



City of Ketchum

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Ketchum's 60th Annual Wagon Days With Live Music By Lukas Nelson & Promise of the Real; Expanded Children's Activities

KETCHUM, IDAHO – The 60th annual Wagon Days in Ketchum and its centerpiece event, the Big Hitch parade, will feature live music by Lukas Nelson & Promise of the Real and a variety of other new events to mark this year's landmark anniversary.

Organizers predict the Labor Day weekend festivities will draw more than 17,000 people to take part in a celebration that got its start in 1958, when just a few dozen wagons and teams rolled through Ketchum's Main Street.

Wagon Days 2017 gets underway Friday, Sept. 1, with the traditional reading of cowboy poetry at the Ore Wagon Museum. This year, organizers have expanded the options for children's activities in keeping with other family-friendly events scheduled in town across the holiday weekend.

"It's very exciting for the city to mark the 60th anniversary of this special event," said Ketchum Mayor Nina Jonas. "While it's remarkable to see how this has grown over the decades, even more special is that at its core Wagon Days helps us all connect with the city's history, culture and community spirit."

The highlight event is the Big Hitch Parade, one of the biggest, non-motorized parades in the Pacific Northwest featuring more than 100 museum-quality buggies, carriages, carts, stage coaches and wagons. The parade begins Saturday at 1 p.m. and is followed by live street music headlined by Nelson and his band at Town Square and East Avenue.

Promise of the Real, led by Lukas Nelson and his brother Micah, both sons of country music legend Willie Nelson, released their latest album this spring after touring with Rock and Roll Hall of Fame member Neil Young.

A reviewer for the music website All Music writes about the band and the new album: "*Something Real*" delivers a melting pot of influences that come into play on any given song. That knack for variety serves them well and suggests that there just might be something to that 'cowboy, hippie, surf rock' claim."

Organizers worked with local producer Ryan Kolquist and his company RJK Entertainment to bring Nelson and his bandmates to Ketchum for the celebration. RJK Entertainment is also a key Wagon Days sponsor.

The lineup of events also features a barn dance planned at the Ore Wagon Museum, meandering musicians, the Papoose Club pancake breakfast on Saturday to raise money for local children's activities and antique and art fairs. Organizers are also planning to have twice as many food trucks and vendors on hand compared to last year's celebration.

Additional information is available at 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. This year, the City of Ketchum will host the 60th annual celebration of its famous Wagon Days on Labor Day Weekend and is in the direct "path of totality" for the solar eclipse on August 21st. 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.