



City of Ketchum

For Immediate Release  
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## Ketchum Community Invited to Attend Free Speaker Series on Great American Eclipse

KETCHUM, IDAHO —As excitement builds for the total solar eclipse that will be taking place on August 21, 2017, the City of Ketchum invites the community to hear three experts discuss the Great American Eclipse and its significance. All speaker events are free and open to the public.

Eclipse chaser Leona Rice and astronomer Carolyn Rankin-Mallory will speak on Saturday, August 19, at 12:00 p.m. in Town Square. Rice grew up in the Sonoran Desert in Tucson, Arizona, where the Milky Way was her entertainment every summer night. She was elected to the California Legislature for three terms and retired after 20 years as Executive Director of The Doctors Company Foundation. Rankin-Mallory was recently a member of the NASA team that discovered 17 previously unknown stars and divides her time between NASA research participation and college teaching.

Astronomer Jeff Silverman will speak Sunday, August 20, at 12:00 p.m. in Town Square. Silverman is a data scientist at Samba TV. Before moving into the tech industry, Silverman was a National Science Foundation Astronomy and Astrophysics Postdoctoral Fellow at the University of Texas at Austin. He received his Ph.D. in astrophysics at the University of California at Berkeley, working on observations of exploding stars and dark energy. He is heavily involved in science communication and public outreach programs. Silverman will also speak on Monday, August 21, at the Viewing Party hosted by the cities of Ketchum and Sun Valley at Festival Meadow.

The partial phase of the eclipse will begin at 10:12 a.m. on August 21, with full totality beginning at 11:29 a.m. and lasting for over a minute. Special viewing glasses are needed to provide adequate protection for those wishing to look directly at the sun during the eclipse itself. More details about area events, information for Blaine County residents, and additional resources can be found at [www.ketchumsunvalleyeclipse2017.com](http://www.ketchumsunvalleyeclipse2017.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, fishing, hiking, mountain biking, 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).

**Saturday, August 19<sup>th</sup>**  
12:00 p.m.  
Town Square (Ketchum)  
Eclipse Chaser Leona Rice  
Astronomer Carolyn  
Rankin-Mallory

**Sunday, August 20<sup>th</sup>**  
12:00 p.m.  
Town Square (Ketchum)  
Astronomer Jeff Silverman