

CLIMATE CHANGE AND GRID DISRUPTION

Last year there were devastating wildfires in California, including in Paradise, California, where it was concretely concluded that PG&E transmission lines sparking and failing caused the “Camp” fire, which claimed over 80 lives and wiped out an entire community of homes and businesses.

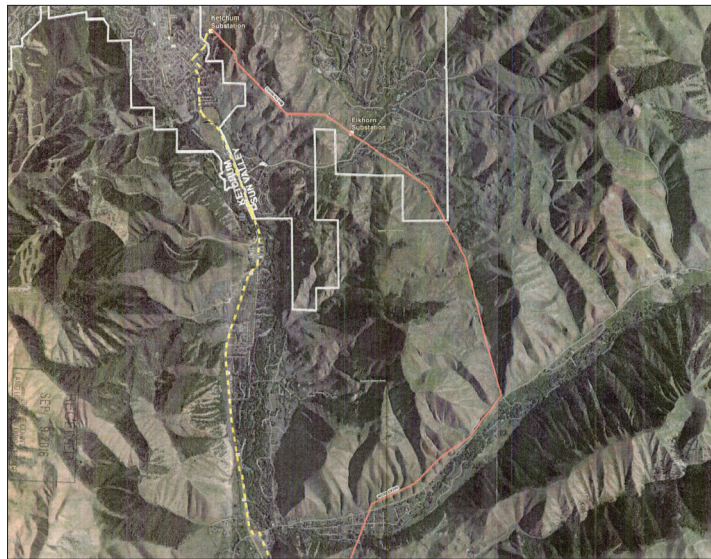
So this year, PG&E, now in bankruptcy, and its sister utility in Southern California, SCE, proactively shut down power on its transmission lines in anticipation of high fire conditions. Millions of Californians were without power for multiple days this past week, and have been warned that this will continue to be a regular strategy. Any business with freezers or refrigerated items will have to scramble for onsite backup battery power solutions or lose inventory and business. Any research or medical facility needing consistent temperatures will need their own generators.

“Michael Wara, director of the Climate and Energy Policy Program, tweeted that the PG&E blackout could result in anywhere from \$65 million to \$2.5 billion in losses... This is happening in a state with strong regulations and enforcement mechanisms... The government acknowledges the risk climate change poses, including making forests more flammable... All this means we need new ways of thinking about how we get power. That, of course, includes solar, but it may mean turning to microgrids, or turning to community-scale renewables. And in California, it means burying power lines.”¹

Wouldn't it be terrific if our Wood River Valley community learned from this example rather than having to experience devastation and loss of life ourselves? Idaho Power started out on the transmission line project because they were so worried that the existing line, which goes up over East Fork into Elkhorn, is seriously deteriorated, with old wooden poles and bird holes. Yet, along the way, they morphed the project into a new transmission line up the valley and abandoned repairing the existing line.

Wildfire is a reality anyway in the West, with lightning and now a hotter, drier climate; we don't need to worry about an old transmission line starting a fire in the back door to the Sun Valley resort. If we installed storage batteries now at our substations, we could run backup power while the existing line is repaired with metal pole replacements and we could perhaps also bury a four-mile stretch over the hill to really ‘harden’ the transmission line. The batteries could provide for future emergencies when the power doesn't reach Hailey to begin with, and help us to avoid the pain that California is experiencing now with preventative rolling blackouts that will put people out of business.

¹<https://earthier.gizmodo.com/think-californias-preemptive-blackouts-are-scary-buckl-1838912490>



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THE WEEKLY SUN | CALENDAR

EVENT FEATURE



Texas native Carolyn Martin and her Western swing band, shown here last weekend during the Trailing of the Sheep Festival, will play at the Sun Valley Jazz & Music Festival. Photo credit: Dana DuGan

DANCING DIXIE TO DOO-WOP

Sun Valley Jazz & Music Festival to celebrate 30 years

BY DANA DUGAN

For 30 years, Sun Valley has been the spot for a certain kind of music festival. Enthusiastic attendees come from across the globe to dance and delight in the music of about 40 hand-picked bands. This year, the event will take place from Wednesday, Oct. 16 to Sunday, Oct. 20.

Founded in 1989 by jazz lovers Tom and Barbara Hazzard, the Sun Valley Jazz & Music Festival is held annually in Sun Valley. The party has weathered the change of name and the addition of more genres of jazz music. Originally the emphasis was on Dixie jazz. Now bands play everything from vintage jazz, Swing, Big Band, Cabaret, Doo-wop and Boogie-woogie to Zydeco, blues, Gypsy, folk and Western swing.

New and younger bands from all over the country will join longtime favorites such as Coronet Chop Suey, Kings of Swing, Midiri Brothers, Blue Street Jazz Band and Bob Draga. These well-known bands from seasons past bring continuity to the five-day event.

Other well-known bands who will make return appearances include Tom Rigney & Flambeau, Gator Nation, Ivory&Gold®, High Street Party Band, Sherri Colby's New Orleans Racket Makers Jazz Band, and Pearl Django, which is one of the best Hot Club-style groups working today. The band's roots are in the music made famous by Django Reinhardt and Stéphane Grappelli, but they also play traditional jazz classics and original compositions.

Among the other new and returning bands are Young Bucs, We Three, United States Coast Guard Dixieland Jazz Band, Side Street Strutters with vocalist Melonie Collins, the Yale Whiffenpoofs, and Professor Cunningham and His Old School, an award-winning New York-based band that performs a repertoire rooted in the New Orleans tradition, from early jazz to early R&B, in the traditions of Sidney Bechet, Fats Waller, Professor Longhair and Fats Domino.

Also on hand will be Hot Jazz Collective, Cocuzzi Courtet, Carl Sonny Leland, San Francisco-based Clint Baker's Hot Five, and the Holland & Coots Quintet. Blue Renditions will return to the event stage. And making its debut will be The Black Market Trust, a five-member jazz band based in Los Angeles.

The Carolyn Martin swing band is led by Martin, a Western Swing Hall of Fame inductee, a Texas Western Swing Hall of Fame member, and a 2016 Ameripolitan Music Award winner. The well-received band recently entertained folks at the Trailing the Sheep Festival in Ketchum's Town Square.

Direct from Idaho's capital city will be Boise Straight Ahead playing rousing renditions of all the Big Band favorites. Wood Rivet Valley-based



New Orleans stalwart songstress, dancer and band leader Banu Gibson will also make her Sun Valley Jazz & Music Festival debut this week. Photo credit: Banu Gibson Facebook

Bruce Innes will play again this year, in a tribute to James Taylor, at River Run Lodge.

The festival's lineup will also include special guest artists. These include the always poplar and beloved Yve Evans; vocalist Dawn Lambeth; banjo player Gary Ryan; 18-year-old vocal dynamo Shaymus Hanlin; and the multi-talented bandleader, dancer and songstress Banu Gibson.

A repeat performer at the New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Festival and French Quarter Fest, Gibson is a big deal in the South. In 2009, she was honored by the New Orleans Preservation Resource Center for her contributions to music, was a New Orleans Magazine's 2007 Jazz All Star and was featured in the 2010 New Orleans Magazine as "Top Female Achiever."

Like all good music festivals, performers mix it up by sitting in with each other, joining for mini supergroups and honoring other performers. For instance, there will be tributes to Sarah Vaughn, Fats Waller, Bobby Darin, Louis Armstrong, Pete Fountain, Count Basie, Glen Miller, Patsy Cline, Frank Sinatra, and Blossom Dearie.

Other events will include the annual Pianorama, dance classes and a final competition, second line parades, jazz parties, and much more.

Most of the events will take place at the Sun Valley Inn and Sun Valley Lodge, but River Run Lodge and Dollar Lodge will also be in play. For more information, tickets and a full schedule, visit sunvalleyjazz.com.