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SUMMER 2026



McCall Life

MAGAZINE

Summer Daze





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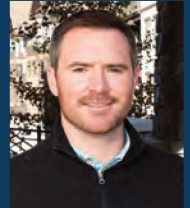
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BY RODNEY J. AUTH

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Summer Bucket List

The clock counted down, the second hand seeming to slow as the last few minutes of the school year ticked by. As the final bell rang, I jumped out of my chair and bull-rushed the door along with the 20 other kids who made up my sixth-grade class—ignoring our teacher’s pleas to “Slow down!”

There’s no better feeling than those first few moments of summer freedom. The whole summer is nothing but possibility—days upon days seemingly stretching to eternity, offering the promise of adventure and pure, unadulterated fun.

You remember the feeling.

And, if you’re lucky enough to live in McCall or visit for the summer, you might still get those awesome tingles. I know I do.

When the kids return from college and the sun starts to stay longer into the evening, I know it’s time to plan my summer bucket list—something I’ve been doing in one form or another since that magical sixth-grade summer.

Back then, my goals were modest, achievable, and fun. Things like finally finishing the fort we’d been building with scrap lumber in the backyard. Biking the logging road, past the world’s best frog pond, to my friend Tommy’s house a few miles and, seemingly, two states away. Climbing to the very top of the



tree in our backyard—a climb I’d failed for lack of courage for years. Crawling to the edge of the quarry and peeking over, hoping the dirt didn’t give way, to watch the trucks driving to and fro way below, looking more like ants or matchbox cars than actual machinery.

My mom didn’t know about this one (and looking back, it was stupid, but fun): Blowing up our

raft and using it to fish the overgrown creek, barely wider than our raft, down by Jason’s farm. Playing pickle in our front yard. Laying in the backyard, after dark, watching the fireflies dance and the stars shine. Playing night games—could have done



without running full speed into a tree trunk I couldn’t see, but still fun. And on and on and on.

The list wasn’t written down, but it was discussed ad nauseam with the gang on my street. We’d check things off, add things, delete things, come

up with ridiculous plans, half-start them, and then go on to the next project. One day, we’d be playing roller-skate tag in the driveway, and the next, we’d be building jumps off the culvert for our bikes.

When it rained, we hosted “boat” races, throwing sticks in the swift water running through the culvert and seeing whose made it past the next driveway first.

It was awesome. I still do the same thing at 55.

If you’re looking to create the perfect summer bucket list for you and your crew, this issue is for you. We’ve included information on all the cool things to do here in McCall, businesses that can help you make them happen, and an AI Agent—Ask McCall Life—that can piece it all together for you in seconds.

I think you’re going to have a great summer.

See you out there!

Rodney J. Auth
 Publisher


McCall Life
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Summer Daze

The inspiration behind the artwork

BY RODNEY J. AUTH

The oak tree in my rural Wisconsin backyard was the center of my childhood. Its branches spread low and wide, perfect for climbing and even better for lingering. It could hold all my neighborhood friends at once, each of us tucked into our own comfortable corner. On summer days, we'd scramble up, settle in against the trunk, and stay there for hours.

Sometimes we told stories. More often, we just sat there, swaying gently in the breeze and watching the day unfold. That tree was a magical place. It was a safe zone in tag, a shady escape on hot, muggy afternoons, a perch for games, laughter, and long stretches of doing absolutely nothing.

In the words of the immortal *Calvin & Hobbes*: the days were packed. This summer, I wanted to capture that feeling for all of McCall.

I figured the best way to do that was to commission an illustrator to create a special cover and postcard for anyone who picks up the issue. I teamed up with Odessa Kaufman of Boise-based Chalk & Cloud Murals, and the resulting design is pure McCall, filled with that same sense of ease, adventure, and summer magic I remember from childhood.

Look closely and you'll spot Bear Basin, viewed from the backside near the corrals. There's a woman walking her dog, someone coming back from a ride on the Rim Trail, and even smokejumpers practicing their landings in the meadow.

It feels like McCall. It feels like summer. And I hope it feels like what we all could use a little more of right now: good vibes and peace.

That was the goal, and I think Odessa absolutely nailed it.

If you want to order copies of this postcard or prints of the cover, visit www.mccalllife.com.



2026

McCall Summer Music & Celebration Highlights

JUNE

■ **Early summer warmups:** local venues begin weekly live offerings and special events throughout the valley. Check venue schedules for details.

JULY

■ **July 4-6 — Lakeside Liberty Fest:** McCall's signature Independence Day celebration with parade, vendors, community activities, and evening fireworks over Payette Lake.

■ **July 3-Sept. 4 (Fridays) — Brundage Free Friday Night Concerts:** free evening shows on select Fridays; bring a blanket and enjoy live music under the stars.

■ **July 16-18 — The Summer Music Festival at Roseberry:** a full-day festival featuring regional bands and family-friendly activities.

■ **July 21, 23, 25 — McCall Music Fest:** multiple nights and venues showcasing a mix of local and touring acts around town.

AUGUST

■ **Aug. 1-2 — Payette Lake Wooden & Classic Boat Show:** lakeside celebration with boats, music, and community gatherings; music and social events run throughout the weekend.

Plan ahead: Most concerts are free or low-cost community events; schedules and lineups are released closer to the dates. For venue-specific listings, check local calendars and event pages in *McCall Life*. Enjoy summer nights filled with great music, community spirit, and the unmistakable McCall vibe.

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VIEW FULL HOME





Tenkara Rod Co. brings a little Japanese simplicity to McCall's waters

BY RODNEY J. AUTH

THERE ARE CERTAIN THINGS IN LIFE that seem simple until you try to explain them to your fly-fishing friends.

Tenkara is one of those things.

At first glance, it looks almost suspiciously easy. A rod. A line. A fly. No reel. No giant vest full of mysterious tools. No shoulder bag packed like you're crossing the Continental Divide. No forty-seven knots to memorize before breakfast.

Naturally, traditional fly-fishing purists may require a moment.

But that simplicity is exactly what drew Drew Hollenback to tenkara in the first place. Drew, along with his wife Megan Hollenback, owns Tenkara Rod Co., a company that has spent the last 13 years helping people discover a lighter, easier, and very fun way to fish. And now, after years of operating between Boise and Driggs, the company has officially made its home in McCall.

Which makes sense, really. If you're going to build a company around compact rods, mountain lakes, moving water, and getting people outside, McCall is not a bad place to land.

From Boise And Driggs To McCall

“We moved up here in 2019,” Drew says. “Boise was just getting a little too big for us, and we didn’t really have a reason to be there anymore.”

The company’s operations had been based in Driggs for much of its life, while Drew and Megan were still living in Boise. Drew handled marketing, finance, and the “higher level business stuff,” as he puts it, while his former business partner managed operations on the other side of the state. Eventually, Drew and Megan bought out the partner and brought the whole operation to McCall.

Now, Tenkara Rod Co. is fully based here, with Megan taking on a bigger role in the day-to-day operations, including shipping, fulfillment, customers, and what she jokingly calls “the manual labor.”

“We just moved it to McCall in October,” Megan says. “I hired an employee, and we’re going to hire another one here soon. We’re excited about the new space and getting more involved in the community.”

For now, the business has been operating out of their garage, with storage units helping handle inventory, though they recently found an office and warehouse-style space to help move the growing operation out of the house. Anyone who has ever run a small business knows this stage well: the glamorous intersection of entrepreneurship, cardboard boxes, inventory shelves, and the realization that your garage is no longer your garage.

A Kickstarter, A Few Rods, And A Big Surprise

But Tenkara Rod Co. did not begin as a grand plan to take over the minimalist fishing world. It started more like many great ideas do: curiosity, personal interest, and a “what if?” moment.





Drew grew up in Japan, which gave him a natural appreciation for Japanese culture and design. After moving to Idaho and spending time around the state's remarkable fishing opportunities, he learned about tenkara, a traditional Japanese style of fly fishing.

"I thought it was pretty cool," he says. "It's simple. It's really a minimalist approach to things."

He started fishing that way, and people began asking him about the rods. Eventually, he designed a few and launched a Kickstarter campaign.

The goal was modest. Sell a couple hundred rods, keep a few, give some to friends, and see what happens.

What happened was \$90,000 in Kickstarter support.

"That was more than I thought it would do," Drew says. "By a lot. So I guess this is a real thing."

Thirteen years later, it is definitely a real thing.

So, What Exactly Is Tenkara?

The easiest explanation is this: tenkara is a form of fly fishing that uses a long, telescoping rod, a fixed line, and no reel. The rods collapse down incredibly small—one of Tenkara Rod Co.'s models packs down to about 13

inches—and then extend out to around 10 to 13 feet.

That portability is one of the biggest selling points.

In Japan, tenkara developed in mountain streams, where anglers needed to hike into remote water without carrying a bunch of gear. That makes it especially well-suited for places like McCall, where a good day might involve a trail, a lake, a creek, a backpack, and a healthy willingness to pretend the climb was "not that bad."

"The rods all compact down really small," Drew says. "That's one of the main draws, in my opinion. The portability. They're perfect for backpacking, really lightweight, around two ounces, and they don't take up space."

Once extended, the rod is paired with a line roughly the same length as the rod. A 12-foot rod might use a 10- to 13-foot line, plus a bit of tippet and the fly. The line attaches to a small cord at the rod tip called the lillian, usually with a simple loop connection. It is quick, clean, and refreshingly uncomplicated.

"You only have to learn one knot, and you can go fish," Drew says.

That sentence alone may be enough to convert some people.

Less Gear, More Fishing

Traditional fly fishing can be wonderful, beautiful, and deeply satisfying. It can also make a beginner feel like they accidentally signed up for a graduate-level engineering seminar involving backing, fly line, leaders, tippet, indicators, split shot, dry-dropper rigs, streamer techniques, and someone in a fly shop saying, "Oh, you'll definitely want a 6X fluorocarbon for that."

Tenkara strips the process down.

There is no reel. You are not casting 60 feet. You are not hauling line through the air like Brad Pitt in *A River Runs Through It*. Instead, you are fishing close and precisely. The cast is short. The presentation can be delicate. The approach is mobile.

"You're casting like 20 feet," Drew says. "No fish, recast. No fish, move up. You're just moving a lot more and casting a lot more."

That mobility is part of the fun. On streams, the longer rod helps anglers keep line off the water and reach over competing currents, which can make for better drifts. For anglers who have spent years watching their fly drag unnaturally because their fly line is caught in three different current seams, this is an appealing thought.



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With tenkara, there is less line on the water, less mending, and often less fuss. The rod does a lot of the work.

Built For McCall Water

On lakes, especially high mountain lakes, tenkara shines when fish cruise the banks. Drew says cutthroat will often patrol the shallows in the summer, allowing anglers to cast larger bugs from shore without needing to reach the middle of the lake. Of course, if you are the kind of angler who needs a float tube because your roll cast and the shoreline brush are not on speaking terms, that works too.

As for flies, tenkara can be as traditional or as loose as you want it to be. There are traditional tenkara flies, often tied differently than Western flies, and plenty of anglers enjoy using those. But Drew is not overly precious about it.

Dry flies? Yes.

Nymphs? Sure.

Streamers? Also yes, even if it makes the purists twitch a little.

“I go to Alaska every year with some friends, and we’ll throw streamers for salmon on them just because it’s fun,” Drew says. “Why not?”

That “why not?” attitude runs through the whole conversation. Tenkara has roots and traditions, yes, but Tenkara Rod Co. is not here to scold anyone for fishing the “wrong” way. The point is to get outside, carry less, fish more, and enjoy yourself.

An Easy Way In

That also makes tenkara a great entry point for beginners. Tenkara Rod Co. sells complete packages at \$195 and \$295, both designed to include everything needed to start fishing: rod,



line, flies, tippet, and line holder.

“Right out of the box, you’re ready to go fish,” Drew says.

Compared with the cost of getting fully outfitted for traditional fly fishing, that is a relatively friendly doorway into the sport. And it is not only for beginners. Many longtime fly anglers add a tenkara rod to their gear because it gives them another tool, especially for small streams, backpacking trips, alpine lakes, or days when they just do not feel like carrying the whole fly-fishing garage with them.

Guides have also used them to help clients who are struggling.

“If they’re out with a client and the client’s kind of struggling, they’re like, ‘Here, use this,’” Drew says. “And then they start catching fish on it.”

Light Rods, Small Business Realities

The rods themselves are made from carbon fiber, which keeps them light and flexible. Tenkara Rod Co. works with a factory in Korea that manufactures rods for a number of companies in the fly-fishing world.

Drew visits periodically to check on production and quality, though, like many small businesses dealing with overseas manufacturing, shipping disruptions and changing tariffs have created their share of headaches.

Still, the company has continued to grow, and its move to McCall feels like the right next step.

Drew and Megan are raising three kids here—ages 13, 11, and 16 months—and they like the independence, activities, and

community that come with mountain-town life. They also like being close to the water that inspires the business in the first place.

Online, Local, And Ready To Help

Tenkara Rod Co. is not currently a retail shop, and they do not guide, though locals may be able to get help with rod repairs or questions. Most sales are direct-to-consumer online, supported by YouTube and Instagram content that teaches people how to set up and fish the rods.

In other words, they are not only selling gear. They are trying to make fishing feel approachable.

That may be the real magic of tenkara. It takes something that can become gear-heavy, expensive, and intimidating, and brings it back to the basics: a rod, a line, a fly, some moving water, and maybe a trout dumb enough—or generous enough—to make your day.

And if not?

Well, as any McCall angler knows, you still got to spend time outside. That counts. **MCL**

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A New Look For The Lake

BY RODNEY J. AUTH

Mile High
Marina's
big summer
makeover

If you've strolled past Mile High Marina lately and thought, *Wait a second... something big is happening here*, you'd be right.

One of McCall's most visible lakefront spots is in the middle of a major transformation, and by the time the wild, wonderful Fourth of July crowds roll into town, visitors should see a dramatic new addition stretching out over Payette Lake. Mile High Marina is replacing its long-serving, floating log breakwater with a new concrete wave attenuator—a much sturdier structure designed not only to protect boats, but also to create a new public-facing lake experience.

And that's just the beginning.

The project also adds about 90 new dock slips, upgrades the marina's operations, extends hours later into the evening, refreshes the food menu with healthier options, and rethinks the store experience. In other words, this is more than an infrastructure project—it's a full-on summer glow-up.

For co-owner Samuel Worley, who has been involved with the marina since 2004, the project has been a long time coming.

From Rough Logs To A Real Lakefront Amenity

For years, the marina's breakwater has been made up of a line of anchored logs—functional, but not exactly elegant.

"It has served its purpose," Worley says, "but it's pretty simplistic... a little rough." He has long known the old structure needed to be replaced with something safer, stronger, and better able to protect the boats inside the marina.

The new structure is technically called a wave attenuator, which sounds like something dreamed up in an engineering lab, but the concept is pretty simple: it's built to absorb the lake's energy.

On Payette Lake, that means handling two different kinds of force—summer wind waves and winter ice movement. Unlike some bodies of water that freeze and sit still, Payette's ice pack shifts around, and that movement can be incredibly powerful. So the new breakwater has to do a lot more than just float in place and look official.

It has to survive McCall.

The payoff is that the new structure won't just be stronger for boaters—it will also be open to the public as a pedestrian walkway. That means residents and visitors alike will be able to walk out over the





water and take in a fresh view of the lake, the mountains, Legacy Park, Brown Park, and downtown McCall from a vantage point that hasn't really existed before.

That public element came out of a conversation between Worley and McCall Parks and Recreation Director Kurt Wolf. After years of cleanup work north of the marina—where old, abandoned docks and logs once made for an eyesore and safety hazard—they started thinking bigger. What if the replacement breakwater could also become a public amenity? What if



it could feel more like a boardwalk than just a barrier?

That idea stuck.

An L-shaped Stroll With Shade, Seating, And Views

The new structure will extend out into the lake in

an L-shape and include features designed to make it more inviting for pedestrians.

There will be a concrete landing that transitions from street level to a ramp, including handicap access so the public walkway can be used by people in wheelchairs as well. Once on



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the structure, visitors will find a finished walking surface, two pergolas—one at the far end and one at the 90-degree corner—and bench seating where people can stop, sit down, and soak in the view.

For now, the plan is to keep things simple.

If you heard rumors of tiki bars, paddleboard rentals, or a mini concession stand floating out on the lake, those ideas are not part of the immediate rollout. Worley describes the current mindset as cautious and measured: more “let’s walk before we run” than “open the lakefront snack empire.”

There will be swim ladders on the outside of the structure, but swimming on the inside of the protected marina area will be prohibited because of the obvious conflict between swimmers and boat traffic. Down the road, additional recreational features could branch off from the area, but the first goal is to get the structure built, opened safely, and managed well.

And yes, there will be a gate.

That may not sound glamorous, but it matters. Since the breakwater will serve both private marina operations and public use, safety and crowd control are going to be a big part of the equation—especially during McCall’s busiest weekends.

Ninety More Slips, And A Little Breathing Room At The Boat Ramp

One of the most significant practical benefits of the project is the addition of about 90 new dock slips.

That number matters.

McCall has long had a shortage of slips, and Mile High Marina has maintained an extensive wait list of people hoping to secure a place for their boats on Payette Lake. These are not only extra parking spots on the water; they’re part of a bigger effort to ease some of the seasonal pressure on public infrastructure.

Worley and city officials have talked through the ripple effect: if 90-day-use boaters can leave their boats in slips instead of launching and retrieving them every outing, that potentially takes 90 users off the neighboring public launch system. In theory, that means less congestion at the boat ramp, less pressure on surrounding parking, and a smoother experience for everyone else trying to access the lake.

The new slip layout is also different from the old setup.

Instead of the denser two-boats-per-bay arrangement used in earlier marina sections, the new docks are designed with one boat per bay, with a finger dock on each



side. That gives boaters a more spacious, easier-to-navigate setup and reflects what customers have been asking for. It’s less dense, yes—but more functional, more comfortable, and much easier when it comes time to park a boat without performing your own personal marina stress test.

Unsurprisingly, the

new slips are filling quickly.

A Better Marina Experience On Shore, Too

The changes aren’t all happening on the water.

Inside the marina, the team is making updates aimed at improving the overall guest experience throughout summer. That includes later, more predictable operating hours, especially for those who want to linger on the lakefront a little longer in the evening.

Worley says the bar will stay open later—ideally until sunset—but don’t expect Mile High Marina to suddenly morph into a late-night party bar. That’s not the vision.

The marina has long been operated as a family-oriented business, and Worley has no interest in competing with McCall’s nighttime drinking spots. The goal is more sunset burger than midnight chaos.

And speaking of burgers, the grill menu is getting attention, too. Expect a broader food selection and healthier options than in previous years. The marina is also elevating its store offerings to help visitors maximize convenience and minimize their downtime on the water.

Part of that effort is being supported by Worley’s newer partners at Resilient Marinas, who bring broader industry experience, investment capital, and operational knowledge to the table. While Worley says he largely shepherded the breakwater project himself before those partners came on board, he credits them with bringing fresh ideas and a helpful perspective as the marina continues to evolve.

A Huge Project, Years In The Making

If this all sounds ambitious, that’s because it is.

Worley describes the breakwater build as a multimillion-dollar project and notes that adding public access significantly increased both the complexity and the cost. Permitting alone involved years of work, plus engineering, legal review, consultants, and approvals from a whole alphabet soup of agencies with jurisdiction over the lake, shoreline, and public access.

That is the McCall way sometimes: if you want to improve one of the town’s most cherished places, you’d better be ready to do your homework.

Still, the vision behind the project has remained pretty straightforward: do the right thing, create something lasting, and make the lakeshore better for both marina users and the public.

Ready By The Fourth? That's The Target

Construction timelines being what they are, not every last detail will be polished and fully operational by Memorial Day. In fact, Worley is candid that the more realistic milestone is the Fourth of July, but current and new slip customers won't have to wait until then to start using the new amenities.

"The docks will be installed and ready to receive slip customers' boats by Memorial Day weekend, Friday, May 22. The breakwater will be installed by that date as well," he says. "We may still have some minor work to do on the pergolas and other small projects, etc. But this will not prevent slip customers from enjoying the amenities and newly improved services at Mile High."



Most pieces will be in place before the Fourth, with some final operational details and safety protocols pending, especially regarding the holiday itself, when the marina, Legacy Park, and the surrounding waterfront can turn into one big, bustling, occasionally unpredictable celebration zone.

In other words, a beautiful new pedestrian breakwater will be open for use, but as is the case with any other busy time of year, expect decisions to be made carefully and in coordination with the city.

Which, honestly, feels very McCall, too: dream big, enjoy the lake, and keep one eye on practicality.

By midsummer, though, the transformation should be impossible to miss. What was once a line of floating logs will become a more substantial, more attractive, and more useful part of the waterfront—one that serves boaters, visitors, and curious evening wanderers alike.

For a town that lives for summer, that's a pretty good upgrade. **MCL**

Pueblo Lindo

Family Mexican Restaurant



pueblolindomccall@gmail.com

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(208) 634-2270

3327 N. Eagle Rd. Ste. 170
Meridan, ID 83638
(208) 888-5888

**Monday–Sunday
11 am–9 pm
(Closed Wednesdays)**

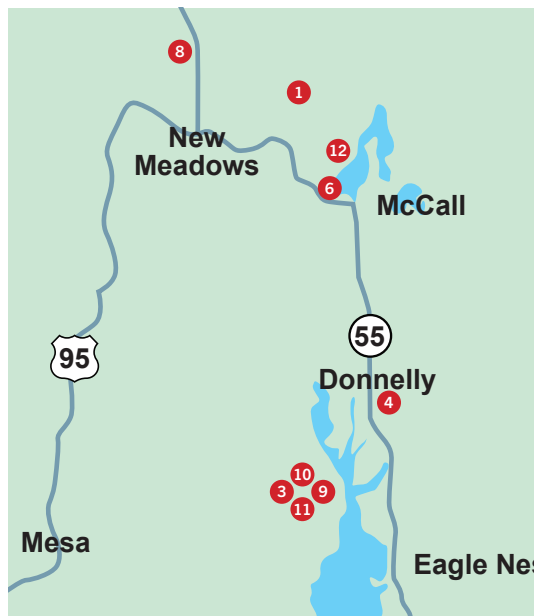
Owners: Jose Diaz & Noemi Diaz

McCall is home to the region's best providers of leisure, entertainment, and wellness, and we've pulled them together into the ultimate resource. Whether you're a longtime resident, a frequent visitor, or a first-time guest, we've made it easier than ever to find the business you're looking for—and get there, too. We call it our Ask McCall Life Idea Book. You'll call it your roadmap to success.

ACTIVITY GUIDE

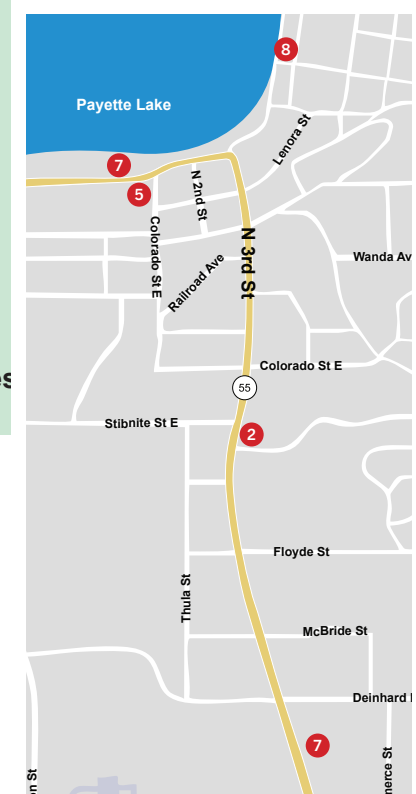
P.20-29

- 1 Brundage Mountain Resort**
3890 Goose Lake Rd.
McCall, ID 83638
See ad page 21
- 2 Done Right Management**
321 N. 3rd St., McCall, ID 83638
- 3 Elevation Studio at Tamarack Resort**
800 Village Dr., Tamarack, ID 83615
See ad page 21
- 4 Long Valley Preservation Society**
P.O. Box 444, Donnelly, ID 83615
- 5 Manchester Ice & Event Centre (Skater Things Cafe)**
200 E. Lake St., McCall, ID 83638
See ad page 21
- 6 McCall Boat Works**
1304 Boydston Lane, P.O. Box 2306
McCall, ID 83638
See ad page 23
- 7 McCall Super 8**
303 S. 3rd St., McCall, ID 83638
- 8 Mile High Marina and Grill**
1300 E. Lake St., McCall, ID 83638
See ad page 23
- 9 Osprey Meadows Golf at Tamarack Resort**
311 Village Drive, Tamarack, ID 83615
See ad page 27



- 10 Tamarack Resort Lodging**
311 Village Drive, Tamarack, ID 83615
See ad page 27
- 11 Tamarack Resort Summer Adventure**
311 Village Drive, Tamarack, ID 83615
See ad page 27
- 12 Ya-Hoo Corrals**
2280 Warren Wagon Rd., McCall, ID 83638
See ad page 29

Payette National Forest



BRUNDAGE

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 208.634.4151
brundage.com/summer



Elevation Studio at Tamarack Resort

800 Village Dr.
 Tamarack, ID 83615
 (208) 325-1000
info@tamarackidaho.com
www.TamarackIdaho.com



Peak wellness at Tamarack Resort begins in the heart of the vibrant Village, where Elevation Studio—its newest year-round wellness hub—offers an inviting sanctuary designed to help you elevate your mountain experience.



Manchester Ice & Events Center

200 E. Lake St.
 McCall, ID 83638
 (208) 634-3570
info@manchestericecenter.com
<https://manchestericecenter.com>



We offer ice skating, ice bumper cars, hockey game events, curling, figure skating events, and a sports bar.



Tamarack Resort – Summer Adventure

Tamarack Marina is your outfitter for summer lake adventures.

<https://tamarackidaho.com/activities/waterfront>

See ad page 27



Ya-Hoo Corrals

Enjoy the mountains and lake view from horseback.

www.ya-hoocorrals.com

See ad page 29



Step aboard and see Payette Lake as it was meant to be seen...

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- ◆ Two unhurried hours.
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 www.mwsc.club



Creating World-Class Kids Through Winter Sports.



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- Moorage, Storage & Marine Accessories • Retail & Apparel
- Community Boardwalk



Tamarack Resort Lodging

Find your mountain paradise in Tamarack Resort's Estate Home Vacation Rentals, Village Condos, and Lodge.

<https://tamarackidaho.com/lodging>

See ad page 27

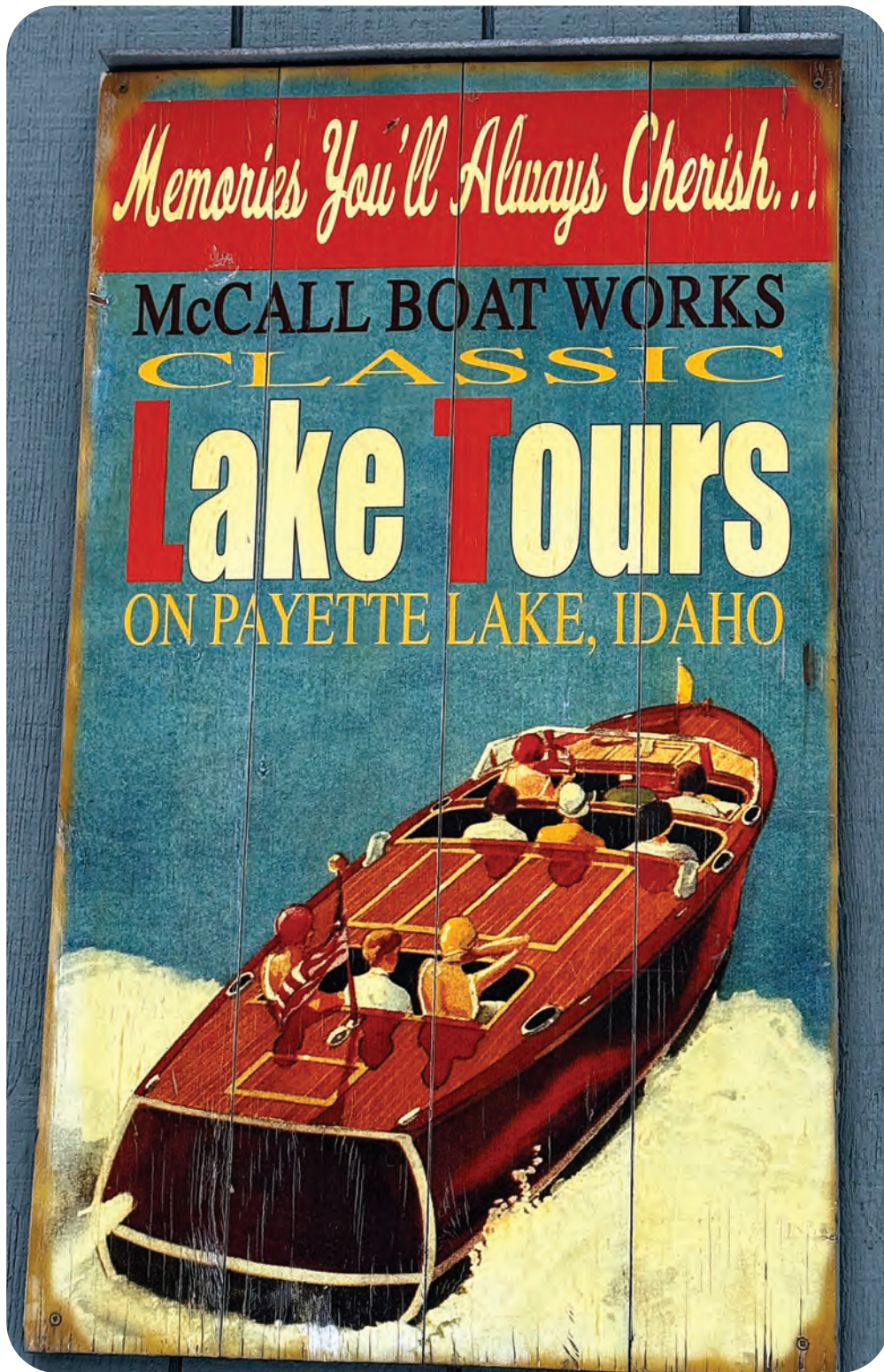
Osprey Meadows Golf at Tamarack Resort

Named *Golfweek's* #1 Idaho Public Access Golf Course, and home of the famous 19th Gambler's Hole.

<https://tamarackidaho.com/golf-osprey-meadows>

See ad page 27





McCall Boat Works

Your vintage wood boat experts
in custom refurbishing.

mccallboatworks.com

See ad page 23

Manchester Ice & Events Center

Bumper cars and ice skating can be found all summer long at MIEC.

Bumper cars run every 15 minutes during scheduled times, and they are first-come, first-served; no advance reservations.

Check the schedule:

Manchestericecenter.com

See ad page 21



McCall Winter Sports Club

Creating World-Class Kids Through Winter Sports.

www.mwsc.club

See ad page 23



Osprey Meadows Golf at Tamarack Resort

311 Village Drive
Tamarack, ID 83615
(208) 325-1000
info@tamarackidaho.com
https://tamarackidaho.com/golf-osprey-meadows



Experience world-class golfing at Tamarack Resort's Osprey Meadows Golf Course, featuring a full 18-hole championship course showcasing expansive views of Lake Cascade, our breathtaking mountains, and lush meadows, plus a bonus 19th "Gambler's Hole". Supported by a full Pro Shop—rentals, retail, and golf cards are available on-site.



Tamarack Resort Lodging

311 Village Drive
Tamarack, ID 83615
(208) 325-1000
info@tamarackidaho.com
https://tamarackidaho.com/lodging



Tamarack is a premier all-season destination resort where you can ski pristine slopes, indulge in diverse dining options, play award-winning golf, or boat on tranquil waters. Where we celebrate weddings, weekend getaways, family reunions, and... everything else. It's more than just a resort or a place you visit. It's a second home. It's a community. It's where lifelong memories are made.



Level-up your Summer Adventure with boating, biking, hiking, zip lining, whitewater rafting, and more!



Summer Adventure

311 Village Drive
Tamarack, ID 83615
(208) 325-1000
https://tamarackidaho.com/summer



Explore Tamarack Resort's biking and hiking trails this summer! With 41 miles of maintained trails, our lift-serviced bike park and high-alpine trail systems offer adventure for all ages and ability levels.



Visit the Tamarack Marina, Tamarack Resort's outfitter on Lake Cascade. From SUPing to surfing, fishing to foiling, we have your Lake Activities covered.

Elevation Studio

Elevation Studio is in Tamarack Village, below the Real Estate office, facing the Grass front. It offers everything from yoga to specialized strength training.

<https://tamarackidaho.com/the-village-at-tamarack/elevation-studio>

See ad page 21



Mile High Marina & Grill

It's more than a marina—it's McCall's lakefront destination HOTspot!

www.milehighmarina.com

See ad page 23



Ya-Hoo Corrals
2280 Warren Wagon Rd.
McCall, ID 83638
(208) 634-3360
yahocorralsmccall@gmail.com
www.ya-hoocorrals.com



Ya-Hoo Corrals offers horseback trail ride adventures through diverse terrain with scenic views for all rider abilities. Wagon rides are also available for those who don't want to ride. Our well-mannered horses, flexible ride options, and knowledgeable and friendly guides ensure unique adventures for all.



Brundage Mountain Resort

Friday nights at Brundage mean live music, mountain views, and good vibes from 6-9 p.m. all summer long.

www.brundage.com

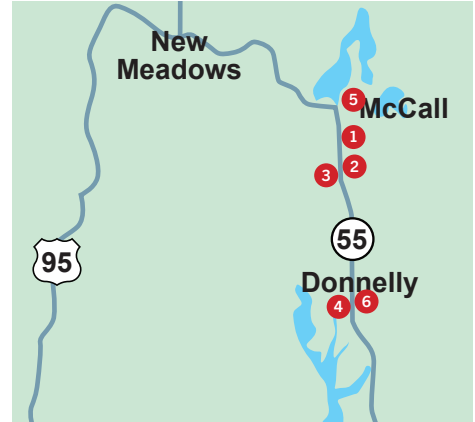
See ad page 21



BUSINESS SERVICES GUIDE

P.30-35

- 1 **Builders FirstSource**
400 Deinhard Lane, McCall, ID 83638
See ad page 31
- 2 **Falvey's Earthworks**
14059 Burr Dr., McCall, ID 83636
See ad page 31
- 3 **Franklin Building Supply**
P.O. Box 1737, McCall, ID 83638
See ad page 31
- 4 **Hammari Bookkeeping & Tax**
454 W. Roseberry Road, Unit 110
Donnelly, ID 83615
See ad page 33
- 5 **North Fork School, The**
812 Reedy Lane, McCall, ID 83638
See ad page 33
- 6 **Western Larch Interiors**
270 N. Main St., Ste. B
Donnelly, ID 83615
See ad page 35



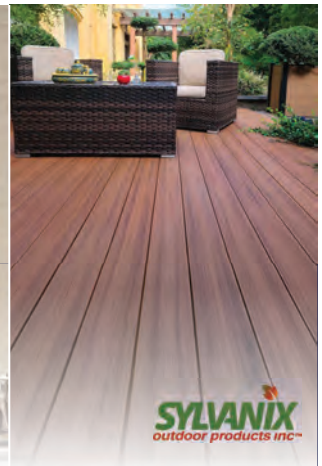
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<https://www.thenorthforkschool.com>
See ad page 33



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BLDR.com

See ad page 31



Hammari Bookkeeping & Tax
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Donnelly, ID 83615
(208) 849-3803
hammaritax@gmail.com
hammaritax.com



We provide tax, bookkeeping, and payroll services designed to simplify your finances. With clear guidance and reliable support, we help individuals and business owners stay on track and stress less—so you can focus on what matters most.



The North Fork School

812 Reedy Lane
McCall, ID 83638
(208) 630-4028
northforkschool@gmail.com
<https://www.thenorthforkschool.com>



Since 1996, The North Fork School has offered academically rigorous, integrated humanities programs to students who remain concurrently-enrolled in other schools. Accredited through Cognia, North Fork programs reduce public class sizes while allowing local public schools to retain full federal and state tax dollars for shared students.

North Fork teachers coach small cohorts of students to mastery in successive years of study together. Over seven years of North Fork English & history curricula, students become critical thinkers who question and evaluate everything they encounter. This vertically-connecting knowledge cannot come from a series of separate classrooms over the years, run by different teachers, offering their own unique curricula. The integrated aspect of North Fork classes forges independent thought.

Western Larch Interiors

Come to Donnelly for home decor, gift ideas, and furnishings.
<https://westernlarchinteriors.com/>
See ad page 35





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Falvey's Earthworks

Expert residential excavation, delivering precision, reliability, and elevated craftsmanship in every project.

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Western Larch Interiors
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We are a boutique shop for home furnishings, decor and interior design services. A fun place to shop for your home or vacation rental that won't bust your budget.

We have new, used and consignment items. Interior design services are available. Book a consultation today!

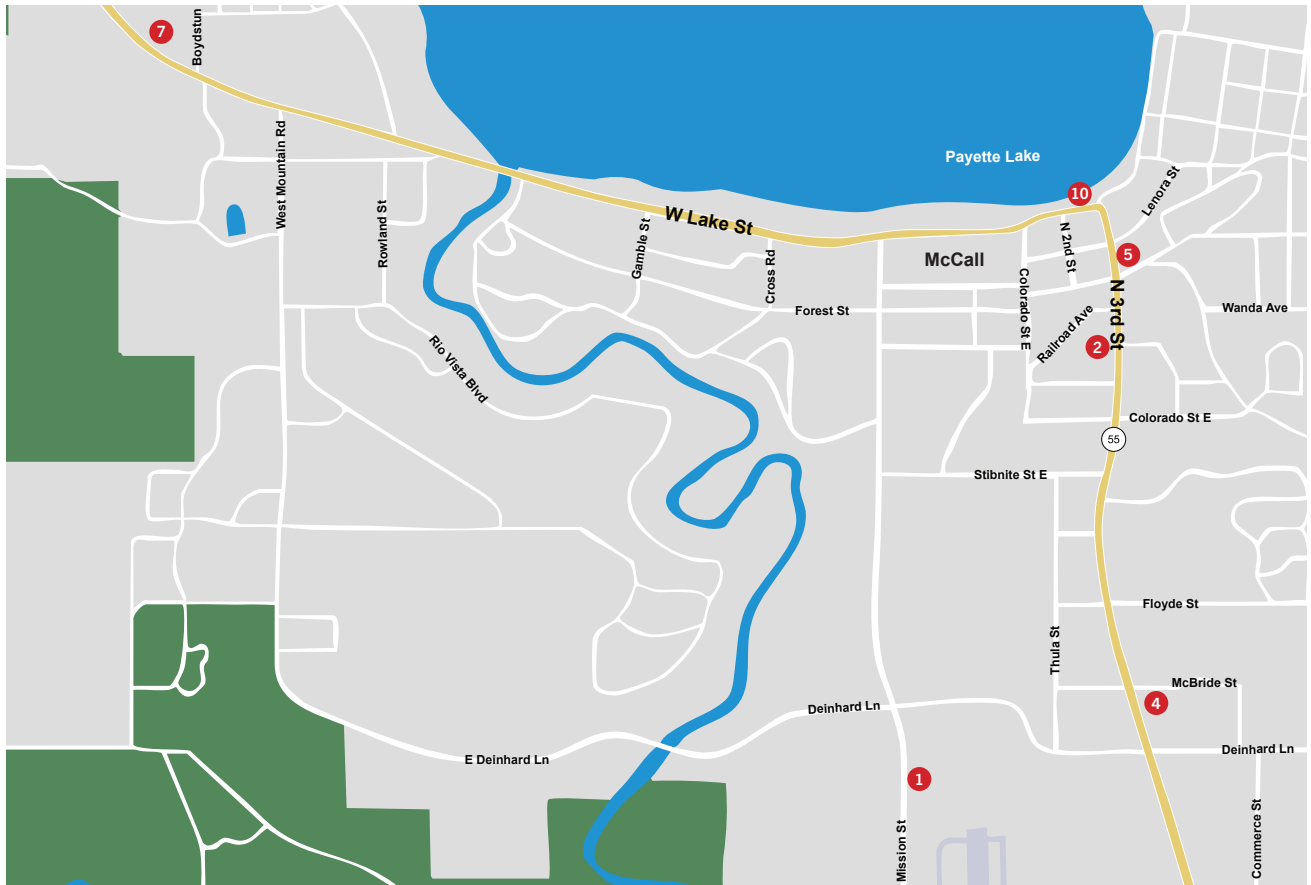


Franklin Building Supply

Your vision, our mission. We are here to serve you, snow or shine, because at Franklin Building Supply, service is our specialty!

www.franklinbuildingsupply.com

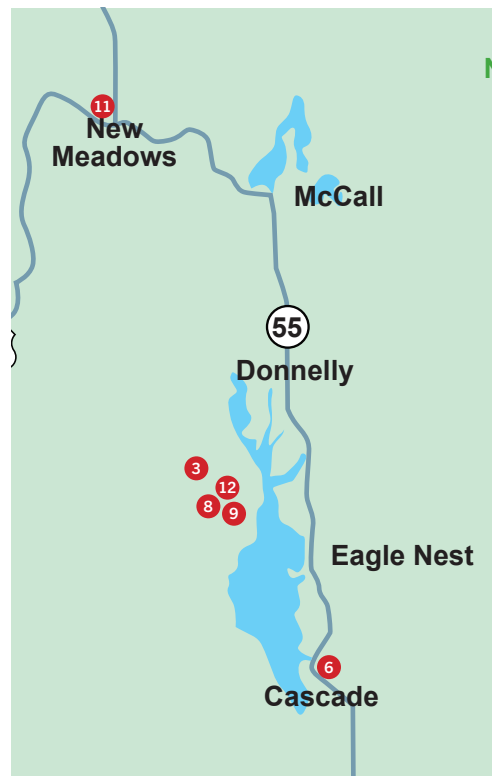
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DINING GUIDE

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- 1 Broken Horn Brewing Company**
201 Mission St., McCall, ID 83638
- 2 KB's Burritos**
616 North 3rd Street, McCall, ID 83638
See ad page 37
- 3 Mid-Mountain Lodge**
311 Village Drive, Tamarack, ID 83615
See ad page 37
- 4 Miner's McCall**
147 N. 3rd St., McCall, ID 83638
See ad page 37
- 5 My Father's Place**
901 N. 3rd St., McCall, ID 83638-1905
See ad page 41
- 6 Palooza Basecamp & Eatery**
100 North Main St., Cascade, ID 83611
See ad page 41
- 7 Pueblo Lindo**
1007 W. Lake St., McCall, ID 83638
See ad page 41
- 8 Seven Devils Taphouse**
740 Village Drive
Tamarack, ID 83615
See ad page 43
- 9 Tamarack Resort – Village Dining**
311 Village Drive, Tamarack, ID 83615
 - Bella Vista Pizza
 - Clearwater Coffee Co.
 - Mid-Mountain Lodge
 - Seven Devils Taphouse
 - Sugarloaf Creamery
 - The Reserve
 - The Village Market & Deli
 - Triple B Diner
 See ad page 43
- 10 The Den on Payette**
317 E. Lake St., McCall, ID 83638
See ad page 43
- 11 The Intersection BBQ**
206 Virginia St., New Meadows, ID 83654
See ad page 45
- 12 The Reserve**
760 Village Drive #101
Tamarack, ID 83615
See ad page 45





KB's Burritos
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Mid-Mountain Lodge
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 Tamarack, ID 83615
<https://tamarackidaho.com/dining/mid-mountain-lodge-dining>



Dine on the mountain at the top of Tamarack Express at Mid-Mountain Lodge. Grab a snack or hearty meal and handcrafted cocktail at 6,700' and enjoy breathtaking views of Long Valley and Lake Cascade below. After a day of mountain adventure, unwind in a spacious, welcoming alpine setting designed for comfort and relaxation. Not hiking or biking? A scenic lift ride offers an easy and memorable way to reach the lodge, making this elevated dining experience accessible to all.



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The Reserve

Enjoy world-class fine dining, thoughtfully crafted cocktails, and curated wines.

<https://tamarackidaho.com/dining/the-reserve>

See ad page 45



Pueblo Lindo

The most delicious pozole and steak ranchero are made at Pueblo Lindo.

pueblolindomccall@gmail.com

See ad page 41



Mid-Mountain Lodge

Enjoy a drink and a bite at 6,700' with the best views in Valley County.
<https://tamarackidaho.com/dining/mid-mountain-lodge-dining>

See ad page 37



Seven Devils Tap House

End your perfect day on the mountain with us.

<https://tamarackidaho.com/dining/seven-devils-tap-house>

See ad page 43

The Intersection BBQ, Bar & Grill

Got a wedding, reunion, or other event coming up? Let us take care of the food! We offer an in-bulk, carryout, or delivery, made-from-scratch menu. Call early to get on our calendar. **(208) 347-4499**
See ad page 45



The Den on Payette

House-made comfort food, generous portions. <https://www.thedenonpayette.com>
See ad page 43





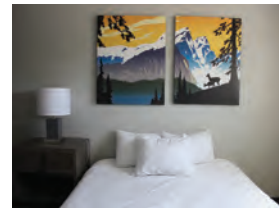
My Father's Place
 901 N. 3rd St.
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 (208) 634-4401
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 https://mfpmccall.com



- Burgers
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- Fries
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- Mile-high Shakes
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- Draft Beer
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- Vegetarian and Gluten-free Options



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 Cascade, ID 83611
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Palooza Basecamp & Eatery in Cascade, Idaho, is your perfect launchpad for mountain adventures. This family-owned hotel and restaurant offers modern accommodations, alongside handcrafted and locally sourced meals and cocktails. Enjoy a relaxed atmosphere with quality cuisine and events. Whether you're exploring Lake Cascade or unwinding after a day outdoors, Palooza is your welcoming basecamp.

Pueblo Lindo

Family Mexican Restaurant

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 (208) 938-0088
 1007 W. Lake St., McCall, ID 83638
 (208) 634-2270
 3327 N. Eagle Rd. Ste. 170
 Meridan, ID 83638
 (208) 888-5888



Pueblo Lindo Mexican Restaurant is favored by locals and visitors alike for authentic, savory Mexican cuisine at budget-friendly prices! Visit us today!
 Monday–Sunday 11 am–9 pm
 (Closed Wednesdays)



<https://www.facebook.com/pueblolindomexicanrestaurant>



Palooza Basecamp & Eatery

Owner Jeff Tyler holds two of the house's favorite dishes.

www.paloozabrands.com

See ad page 41



Seven Devils Taphouse
 740 Village Drive
 Tamarack, ID 83615
<https://tamarackidaho.com/dining/seven-devils-taphouse>



Welcome to Seven Devils Taphouse.
 Find us in The Village at
 Tamarack Resort.

...

Enjoy artfully crafted cocktails,
 our tap wall featuring 40 taps,
 and our menu featuring comfort
 food and slope-side favorites.

...

End the perfect day on
 the mountain here for live music,
 events, and more.



Village Dining
 311 Village Drive
 Tamarack, ID 83615
 (208) 325-1000
<https://tamarackidaho.com/dining>



Hungry after a day on the mountain?
 Tamarack Resort has you covered with dining options to choose from:



Bella Vista Pizza



Triple B Diner



Sugarloaf Creamery



The Village Market & Deli



Clearwater Coffee Co.



The Den on Payette
 317 E. Lake St.
 McCall, ID, 83638
 (208) 849-4040
www.thedenonpayette.com



McCall's favorite spot for breakfast and brunch,
 nestled right on the shores of Payette Lake.
 We pride ourselves on offering delicious,
 home-cooked meals served with a smile,
 making every guest feel like part of our community.



Tamarack – Village Dining

Hungry after hitting the slopes? You'll find options for the whole family at Tamarack Resort's Alpine Village: Seven Devils Taphouse, The Reserve, Bella Vista Pizza, Clearwater Coffee Co., Sugarloaf Creamery, Triple B Diner, The Village Market & Deli, and more!

<https://tamarackidaho.com/dining>

See ad page 43



KB's Burritos

We cook with passion.
Locally owned and
crafted with love.

www.kbsburrito.com

See ad page 37



The Intersection BBQ, Bar & Grill
 206 Virginia St.
 New Meadows, ID 83654
 (208) 347-4499
 theintersection23@gmail.com
 www.intersectionbbq.com



Come on down to our family-friendly BBQ joint. We're located just 15 minutes west of McCall. Take the short, scenic drive & avoid the crowds. We offer indoor & outdoor dining, cold beer, wine & cocktails. Our menu features fresh, handcrafted food, applewood smoked meats & our original sauces. There's always something on the big screens, a warm, friendly atmosphere & good times had by all!



The Reserve
 760 Village Drive #101
 Tamarack, ID 83615
 (208) 325-1014
 skitam@tamarackidaho.com
<https://tamarackidaho.com/dining/the-reserve>



Nestled in the heart of Tamarack Village, The Reserve is a refined yet welcoming dining destination that showcases elevated mountain cuisine with seasonal, locally inspired ingredients. Guests enjoy Alpine Village views, a warm inviting atmosphere, and a menu that blends classic technique with local flavors—from expertly prepared steaks and fresh seafood to thoughtfully crafted cocktails and curated wines.



Miner's McCall
 Come in and enjoy our relaxed vibe and delicious food!
<https://www.minersmccall.com>
 See ad page 37

HOME & REALTY GUIDE

P.46-51

- 1 McCall Design & Planning Inc.**
125 Commerce St., Bldg. B, McCall, ID 83638
See ad page 47
- 2 McCall Real Estate - Phil Yribar**
301 East Lake St., McCall, ID 83638
See ad page 47
- 3 PrecisionCraft Log & Timber Homes**
711 E. Broadway Ave., Meridian, ID 83642
See ad page 47
- 4 Restoration North**
600 River St., McCall, ID 83638
See ad page 49
- 5 Rob's R & R Hardwood Floors**
5126 W. Gage St., Boise, ID 83706
See ad page 49
- 6 Roberts & Lamb Interior Design**
Based in Salt Lake City; designing mountain homes across the West.
See ad page 51
- 7 Tamarack Realty**
800 Village Drive, Tamarack, ID 83615
See ad page 51



R&R Hardwood Floors

Hardwood floors add warm elegance to a great room.
<https://www.robsrr.com/>
 See ad page 49



McCall Design & Planning Inc.

125 Commerce St., Bldg. B
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 (208) 634-5707
 architect@mccaldp.com
 mccaldp.com



**Site-specific architecture
 in McCall since 1979.**



The Yribar Team

301 East Lake Street
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 joellen.yribar@mccallrealestate.com
 https://mccallidrealestate.com



The Yribars

**McCall's Full Service
 Real Estate Team**

Phil – 208.630.3083 | JoEllen – 208.634.6494 | Philip – 208.315.0563

We have a thorough and unique knowledge and understanding of our market area and pride ourselves on providing all our clients exceptional and comprehensive real estate services.



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Contact Todd
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 (208) 830-3024
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Design • Fabricate • Build

For more than 30 years, Idaho-based PrecisionCraft has been crafting award-winning log and timber homes in McCall and all of Idaho. Contact us today to discuss your project.





McCall Design & Planning Inc.

Site-specific architecture in McCall since 1979.

<https://mccalldp.com/>

See ad page 47

Photo: Melissa Shelby



Roberts & Lamb

Textured stone and exposed beams meet floor-to-ceiling mountain views.

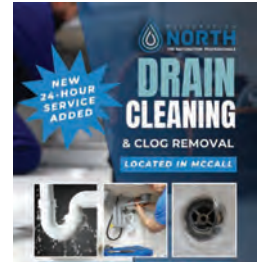
robertsandlamb.com

See ad page 51



Restoration North

600 River St.
 McCall, ID 83638
 (208) 315-4112
 info@restonorth.com
<https://restonorth.com>



We are the leading water damage and disaster mitigation company in McCall, Idaho, using certified techs, and providing the best customer service and product.

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From Rustic To Modern

Exploring the range
of mountain home
architecture

BY MATT FRANKLIN

Mountain-style homes are a celebration of nature, harmonizing the dwelling with the rugged beauty of mountainous landscapes. From the time-honored traditions of western Rustic Heritage homes to the cutting-edge designs of ultra-contemporary Mountain Modern, the spectrum of architectural themes available to homeowners is broad, each offering a unique connection to |the natural world.

Rustic Heritage: A Nostalgic Nod To The Past

Antique, distressed rustic designs are the epitome of traditional mountain architecture. These homes are characterized by the use of vintage materials, such as reclaimed wood and aged stone, with traditional gable rooflines, which give the structure a time-worn, historic feel.

Interiors in this style are crafted exclusively from natural materials, creating a warm atmosphere. Heavy timber elements, such as exposed beams and trusses, are prominent features—showcasing the craftsmanship and durability of the construction. The appeal of this style lies in its authenticity and sense of history, making it perfect for those who value the rustic traditions of mountain living.



Modern Rustic: Bridging Tradition And Innovation

Modern Rustic architecture serves as a bridge between the traditional and contemporary ends of the spectrum. This style retains the warmth and natural materials of Rustic Heritage but introduces modern elements to create a more balanced and functional design. Glass view walls are a hallmark of these homes, allowing for expansive views of the surrounding landscape.



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The rooflines are often more complex and varied, with multiple slopes and taller profiles, adding visual interest. The interiors blend traditional materials with modern touches like sleek fixtures and contemporary furnishings. Timber elements remain a key feature but are often presented in a more refined manner. On the rustic end of the spectrum, you'll find more substantial timber elements and natural materials, while on the contemporary side, the design leans toward minimalistic timber accents and a more streamlined aesthetic. The versatility of this style makes Modern Rustic a popular choice for homeowners who want the best of both worlds.



Mountain Modern: Embracing The Future

At the opposite end of the architectural spectrum is Mountain Modern. This style represents the pinnacle of ultra-contemporary home design, by characterizing bold, innovative architecture that challenges traditional norms. Glass walls are a defining feature, offering unobstructed views and a seamless connection to nature. Rooflines are often single-sloped and lower in profile, creating a sleek, minimalist appearance. Interiors are dominated by modern materials, with very few or no timber accents. The focus is on clean lines, open spaces, and a minimalist aesthetic that emphasizes form and function over ornamentation.

Ultra-contemporary homes are ideal for those who seek a cutting-edge living experience in the mountains. These homes offer a stark contrast to the traditional rustic styles, embracing the future while still respecting the surrounding natural beauty.

Whether you're drawn to the nostalgic charm of Rustic Heritage, the balanced approach of Modern Rustic, or the bold innovation of Mountain Modern, there's a style that perfectly captures your vision of mountain living. **MCL**

***Matt Franklin** is the lead architect at MTN Design and PrecisionCraft Log & Timber Homes. With 30 years of experience designing the finest custom log and timber homes across North America, Matt brings deep expertise and a passion for creating homes that reflect both the land and the lifestyle of each client. His thoughtful approach has helped his homes win nearly 100 national design awards.*



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Meander Safely



I walked into the garage and stepped into a frenzy of activity. My second oldest daughter was pulling camping gear off the shelf under the direction of her new high school friends.

“What’s going on?” I asked.

“We’re going to camp on an island tonight. We’ll be back tomorrow morning.”

I paused. We were new to town, and I didn’t know any of the girls she was heading off with. At the same time, I recognized this was why we moved here.

“Is there cell coverage out there?” I asked the girls.

“No,” said one of the friends, “but we’ll be OK. We do this a lot.”

I looked at my wife, who had just walked out to empty the trash and wandered into the chaos.

She smiled at me, knowing I was nervous. “It’s OK with me,” she said. And so the die was cast.

The girls shoved a small amount of gear into the back of a ratty Subaru, jumped in, talking excitedly and waving goodbye, attempting to leave quickly before an adult came to their senses.

I turned to my wife and said, “This seems like a mistake.”

She laughed. “You’ve got to give her some rope. She’ll be fine.”

And she was.

She returned the next morning, bubbling with energy and good vibes, sharing all the cool things they did—everything from the paddleboard to the island to setting up camp to making dinner to sleeping under the stars.

I told a friend of mine about her adventure later that week, and he smiled.

“That’s what makes this place so special,” he said. “Kids can have adventures. Parents can pretend not to be worried, and somehow, everyone’s better for the experience.”

I agreed.





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“One piece of advice, though,” he said. “Next time, make sure you know exactly where she’s going to be camping and exactly when she should be home. That way, if she misses the window, you know where to start looking and when.”

It was good advice—and something we put into practice with the rest of the crew as they grew up here.

Fast forward six years. Same thing. I walked into the garage to find my twin daughters rapidly stuffing camping gear into their car, telling me they were heading to Riggins to camp on a sandbar with a bunch of their high school friends.

I made them stop—putting up with the eye-rolls—and had them show me on a map exactly where they were going, reminding them they could use their phones to text me when they got there and when they were leaving. We also set a time the next morning for when they’d be back. After the details were settled, I left them to their business, looking up from a project I was working on in the front yard as they sped out of the driveway, radio blaring, laughter filling the air.

I didn’t think too much about them that night. I noticed they didn’t text me when they arrived, but I assumed they couldn’t get their phones a clear path to the satellite in the canyon. The next morning came, and I helped my wife set up the birthday celebration for one of our other daughters.

When the previously discussed time arrived, no twins showed up. I gave it an hour. I texted one of the other dads to see what he had heard. Nothing.

So, more mad than scared, I started the drive to Riggins to find them. The assumption, as they know, is that if you miss your appointed arrival time, we must assume something is wrong.

I assumed I’d cross their paths somewhere between McCall and Riggins. When I got all the way to the turn-off to follow the river, I started to worry. Maybe something was wrong. I drove to the end of the pavement and, truly concerned now, stopped to answer the call of nature.

Just then, I heard a car come around the bend. “Of course,” I thought. I turned my body for a little more privacy and, out of the corner of my eye, saw our car headed my way. With one hand I got myself squared away, and I held up the other as a stop sign.

At the now-stopped car, I could tell from the expression on my daughter’s face in the driver’s seat that she knew she was in trouble. In a classic parenting move, I let her and all the girls in the car have it. I told them I was

disappointed in them, and we’d have to rethink their summer plans based on this performance.

They all acted properly chagrined and apologetic, and I got back in my car and followed them home.

In the end, after the crying and excuses and general back-and-forth known to dads and daughters worldwide, we came to a resolution. They understood I was serious about following our system. And, they understood, this was their one get-out-of-jail-free card.

The rest of the summer went well. The girls wandered all over the place with their friends, having adventures I’m not sure I want to know about, but following our basic safety rules. It was a win-win. **MCL**





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A central screenshot of the ASK McCall Life chat interface is shown. The interface has a blue header with the ASK McCall Life logo and the text "Everything McCall Plan Your Adventure". Below the header, there are several example questions in blue rounded rectangles: "What do you want to do today?", "Who has live music today!", "What are my options for Mexican food?", "How do I get to Bear Basin trailhead?", "Water activities in the area?", and "Biking trails nearby?". At the bottom of the chat window, there is a text input field with the placeholder "Start a new message" and a blue send button with an upward arrow. Below the input field, there is a link for "Terms & Conditions". Surrounding the chat window are four circular images: a plate of Mexican food (top left), a person playing a guitar (top right), a group of people in a canoe on water (bottom left), and a person riding a mountain bike on a trail (bottom right). Blue lines connect these images to their respective questions in the chat interface.

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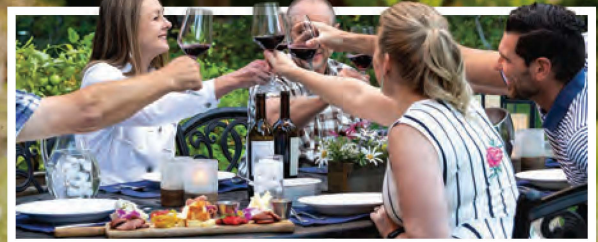
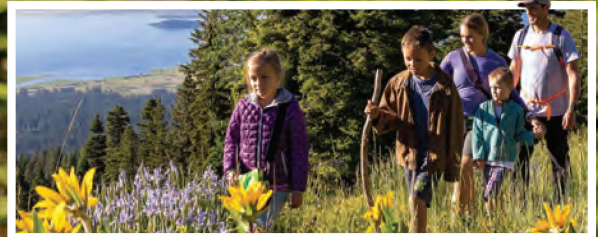
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