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SUN VALLEY KETCHUM HAILEY



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# WOOD RIVER WEEKLY

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Free | June 26 - July 9, 2024 | Vol. 5 - No. 13 | woodriverweekly.com

"This nation will remain the land of the free only so long as it is the home of the brave."  
- Elmer Davis

## THE GRANGE CARRIES FOURTH OF JULY TORCH



Last year's Fourth of July Parade on Main Street in Hailey. Photo credit: Carol Waller

### *Hailey Celebrates Fourth of July*

BY ISAIAH FRIZZELL

#### July Fourth

Independence Day is really a big birthday bash. The United States won the war for independence from Great Britain and proceeded to become the largest and most powerful superpower in the known world – at least for recorded history. All the fireworks and shenanigans are a way of saying Happy Birthday as we commemorate the official separation of our original thirteen colonies from the tiny island's monarchy as Thomas Jefferson's Declaration of Independence was signed.

So how old are we? Going by this hallmark, the U.S. turns 248.

Whatever you have planned, in almost every city on the map, near lakes and in far-flung neighborhoods or suburbs, fireworks will pop, crinkle and bang in the sky. Guaranteed, if you're in a large area, get to a hilltop or local apex with a 360-degree view and you'll see the colors and flash of gunpowder and pigment perforate the sky.

Invented in 9th century AD China during the Tang Dynasty, fireworks were purportedly brought out as an apotropaic form of kinetic art meant to keep evil spirits away.

#### Blaine County's Fourth of July

This year the grand marshals, heralds of the celebration, are The Grange Foundation – a national nonprofit founded in 1924. The Upper Big Wood River Grange #192 is Hailey's branch, originally focusing on bringing together farmers and ranchers to foster the local agricultural food community.

You can thank the Grange for the Wood River Seed Library, organized for annual seed and plant exchanges with information and guidance on local gardening, heirloom seed saving and plant sharing. Encouraging self-sufficiency through sustainable practices, Granges are the originators of the Community Garden established in

2020. They offer educational resources, courses and information on practical skills, which perhaps used to be common knowledge, such as sewing, planting, seed saving and home cooking, to support community resilience. A group that encourages local independence, it's fitting they would marshal the Independence Day festivities.

#### Festivities Lineup

From morning to night, on July 2–4, there will be an array of fun things to do, courtesy of the good folks at the Grange. You'll be up to your ears in endearing events, even bringing back some past favorites.

Commencing July 2–4, The 141st Hailey Days of the Old West Fourth of July Celebration returns with a multi-day event including a rodeo, parade and more. The Sawtooth Rangers Rodeo is a consistently excellent classic rodeo and always sells out. You can find tickets at any Atkinsons' Market location, at the Hailey Welcome Center, at 781 S. Main Street, or online at SawtoothRangers.org

8:30–11 a.m.

#### Historic Pancake Breakfast

The return of the cakes! Socialize and indulge in one of America's favorite breakfasts at the Grange, at 609 South 3rd Avenue, across from Hailey Elementary. There will be a nominal fee and, along with pancakes you can usually also find scrambled eggs, sausage, coffee, water and juice.

<http://www.grange.org/upperbigwoodriverid192>

Continued  
FOURTH OF JULY  
Page 2

## Hailey Celebrates Fourth of July

11 a.m.

### Paint a Legacy 5K Color Run

Come for the calories, stay for the color! Those pancakes will power you through the Dental Legacy Foundation's (DLF) vivid victory lap. Open to all ages, color runs are a vibrant way to win medals and support the smiles crafted for the community by the DLF. You'll want to wear white, as runners will be given a bib and a cup of powdered pigment to splash around, creating rainbow clouds of color, much like that used in the Hindu Holi Festival. Think fireworks without the fire for a photography-friendly event as painted runners pace along the bike path beginning at the Wood River High School dirt parking lot.

DentalLegacyFoundation.org

12 p.m.

### 141st Days of the Old West Fourth of July Parade

At high noon on the Fourth, the parade will begin floating and marching down Main Street in Hailey. If you've been to the museum, you'll know about Samson the Elephant's famous 1884 trip to Hailey. "The Circus Returns to Town" is the theme honoring Samson and the history of Hailey. Not just for onlookers, you can be in the parade yourself as a whimsical way to market your business or cause. See Valley-Chamber.org for more information on how to be involved.

1-5 p.m.

### Sawtooth Brewery's 10th Annual Riverfest

At Hop Porter Park, more than a concert there's also a car show this year. Jeff Crosby will be headlining this year, opened by local favorites Side Hustle. There'll be kids' entertainment, food trucks, plenty of beer and a hotrod car show to see amazing jalopies from all over.

1-4 p.m.

### The Life Church's 3rd Annual Family Fun Fourth Community Event

There'll be a much loved pie-eating contest, waterslides, games and races at 931 North River Street. Bring the family—there's fun for all and a chance to worship, courtesy of pastors Michael and Carol Hendricks. Remember, Stand By Me was just a movie.

So when does the sky light up?

### Fireworks

The fireworks on the Fourth of July begin at dusk and can typically be seen from just about anywhere in Hailey. Get a comfy lawn chair and claim your spot early and mind where you park.

Celebrating 248 years of American independence in a day.



Popping a wheelie at last year's Fourth of July Parade in Hailey. Photo credit: Carol Waller

But there's more!

### Hailey's 25th Annual Fourth of July Antique Fair

From July 4-6, 50 vendors from across the Northwest will descend on Roberta McKercher Park to offer jewelry, antiques, vintage clothing and art, including pottery and primitives. Find your next centerpiece that really brings that guest bedroom together. Contact Blue Cow Antiques at (208) 312-4900 or on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/bluecowstatesales/>

### Wood River Farmers' Market

Remember to support local food and crafts as the farmers' market will, of course, also be at Roberta McKercher Park on July 6.

If you're out of town, stuck at home or for whatever reason can't make the merry-making, you can show your support for the community by making a donation toward the day's efforts at ValleyChamber.org or in person at the Hailey Welcome Center, 781 South Main Street, in Hailey. Call (208) 788-3484 for more information.

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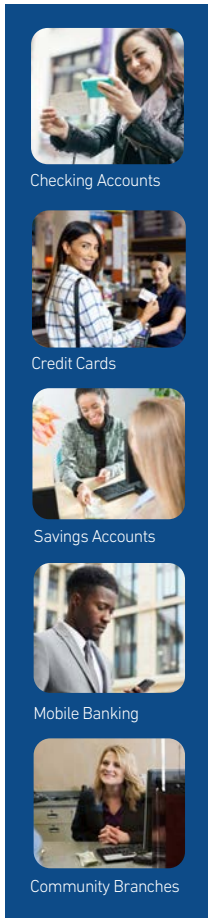
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## DEADLINES

Display & Classified Ads, Monday 5 p.m.  
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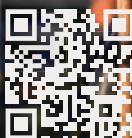
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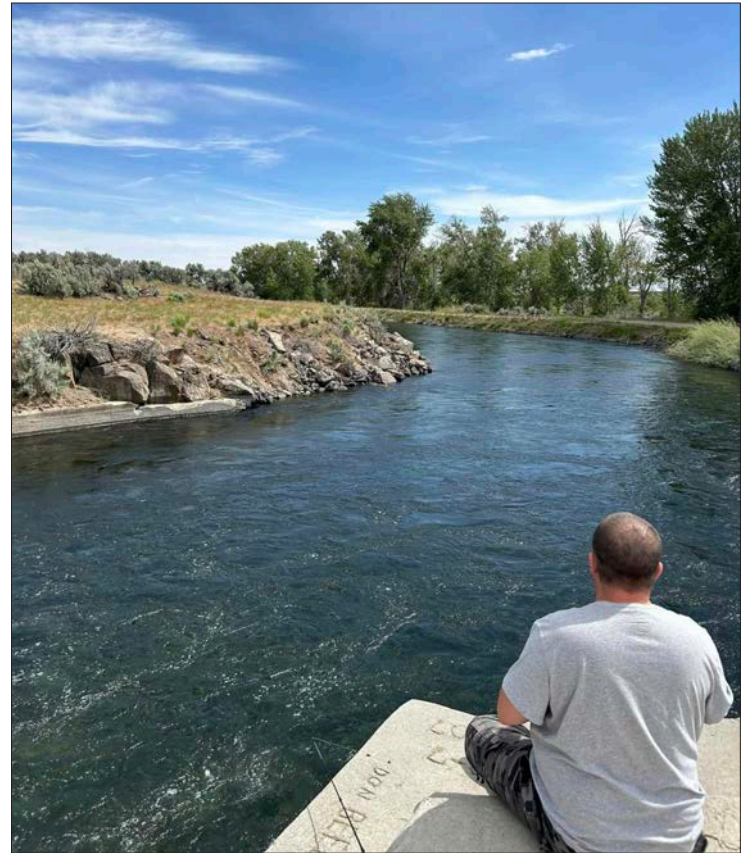
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# Water Mitigation Agreement Reaches Solution



The Richfield Canal begins at a headgate 4 miles below Magic Reservoir and supplies farmers in east Idaho. Photo credit: Dean Smith

## Farmers in Struggle Over Water Rights

BY ISAIAH FRIZZELL

By now everyone has heard of the water curtailment order in eastern Idaho. As with anything to do with natural resources and survival, there are intensely personal, familial and community-minded emotions, concerns and misunderstandings. Perhaps the biggest question that keeps getting asked is, 'What exactly is going on?'

At a very basic level, it is a dispute between communities of farmers over junior and senior water rights vs the Idaho Department of Water Resources (IDWR). There is a legitimate claim that one group used more water than they should have, were ordered to replenish the water, and have yet to do so. Government has stepped in and the waters have become muddy. That's what is at the core of this situation and it is not new. All the noise that flares up, naturally, with concerns over livelihood and the staples of survival, have clouded the issue and, unfortunately, hearsay prevails. However, a temporary agreement has been struck and eastern Idaho's farmers will have access to water this growing season.

### What Happened?

Senior water rights are established water rights that were instantiated earlier, historically. As Idaho is a 'first in time, first in right' state, the senior water rights prevail over junior water rights. As the curtailment means no water for many, economic losses, estimated in the hundreds of millions, could impact Idaho's economy. Seeds already planted would not grow and land would dry up, resulting in a massive shock to the malt and alfalfa hay industries and their surrounding industries in communities across the state and country.

The biggest issue is that the onus is on the groundwater users to comply with one of the two mitigation plans, already state-approved, to recharge the aquifer and continue to manage their water use such that the resources are sustained. Due to disagreements over details of mitigation and outright denial of their operability, many of these groundwater districts have resorted to non-compliance.

This non-compliance is what led to the curtailment order. As it stands, negotiations between surface and groundwater users have progressed to the point that IDWR has paused inspections, as of Friday, June 11, to allow time for the disagreement to be settled. A long-term solution is what is being sought and what must be devised to allow for the cooperation of water rights holders and their economic outcome.

### Just the facts, Ma'am

A curtailment order was issued on May 30, 2024, by IDWR. The order was to address a projected shortfall of approximately 74,100 acre-feet of water that was supposed to fulfill senior water rights. This curtailment order would affect the junior groundwater rights holders of the Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer.

IDWR holds that Idaho law states that the eastern Idaho ground-

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WATER CRISIS  
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# HAILEY DAYS OF THE OLD WEST

4th of July Celebration

**JULY 2 - 4**  
Sawtooth Rangers Rodeo

**JULY 4 - 6**  
Antique Market at Roberta McKercher Park

**JULY 4**  
8-11 AM  
Breakfast at The Grange

8:30 AM  
Paint A Legacy 5k at Wood River High School

12-1:30 PM  
Days of the Old West Parade

Family Fun Event at the Life Church after the Parade

1:00-5:00 PM  
Sawtooth Brewery's RiverFest at Hop Porter Park

7:30-10:00 PM  
Sawtooth Rangers Rodeo  
FIREWORKS - Dusk

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# Happy Fourth of July!

# Water Rights

*Continued from Previous Page*

water users are responsible for replenishing the water supply that is currently predicted to create a shortage of surface water to the Twin Falls Canal Company.

Allegedly, two mitigation plans have been approved and it is up to the groundwater districts to comply in order to stop the curtailments.

It has been exclaimed that the mitigation plans are unworkable due to interpretation by the IDWR. "The harm that we would do ourselves in complying with those mitigation plans would be on par with what a curtailment would do to us." Allan Jackson of the Idaho Groundwater Appropriators (IGWA). The IGWA is a representative organization for nine eastern Idaho groundwater districts. According to IGWA, in the past, IDWR has allowed water users to replenish their water use with storage water put back into the Snake River Aquifer yet they currently deny such a maneuver for IGWA. Further, they state that "the curtailment would cut off 75 billion gallons of water to farmers in Jefferson County and dry up over 104 thousand acres of farmland, providing a minuscule 12 million gallons of water to farmers downstream." (localnews8.com)

"What remains is an utterly absurd situation, where hundreds of thousands of acres of farmland, and their associated economic benefits, are thrown away during a wet year to cause a small amount of additional water to overflow from the aquifer into the Snake River," said IGWA attorney TJ Budge. "Throughout this entire process, IDWR has been inconsistent and troublingly biased against groundwater users." (localnews8.com)

Approximately 500,000 acres of agricultural land in many counties, including Bingham, Jefferson, Clark and Bonneville, would be affected; specifically, groundwater users.

"You're talking about tax rolls that would be cut dramatically," said Jackson. "Your schools would be underfunded. The county tax rolls would be devastated because you no longer have this tax base from agriculture that would be there." Jackson (localnews8.com)

### Government Intervention

Lieutenant Governor Scott Bedke released the following statement regarding the compromise agreement:

"The past few weeks have been difficult for everyone affected by this water crisis. The many hours of discussion and negotiation have highlighted areas of agreement as well as areas of deep disagreement among water users in the region. I appreciate that our southern Idaho surface water and groundwater users were able to put aside their differences and come together to create an equitable solution that guarantees no water is shut off, no Idaho laws are broken, and the crops already in the ground will be ready for harvesting," said Lt. Governor Scott Bedke.

"But it's imperative that those same parties understand their work is not finished," Bedke continued. "We absolutely cannot go into another growing season without arriving at a mutually agreeable mitigation plan. There are still a number of significant details to work out before we can arrive at a solid, workable plan. We have the remainder of this year to come up with such a plan, so we won't find ourselves in this same situation next June." (kmvt.com)

### Future Flush

The temporary agreement brings a sigh of relief from farmers and community members alike. While Governor Brad Little was petitioned to intervene, he ultimately did not. It was Lt. Governor Bedke who has shepherded this agreement. But the story is not over. The Eastern Snake River Plain aquifer surface and groundwater users are tasked with creating a new, long-term agreement that adheres to Idaho's Constitution of 'first in time, first in right.' The permanent plan will have to be reached by fall in order to avoid another potential curtailment.



Idaho crops depend on water sources in the local area. Photo credit: Lumin Osity (unsplash free)

# RIVER VIEW



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# SOUND MONEY: GOLD & SILVER AS ART



HayleyBug Mint's unique gold and silver pieces of various sizes. Photo credit: Jay Jeffreys

## Gold Bugs, Gem Hounds and Silver Stackers

BY ISAAH FRIZELL

We all know someone who wears a gold engagement ring, silver chain or bracelet and likely a piece set with a precious gem—emerald, diamond, ruby. How many people do you know that actually melt metals for artistic expression, beyond jewelry?

### Store of Value

Most people's first encounter with real silver comes in the form of heirlooms, decorative serving sets for high tea or a swank dinner and, of course, with higher-end jewelry. Sterling silver isn't worth much but fine silver can be a solid way to encapsulate value for transferring it to the next generation of your family, purchasing goods and services, or holding a potentially appreciating asset. Society attaches value to various naturally formed materials based on metrics of scarcity, utility and beauty. Not exactly an investment, they're mostly a way to store value, affording some means of protection against inflation and the volatility inherent in the financial strategies put forth by the Fed to maintain the dominance of the petrodollar as a world reserve currency. That is changing, however.

If you've been keeping an eye on financial news, you've probably seen the prices of these metals move lately, maybe not by much but they do move. Like all commodities, the value rises and falls according to market forces, following trading and mining. Silver has been used as a form of currency and store of value in nearly every human civilization since its discovery in at least 3000 BC by the ancient Sumerians of Mesopotamia.

Metal coins have long been the way we trade in our civilizations. It's only natural that the circular coin shape has lasted. It's convenient, small and many fit in one pocket or sack. As the world pivots toward a new era of digital currencies, many are finding a fresh love of naturally occurring splendor. What can you buy for an ounce of silver these days? Who can you purchase one from safely? Vetting online or even retail shops relies on a discernment of human characteristics and traits. How can it be done safely, securely and successfully for both parties?

### The Pouring Community

Another store of value is art – paintings, sculpture, decorative pieces for the home. These have an even more intangible aura surrounding their value based on the popularity of the artist, the technique, the technology used and trends. Imagine a meld-

ing of the two where you're dealing with a solid store of value that also exhibits artistic merit. A new breed of metal makers, called pourers, are redefining art and finance with precious metals – silver, gold and even experimental alloys.

Most stick to the original form factors of bars and coin shapes but there are some who take it far beyond. How about a giant, anachronistic hammer, engraved with exotic patterns and filigree that shines with the heart and mind of genuine artistic expression?

### Ketchum's Barry Peterson



Anniversary Sun Pendant created by Barry Peterson. Photo courtesy of Barry Peterson

Barry Peterson is perhaps Sun Valley's best known jeweler from Barry Peterson Fine Jewelers, who also deals in precious metals. For 52 years they've been in the Valley and do quite a lot of melting of gold as most of their jewelry is made from gold. They buy and melt gold for use in fine jewelry and Peterson's work is indeed meticulous, spectacular and gem infused. "When I first started dealing with gold it was \$42 an ounce so it has changed a little. People buy it as an insurance hedge against the dollar. I've always advised that you don't want to put all your money into it, it's

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GEM HOUNDS  
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# Gem Hounds

Continued from Page 6

more of an insurance policy against cash to have some gold. But there are speculators on the price going up. I think the political unrest has pushed it up \$300 recently. But it's actually dropped a bit, which is normal, it has a lot to do with political unrest and the price of oil."

Peterson has been around long enough to have seen things change from the perspective of a fine jeweler working with precious metals at spot prices. "Silver's got more room to go. When I first started dealing with silver it was .68 cents an ounce. It has a lot of industrial uses to it, computers, energy and it's also an insurance policy. The jewelry aspect though, is really different than buying it for a hedge. We base a piece of jewelry on the base price of metal, then you throw in labor and retail markup – however when the price changes dramatically like with gold and platinum, we do change our prices with the market." Peterson doesn't see a ton of people searching for new types of collectibles or even for insurance. "People just want to sell it and get the silver, I've had many people over the years where they just don't want to mess with silver. However I do think silver is a great place to get into the metals market and there's a whole lot of room for it to go."

"I saw it go to \$50 in the '70s but that was run up by the Hunt Brothers who pushed it up in a few months and then bailed on everybody." A classic pump and dump scheme that happens in crypto constantly. A gem hound since childhood, Peterson is deep into the sparkling, colorful stones. "Diamonds and colored stones are really my forte, I stick with the natural resources of the planet and that's kind of my thing. Even the lab grown diamonds had a nice little roll but they're now almost worthless. Part of the problem is there's no regulation on them like on naturals. The manufacturers have flooded the market to where the price has just plummeted. The fastest way to dump the prices is to dump a bunch on the market."

Could this happen with silver? Why is it so accessible? "The price of it just never really goes down. Jewelry-wise it all stays very consistent. The biggest range of value increase is in the bigger, finer stones. These naturally occurring diamonds, though, are going crazy. Certain stones are so rare in occurrence, they don't come from too many places and they're a great investment." The common denominator appearing here is the artistic aspect. Jewelry is a fine art beyond just the classic engagement ring where even art nouveau costume jewelry or the ineffably beautiful pieces created by the great Faberge collective add something beyond – something extraordinary in value – art.

Peterson speaks with rich insight and pure history of dealing with precious metals and gems from within the jewelry industry and he too is asked about how to vet a dealer. "I had a call last night, a friend wanting to buy gold, and I said some of those houses you see on TV are very well established. They've spent big money on ads, and they're worthy to deal with. They do good work. You know it's interesting, a lot of gold and silver now comes out of copper mining. But what's even more interesting is they've just discovered that in the fracking process for oil, the byproduct is full of lithium. They just discovered it in the Ohio-West Virginia-Pennsylvania oil belt. They discovered there's going to be enough lithium produced that we may not have to buy it from China." A charming man, an expert jeweler and a true Sun Valley resident, Peterson's jewelry is the best in the Valley and stands up to the best in the world.

## Omen Precious Metals



Omen's Owl Round 1.6oz. Photo credit: Reid Omen

Reid (last name withheld) has been pouring and selling his pieces under the name of Omen Precious Metals for around three-and-a-half years. "It kinda came out of a hobby project. I stepped away from IT to stay at home with the kids and during that time I only really worked about 12 hours a week, but with the kids I didn't have

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**Upper Big Wood River Grange Turns “100”**

‘Upper Big Wood River Grange #192’ is the official name of what is commonly called the Hailey Grange, was formed in 1924 with 49 charter members. As we celebrate our “100th Anniversary” it is a good time to reflect on who has come before and how we are trying to keep the Hall active. The Upper Big Wood River Grange still counts some farm owners. Although most new recruits are not farmers, they are in some ways connected to the local food movement, gardening and seed saving. Community building is still our focus and we have kept this alive by holding contra and folk dances several times per year, along with organizations/individuals conducting dance, movement and wellness classes.

When our Grange received its charter in 1924, it was the third in Blaine County, following Carey and Gannett. D.J. Howes was the first President. In the early years newspaper articles reflect its prominence in the community. In 1926 our Grange held a joint meeting to discuss plans for a county-wide movement to advertise and improve the industrial advantages and scenic splendor of Blaine County and a crowd of 165 people attended. James Lechlitter, president at the time, asked for cooperation of mining, agricultural, and business to co-operate with a neighborly spirit. In April of 1953 there was a great dedication of the Upper Big Wood River Grange with 122 persons present including members from all over the state. W.E. Adams, state Grange master presented a plaque to Rupert House, our master at the time. In 1957 this Blaine County Grange had a membership of 150, as Carey & Wendell had closed.

The Hailey Grange sponsors and assists social and civic organizations in the Wood River Valley. We serve 4H/FAA programs, Sawtooth Rangers, The Trailing of the Sheep Festival, the Wood River Seed Library, and give a yearly scholarship to a Blaine County High School graduate.

We have nearly lost our charter 3 times but have survived the tough times and are happy to still be here building community and friendship. An article in the Idaho Statesman (Boise), Nov. 18, 1926, sums up the spirit of Grange #192 - “A Mustache and Nightcap dance will be staged by the Upper Wood River grangers at the Grange Hall in Hailey, Thursday evening. Whiskers for the men and nightcaps for the women will be considered formal dress for the occasion.” Potlucks, dances and coming together for community events have been a constant theme at the hall.

**Starry Starry Night Fundraiser  
To Benefit Trailing Of The Sheep Festival**

The Trailing of the Sheep Festival will present its annual fundraiser, this year themed STARRY STARRY NIGHT, on Thursday, August 29, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. at The Argyros Performing Arts Center in Ketchum, Idaho. Guests will enjoy an evening of entertainment, food, drinks, and auctions to support the Trailing of the Sheep Festival’s mission to gather, celebrate, present, and preserve the history and cultures of sheepherding in Idaho and the West. The event will bring together community-minded, philanthropic guests to enjoy a feast of lamb as well as local, seasonal foods, and a variety of beverages for a festive evening. Guests will also be invited to participate in silent and live auctions, a mystery raffle and more.

Only 200 seats are available, and tickets are on sale now. VIP tickets are \$225.00 and include an Opari Gift, VIP Seating as well as Premium Wine, and General Admission tickets are \$150.00. Tickets can be purchased at STARRY STARRY NIGHT, <https://trailingofthesheep.ejoinme.org/StarryNightTickets>



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### Wild West Game Night Fundraiser To Benefit Rotarun And Senior Connection

Rotarun and the Senior Connection are thrilled to share that generous residents Dale and Terri Bullock of Hailey are hosting an exciting Wild West Game Night Fundraiser to benefit the young and young at heart.

The public is invited to join us for an exciting Wild West Game Night, where the spirit of the Old West meets the excitement of casino gaming! Dust off your cowboy boots and hats to saddle up for a night of casino fun on Friday, July 12 from 5:30-9 p.m.

Guests will be transported back to the days of the Wild West saloons in an authentic western atmosphere complete with historic décor. With each ticket, participants receive \$700 in play money for games such as poker, blackjack, roulette, dart poker, and more. In addition to games of skill and chance, there will be a silent auction, raffle, delicious food and refreshing beverages.

All proceeds from the Wild West Game Night will support the critical programs and services provided by Rotarun and the Senior Connection. Rotarun's mission is to provide an affordable and inclusive ski area that celebrates winter sport and mountain town culture through accessibility and community outreach. The Senior Connection's mission is to connect seniors with essential services, meaningful programming, their peers and the local community to foster purposeful and passion filled lives.

"This event is a wonderful opportunity to bring together the community for a night of fun while supporting two great Wood River Valley organizations," said Jovita Piña, Executive Director of the Senior Connection. "We are absolutely thrilled to partner with Dale, Terri, and Rotarun for a second year to make a positive impact on seniors and children in our community."

Wally Limburg, Rotarun Board President, added, "We are so lucky to have the Bullocks open up their home and barn for this event, which provides financial assistance with our after-school snow sports programs for the youth of the Wood River Valley."

Tickets for the Wild West Game Night Fundraiser are \$125 per person and and



can be purchased online at <https://seniorconnectionidaho.org/events/wild-west-game-night/>. For more information about the event or to purchase tickets, please visit <https://seniorconnectionidaho.org/wild-west-game-night/> or contact Mary Simms, Director of Donor and Community Relations at the Senior Connection at [info@seniorconnectionidaho.org](mailto:info@seniorconnectionidaho.org).



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## FISHING REPORT



THE "WEEKLY"  
FISHING REPORT FOR  
JUNE 26 - JULY 9  
FROM PICABO ANGLER

As of this writing, the Big Wood River at the Hailey USGS gauge is just under 900 CFS. Side channels and soft edges along the river are producing some fish, as is the upper river above Ketchum. The river continues to drop and should be in prime shape for the arrival of the Green Drakes. For now, look for side channels, soft edges, eddies, and gentle current seams, and fish large dries and nymphs. Chubby Chernobyls, Golden Stones, Stimulators, Green Drake patterns, H & L Variants, and Parachute Adams are a great choice on top. For nymphs, use large Princes, Rubber Legs, 20-Inchers, and Copper Johns. Please use caution, and leave the 5X and your dogs at home! Now is the time when you can get away with short, stout leaders in 2X or 3X.

The Upper Big Lost River system is dropping quickly as well, and we expect prime fishing there soon. Look for Green Drakes, Golden Stones, Yellow Sallies, and a few Salmonflies.

The South Fork Boise River remains at a good floating level at 1200 CFS. Anglers floating the river below Anderson Ranch Dam are having success with cicada patterns, Salmonflies, Golden Stones, and Chubby Chernobyls. As always, nymph rigs and streamers are effective as well.

The upper Salmon River is also beginning to fish for floating anglers. The USGS gauge on the Salmon at Yankee Fork is at 1900 CFS. While high, the river is clear, and the fishing has been decent for native Westslope Cutthroat and rainbows. Big, bushy dries and large nymphs fished tight to the bank are the ticket.

Silver Creek continues to fish well. Right now on the Creek there is a smorgasbord of insects. Look for midges, Blue-Winged Olives, PMDs, Calibaetis, and even a few Green Drakes. Be prepared to fish any of these insects; have emergers, duns, and spinners in your boxes. Beetles and ants continue to be effective on windy days, and we have seen a damsel flies as well.

We've noticed quite a few 1/4" grasshoppers around, so we are expecting another banner hopper year in our valley. We are fully stocked up with hopper patterns here in the shop!

Happy Fishing Everyone!



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## COMMENTARY

NO BONES ABOUT IT

FRAN JEWELL

# How To Play Appropriately With A Puppy

BY FRAN JEWELL

Most of us are so enamored with a new puppy that we get on the floor, roll around, play rough house, among a myriad of other things when trying to bond with our new family member. What is critical to remember is that what we teach our dogs as a puppy is what they will do when they mature. I hear excuses all the time that the mouthing and biting is "soft" and just because they are a puppy, "It's okay." NO! It is NOT!

I don't care what breed it is, but puppies that mouth, or are encouraged to bite during play, WILL be disrespectful of you and others as they mature. This is how puppies play with each other. It is vital that your puppy not see you as another puppy. It also teaches a puppy that this is how to deal with frustration, or even fear. Essentially, this is setting the dog up for failure. A dog that learns that mouthing or biting is okay in puppyhood WILL do this later on. Biting is always a problem for families with children.

One of the easiest ways to mitigate biting is to give the dog appropriate things to chew instead and never roughhouse for playtime. It is also helpful to use food-dispensing toys for meals. It helps direct the puppy to use her mouth on objects, not people. Playtime should be things like throwing a ball, or hiding treats in a box for your puppy to find.

The second thing that is critical with puppies is height. The closer you are to a puppy's face, the more likely you are to get bitten... in the face! More children are bitten in the face by dogs than any other place because they are at the dog's level. So, even if we adults lie on the floor with a puppy, the puppy learns very fast that you are ON HER LEVEL and encourages disrespect. Think about this further. Do you wonder why puppies jump on you? It's not attention seeking, as many people would believe. It's to be on the same level with your face, like another puppy. This includes things like going up the stairs. You should go first. A puppy that sleeps in bed with you does not see you as her leader. She sees you as another puppy because you are on the same level. We love the cuddling in bed, but this can come later once your puppy is trained and you have earned her respect. Puppies should learn to sleep on the floor in a crate until they have earned the PRIVILEGE to sleep on any furniture.

In short, getting down on the floor and roughhousing with a puppy actually encourages the dog to disrespect you, which also relates to the dog not coming to you or paying attention to you as she matures. It encourages a puppy to use her mouth to deal with frustration or even fear. Build respect with your puppy when she is a puppy, not later



Puppy play can be educational and influential in directing her to become a good citizen. Here, Lucy finds treats in a box, which helps her to gain confidence and use her wonderful nose! Photo credit: Fran Jewell

when your adult dog has behavior problems much harder to change.

There are more ways to play productively. Puppies do not know the difference between fun obedience and play. Include little bits and pieces of obedience in your play. Ask her to sit before you throw a ball. Teach her to "leave" a toy and to always allow YOU to win the toy.

When you take your pup to play with other pups, have both pups sit or down, then settle before they get to play. This is a GREAT step to teach your pup not to mug unknown dogs on a walk when they are older. Play becomes the reward for self-control and good manners. When two pups are playing with each other, call them out of play to sit and get a treat, then go back and play. This is an excellent way to teach your pup that coming does not mean the end of a good time.

Play with toys that you can tie on a 5-foot rope and then let her chase it. Once she has it, let her tug, but remember you always win the toy. Then she should sit to chase the toy again.

Puppies need to be puppies, but great dogs learn through play what good behavior is. Directed puppy play enhances your relationship, too! Think of directed puppy play like taking a toddler to preschool. Make that your goal. It is so rewarding for everyone when she is mature!

*Fran Jewell is a dog behavior consultant, NADOI-certified instructor and vice president. She owns Positive Puppy Dog Training LLC and can be reached at (208) 721-7221.*

SCIENCE OF PLACE

HARRY WEEKES

# A FOG OF BITTERBRUSH

BY HARRY WEEKES

What a flower season it was this year. I could hardly believe it. Indian Creek was literally covered with blossoms. If I had to guess, I would say there had to have been a half a million flowers in bloom at once (and I am pretty sure this is a very low estimate). To look out at the hills and see that kind of abundance was pure delight.

While I marveled at this blanket of yellow, I didn't hear many other people mentioning this profusion of plants. In fact, I heard the opposite. "What a strange year; there really haven't been any flowers." "Do you think there won't be any flowers?" "I think I may have seen a handful, but nothing like years past."

People weren't sharing photos of great swathes of lupine. I didn't hear anything about larkspur, or phlox, or arrowleaf balsamroot. And there were only the faintest murmurings about paintbrush here and there.

"Well," I said, "what about the bitterbrush?"

"I'm allergic to that."

If that happens to be the case, this should have been one of the worst allergy springs of your life.

The antelope bitterbrush seemed to have had some kind of cicada-esque blooming event this year, where every single bush burst into flower at the same time. I at once realized how many bitterbrush there were (some slopes appeared to be well over 50% of the dry shrub) and also just how many flowers they produce.

But no one sent me any pictures of these. And I can almost guarantee I am not going to get any Christmas cards with friends and family snuggled up next to the prickly stalks.

Nope, not for bitterbrush.

These commoners of the hills are far too, well, common for us to take much notice of them. Beyond the question of just why that is so, here are a bunch of other questions amassed for me this spring.

Why did all the bitterbrush bloom at once? By most measures, this was a bad flower year for all the other plants—did this bitterbrush blooming have anything to do with that? Most of the people I know with allergies seemed to think this was a less severe year; is that true? What if people aren't allergic to bitterbrush and sage, but to lupine and



phlox and arrowleaf? It didn't seem like there were ten jillion bees or other pollinators around, so who was this profusion for?

Amongst the interesting tidbits I learned is that bitterbrush is in the rose family—a relationship you can see if you get really close to the many flowers. They can also live for over a century, meaning that we have had a really, really long time to figure out some of these neighbors. And one thing I am now wondering is if I can figure out how to create the purplish dye they say you can make out of their seeds.

As quickly as they came, the flowers went. I marveled at the now dried petals and thickening fruits. Walking around in the aftermath of a recent rain, the air was redolent of sage. I imagine this was also thick with bitterbrush, too. And if the plants were used medicinally in the past, what is the impact of aerosolizing the volatile phytochemicals of that much flower? I wondered if the air could have some palliative effect. I breathed as deeply and slowly as I could, taking in the fog of bitterbrush.

Yep, it was a great flower season.

*Harry Weekes is the founder and head of school at The Sage School in Hailey. This is his 52nd year in the Wood River Valley, where he lives with Hilary and one of their three baby adults—Simon. The other members of the flock are Georgia and Penelope (Georgia recently fledged from Davidson College in North Carolina and Penelope is at Middlebury College in Vermont).*

## MONEY MATTERS

SUZANNE HAZLETT

# 'Oh, The Places You'll Go!'

BY SUZANNE HAZLETT, MBA, CIMA®, CFP®

Dr. Suess said, "You can steer yourself in any direction you choose." Retirees last year were doing just that as more than 338,000 Americans relocated for retirement – a 44% increase from 2022 – and about a quarter of those retirees moved to a different state. According to the online moving-services marketplace Hire A Helper's latest annual report, Florida is the number one destination for retirees, claiming 11% of movers across state lines. South Carolina comes in at a close second and New Jersey third, with Texas and Washington rounding out the top five. Let's explore what's drawing retirees to these destinations.

**TAXES**

Three of the five states – Florida, Texas, and Washington – don't tax residents' income, which is an obvious draw for people whose earnings may decrease significantly in retirement. While many states don't tax Social Security benefits, these three won't tax investment income or 401(k) distributions. New Jersey enables retirees to shield up to \$100,000 from state income taxes and offers property-tax relief programs for seniors and people with disabilities.

**CLIMATE + ENVIRONMENT**

Washington has a relatively high cost of living. Still, it boasts some of the country's leading healthcare systems, a strong economy, scenic diversity, and various recreational activities.

While Florida has long been known for its affordability, its cost-of-living index has steadily increased as more people flock to its warm climate and white-sand beaches—including younger people who, thanks to remote working, can live in their chosen environment. South Carolina and Texas offer miles of beachfront and mild temperatures but with a significantly lower cost of living.

**HOUSING COSTS**

Financial concerns were less of a factor in retiree moves in 2023 than the year before. Just 6% of retirees reported moving to find more affordable housing, down from 12% in 2022. This makes sense, considering the median household income of retirees who relocated last year was \$88,347 – 35% higher than in 2022 and 17% higher than that of the typical U.S. household.

If you're considering moving for retirement, consider talking to your financial, legal, and tax advisors about the most essential factors and develop a plan. Each state has different laws and regulations regarding moving. Research your new state, including state income and estate taxes, driver's licenses, vehicle registration, and business licenses, if applicable.

Sources: HireAHelper.com, Worldpopulationreview.com, AARP.com

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Suzanne Hazlett, MBA, CIMA®, CFP® is the founder of Hazlett Wealth Management, LLC.

## INSPIRATIONS FROM MY HEART

DOVE

# What If We Have It Backwards

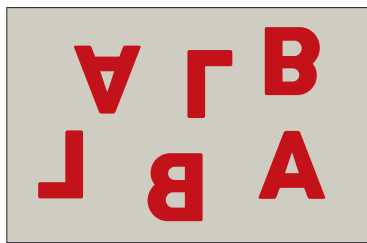
BY DOVE

What if we have been thinking that the Earth is our mother, and we are children of the Earth? What if it were the opposite? What if the truth is we are the creators of this experience, and the Earth is our creation, our child of creation. How would we treat that child? If you are a parent and love your child, you would do anything to protect that child from any sort of abuse. You would make sure the child was protected, cherished and provided for, with enough food to eat, shelter, clothing and stimulation. You would not think of harming that child in any way, but you would give it boundaries, responsibility, and education, self-worth and skills to give confidence. You would not leave that child on its own until it was old enough to understand how to take care of itself. You would provide humor, laughter, connection, companionship and independence so that the child grew confident and strong.

Are we doing this for Earth as our child or are we raping her resources for that sake of more material gain. Do we pollute her body by creating things that cannot be disposed of in a non-toxic way. You would not dream of putting poison in the body of a child you loved, nor would you excavate and drain all the nutrients your child needs. It is past time to become conscious that the Earth, a child of our creation, is a living being and growing up and if we are abusing parents then the child will no longer want our presence in its life.

How do we change from being an abusive parent to one who cherishes and supports that child that Earth is? Can we stop and embrace all the beauty that Mother Earth (Nature) provides for us? Can we embrace the intelligence and creativity of the Earth itself? Music alone is a magnificent place of joy. Art fulfills our imagination and originality brings wonder to our minds. Can we all become better parents to the child called Earth before we have done so much damage that we will not be cherished by our child.

Source gave us the ability to create, to imagine and all the resources to create amazing new tools with the Earth as the center. Now is the time to protect this child rather than deplete this gift of life. Become conscious of the gifts of Earth and use them with kindness, awareness, and gratitude for all the support. Let us love Earth as the blessed child of creation. Do unto Earth as you would want done unto yourself, the body that you are. Much love, Dove



## ON LIFE'S TERMS

JOELLEN COLLINS

# The Prairie?

BY JOELLEN COLLINS

I returned from my recent trip to Oklahoma for a reunion of some cousins from my "other life" with a slightly different version of myself. As I left the members of yet another found family, I heard calls of "Don't forget you need to add our last name to what you already have." "You are a Frazier and will always be, a true prairie woman." I have considered myself a westerner, born in Berkeley and spending half of my life in California and the other half in Idaho. How, indeed, could I be someone from the prairies?

As I sat down to breakfast with some of my cousins, I giggled at the main entrée on the table, biscuits and gravy. I joked about not usually enjoying this particular breakfast, and we all laughed. I shared this kind of delight a lot during this weekend reunion, meeting many of over 30 people who are cousins from my biological father's family, raised, for the most part, in a small Texas town near the Oklahoma panhandle. They welcomed me immediately, as did another man, some 16 years younger than I, who was also fathered by our mutual dad, Markley Frazier. Now I can claim two half-brothers, a kind of miracle at this time of my life.

Many acquaintances know the now-too-familiar story of my journey locating, being accepted by, and sharing mutual love with my birth mother's son (10 years younger than I), who waited a long time to know about my existence but immediately took me in their arms. They live in Oklahoma City but never knew any of my paternal relatives.

In essence, if I had not been adopted in Berkeley, California, where my birth mother was sent to have and then give me up for adoption, I would really have been a "prairie girl." The concept of nurture versus nature is worth contemplating as I envision my two different personal histories, one real, one imagined. For example, many of my cousins have been teachers and civil servants, have good senses of humor, enjoy young people, and love to talk. Hmmm.

One odd coincidence is that I have felt an instinctive fascination with the lifestyles, challenges, and courage of those who settled in the prairies. Silly as it sounds, "Oklahoma" was my favorite musical, and over the years I read many accounts of what it must have been like for a woman whose life was often spent in remote and challenging locations without easy access to other women friends. I even wrote a book about it before I found the first of my two new brothers.

In short, I have once again spent some time thinking about any part of my story that would reflect my genetic components. All I really can conclude, at this time, is that I have shared much laughter and kindness in ways I would not have imagined in the life I have actually lived. What great fortune!



Joellen Collins—a longtime resident of the Wood River Valley, now residing in San Francisco—is an Idaho Press Club award-winning columnist, a teacher, novelist, fabric artist, choir member and proud grandma.

## WRANGLER'S WRITINGS

BRYCE ANGELL

# Crooked Fences

Every year, each spring, my job was stretching up barbed wire. And every year I'd dream that we could put it up for hire.

I like to call it stretching wire but it's really fixing fence. And we never bought new posts and wire. Wouldn't meet the farm expense.

The worn, and rusty, coarse barbed wire would break with every bend. So, we stitched the wire right from the start until the very end.

One day I mustered courage. Said, "It's time to buy new fence. It's like patching up Methuselah. It don't make a lot of sense."

My father always listened. He gave credence to what I'd say. But never did I dream he'd buy new fencing on that day.

So he drove our '69 Cornbinder, two-ton flatbed truck to Cal Ranch for new posts and wire, I guess to my good luck.

That night I dreamed of fixing fence with not an end in sight. When my sleep was interrupted barely 6 o'clock daylight.

My father hollered loud enough to soundly wake the dead. "It's time to get a movin' because people die in bed."

I'd heard him yell a thousand times 'bout people, death and bed. That was our morning ritual before we all got fed.

He said, "We've got some work to do up by the north-end gate. But I need to be away in town, so build the fences straight."

My dad was kinda fussy 'bout his fences straight in line. He said, "The fence that's crooked sure ain't no fence of mine."

Back then we had no auger that would drill a fence posthole. You used a bar and shovel, kept your cussing in control.

That day I dug near twenty posts but held back all my brag. 'Cuz looking down the fence my posts were planted in zig zag.

Well, sure enough, my father said, "Your posts have character. Were they drunk or did they suffer from a genuine hangover?"

His laughter was contagious and thank heaven he weren't mad. He never showed his anger. He was that kind of Dad.

And then the twenty posts were pulled along with all my pride. But my father helped replant 'em. He was right there by my side.

So then I wore new glasses. They were bound to be my fate. But they didn't solve the problem 'cuz my fence line still weren't straight.

— Bryce Angell



Bryce Angell - The outdoors has always been a large part of my life. My father was an outfitter and guide for 35 years and I was there to shoe and care for the horses and help him do the cooking. We took many great trips into the Yellowstone area. Even now that I'm older, we still ride into the Tetons, Yellowstone and surrounding areas. My poems are mostly of personal experience. I am now retired and enjoying life to the fullest. I plan to do more riding and writing.

NUUESTRA VOZ CUENTA

# Father's Day Family Time!

BY: HERBERT ROMERO

### OUR VOICE COUNTS

Hola, hope all of you had a fun and warmth time with all the Special fathers, step dads & grandfather's. I know that we had a Happy Father's Day @ Sun Tree Hallow Mobile Homes. We took time to celebrate and acknowledge them. Father's, families & friends joined us, breaking bread, having meaningful conversations, children having a splash in the Bouncy House and delicious food. This is our 4th year doing this wonderful event. Our Father's are amazing and key to our community and family's. Father's. We are truly thankful for St. Thomas Episcopal Church, Kiwanis Club, H Property Service, Heather Wesley, Manny bouncy house and most of all Neighbors Helping Neighbors/ The Crisis Hotline for their support and commitment to our Fathers!



Photo credit: Marycruz Romero

### NUUESTRA VOZ CUENTA

Hola, espero que todos hayan pasado un momento divertido y cálido con todos los padres, padrastros y abuelos especiales. Sé que tuvimos un feliz día del padre en Sun Tree Hallow Mobile Homes. Nos tomamos el tiempo para celebrarlos y reconocerlos. Padres, familiares y amigos se unieron a nosotros, partieron el pan, tuvieron conversaciones significativas, los niños se dieron un chapuzón en la casa inflable y disfrutaron de comida deliciosa. Este es nuestro cuarto año realizando este maravilloso evento. Los de nuestro Padre son asombrosos y clave para nuestra comunidad y familia. Del padre. Estamos realmente agradecidos a la Iglesia Episcopal de St. Thomas, al Club Kiwanis, a H Property Service, a Heather Wesley, a la casa inflable Manny y, sobre todo, a Neighbors Helping Neighbors/The Crisis Hotline por su apoyo y compromiso con nuestro Padre.

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### WEEED OF THE WEEK BLAINE BUG CREW

# All About Spurge

BY: BLAINE BUG CREW

This week's noxious weed spotlight falls on leafy spurge. Although this weed does not have a strong presence in Blaine County yet, it is a constant problem one county to the west, in Camas.

This plant contains a "milk" in its stem much like milkweed. Be sure not to get this substance in your eyes because it will cause eye damage. Blaine County residents need to be able to recognize this plant so it can be eradicated quickly before it can get a foothold in our county.

Leafy spurge is a deep-rooted, aggressive, persistent perennial that reproduces vegetatively and by seed. Plants have an extensive root system, which grows horizontally and is capable of reaching depths up to 20 feet. Stems are thick clustered and have narrow, alternate leaves which exude a milky latex when damaged. The flowers are small and yellowish-green and are enclosed in showy yellow-green bracts. Seeds are oblong and occur in clusters of three. When the seeds are dry, the capsules shatter and spread the seeds as far as 15 feet from the plant. Leafy spurge is commonly found in grassland and rangeland habitats, but is also capable of invading forest and riparian areas, displacing native vegetation. Leafy spurge has an insect predator.

Adult *Oberia erythrocephala* have red heads, black eyes, and slender bodies with antennae that are nearly as long as the body. Males emerge several days before females and both sexes are sexually immature for two weeks before they start mating. Females often gridle the upper part of the stem, gnaw a hole into the stem above the girdle, and deposit an egg into the hole. From the end of June to mid-July, each female can produce approximately 60 eggs during her lifetime. Larvae hatch 10 days after eggs are laid and feed in leafy spurge stems on the pith, tunneling downward to the root crown where they remain during the winter. Mined stems dry, wilt and do not produce flowers or seeds. Crown and root feeding reduces the plant's root reserves and allows pathogenic fungi to enter infested leafy spurge roots. OBER prefers moist areas with trees and can survive subfreezing winter temperatures. Some research suggests that this agent may be biotype-specific—only attacking certain biotypes of leafy spurge.

Vigilance is the key to controlling any noxious weed. If you happen upon an infestation of this weed on your property, pull it immediately. If it is public land, be sure to call Morgan Baird at the Blaine County Weed Department at (208) 788-5543.



Euphorbia esula, commonly known as green spurge or leafy spurge. Photo credit: Kristian Peters - CC BY-SA 3.0

BETTER HOMEOWNERS NEWS

ANNA AND MICHELLE



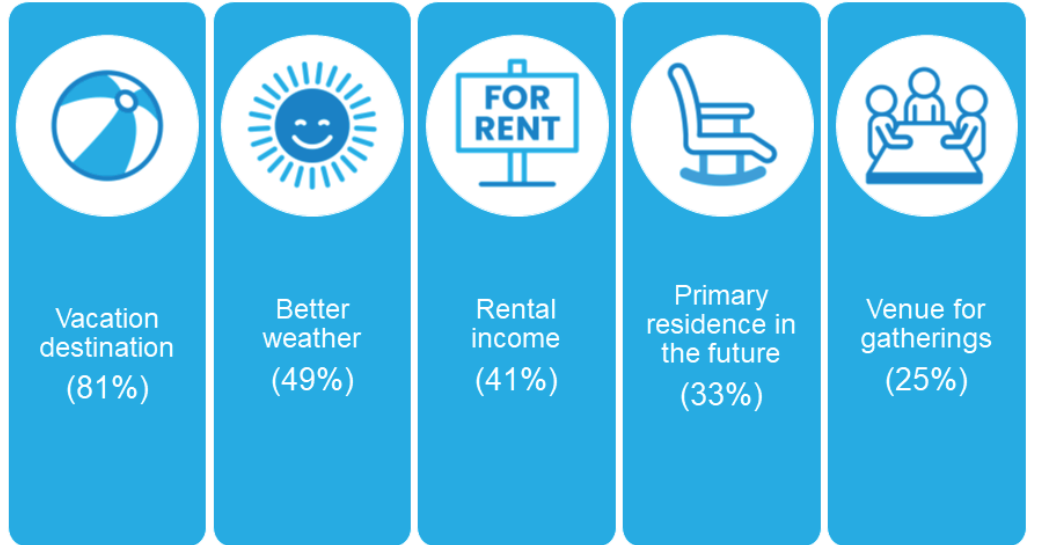
# Why a Vacation Home Is the Ultimate Summer Upgrade

BY ANNA & MICHELLE

Summer is officially here and that means it's the perfect time to start planning where you want to vacation and unwind this season. If you're excited about getting away and having some fun in the sun, it might make sense to consider if owning your own vacation home is right for you.

An Ameriprise Financial survey sheds light on why people buy a second, or vacation, home (see below):

### Primary Use for Second Homes



- **Vacation destination or a place to get away from the stresses of everyday life (81%)** – Having a second home to use as a vacation spot can be a special place where you go to relax and take a break from your daily routines and stressors. It also means you won't have to worry about finding somewhere to stay when you go there.
- **Better weather (49%)** – Buying in a place where there may be nicer weather can be a great escape, especially if it's cold or rainy where you usually live. It lets you enjoy sunny days and warm temperatures, even when it's not so nice back home.
- **Rental income (41%)** – You can rent it out to other people when you're not using it, which can help you make some extra money.
- **Primary residence in the future (33%)** – You can eventually move into the home full-time during retirement. That means you can enjoy vacations there now and have a getaway ready for your future.
- **Having a venue for gatherings with family and friends (25%)** – It would be a special spot where you can have parties, regular family trips, and create fun memories.

### Ways To Buy Your Vacation Home

And you don't have to be wealthy to buy a vacation home. Bankrate shares two tips for how to make this dream more achievable for anyone who's interested:

- **Buy with loved ones or friends:** If you're okay with sharing the vacation home, you can go in on the purchase price together and pool your resources to make it more affordable.
- **Put a savings plan in place:** This will require patience and persistence but consider adding a vacation home savings plan to your budget and contributing to it monthly.

### Finding Your Dream Spot with a Little Help from an Agent

If the idea of basking in the sun at your very own vacation home sounds appealing, you might want to start looking now. Summer's when everyone's trying to buy their slice of paradise, so it's best to start early.

Your first move is to team up with a real estate agent. They know all the ins and outs of the area you want to be in, and which homes you should look at. Plus, they can give you the lowdown on everything you need to know about having a second home and how it can benefit you. The same article from Bankrate says:

*"Buying real estate in a new area — or even one you've vacationed in for many years — requires expert guidance. That makes it a good idea to work with an experienced local lender who specializes in loans for vacation homes and a local real estate professional. Local lenders and Realtors will understand the required rules and specifics for the area you are buying, and a local Realtor will know what properties are available."*

### Bottom Line

If the idea of owning your own vacation home appeals to you, let's chat.

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## CROSSWORD

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DATE	ABIDE	DREAM	MERE
ALES	LAPEL	IONIA	OVER
MOSQUITOES	ELIMANNING		
SETUPS	DRESSED	OGLES	
IOTA	HEX	DODO	
SCORN	TYDBOL	HOMELAND	
TAPE	TEAURN	KILNS	VOW
AMP	FRANKIE	VALLI	DOLE
REO	LATKES	ILLS	CECIL
TORNADOS	OBEY	RAFAEL	
TOKEN	DOWEL	MIRE	
ABUSED	RAGE	MADEROOM	
MANES	DOUR	GEORGE	HAI
IBIS	RUBBERNECKER	ASS	
GAS	DOSES	HUGHES	SNIT
ARMRESTS	YESSIR	SUDSY	
EBAY	MET	SOON	
MACAU	MONTANA	PAROLE	
IRRIGATION	COMPARISON		
LEAR	BELLE	TAMER	SLID
LABS	STEAD	SHORT	EONS

## SUDOKU

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3	5	9	2	7	1	8	6	4
2	1	6	5	8	4	7	3	9
8	4	7	3	6	9	1	2	5
6	7	1	9	2	5	4	8	3
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5	8	3	6	4	7	9	1	2
1	2	4	8	5	3	6	9	7
9	6	5	7	1	2	3	4	8
7	3	8	4	9	6	2	5	1



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## Silver Stackers

Continued from Page 7



Omen's Bird in Box 3ozt. Photo credit: Reid Omen

a lot of time to devote to it. So I got into silver collecting as a way to store value and I kinda got into the artistic side with collecting. I don't really want to just be a flipper [precious metals dealer]. You know, I see beauty in the art that's not being expressed. So I started buying tools and I have a big ol' garage that's good for projects like that and eventually my wife and I swapped, I went back to IT and in my spare time I had a bit more time to work on the hobby. That recipe made it possible for me to do it here and there and as things took off, well, I do it everyday now."

Omen's work is almost supernaturally profound with sublime mythological themes, traditional Norse iconography and a core, ethereal, focus on owls. "I first bought gold when it was \$1287 an ounce. In my son's lifetime it's gone from that to \$2300. So I really focused and started off collecting silver with a lot of the basic stuff [American Eagles, Constitutional], I went into the rare vintage, went away from government bullion and started looking for art, specifically owl pieces, and I got some cool pieces but owls are something I connect to spiritually and I didn't see a whole lot out there. That led me to finding the theme that I wanted to bring into silver – nature and owls." Omen speaks with a practical confidence and the deep spiritual lived awareness of a father. Less a businessman than a working artist, his work is unlike any other demanding to be seen and held, owned and displayed. His work showcases the energy and dedication of hours of toning and hand hammering. They're a site to behold.

So why silver? "I think it's a very obtainable asset for the common man, for how powerful a commodity it is and how you can hedge your futures with it, essentially, so it has a lot of leverage in its accessibility. You don't have to be working with fractional gold to get into precious metals." Is the price of silver going to skyrocket with electric vehicles and technology? "I think we're in a heyday with where spot [the price of silver per ounce as traded] is right now considering where it should be and where the economy is right now. I think the biggest turning point is going to be the pivot to the digital dollar."

"The Central Bank Digital Currency is en route. With Bitcoin and cryptocurrency in general being the preparation for a full scale digital currency revolution we can only wait to see how the American people will react. Some are saying silver, others gold and a few precious gems will be a way to have currency you can see, feel, hold and trust is real as confidence fades in derivatives backed fiat. When credit and debit cards came out many parents put them in the freezer in ice to be broken open "only in emergency". Now, CBDCs, fully trackable and traceable units of programmable currency [expiration dates, limits on what can be bought] that exist as an electronic reading on a digital medium relying purely on electricity to tally and transfer? It's a big ask but we shall see.

"A normal person's experience with precious metals is usually with jewelry and even buying a basic piece of sterling jewelry, the markup is like 4x the price of materials, usually, and in our industry we're rarely even charging 2x of what spot is. I think this speaks a lot to bringing back jobs to America and the concept of real money to a society that's lost it. That's pouring, doing it. Being able to push this stuff that's less than 2x the value of the metal including labor with an American maker, handmade, there's so many layers to it and I think we're in the heyday of silver making. I love it right now and can't get more hyped about this industry."

## Viking Family Foundry



Viking Family Foundry 10 oz silver bar. Photo credit: Jordan VFF

Jordan (last name withheld), also known online as Viking Dad, is embedded in the social media community of precious metals trading. He's well known for helping people into precious metals and not simply dealing but deeply coaching and discerning what exactly the entrant is hoping to accomplish: store of value, community, bartering, stacking for future generations. He makes a huge point of saying "Look this is not a get rich quick scheme, try not to think of it as an investment. It's a store of value." Jordan is philosophical to the core and speaks almost like a spiritual guide with an extremely centered moral compass, ethical even in the words he chooses.

Jordan is a banker by trade but a stacker and creator by nature. His wife had been heavily into crypto and they were watching the ways in which these digital investments worked, who they went through and how and what it took to liquidate, when and it dawned on them that there was something immoral about cryptocurrency. Going through the layers of transactions trading Bitcoin for Circle, then Circle to Fiat, [for example] there were so many layers and maneuvers that begged the question of what are we doing and why and for who? All this hoop jumping with digital transactions, tracked and traced was a hurdle that seemed to be more about control and began to not make much sense as far as clearing the investment and being a part of that niche, wanton community.

He speaks of the structure and strictures of the finance industry and the degree to which people have the freedom to trade as they wish and for what value means to them. "What access do you really have to this thing [digital currency]? So that was in 2019 and we talked and so it became my wife saying 'Let's liquidate, I'm going to buy Silver Eagles'. It took three months to fill our order. I looked at it, and we overpaid for one and for two, we were out for three months with no dough and no metal, so I took over and went down the rabbit hole. The most helpful people were the old guys who owned coin shops in every little town around. They had some lack of trust, in general, they'd lived through Nixon and being taken off the gold standard."

Making a switch to precious metals, Jordan's deep dive led him to the pouring community somewhat by accident. "This became, you know, there are already people in our community that are worth building community with." And community is precisely what all of this is about. What's more community-centric than being able to agree with your neighbor to trade things that have intrinsic value to the both of you?

"I went to the coin store every single week and absorbed as much as I could. But I also met people who would do framing or electrical or plumbing or auto work in exchange for metals. That was probably more important to me than the informational side. It's all academic unless we're going to do something about it. The

community part became – someone who could help me with something and 'oh great do you take metal?', and that became something I ask all the time. It was a lot more open in the blue collar trades than the white collar which is a bit of a wrinkle, but still, you know, going from my financial education and securities licenses and all that to seeing an overlay, seeing what has happened with metals as a tool for finance over the years - It was an awakening.

"There's all this chatter with BRICS and failing bonds and digital currency and everything, however I think people have had a readiness around metals. But it's only going to be worthwhile as a tool provided people are going to use it. If you take spot away, metals are only going to be what a private contract between two parties is worth. If you and I think that two 1oz coins of silver are worth two chickens it has nothing to do with anyone else and neither of us are setting the market for the greater economy of the US or the world. It's irrelevant. Gold and silver is a tool, it's been used as a currency in nearly every single civilization of mankind. You can even eat small amounts of it." Jordan laughs.

"It's always been a good store of value. I try to educate people to have the realization that this tool can be used for a purpose and if so I should know what all the purposes are and how I can save it for my family. We have to do all of that leg work, to build community and really think how you can save it and how might you go about using it and with whom. Those are the building blocks of the conversations I'm having with anyone who is referred to me."

Jordan is the go-to guy for entering precious metals. He will dig deep in what it is you're trying to do and help you understand what your possibilities are. "You have a thing that has value but be really careful if you say it's an investment. The people who want to go out and get rich or make dough, I put a big pause on how I advise there. We have ways for people to start, I put some guardrails on us as a family and how we use it. For us as a family of four, a 1/10 gold piece is around the price of a week's groceries. From a security perspective putting a bunch of bars in a safe somewhere, it's just not useful. It was definitely an awakening of morality in the last couple of years [since the crypto changeover]. I never thought I'd have this, well, it's not a side hustle, it's more of a mission. We don't really make any money. It's about what we can do as a family and what we can do for someone who is trying to do for themselves. This may be beneficial to you, it's been beneficial to every other civilization in the world so if you want, here's some info. To be helpful however we can be helpful to people is the mission."

Jordan is approached or referred people every month "Roughly 9 out of ten people approach who I don't know. I do know that if there's that many people reaching out and saying hey, I don't know you, you don't know me but someone said something about you and I trust that person. I have to argue that it's divine. I don't advertise, I don't pay for people to come to us. It's just been a service that started literally out of a garage as an opportunity to help people and it was you know my mom telling her friend who told someone else. It came from my wife's revelation and became: if anyone needs this help we can do it and it all snowballed in, I don't know, two years? And now I'm dealing with people, the vast majority of whom I've never met in person."

The magic of these communities on social media comes from a place of divinity and the central concept of community itself. How do you learn to trust a stranger online? "The internet became reality. It's kind of a joke but it's kind of true." Jordan puts out a family coin, the logo was created by his wife, that stands for his mission - The Viking Family Foundry. He reached out to pourers in the community and had a die struck to build this token as a symbol of family and morality. It was a stranger at the time, even, who started him out. "I didn't know Bunker Bullion at all", [Bunker presses Jordan's 1, 2, 4, and 7 oz buttons with his wife's logo] but they are in short supply.

"The whole pouring thing then became like, Omen reached out and said I want to do something together if you ever want to, I like the Viking stuff, it's part of my heritage.' You know, one of the first things we did together was a double sided shield you could stack, it had runes on the front and had a wooden presentation box and it was just incredible. Omen made that and I thought it was awesome. He started advertising it and he was relatively new and that brought a bit of a following. The next thing we did was the axe. [A highly decorated 1oz Viking style axe] We put that out and it blew up and became oh can we make a bigger one. Someone asked for a kilo version, for a ten ounce, and the asks just came rolling in for people who wanted to save in that way."

Omen and Viking have a longstanding relationship of collaboration. Viking handles the passion for the educational and business side while Omen handles the pure artistry and passion for creation. "Again, it was

Continued  
GOLD BUGS  
Next Page

## Gold Bugs

*Continued from Previous Page*

not even meeting someone in person, it was community". There's a spiritual dimension to everything they do. It's about helping people and celebrating the somewhat unexplored art of metals pouring for the modern era.

Why do people want to save through silver? It's simple and so easy to understand.

### Sound Money Coins and Collectibles

Justin (last name withheld) runs Sound Money Coins and Collectibles in Irving, Texas. A friend of Omen and Viking Dad through the online community, Justin is a dealer and collector. He's a Goldback, silver and gold dealer by trade. "Over the long term you're not gonna lose. It's been weird the last couple of months, though, generic Eagles, Maples, Philharmonics, like the lower premium government stuff are harder to sell right now because of where spot is. It's easier to sell collectibles, Libertads the stuff that's like 50-60\$, that stuff's easier for people to swallow for some reason compared to spending 31\$ for a generic Buffalo round.

"Silver is the only commodity in the world that has not hit an all time high since 1980. The market cap for silver is so low, globally, nobody cares about it because it's such a small market. If it had a market cap like mortgage backed securities, if JPMorgan was manipulating that market the SEC is not gonna fine them a half percent, slap them on the wrist and let them go there'd be serious repercussions but it's such a small market nobody really cares. Also you go back to gold confiscation in '33. Everybody had gold and silver because that was our money. It's not gonna happen again because nobody has it now. Maybe 4-5% of Americans have gold and silver.

Justin got into silver, again, through an elder. "I got into it because an old timer sat us down and told us what you can buy for a quarter in the '50's, if you had a silver quarter now and sold it you could literally, dollar for dollar, buy the exact same thing. That always stuck with me."

Justin runs a brick and mortar. "I got into the silver and gold community on Instagram and it was kinda by accident. I bought a bar on Facebook and he told me 'if you're into this kinda stuff you should check out my Instagram page. I did and then kinda figured out who everybody was and I started doing photomats. I would print people's logos on mouse pads so when they're selling their metals their logo is in the background [as a watermark for their pictures]. I'd go live with Pit Bullion [famous dealer] when he was doing lives everyday so everybody knew me. I'd sell a little bit but I was never really a seller."

Justin was laid off and he had become friends with the elderly owners of a coin shop. During the pandemic, they were the only ones open so he spent a lot of time there. The couple related to him sadly that the shop was to be converted into a bar and "I kind of joked 'Why don't I turn this into a coin shop?' The old couple got on the phone! That was on Friday by next Friday I signed my lease and four weeks later I had a coin shop. Justin is heavily involved in the online community and speaks with passion about using silver. "There's restaurants in DFW that accept silver. You can literally buy your dinner with it."

But what about the art pieces? "I have a rule now that about 80% of my silver budget is for the normal stuff, as close to spot as I can get, and the other 20% I buy whatever I think looks cool. That's one of the stigmas with metals. You keep them in a safe and you don't put a 10oz bar on your kitchen counter so I buy things that look cool for whatever room I think it would work in."

Justin doesn't pour. "I burnt my house, man, I'm clumsy" he laughs. Self-deprecating but only a bit, he carries the knowledge and wisdom of 24 years of precious metals experience. Justin does, however, do collabs with different pour artists – Omen included – to create pieces he likes.

There's a growing interest in having objets d'art that has boosted this online community into a growing medium for double edged art. You have a beautiful, intrinsically valuable precious metal as a store of value that also benefits from a premium value of the art itself. How do you appreciate a painting? A sculpture? The art market has its own metrics but with a baseline of precious metal, just like jewelry, pouring has become a discipline of its own.

### Hayleybug Mint

Jay Jeffreys started the eponymously named Hayleybug Mint along with his daughter Hayley. It has become a full time family business, once again literally with beginnings in a garage, the Jeffreys now run their mint full time. How does one go from pouring a few art rounds to becoming a full fledged mint? First, you have to look at the gorgeous pieces they present, second you have to know about Jeffrey's inventions. But again, so-



Hayleybug Mint's Those Were The Days 50zt round. Photo credit: Jay Jeffreys

cial media is the soap box and silver lemonade stand all in one – pure community fabrication within the online precious metals community.

Upon exposure to the quality of work you immediately notice a quality that outshines even giant government mints and it was Jay Jeffreys himself who twisted his hobby into a career. "I got into this by accident. It started as a hobby, became a brand, the brand blew up and I left a job I was at for 22 years. We kinda started where everybody starts. I was melting my first bar in 2019, kind of just playing around and my daughter came into the garage and asked what I was doing 'I'm melting silver' and she asked 'Can I do it?' I said absolutely! I put her in protective gear, showed her how to work the torch and guided her through melting the second piece we've ever melted. She was just ecstatic about it. We bought some stamps and kinda started selling on Facebook. It was a lot of fun, she made some pieces, I made some, we started going live together and doing auctions in Facebook groups and the demand was there for handmade silver." Ok, but if you look at their pieces, they aren't just graphite mold or sand casting pours. How did they achieve the finish?

I have a background in heavy equipment maintenance and I kinda used all the stuff I went to college for, mechanics, electronics, hydraulics, physics and I invented a 100 ton tabletop press. Something that would normally cost \$50-60,000 I was able to build for less than \$1200 so we were able to start minting and selling rounds. Then I designed and built a 200 ton tabletop press and we were able to make proof like rounds and various pressed items. It became apparent we were going beyond art pours." They started as Hayleybug Art Pours but after their abilities did a high jump, through Jeffrey's inventions, it was clear they were now a mint. The name became Hayleybug Mint in 2021.

Since the brand took off they no longer even use the presses. They've upgraded to the same brands and quality minting manufacturing equipment that all the world's major mints use. The Jeffreys work with online artists. "I try to work with a new artist for every new piece. I don't design the art, I leave that to the professionals. I come up with a concept, they create it and we license the art." It's pure community cooperation and collaboration. "We do hand pours, cast pours and investment casting, and they're hand packed in packaging we design, we do it all. Packaging has become a big part as the collectibles market has really taken off and that includes the packaging. We've worked really hard to design our own collectible packaging."

I don't totally buy into the thing about prices being



HayleyBug Mint's painted loafs 1oz. Photo credit: Jay Jeffreys

manipulated, I don't predict the market prices.. I just like to make cool stuff for cool people! I say buy what you like as often as you like! When you no longer want to buy it then don't." Jeffrey's perspective is that of a pure artist and entertainer. He speaks with infectious enthusiasm about simply enjoying life doing what you want and are called to do.

think there's room for everyone. There's a famine mentality that circulates in the community every once in a while, when someone sees somebody else buying 'oh they're not buying from me' but I think if you're just true to the art and what your goals are, the buyers outnumber the sellers. I encourage it. One of the things we did early on we'd aim the camera directly at the work area and actually gave tutorials three to four times a week on sand casting. This encouraged a lot of folks to get involved."

The theme of family and community accents every discussion about these artists. The community, the social media aspect and the core values of family and helping others. "We've been a family business and continue. My son Jacob came on with us, full time, when he graduated high school just over a year ago. Hayley is still in high school with a friend group to maintain so it's like 'Dad I need some money for clothes' and I'm like ok, get to work. My wife, Tina, has a lot of input on the designs and making sure we maintain the "Peace, Love and Hayleybug" mantra. We have a lot of fun doing it."

They do limited mintage and art pours but the quality is of a professional world class mint. These pieces sell out almost as soon as they're announced, the auctions are a wildly fun event and Hayleybug is much sought after for their live streams. They also do custom minted projects once a week for companies across the US.

Social media is a great place to find anything and everything you're looking for in the silver bullion and stacking collectibles world. If you visit Hayleybugmint.com, here's a shameless plug, we've got a diverse range of stacking products to collectibles in a variety of competitive premiums."

Once again the concept of trust and vetting people online is a concern. "There is a percentage of the people out there who are fake and do scam but they're not a part of the community. What makes the social media buying experience good and safe is that it's a community and this community looks out for each other. It can be a bunch of strangers, all you have to do is ask for references, simply asking for references is the best way to protect yourself. Word of mouth and buying from people that others have trusted and also asking questions like what is the seller's shipping policy, their lost packages policy, don't be afraid to ask questions. If any seller out there is not able to define what their shipping or lost packages policies are then maybe they're not ready to sell."

Jay and family at Hayleybug go live, big, on Wednesdays and generally do two lives a day on WhatNot and Instagram. Enjoy the photos and consider the artistry - chat jewelry and history with Barry, pouring with Jay or Omen, talk in depth with Viking about Goldbacks, pick Justin's brilliant mind on the future of finance. It's a wild new industry - jewelry-adjacent – and a unique blend of finance and art. The pieces here speak for themselves. They're intense conversation starters and as a community minded person, knowing there's trusted, friendly, happy communities doing cool things online is value in and of itself.

### Goldbacks

If you haven't heard of Goldbacks, they're fractional gold laminated with fine art in sleeves with denominations. They make it very easy to hold actual gold and use it in a familiar way. There are curiosities with how they're made through nano-deposition of gold and the premium that is attached but many states are supporting them and most people will trade with them. It offers a sound money, gold backed currency where there currently isn't one. They are somewhat controversial and they're also artistically marvelous. An interesting fact is they're created by a corporation that has patents and does all the craftsmanship with nano-deposition of gold and sanctioned by each state that has them so far, Utah, Wyoming, Nevada, New Hampshire and South Dakota with more to come each year.

For any questions about the work expressed here and for further information contact:

- Barry Peterson Fine Jewelry at (208)726-5202 or <https://barrypeterson.com>
- Omen Precious Metals - Instagram
- Viking Dad - Instagram
- Sound Money Coins and Collectibles - Instagram
- Hayleybug Mint - Hayleybugmint.com

Please send any questions or comments about precious metals as well as this, or any article written by Isaiah, to: [Isaiah@woodriverweekly.com](mailto:Isaiah@woodriverweekly.com)

CHAMBER CORNER

MIKE MCKENNA

# 2024 Fourth of July Parade Grand Marshals

## Honoring 100 years at the Grange

BY MIKE MCKENNA

“Home, home on the grange ...” That’s not exactly how the famous song goes, but perhaps it should. The Upper Big Wood River Grange is celebrating its 100th anniversary this year and the small, tan building in Old Hailey has been like a second home to local folks for a century.

“To me, the Grange means community,” said Manon Gaudreau, an officer for the Grange. “Grange people are very welcoming and caring. Helping people realize they belong to such a kind and caring community is what the Grange is really all about.”

Founded on Feb. 11, 1924, the Upper Big Wood River Grange #192 was actually the third “Grange” in Blaine County. Carey and Gannett also had

chapters of the national organization. Granges were created in 1867 as community-based organizations to help connect people in rural areas and make positive changes through grassroots efforts. Granges have long been an advocacy voice for rural communities and gathering places for all kinds of events that make places like Hailey feel like home.

“Grangers,” as their members were called in the Idaho Statesman in 1926, have always been about supporting families and communities and putting on events to bring them all together — like the “Mustache and Nightcap Dance” the Statesman was covering back then.

“It’s such a wonderful place for people to get together and have a good time,” Maryann Knight said.

Maryann, who’s also a member of the Heritage Court, has been involved with the Grange for most of her life. She’s watched the volunteer-based organization evolve from being primarily agriculturally-focused, back when “Woodside was all farms and there were sheep and cattle on every corner,” as she recalls, to becoming more of a community service group.

Over the decades at its South 3rd Avenue location, the Grange has hosted countless dances, tai chi classes, and box and ice cream socials. It has been home to Cub Scouts and ballerinas, 4-H and veterans groups, and the Wood River Seed Library. It has hosted family gatherings, Business After Hours, Farmers’ Markets and Trailing of the Sheep classes. The Grange also gives scholarships to local graduating high school students,



while adding community and pollinator gardens are in the plans.

“It’s important to have a space like this in the community. We don’t want to let go of it,” said Maryann, who is credited with keeping the Grange going strong for so many years.

In honor of its centennial and its invaluable and often-overlooked role in Hailey, the Grange has been selected as the Grand Marshal for this year’s Hailey Days of the Old West Fourth of July Parade. Members of the Grange expected to be in the parade include Joan Davies, Grace Eakin, Julie Fox, Manon Gaudreau, Maryann Knight and Hilarie Neely.

The Grange is a fitting Grand Marshal since it’s always been about building and supporting our community, helping make sure this part of the Northern Rockies range feels like home to so many of us. The Grange is the kind of place “where seldom is heard a discouraging word and the skies are not cloudy all day.”

Find out more at [TheGrange.org/UpperBigWoodRiverId192](http://TheGrange.org/UpperBigWoodRiverId192).



### How To Play Sudoku

The Classic Sudoku is a number placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once.

### CLASSIC SUDOKU

See answer on page 15

			2					6
2	1						7	
8			3	6			1	5
	7			2			4	3
	9							7
5		3		4				1
1		4		5	3			7
		5						4
	3					6		

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**The Newsday Crossword**  
Edited by Stanley Newman (www.StanXwords.com)  
**URBAN PLANNING: A capital idea**  
by Gary M. Larson

**ACROSS**

1 Palm tree fruit	70 Opened up space (for)	7 Apple music player
5 Put up with	73 Shaggy locks	8 Forest grazer
10 Idealistic wish	74 Gloomy	9 Alternatively
15 Insignificant	75 Prince William's eldest	10 Big rig's fuel
19 British brews	77 Osaka "OK"	11 Luxury watch brand
20 Sportcoat flap	78 Hieroglyphics bird	12 Oklahoma city
21 Region of ancient Turkey	79 Too-snoopy one [EUROPE]	13 Desired result
22 Hovering above	81 Stubborn equine	14 Goat call
23 Winged biters [SOUTH AMERICA]	82 Metered utility	15 Genghis Khan, for one
25 2012 Super Bowl MVP [DITTO]	83 Medication specs	16 Diabolical
27 Preparations	84 Harlem Renaissance poet	17 Russo of films
28 Ready to go out	85 Huffly state	18 Measures of work
30 Stares at	86 Plane seat separators	24 Fully aware of
31 Minute amount	88 Soldier's assent	26 Central points
33 Place a curse on	89 Lather-filled	29 Gleamed
34 Long-gone bird	90 Online auctioneer	32 Gorged oneself
36 Disdain	91 Encountered	34 Toys that might talk
39 2000 Flushes rival	92 Any day now	35 "All" prefix
43 Native nation	94 Asian gambling mecca	36 Originate
47 Sticky sealer	97 Helena's state	37 Walk-on part
48 Caterer's dispenser	101 Conditional release	38 Expedient practice [AFRICA]
49 Pottery ovens	105 Crop watering [EUROPE]	40 Sharp tugs
50 Take an oath	108 Analogy, e.g. [DITTO]	41 Fist, informally
51 Fuse measure	110 Regan's father	42 Jewish ritual
52 Four Seasons leader [EUROPE]	111 <i>Beauty and the Beast</i> girl	43 Rolling, as terrain
54 Parcel (out)	112 Not as wild	44 Guacamole maker's risk [MIDEAST]
55 Auto from Olds	113 Lost traction	45 "It's the truth!"
56 Potato pancakes	114 R&D locales	46 Reside
57 Adversities	115 Stand in good ___ (be of value)	48 Did bartering
58 Director ___ B. DeMille		49 Superman's birth name
59 Twisters		52 Some cereal
61 Do as told		53 Intuitive feeling
62 Tennis star Nadal		54 Put off for a while
63 Small keepsake		58 Life's work
64 Wooden pin		60 Snoops (around)
66 Bogged down		61 Have bills
67 Maltreated		62 Corduroy features
69 Latest fad		64 Colors crudely
		65 Folklore fiend

**DOWN**

1 River blockers	7 Apple music player
2 Bath gel additive	8 Forest grazer
3 Try out	9 Alternatively
4 Attorney's title	10 Big rig's fuel
5 Elite group	11 Luxury watch brand
6 Dracula alter ego	12 Oklahoma city
	13 Desired result
	14 Goat call
	15 Genghis Khan, for one
	16 Diabolical
	17 Russo of films
	18 Measures of work
	24 Fully aware of
	26 Central points
	29 Gleamed
	32 Gorged oneself
	34 Toys that might talk
	35 "All" prefix
	36 Originate
	37 Walk-on part
	38 Expedient practice [AFRICA]
	40 Sharp tugs
	41 Fist, informally
	42 Jewish ritual
	43 Rolling, as terrain
	44 Guacamole maker's risk [MIDEAST]
	45 "It's the truth!"
	46 Reside
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	65 Folklore fiend

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