



City of Ketchum

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Dr. Stephen Pauley Named Grand Marshal of 2017 Wagon Days Parade

KETCHUM, IDAHO – Mayor Nina Jonas has named Dr. Stephen Pauley the 2017 Wagon Days Grand Marshal.

Pauley, a retired physician who has lived in Ketchum for more than 25 years, has been a motivating force in the city's efforts to preserve its dark skies and the nighttime view residents and visitors have of the stars and planets.

For decades, he has worked to convince leaders in Ketchum, Sun Valley, Hailey and Blaine County to adopt ordinances aimed at reducing light pollution and take other steps to protect the region's dark skies.

He has also been instrumental in the City of Ketchum's efforts towards becoming an "International Dark Sky Community" and he's been active in the proposal to create the Central Idaho International Dark Sky Reserve.

Ketchum Mayor Nina Jonas said the decision to name Pauley Grand Marshal is also appropriate considering the timing of the Total Solar Eclipse, scheduled for the morning of Aug. 21.

"When I think of the people here in Ketchum who work hard to protect and improve our quality of life, Stephen Pauley always jumps to the top of that list," said Mayor Jonas. "The next time you're out walking at night and have a chance to marvel at the great view of the cosmos, take a second to thank Dr. Pauley.

Pauley said he is honored to be chosen as Grand Marshal for the 60th Annual Wagon Days. The weekend-long festival that celebrates the city's history will feature live music, The Big Hitch Parade and other family activities.

"It's a great honor for me," Pauley said. "There are so many other worthy souls out there. But I think with the upcoming total solar eclipse and the excitement around the dark skies efforts, it all fit. I'm really honored to do this and very appreciative of the recognition."

Wagon Days 2017 gets underway Friday, Sept. 1, with the traditional reading of cowboy poetry at the Ore Wagon Museum. The centerpiece event is the Big Hitch Parade, the biggest, non-motorized parade in the Pacific Northwest featuring more than 100 museum-quality buggies, carriages, carts, stage coaches and wagons.

The 2017 Wagon Days poster, designed by Travis Amick, is a photograph of a line of Lewis Ore Wagons under a night sky dotted with stars.

For more information about the 2017 Wagon Days Weekend, visit: <https://www.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, 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.