



City of Ketchum

News Release  
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## **New Feature at Wagon Days: Street Party & Concert**

*59<sup>th</sup> Annual Celebration to Begin Sept. 2*

KETCHUM, IDAHO – A street party and concert after the Big Hitch parade will be a festive addition this year to Ketchum's Wagon Days, held annually over Labor Day weekend.

More than 17,000 people are expected to attend this year's 59th annual Wagon Days, which begins on Friday, Sept. 2, with cowboy poets reciting their work at the Ore Wagon Museum, East Avenue and Fifth Street, from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m.

Meandering musicians, carrying out the tradition that "when the wagons are rolling, the fiddlers are strolling," will perform throughout town on Friday, Sept. 2, and Saturday, Sept. 3.

Saturday will start off with the Papoose Club pancake breakfast, which raises funds for local children's activities, in Town Square from 8 a.m. to noon. The volunteer cooks will be back at the same time on Sunday, again serving pancakes, sausage and scrambled eggs.

The main event, the Big Hitch Parade, starts at 1 p.m. on Saturday, traveling into town on Sun Valley Road and then turning north on Main Street. With more than 100 museum-quality buggies, carriages, carts, stages, coaches and wagons, it is the largest parade in the Northwest without motor vehicles. The grand finale, as always, will be the "Big Hitch," historic Lewis Ore Wagons pulled by a 20-mule team from Bishop, Calif., on a jerkline.

A reception will honor this year's grand marshal, Ketchum Finance Director Sandy Cady, on Friday, Sept. 2, from 5:30-7 p.m. in Memory Park, Main Street between 5th and 6th streets. Cady, who will retire in November after 42 years with the city, remembers riding in the parade in the family buggy when she was 5 years old. The reception is open to all.

The street party will extend the festivities into the evening with music, local food and drink vendors, and announcement of parade awards. The free event will begin after the parade on East Avenue between Sun Valley Road and Fourth Street with local band Andrew Sheppard.

Headliner will be country singer Amy Clawson and her band, Coltrane. Clawson has played alongside such legendary entertainers as Martina McBride, Toby Keith, Clint Black and Lee Ann Womack.

"Amy Clawson is the next big thing in country music," according to Cashbox Magazine. "She has the voice of an established superstar, and the soul of a pioneer."

Opening act will be Boise band New Transit, featuring Americana, alternative country music and rock. The *Idaho Statesman* has called the group "one of Idaho's best bands."

"Wagon Days celebrates both our history and our sense of community today. The street party and concert will give visitors and locals a reason to stay in town and continue the celebration after the parade," Mayor Nina Jonas said. "We invite local merchants to hold sidewalk sales and 'parade parties' and restaurants to give people a chance to sample their specialties throughout the day."

Wagon Days headquarters is now open daily from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. in the Ore Wagon Museum. Posters, including this year's collage of photos from past celebrations by local artist Nina Fox, and other memorabilia are for sale. The ore wagons are on display adjacent to the museum.

Wagon Days also will bring a Friday evening gallery walk, antique fairs and a bareback riding demonstration.

Additional information is available at [wagondays.com](http://wagondays.com).

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### **About the City of Ketchum**

The city of Ketchum is located in the Wood River Valley in south central Idaho. Founded in 1880 during the mining boom, Ketchum is now regarded as one of the most popular destinations for winter and summer visitors due to its world-class skiing, mountain biking, fishing, hiking, restaurants, art galleries and shopping. The city of Ketchum hosts the famous annual Wagon Days Parade, held on Labor Day weekend, and numerous other year-round attractions. Ketchum is home to more than 10,000 full- and part-time residents. For more information about the city of Ketchum, visit [www.ketchumidaho.org](http://www.ketchumidaho.org).

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