the world. However, thanks to a gentlemen's agreement struck between city leaders, Hailey did steal back some of that glow by being granted the right to celebrate America's birthday in a big way all on its own (Ketchum took dibs on Labor Day).

In 1949, it was decided the rodeo would join Hailey's parade. *The Hailey Times* described that year's event as "the finest in local history." And so Independence Day was forever joined with cowboys and bucking broncos in the next-town-down-the-road from Sun Valley.

The Fourth's festivities have always been a celebration of the city's rough-and-tumble past. But in recent years it has also become a celebration of diversity in the fastest growing city in Blaine County. Burkhart would likely be proud that his town has moved forward without losing touch with its past.

Former territorial Congressman and stagecoach driver John Hailey laid out the town in 1881 after making his fortune in the Boise Basin gold rush.

"Wild West" is a fitting description for the city of Hailey at the end of the 19th century. In 1889, Hank Lufkin was shot and killed by William Kennedy at the latter's Broad Gauge Bar, the same year Lem Chung, a Chinese cook, was fatally stabbed by Charley Bah, following a quarrel over a \$2 gambling debt. John Hailey's own son, George, allegedly stabbed a man to death in front of the post office and fled, never to be captured.

At that time, about 250 Chinese lived and worked in Hailey. They operated "joss houses"—where they worshiped ancestors and deities—and stored their treasures underground in what is now the China Gardens subdivision. Cat-houses and gambling establishments persisted on River Street until after World War II.

Hailey citizens also built architecturally significant churches, homes and meeting halls that currently claim spots on the National Register of Historic Places. Today's city leaders are moving forward with plans to build wayfaring signs directing visitors to these historical

sites. One of them, the rodeo grounds, is set for a major redevelopment.

Sitting on the south end of town, marked by a white wooden palisade painted with Western murals, the rodeo site is emblematic of the region's ranching traditions and Hailey civic pride. When Sun Valley Resort owners cancelled sponsorship of its rodeo in 1946, the Sawtooth Rangers Riding Club was formed in the south valley to continue the tradition. Students from the Hailey High School shop class dug postholes for fences, and wire mesh was used to create a makeshift corral. The Sun Valley bucking chutes were salvaged, as were bleachers from a racetrack in Nampa, Idaho.

City leaders hope to redesign the rodeo grounds into a \$7 million multi-use facility combining some very 21st century activities, including ice hockey and skate boarding, as well as bronc riding, barrel racing and roping. The complex will neatly represent the new cultural forces shaping Hailey today, and speak volumes about a town that has come into its own in recent years. Hailey no longer takes the lead from its northern cousins. The deluxe jets of the rich and famous that have lined the city's airport runway for decades may one day be gone, as Hailey leaders support relocating Friedman Memorial Airport farther to the south. A premier golf course is planned for Quigley Canyon east of town, but its construction has been protested by a growing environmental ethic in the community.

The gambling halls have crumbled, leaving in their wake as many wine and martini bars as beer and burger joints. Ranching has given way to "equestrian activities."

The 2010 Fourth of July parade highlights this Frontier Modern sensibility. Wild West-style shootouts, antique tractors and coaches will parade down Main Street alongside low riders, a Volkswagen motorcade and hippies on stilts. Following the parade, the Hailey Criterion Bicycle Race takes center stage. At dusk, following the barbecues, bandstands and at least one ice cream social, fireworks will once more light the eastern sky. And this time Hailey expects to be lighting its own way to a brilliant future. ☐

*Teddy Daley and Bob MacLeod of the Blaine County Historical Museum provided research for this story.*



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PHOTO BY DEV KHALSA  
PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY TONY BARRIATUA



# HIGH in idaho

By Sabina Dana Plasse

Photos by Dev Khalsa & Kirsten Shultz

Hiking boots, down jackets and backpacks are not usual paraphernalia for a wedding. But then, brides don't usually wear cowboy boots, grooms don't usually fire up the chainsaw for their big day and officiators don't usually hike four miles to the top of a mountain. But then, who said Idaho weddings were usual?

It is hard to spend more than a few moments in this great state and not be eternally committed to Mother Nature and her beauty. For brides Jamie Truppi and Paulette Phlipot, when the words "I do" suddenly figured in their immediate futures, they both knew they had to be uttered al fresco, with mountains featured dominantly.

Truppi and her fiancé, Kevin Ware, are avid hikers, so it was a natural progression that they marry at the summit of their favorite hike up to Pioneer Cabin, northeast of Sun Valley via Trail Creek and Corral Creek. However, the strenuous approach to the cabin, 9,400 feet up in the Pioneer Mountains, was not such an easy progression for their guests.

Ware's bachelor party was held at the cabin the night before the wedding. Starting out on the trail, loaded down with gear for the next day's festivities, reality set in. The groom-to-be realized the challenge that the three-hour hike was likely to pose for many attendees (in particular Jamie's several-months-pregnant sister). Plans changed immediately. The Pioneer Cabin hike became a small group of 30 for a cleansing ceremony. The wedding took place in a meadow below the cabin, near



PHOTO BY KIRSTEN SHULTZ



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**"Everything was very thoughtfully** chosen and handmade with love," said Paulette Phlipot of her nuptials to Rudy Karkowski. Personal connections and a care for the environment were key to this Stanley, Idaho wedding. Instead of traditional cut flowers for centerpieces, hearty, long-lasting collard greens rested in wooden planters made by the groom. Tissue-paper flowers made by the bride and her friends decorated the tent, complemented by colorful paper lanterns, and each guest was guided home by a hand-cranked, rechargeable flashlight. Photos by Kirsten Shultz







**Jamie Truppi and Kevin Ware** were forced to abandon plans to wed at Pioneer Cabin (above), a ski hut built in 1938. Instead, a handful of close friends tackled the steep, 4-mile hike for a cleansing ceremony. The bride carried a bouquet of wildflowers (right), and her wedding dress, which she changed into in the historic, rustic hut (below). The party then descended to a meadow near Trail Creek Summit (previous page) where the couple married in front of their assembled friends and family. Photos by Dev Khalsa




Trail Creek Summit. The new location added a view of the picturesque Boulder Mountains.

For Paulette Phlipot and Rudy Karkowski, celebrating their 10-year relationship by the light of the harvest moon fitted the creative couple's sensibilities perfectly. Guests donned down jackets, fur coats, gloves, boots and hats to watch the photographer and carpenter tie the knot in Stanley's Sawtooth Valley Meditation Chapel, 60 miles north of Ketchum. Following the ceremony, guests braved the elements and partied in Pioneer Park, under the watchful eye of the harvest moon and the majestic, snow-capped Sawtooth Mountains.

A tent provided shelter from the snow and wind, and the adverse elements didn't dampen the guests' enthusiasm for this unique event. Enjoying champagne and spiced margaritas by candlelight, the groom was smiling for more than one reason—he had particularly requested the white stuff on his special day.

Phlipot's personal wish was for the wedding to be environmentally friendly. Among the many nods to Mother Nature, she chose to use only local vendors (where possible) and eliminated cut flowers from the decor by creating handmade paper bouquets and using collard greens for the centerpieces. Wedding favors were hand-cranked, rechargeable flashlights and to honor the park's no-glass rule, guests sipped from reusable stemless plastic wine cups adorned with individual jewels marking them for their owner.

Jamie and Kevin and Paulette and Rudy created unique, unforgettable and ultimately adaptable weddings in the robust climate and rugged locations of Idaho. 

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## Tree of Smoke: A Novel

By Denis Johnson,  
Picador, 2008

Denis Johnson, whose past life sounds like an exhaustive catalogue of the horrors of addiction, is now an esteemed novelist and journalist, though seemingly falling into that quietly concerning category of the "reclusive writer living in Northern Idaho."

A few years ago he published *Tree of Smoke*, arguably the best novel about Vietnam. Long, intense, at times almost hallucinogenic, like the war itself, it is an excruciatingly realistic portrayal of the ultimate "Vampire Mausoleum" and the array of characters that made it a scene of unprecedented knavery and heroism.

If you fell under the rich psychotropic spell of Francis Ford Coppola's *Apocalypse Now Redux*, this is the war novel for you. And if you like to engage a writer with a mastery of character and depiction, this is the novel for you.

Johnson's National Book Award-winning work captures the unreality that is the reality of war.



## Bitterbrush Country: Living On the Edge of the Land

By Diane Josephy Peavey,  
Fulcrum Publishing, 2001

"My home is the vast, open landscape of south-central Idaho, at once a sanctuary, a source of strength, and a heartache."

So begins this collection of essays for Idaho Public Radio about life in rural, indeed, remote Idaho. Peavey's essays actually range beyond the ranch, but always focus on the rural life. She married third-generation rancher John Peavey in 1980 and their main home is the Flat Top Sheep Ranch, at the end of a 24-mile dirt road north of Carey.

The Peaveys are ranchers and environmentalists. Both are committed to their land, their animals and their communities. Her stories are addictive. They capture the core reality of rural Idaho—the Idaho that existed when Ketchum was the major sheep-shipping center in our country, and second only to Sydney, Australia in the world.

The essays cover an incredible range of topics, and anyone with a passion for working dogs will never forget her loss of a border collie to a rattler. It is emblematic of a life close to the ground in a land that is both generous and inherently severe.



## The Last Indian War: The Nez Perce Story.

By Elliott West,  
Oxford University Press, 2009

The book jacket illustration is wrenching, emblematic of this remarkable—and remarkably told—story.

It depicts several Indians, only one of them mounted, struggling through deep snow, depleted emotionally and physically by the hardship, having been on the run for months from an inept but relentless American Army.

In 1877 (one year after the Custer fiasco), 750 Nez Perce men, women and children fled their tribal home in Oregon, crossed Idaho and made their way through Montana in what ended as a desperate effort to evade American troops and find sanctuary in Canada.

While the tribe prevailed in some pitched battles, it ultimately fell 40 miles short of its goal. It was the end of meaningful Indian resistance in America. Our emerging nation, having brought the south to heel, was determined to win the allegiance of all those living in or settling the West.

The Indians, like the Irish and Norwegians and Czechs and Brits, were to be conforming, loyal Americans. A nation believing in manifest destiny (not to mention gold and generous land) would not dwell long on quaint aboriginal beliefs, let alone inconvenient treaties.

Both the Nez Perce and the newcomers/soldiers behaved badly. Ultimately, the Nez Perce had no idea, no concept, of the strength, mobility and technology the government could muster. One tribal leader couldn't figure out whether Washington was a place or a house.

This is a great yarn. Read the book and then drive about four hours north of here to the Montana border above Salmon, where one of the Nez Perce battles occurred. Our government has placed there a marvelous interpretive center, and you can walk the Big Hole battlefield. There will be tears in your eyes, but you will better understand the West and those who forged it.



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### Housekeeping

By Marilynne Robinson,  
Picador, 2004

Robinson is a native of Sandpoint, Idaho, and this, her first novel, focuses on two sisters and their chaotic childhood

in a small Idaho town, where their grandfather died in a stunning train crash and their mother drove a car off a cliff to her death.

It is the story of the girls and the remarkable and, at times thoroughly exacerbating, female relatives who raise them. But hold on, men. Don't go wobbly on me here. This is not a chic chick book for the neurotic literati. It was nominated for a Pulitzer Prize, and indeed, Robinson won for a subsequent book.

But this is a compelling read. And you can feel Idaho throughout it, as Robinson describes a town "chastened by an outsized landscape and extravagant weather and chastened again by an awareness that the whole of human history had occurred elsewhere." There is much in this book that is ennobling. And inspiring. But it is also painfully real. These are remarkably realized characters. Idaho should be proud Robinson found her voice here.




### I Heard You Paint Houses: Frank 'The Irishman' Sheeran, Jimmy Hoffa, and the Biggest Hit in Mob History

By Charles Brandt,  
Steerforth Press, 2005

Brandt has been around the Wood River Valley for years and is a good guy and adroit raconteur. A former prosecutor and trial lawyer with a keen curiosity about life, Brandt has that quiet, understated authority of men who have seen the belly of the beast and know more than a fair share of dangerous people.

Some years ago he represented Frank "The Irishman" Sheeran, war hero, mob functionary, labor organizer and reliable, top-of-the-line hit man. Using his skills as an interrogator, Brandt extracted from Sheeran his chilling story of rubbing out Jimmy Hoffa. And, Sheeran claims, being the shooter at the memorable Greenwich Village execution of Joseph "Crazy Joe" Gallo in Umberto's Clam House on Mulberry Street.

Brandt brings Sheeran and the Mafia alive in this fascinating book about the underworld. So fascinating that Robert DeNiro and director Martin Scorsese have optioned the film rights. This is a high-end mob book, far more engaging than most of the so-called mystery books floating around today. 

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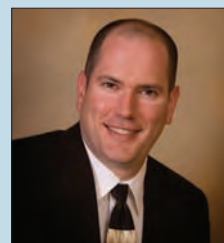
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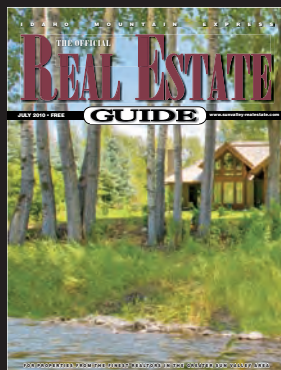
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## Los Barriles shrimp tamales

### Shell

15 dry cornhusks  
2 1/2 cups Mexican masa  
mix from grocery store  
1 1/2 tsp baking powder  
1/2 tsp kosher salt  
Fresh-cut corn, 2-3 ears  
1 tbsp sugar  
1 tsp fresh ground toasted  
cumin seed  
1 1/2 tsp mild New  
Mexican chili powder  
1/2 cup fresh cilantro  
2/3 cup salad oil  
1/2 cup hot water

### Filling

5 ounces rock shrimp  
Vintage Spice mix \*  
2 tbsp plus 1 tsp Vintage  
garlic butter\*  
1/2 cup fish or chicken  
stock  
1 lemon  
Vintage Pico de Gallo\*  
Vintage Peppery aioli  
sauce\*  
1 green onion

### Directions

Boil cornhusks for 15 minutes. Tear two of them into 1/4-inch strips for tying. Mix all remaining ingredients for the shell in a bowl until masa holds its form. Wrap masa in cornhusks 1x3 inches in size and tie ends. You can freeze if necessary. When ready to cook, boil tamales with steamer basket 30-40 minutes.

For the filling, place shrimp in bowl and cover with spice mix. Melt 2 tbsp garlic butter in 6-inch pan over medium heat. Add rock shrimp and cook for 2 minutes. Add stock, big squirt of lemon juice and 1 tsp garlic butter, heat on high for 1 minute.

Putting it all together:  
Cut steamed tamales length wise and squeeze open. Spoon equal parts shrimp and broth into the tamales. Garnish with pico de gallo and aioli sauce, sprinkle with sliced green onions.

\*see *Vintage Restaurant Cookbook*



chef's specialty [Jeff Keys]



## famous STREET FOOD

by Tony Evans

photos by Paulette Philipot

**T**ucked away in a hidden corner of downtown Ketchum, Vintage Restaurant's customers often have a hard time finding the historic log cabin. But that's OK. After 25 years in business, Chef Jeff Keys relies more on a steady flow of regulars than passers-by. When the likes of Warren Buffet, Bill Gates and Michael Bloomberg return each summer, clearly the food makes it a worthy hunt.

While some of the Vintage regulars are elite and prestigious, many of the dishes Keys serves them are anything but. He specializes in a sort of high-end street food that hides all over the world in plain sight. Vintage, which opened in 2006, is a throwback to intimate village cuisine.

"I like peasant food," says Keys. "I'm not in to the uppity stuff. There are too many real problems in the world to spend time critiquing food. I just want to enjoy it."

As he chops ingredients for a pico de gallo on a visibly much-loved cutting board, he recalls watching families gather to drink Coronas and lay out local dishes at a school fund-raiser in Baja California,



Mexico. "It was a magical experience," he says. "Everyone brought their own dishes to the gathering and ate together under bare light-bulbs. The kids were all in their school uniforms."

Inspired by this relaxed attitude to superb food, Keys transplanted a Los Barriles shrimp tamales recipe he adapted from a street vendor working the East Cape Trailer Park there.

Keys' own version of the tamales begins by making masa from scratch and steaming corn husks. He serves them with an aioli sauce that, reminiscent of French cuisine, provides a creamy coolness to this Mexican favorite.

Having migrated from the West Coast to the mountains of Colorado as a young man, Keys worked his way up the cooking ladder in the kitchens of Aspen. In 1968, he took over from an itinerant chef at a steakhouse called the Pomegranate Inn, later working at Le Cheminee, the Copper Kettle and Andre's before striking out on his own in 1976, with Soupçon. In 1984 he relocated Soupçon from Crested Butte, Colorado to the historic Ketchum log cabin that now houses Vintage.

Keys learned about life, not just cooking, from his mentors in the kitchen, and his menus reflect that, depending as much on the weather and his own shifting moods as on what's popular in the world of cuisine.

Vintage entrées could be borrowed from cooks on a Parisian back-street, the Sea of Cortez, the Mediterranean or an Idaho ranch. Keys creates chutneys and chowders as well as pico de gallos. He smokes his own meats in a \$100 Little Chief Smoker. Many of his dishes are sauced with a recipe from his grandmother's pot roast.

Keys supports the vision of the local food movement. He procures as much of his fresh produce as possible from the Hagerman Valley, 70 miles to the south, which he calls the Provence of Idaho. His "Tomato Manifesto," in his 2006 cookbook, *Vintage Restaurant: Handcrafted Cuisine From a Sun Valley Favorite*, bemoans the loss of succulent and disfigured heirloom tomatoes, and other irregular but delicious examples of local produce in favor of the uniform, plastic-like produce of industrial farms.

"Stand up and walk away from the tasteless, the superficially pretty, the hollow hope of mere appearance and walk towards the delights and pleasures of the full flavored, the nutritious, the robust, the life affirming," he wrote. "You will know it when you experience it. It is a positive action, a quiet revolution, and a step towards making this a better world." ■



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# DAILY NEWS UPDATES

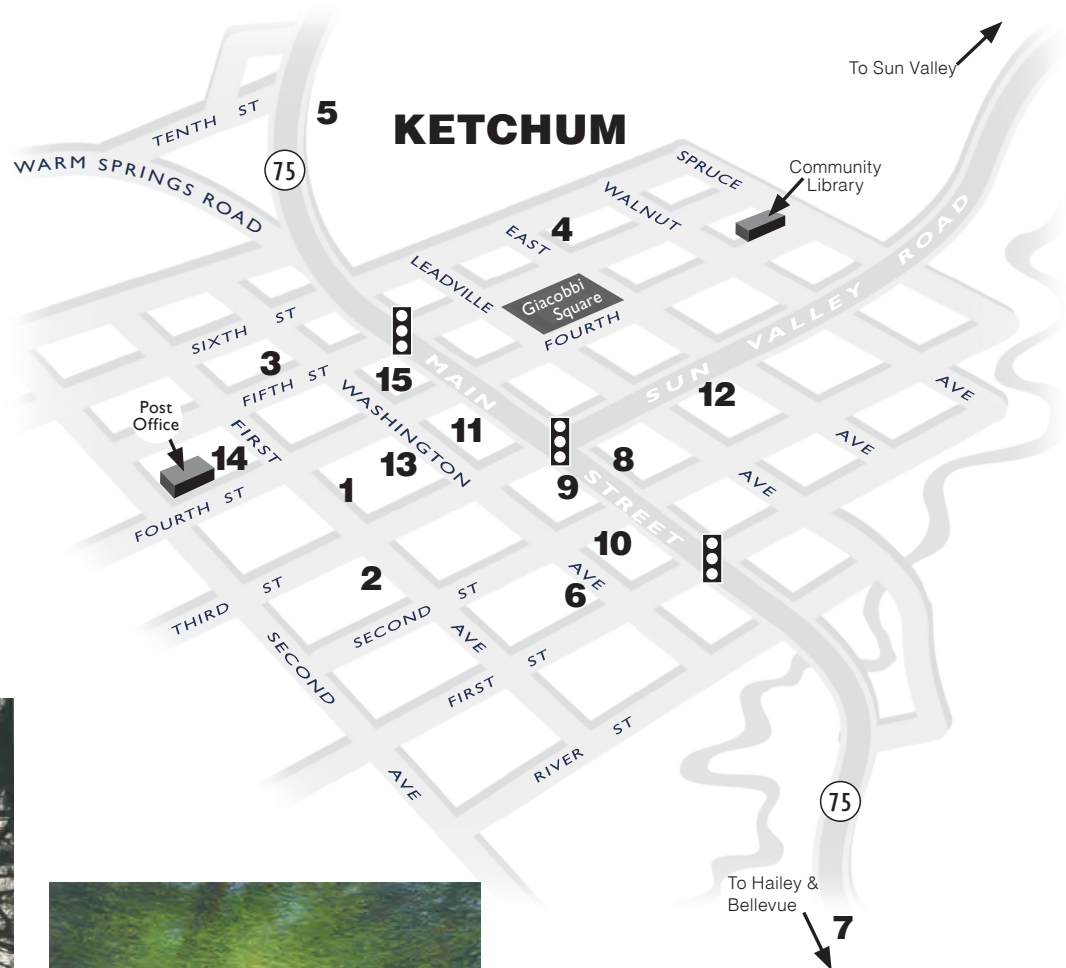
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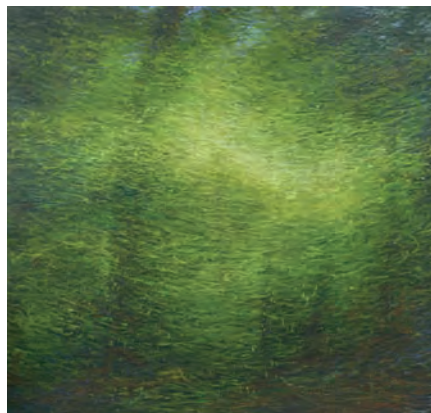
## SUMMER gallery walks

Ketchum 5-8 p.m.

- friday, july 2
- friday, august 6
- friday, september 3
- saturday, october 8



William Smith, *Northwest Artists Draw Beam, Board and Breath: An Investigation of Trees, Timber!*



Lawrence Fodor *Rain Forest 1*, oil, wax, and alkyd on canvas; 80" x 84"



Craig Kosak, *Seven Winds & The Raven Warrior*, oil, 35" x 60"

### ■ SUN VALLEY CENTER FOR THE ARTS

map code 3

191 Fifth St. E, Ketchum  
314 2nd Avenue S, Hailey  
P.O. Box 656, Sun Valley, ID 83353  
Tel: 208.726.9491  
[www.sunvalleycenter.org](http://www.sunvalleycenter.org)

The Center brings the arts to our community through exhibitions, concerts, lectures and art classes. This summer's exhibitions are *Northwest Artists Draw* and *Beam, Board and Breath: An Investigation of Trees*. In addition there will be a major art installation by Patrick Dougherty on The Center's lot in Ketchum and an open exhibition, *Timber!*, in Hailey. Plus, classes for adults, families and kids. Three outdoor summer concerts will feature Jose Conde, Zap Mama and Steve Martin & the Steep Canyon Rangers. From August 13-15, over 130 artists will come together for the 42nd Sun Valley Center Arts & Crafts Festival.

### ■ FRIESEN GALLERY

map code 1

Sun Valley Road at First Avenue, Ketchum, 726-4174  
[friesen@friesengallery.com](mailto:friesen@friesengallery.com) • [www.friesengallery.com](http://www.friesengallery.com)  
Seattle location: 1200 Second Ave

Friesen Gallery exhibits contemporary paintings, glass and sculpture by major artists. Featuring: Jeanne Brennan, Christopher Brown, Ford Crull, Matthew Dennison, Ron Ehrlich, Enrico Embroli, Dennis Evans, Lawrence Fodor, Jeff Fontaine, Gregory Grenon, Reilly Jensen, Steve Jensen, Richard Jolley, Jill Lear, Holly Lyman, Ann Mallory, Nancy Mee, William Morris, Trinh Nguyen, Laura Scandrett, James Shay, Catherine Eaton Skinner, Sebastian Spreng and Laura Sharp Wilson, among others.

[www.speakforthetreesbook.com](http://www.speakforthetreesbook.com)

### ■ KNEELAND GALLERY

map code 2

271 First Avenue North, Ketchum  
P.O. Box 2070, Sun Valley, ID 83353  
(208) 726-5512 fax (208) 726-3490  
[art@kneelandgallery.com](mailto:art@kneelandgallery.com) • [www.kneelandgallery.com](http://www.kneelandgallery.com)

Exhibiting paintings and sculpture by artists living and working in the West. Artists include Steven Lee Adams, Carol Alleman, Ovanes Berberian, Cary Henrie, Craig Kosak, Jennifer Lowe, Kent Lovelace, Dave McGary, Lori McNee, Robert Moore, Jean Richardson, Thom Ross, Carl Rowe, Linda St. Clair, Sherry Salari Sander, Andrzej Skorut and Linda Tippetts.

■ Indicates member of the  
Sun Valley Gallery Association



\$ entrées \$10 &amp; under

\$\$ entrées \$11 – 20

\$\$\$ entrées \$21 &amp; up

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## GOURMET & FINE DINING

<b>Ketchum Grill</b> <i>map code 4</i> Sustainable American, Idaho cuisine with French Italian influences. 520 East Avenue, Ketchum, ketchumgrill.com • <b>726-4660</b>	\$\$	●				●		●		●	●	●	●
<b>Knob Hill Inn</b> <i>map code 5</i> American fusion cuisine. 960 North Main Street, Ketchum • <b>726-8010</b>	\$\$	●				●	●	●			●		●
<b>Sego</b> <i>map code 6</i> Organic • Sustainable • Rooftop patio & bar. 131 Washington Avenue, Ketchum • <b>928-7878</b>	\$\$	●		●	●			●		●	●		●

## ITALIAN / PIZZA

<b>daVinci's</b> <i>map code 7</i> New York Style Italian. 17 W. Bullion Street, Hailey • <b>788-7699</b>	\$\$	●				●		●			●	●	●
<b>Rico's</b> <i>map code 8</i> Come for the pizza, stay for the pasta. Delivery available. 200 N. Main Street, Ketchum • <b>726-7426</b>	\$\$	●				●		●		●	●	●	●
<b>Whiskey Jacques'</b> <i>map code 9</i> Pizza, burgers, appetizers, salads and sandwiches, nightly entertainment. 251 N. Main Street, Ketchum • <b>726-5297</b>	\$\$	●				●	●	●	●			●	●

## ASIAN

<b>Sushi on Second</b> <i>map code 10</i> The best restaurant for fresh seafood & sushi. Nightly specials. 260 Second Street, Ketchum • <b>726-5181</b>	\$\$					●	●	●		●	●	●	●
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## ORGANIC & SPECIALTY

<b>Glow Live Food Café</b> <i>map code 11</i> Organic local foods, eco store & supplements. Summer hours 10 a.m. – 7 p.m. 380 Washington Avenue, Ketchum • <b>726-0314</b>	\$\$	●		●						●		●	●
<b>Ketchum Grill</b> <i>map code 4</i> Sustainable American, Idaho cuisine with French Italian influences. 520 East Avenue, Ketchum, ketchumgrill.com • <b>726-4660</b>	\$\$	●				●		●		●	●	●	●
<b>Sego</b> <i>map code 6</i> Organic • Sustainable • Rooftop patio & bar. 131 Washington Avenue, Ketchum • <b>928-7878</b>	\$\$	●		●	●			●		●	●		●

## BURGERS & PUB GRUB

<b>The Cellar Pub</b> <i>map code 12</i> Pub fare including burgers, salads, bangers, sliders, shots and more. 400 Sun Valley Road, Ketchum • <b>622-3832</b>	\$\$	●		●	●	●	●					●	●
<b>Whiskey Jacques'</b> <i>map code 9</i> Pizza, burgers, appetizers, salads and sandwiches, nightly entertainment. 251 N. Main Street, Ketchum • <b>726-5297</b>	\$\$	●			●	●	●	●				●	●

## DELI / BAKERY

<b>Johnny G's Subshack</b> <i>map code 13</i> World famous subs. Fast & cheap. 371 Washington Avenue, Ketchum • <b>725-SUBS</b>	\$	●		●				●				●	
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## MEXICAN

<b>Despo's</b> <i>map code 15</i> Mexican with altitude. Corner of 4th & Washington, Ketchum • <b>726-3068</b>	\$\$	●		●	●			●					●
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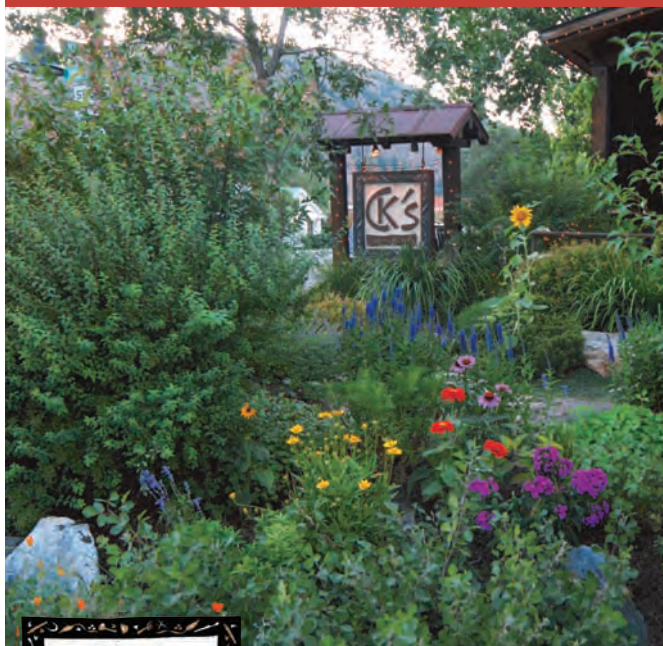


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## editor's PICKS

### JULY

**Timber!**, July 1–Sept. 10, art exhibition, Sun Valley Center, 314 Second Ave., Hailey. Details: 726.9491, sunvalleycenter.org

**Peter Cetera and the American Chorus and Orchestra**, July 2, Sun Valley Pavilion. Details: 622.2135, seats.sunvalley.com

**Tony Furtado in concert**, July 2, Clarion Inn, Ketchum. Doors open 5:30 p.m., \$11. Details: 725.2105

**Jonathan Tyler & the Northern Lights concert**, July 3, Ketchum. Free. Includes children's carnival and concessions. Details: 725.2105

**Bigwood Folk Festival**, July 2–3, noon–dusk, Bellevue City Park. Details: 788.1526

**Fourth of July Parade & Rodeo**, Parade at noon, July 4, Hailey. Rodeo July 1, 2, 3 & 4. Details: 788.3484

**Fourth of July Bike Criterium**, July 4, 1 p.m., Hailey. Details: 788.2117, bcrd.org

**The 39 Steps**, July 6–Aug. 31, live theater at the Liberty Theatre, 110 Main St., Hailey. Details: 578.9122, companyoffools.org

**Cowboy Ball**, July 8, fund-raiser for SETCH, Sagebrush Arena, Hailey. 5:30 p.m. Details: 578.9111, sagebrushequine.org.

**Beam, Board, Breath: An Investigation of Trees**, July 9–Sept. 3, art exhibition, Sun Valley Center, 191 Fifth St., Ketchum. Details: 726.9491, sunvalleycenter.org

**Ketchum Arts Festival**, July 9–11, Festival Meadows, Sun Valley. Fri. & Sat., 10 a.m.–6 p.m. Sun., 10 a.m.–5 p.m. Details: 725.4090

**Lee Pesky Scavenger Hunt**, July 10, Atkinson Park, Ketchum. 10 a.m.–noon. Dinner and auction follows at The Community School, Sun Valley, 5:30 p.m. Details: 208.333.0008

**MIZ Saigon**, July 11, SV Opera presents music from *Les Miserables* and *Miss Saigon*, Sun Valley Pavilion. 7:30 p.m., \$28–\$76. Details: sunvalleyopera.com.

**Carole King & James Taylor Troubadour Reunion Tour**, July 12, River Run Lodge, 7:30 p.m. Details: 726.9491

**Local Wild Film Festival**, July 15, nexStage Theatre, Ketchum. 7–9 p.m. Details: 726.7475

**Animal Shelter Dog Days of Summer Benefit**, July 16, Trail Creek Pavilion, Sun Valley. 5:30 p.m. \$150. Details: 788.4351

**Brian Regan**, July 16, 7:30 p.m., SV Pavilion. Details: 622.2135, seats.sunvalley.com.

**Fly Fishing Film Festival**, July 16, nexStage Theatre, Ketchum, \$15. Details: 726.5282.

**Sawtooth Botanical Garden Tour**, July 17, features mid–valley gardens. 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. Gimlets in the Garden fundraiser, 6 p.m. Details: 726.9358, sbgarden.org

**Mountain Mamas' Arts & Crafts Show**, July 17–18, Stanley. Details: stanleycc.org

**Hailey Night of Music**, July 19, Live music in restaurants, bars and businesses, 4–10 p.m. Details: 788.0903

**Glenn Miller Orchestra**, July 20, 8 p.m. SV Pavilion concert. Details: seats.sunvalley.com

**Sun Valley Center Wine Auction**, July 22–24, Ketchum. Gala, July 23, 6–9 p.m. Picnic, July 24, 5–7 p.m. Details: sunvalleycenter.org.

**Friends of Hailey Public Library Garden Tour**, July 24, 10 a.m.–2 p.m. Details: 788.2036

**Galena Grinder Whit Henry Memorial Mountain Bike Race**, July 24, Galena Lodge, Hwy. 75, N of Ketchum, 10:30 a.m. Details: 726.4010

**Edgar Bronfman Chamber Music Series**, July 26, 28 & 30, 6:30 p.m. Sun Valley Pavilion. Details: svsummersymphony.org

**Sawtooth Music Festival**, July 30–31, 12 p.m.–12 a.m. Stanley. Details: sawtoothmusicfestival.com

**Main Street Cabaret**, July 30–Aug. 1, nexStage Theatre, Ketchum. Details: 726.9124

### AUGUST

**Sun Valley Summer Symphony Orchestra Festival**, Aug. 2,4,5,7,8,9,10,12,13,14,15 & 17. Free, 6:30 p.m., Sun Valley Pavilion. Seating begins at 5:30 p.m. Details: 622.5607, svsummersymphony.com

**Steve Martin & The Steep Canyon Rangers**, Aug. 3, River Run Lodge, 7 p.m., \$35/\$45. Details: 726.9491, sunvalleycenter.org

**Northern Rockies Folk Festival**, Aug. 6–7, Hop Porter Park, Hailey. 5 p.m.–10 p.m. Friday, \$12. 11 a.m.–10 p.m. Saturday \$18 (\$25 both days). Details: northernrockiesfolkfestival.com

**Garth Brooks in concert**, Aug. 1, Sun Valley Summer Symphony 2010 Benefit, Sun Valley Pavilion, 6:30 p.m. 5 p.m. cocktail reception. Lawn seating available. Details: 622.5607

**Tour of Homes**, Aug. 7, The Community Library, Ketchum. 10:30 a.m.–4 p.m. Details: 726.3493, thecommunitylibrary.org.

**YMCA Celebrity Golf Classic Dinner & Social**, Aug. 7. Details: 928–6704.

**2010 Blaine County Fair**, Aug. 9–14. Details: blainecounty.org

**Braun Brothers Reunion**, Aug. 12–14. Live music, Challis, Idaho. Details: braunbrothersreunion.com

**Sun Valley Arts & Crafts Festival**, Aug. 13–15, Atkinson Park, Ketchum, free. Details: 726.9491, sunvalleycenter.org

**Sun Valley Shakespeare Festival**, Aug. 16–29, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, Aug. 19–22 & 26–29, *Complete Works of William Shakespeare Abridged*, Aug. 16–18 & 23–25. Renaissance Faire, Aug. 21–22. At Ketchum's Forest Service Park and nexStage Theatre, Ketchum. Details: 726.9124

**Danny Thompson Memorial Golf Tournament & Don Felder–An Evening with Hotel California**, Aug. 18, 8 p.m. Leukemia research fundraiser. Details: 726.1049, dannythompsonmemorial.com. Concert: 622.2135, seats.sunvalley.com

**Sun Valley Writers Conference**, Aug. 20–23. Details: svwc.com

**Sawtooth Salmon Festival**, Aug. 28–29, Pioneer Park, Stanley. Details: 1.800.878.7950

**Plein Air Painters of Idaho Paint-Out at Redfish Lake Lodge**, Aug. 30–Sept. 2, with reception and art sale. Details: 208.774.3536

**Trey McIntyre Project**, Aug. 27, SV Pavilion. Details: 622.2135, seats.sunvalley.com

**Ride the Rails**, Aug. 28. Bike the Wood River Trails. Details: 788.2117, bcrd.org

**Jim Salestrom & the John Denver Band**, Aug. 31, Sun Valley Pavilion. Details: 622.2135, seats.sunvalley.com

### SEPTEMBER

**Winter Artist Series benefit concert**, Sept. 5, Sun Valley Pavilion, with pianist Misha Dichter. Details: 622.2135, seats.sunvalley.com

**Wagon Days**, Sept. 3–5. Labor Day celebrations all weekend in downtown Ketchum. Historic non-motorized parade, Sept. 4, noon. Details: 726.2777, visitsunvalley.com

**Wagon Days Duck Race**, Sept. 5, 1 p.m. Rotary Park, Ketchum. Details: wagondaysduckrace.org

**Sir Salman Rushdie**, Sept. 10, Sun Valley Pavilion, \$30/\$40. 6 p.m. Details: 726.9491, sunvalleycenter.org

**Boulder Mountain Bike Tour & Closing Day**, Sept. 12, Galena Lodge, Hwy. 75 N of Ketchum. Details: 726.4010

**Sun Valley Spiritual Film Festival**, Sept. 16–18. Details: svspiritualfilmfestival.org

**Mountain Mamas' Quilt Festival**, Sept. 17–19. Stanley. \$3. Details: 208.774.3365

**Sun Valley Harvest Festival**, formerly the Food & Wine Festival. Showcasing local and sustainable produce. Sept. 24–26. Details: sunvalleyharvestfestival.com

**Sun Valley Music Festival**, Sept. 25, Sun Valley Pavilion. Featuring Paul Tillotson's Love Trio. Details: 622.2135, seats.sunvalley.com.

**Hemingway Symposium**, Sept. 30–Oct. 1, lectures at The Community Library, Ketchum. Details: thecommunitylibrary.org

### OCTOBER

**Trailing of the Sheep Festival & Parade**, Oct. 8–10. Details: 866.379.2936, trailingofthesheep.org

**Sun Valley Swing 'n' Dixie Jamboree**, Oct. 13–17. Details: 877.478.5277, sunvalleyjazz.com

**Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?**, Oct. 13–20, live theater, Liberty Theatre, Hailey. Details: companyoffools.org

view the weekly calendar on the Web at  
**MTEXPRESS.COM**



## SUN VALLEY ESSENTIALS

### ONGOING SUMMER ACTIVITIES

**Gallery Walk**, July 2, Aug. 6, Sept. 3 & Oct. 8, Ketchum 5–8 p.m. Details: [svgalleries.org](http://svgalleries.org)

**Hailey Month of Art**, July 1–Aug. 7, throughout Hailey. Details: [haileyidaho.com](http://haileyidaho.com)

**Ketchum Farmers' & Artists' Market**, Tuesdays, June 8–Oct. 5, Ketchum Town Square, Fourth Street, 2:30–6 p.m. Details: 788.8614, [wrfarmersmarket.org](http://wrfarmersmarket.org)

**Ketch'em Alive Concerts**, Tuesdays, June 29–Aug. 24. Free concerts in Ketchum's Forest Service Park, First & Washington Ave., 7–9 p.m. Picnics welcome.

**Back Alley Party Live Music**, Wednesdays, June 23–Aug. 25, Wicked Spud, Main St., Hailey, free. 6–10 p.m. Details: 788.0939

**Hailey Farmers' & Artists' Market**, Thursdays, June 10–Oct. 7, 2:30–6:30 p.m. First Thursday of the month, open until 8 p.m. Main St., Hailey. Details: 788.8614, [wrfarmersmarket.org](http://wrfarmersmarket.org)

**Ketchum Music on the Square**, Thursdays, July 8–Sept. 2, Live music at Ketchum Town Square, Fourth St., Ketchum. 6–8 p.m. Free.

**Sun Valley Summer Show Ice Shows**, Saturdays, June 26–Sept. 4, at dusk with dinner buffet on Lodge Terrace. Sun Valley Outdoor Ice Rink. Details: 622.2135

**Jazz in the Park**, Sundays, June 27–Aug. 1, 6–8 p.m. Rotary Park, Warm Springs Rd., Ketchum. Details: [visitsunvalley.com](http://visitsunvalley.com)

## SUN VALLEY ADVENTURES

### CLASSIC OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES

**Hiking & biking**: Trail Creek, Adams Gulch, Fox Creek, Bald Mountain and Warm Springs areas offer popular trails close to town. The paved Wood River Trail system stretches between Bellevue and Ketchum. The 18-mile Harriman Trail runs north from Ketchum to the SNRA headquarters north to Galena Lodge. Detailed trail maps for sale at the *Idaho Mountain Express* office, 591 First Ave., Ketchum.

**Fishing**: Idaho is a mecca for the art of fly-fishing. Anglers frequent spots along the Big Wood and Little Wood rivers for catch-and-release action. Warm Springs Creek, Penny Lake and Trail Creek are ideal for kids. Silver Creek Preserve south of Bellevue is a must.

**Golf**: With four world-class courses to choose from—Trail Creek (18), White Clouds (9), Elkhorn (18) and Bigwood (9)—the golf enthusiast is spoiled for choice and the long summer days allow for almost endless tee times.

**Whitewater**: Many of Idaho's world-famous rivers are an easy drive from the Wood River Valley. The Main and Middle Forks of the Salmon and the Payette river system offer varying levels of action.

**Transportation**: Hop on the bus to navigate summer's many events. Mountain Rides operates a free service in the cities and a \$3 fare between Ketchum and Hailey. View the schedule in any Friday *Idaho Mountain Express*.



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### Big Agnes Tumble Mountain

Take only pictures, leave only footprints and sleep in an eco-friendly bag. The Big Agnes Tumble Mountain is a 20-degree mummy bag with 725-fill goose down insulation and a shell made of recycled polyester ripstop and taffeta. Like all other Big Agnes bags, the Tumble Mountain is half of a sleeping system that replaces insulation on the bottom of the bag with a sleeve for a foam pad. The system saves weight and prevents rolling off the pad at night.

\$290, Backwoods Mountain Sports, Ketchum

### Vibram Five Fingers

Like the feel of running barefoot but not so thrilled about thorns or shards of glass embedded in your feet? Try Vibram's new Five Fingers brand shoes. The unorthodox-looking footwear allows each of your toes to function independently. Vibram claims the shoe will "stimulate the muscles in your feet and lower legs to build strength and improve range of motion." Users report "an increased sense of balance, greater agility and visibly improved posture."

From \$80, Elephant's Perch, Ketchum

### Steripen Adventurer

This high-tech alternative to water filters and chemical tablets uses ultraviolet light to kill DNA in bacteria, viruses and protozoa. Weighing a barely perceptible 3.6 ounces, Steripen sterilizes one liter of water in 90 seconds (for comparison, the MSR Hyperflow filter purifies one liter in 20 seconds, and weighs 7.4 ounces).

\$100, battery-powered version, \$80 solar-power add-on, at local outdoor-gear shops

### Patagonia Riverwalker

Trout Unlimited has asked all states to ban felt-soled wading boots by 2011 to prevent invasive aquatic species from hitching rides on fishermen's boots. Whether that happens or not, local fishermen can help keep harmful species out of the Big Wood River and Silver Creek (invaded by the highly destructive New Zealand mud snail) by switching to rubber-soled boots such as the Patagonia Riverwalker.

\$169, Silver Creek Outfitters and Lost River Outfitters, Ketchum

### KHS Pump Track Bike

Bicycle "pump tracks" in Hailey and Ketchum are the newest additions to the valley's outdoor recreation amenities, and bike shops now have the gear to handle these tracks' rollers and jumps. A lot like mountain bikes, they have lower top tubes and shorter wheelbases. KHS (Knowledge, Health, Strength) version comes in single-speed and 14-speed models.

From \$550, sales and rentals at Sturtos and Formula Sports, Ketchum







**Allen & Company:** LeBron James with Britt Williams, Kerry Samudio, Jessica Cruz & Brian Burnett



**Advocates Gala:** Rachel Cooper, Shannon Christensen & Shannon King



**Sawtooth Botanical Garden Party:** Dana DuGan & Ken Ferris



**Danny Thompson Memorial:** Brad Corbett, Don Felder & Georgie Fenton



**Ketchum Wide Open:** Rebecca Fuller & Paige McAllister



**Lee Pesky Scavenger Hunt:** Robin Sias, Bex Wilkinson, Mat Gershater, Gillian Wynn & Kevyn Wynn



**Danny Thompson Memorial:** Joe Washington & Ed Marinaro



**Allen & Company:** Diane Von Furstenberg



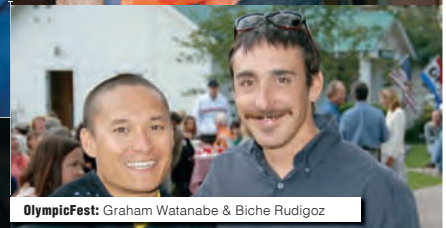
**Galena Lodge Benefit:** Jenny Busdon & Bob Rosso



**Fall Game Dinner:** Shane Cordeau & Barb Cordeau



**Danny Thompson Memorial:** Jim Nettles, Harmon Killebrew, Jerry Kramer & Brooks Robinson



**OlympicFest:** Graham Watanabe & Biche Rudigoz



**Crisis Hotline Benefit:** Svea Grover, Janet Barton & Kristin Bevers





## EXPERIENCE MUSIC IN HARMONY WITH ITS SURROUNDINGS.

This summer, complement your unforgettable Sun Valley vacation with the perfect soundtrack. The Sun Valley Pavilion features artists and groups across various genres under one unique acoustic canopy. So, whether you're anticipating the soothing strings of the Sun Valley Summer Symphony, or looking for a swinging evening with the Glenn Miller Orchestra, we have it all under one roof. After you've enjoyed all the golf, horseback riding and other excitement the resort has to offer, the fun doesn't have to end until the encore.

### SUN VALLEY PAVILION • 2010 SUMMER EVENTS

**Colbie Caillat**  
Sun Valley Wellness  
Festival Concert  
May 30

**Acoustic Weekend**  
Featuring The Duhks, Zee Avi,  
Justin Guarini, Molly Venter and more  
June 11 & 12

**American Festival Chorus  
& Orchestra**  
July 2

**MIZ Saigon**  
Presented by Sun Valley Opera  
July 11

**Comedian Brian Regan**  
July 16

**Glenn Miller Orchestra**  
July 20

**Don Felder, an evening at  
the Hotel California**  
Danny Thompson Memorial  
Leukemia Fund Benefit Concert  
August 18

**Sun Valley Writers'  
Conference**  
Register at [www.svwc.com](http://www.svwc.com)  
August 20-23

**Trey McIntyre Project**  
August 27

**Jim Salestrom & Friends  
Remember John Denver**  
August 31

**Pianist Misha Dichter**  
Sun Valley Artist Series  
Benefit Concert  
September 5

**Sir Salman Rushdie Lecture**  
(Sun Valley Center for the Arts event)  
Tickets at [www.sunvalleycenter.org](http://www.sunvalleycenter.org)  
September 10

**Dr. Jayanthi Raman's  
SHRISHTI - Creation**  
Presented with the Sun Valley  
Spiritual Film Festival  
September 16

**Sun Valley Music Festival**  
Paul Tillotson's Love Trio and more  
September 25



Purchase concert and ice show  
tickets online at [seats.sunvalley.com](http://seats.sunvalley.com)  
or call 888.622.2108

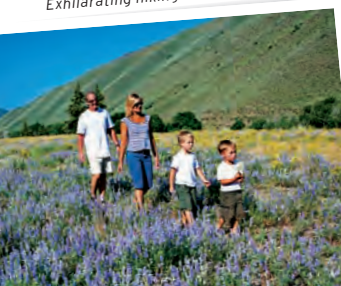
Hotel and event packages  
available. For resort reservations  
call 800.786.8259 or email  
[reservations@sunvalley.com](mailto:reservations@sunvalley.com)

**Sun Valley Summer Ice Shows, June 26 - Sept. 4**  
Olympic and world-class figure skaters every Saturday at dusk

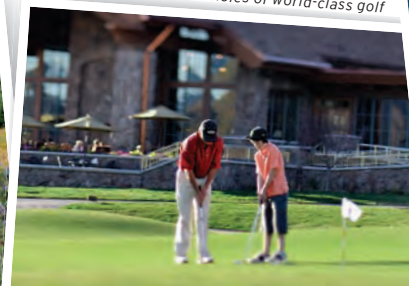
**26th Annual Sun Valley Summer Symphony, July 27 - August 17**  
America's largest privately-funded free admission symphony [www.svsummersymphony.org](http://www.svsummersymphony.org)

## THE MUSIC ENDS, THE FUN DOESN'T.

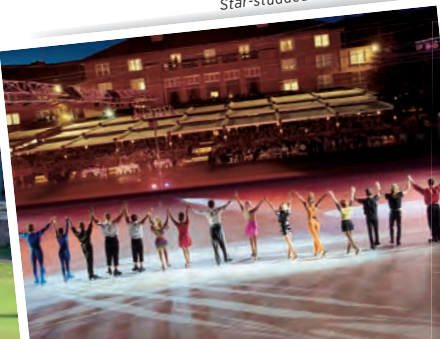
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