



The Evolution performs at Second Street Tavern in Eagle

LIVE FROM EAGLE + GYPSUM!

Story By Laura Lieff | Photos by Amber Griggs

The Downvalley music scene shines with an abundance of local talent and three establishments that are happy to host a variety of genres.

Live music brings people of all ages and backgrounds together—especially when it involves local bands, artists, and locations. Whether music is happening in a bar, restaurant, large venue, or outdoor event, people love experiencing live music and are always looking for places that feature it on a consistent basis. Three of those Down Valley places are Second Street Tavern, Grand Avenue Grill, and Eagle River Brewing Company.

Since opening in 2023, Second Street

Tavern has welcomed an assortment of artists as it has quickly become a hub for residents to enjoy music with friends and family. “Over the years, we’ve witnessed Eagle’s growth, and our aspiration is to evolve alongside it, offering a space where everyone can come together for shared enjoyment,” says Amber Griggs, Marketing Director and Talent Booker for Second Street. “You don’t have to know a thing about another person to dance or sing beside them. There’s something innately beautiful about how simple that

is—especially in a world often marked by disconnection.”

This spring, patrons can look forward to live music at Second Street on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday nights from approximately 8 to 10 p.m. Griggs says she made sure to book something for everyone as the acts on their calendar vary from duos to nine-piece bands and cover a wide array of genres including Americana, Funk, Bluegrass, Jam, Rock, and Reggae, among others.



Hardscrabble plays at Second Street Tavern in Eagle



Founded in 2017 by Mauricio and Dina Cadavid, The Evolution (above) is an eclectic eight-piece band that plays a variety of styles and genres of music.

A four-piece group that began with an impromptu jam session, Hardscrabble (right) is a Colorado bluegrass band that has been a fixture of the local music scene since 2009.



LOCAL TALENT

Two acts to look forward to are The Evolution and Hardscrabble—both of which were started by and are comprised of longtime locals. An eight-piece band that plays a combination of Latin, Caribbean, Reggae, 80s, “Yacht Rock,” and modern indie tracks, The Evolution was founded in 2017 by husband and wife duo Mauricio (guitar/vocals) and Dina (vocals, percussion, and ukulele) Cadavid.

“We’re happy to play anywhere in the Valley and have been contributing to the Down Valley scene since our inception, playing summer shows at Block Party, as well as what used to be 7 Hermits and Boneyard,” says Mauricio. “Recently, we’ve done two shows at Second Street and are looking forward to returning. The crowds have been super supportive and we had the whole place dancing last time!”

Hardscrabble, the four-piece group that started as an impromptu jam session

among friends, moved forward as an official Colorado bluegrass entity in 2009. Since then, the band has performed on every local stage offering their unique blend of original songs mixed with traditional bluegrass anthems and Colorado renditions of crowd favorites.

“We got our start Downvalley and some of our best followers are there,” says Jena Skinner (lead vocals/mandolin). “As locals, we appreciate every gig we get in Eagle County and are proud to have originated out of our small mountain towns. That said, there is a hometown feel playing Downvalley that we really love.”

Hardscrabble also recently played at Second Street and are looking forward to returning. The band’s history runs deep in that location as they were the first band to ever play there when it was Bonfire and the last before it closed its doors.



GRAND AVE GRILL
 Open Mic Night Every Wednesday
 678 Grand Avenue, US-6, Eagle
 (970) 328-4043
 @grandavenuegrill



EAGLE RIVER BREWING
 Live Music
 428 Airpark Drive, Gypsum
 (970) 687-1761
 eagleriverbrewing.com
 @eagle_river_brewing



SECOND STREET TAVERN
 Live Music
 127 W 2nd Street, Eagle
 (970) 705-1717
 2ndstreeteagle.com
 @2ndstreeteagle

INVITING ENVIRONMENT
 While local, live music has clearly been part of Eagle County's fabric for decades, the Downvalley music scene has been experiencing an exciting rise in both participants and audience members. As a result, the scene continues to grow.
 "The Downvalley community is a small but mighty part of the machine and there are many that yearn to elevate music's ongoing role in our town," says Griggs. "Our goal is to establish a venue that attracts talented acts, showcasing the collaborative spirit of creative individuals and their friends. Second Street aims to foster an environment where these artists can flourish and we want our community to feel and be a part of that love, empowerment, and adventure." **MTN**



COWBOY KITCHEN
 Karaoke every Saturday!
 629 Scotch Creek Road, Gypsum
 (970) 431-8800
 thecowboyskitchenoffice@gmail.com
 thecowboyskitchenco.com
 @thecowboykitchenco



FIREBOX SPORTS BAR
 Live Latin music, DJs, dancing and more!
 101 Oakridge Court #101, Gypsum
 (970) 524-3868
 fireboxsportsbar.com
 @tucasaempire

Q&A

Amber Griggs is a local photographer who has made an impact on the Downvalley live music scene. She also specializes in shooting local bands, live shows and events, as well as retail and lifestyle photography. And we think she did an awesome job with this feature. Find out more about Amber below!

How long have you lived in the Valley?
 I moved here December 2016 so it's been just over seven years.

Any special school/training in photography?
 I always loved art as a kid and I always thought I'd be covered in paint or charcoal as an adult. When I moved from Florida to Virginia during my junior year of high school, I took a class in film photography and then digital photography and graphic design got added to the list. I eventually worked for my high school professor shooting weddings and working as his office assistant for a number of years.

What draws you to shoot live music?
 My background has always been in creative industries. While I have little talent using an instrument (or 7), I have a fond appreciation for the craft. It's something that gathers people who have nothing in common, in one room, and makes their hearts sing and their bodies move. I find there's something profoundly beautiful about that and being able to capture that brings me joy. My background in bar management for a music venue and in festival production operations naturally translated when I started shooting photography again.

Any challenges with shooting shows/concerts?
 Lack of lighting is the arch nemesis of every show. There are loads of talented photographers out there that shoot music and I think they will all agree that



you need great glass to capture shows in low light (and a lot of venues- especially small ones, have terrible lighting.) You need a great F-stop and shutter speed to capture the movement in shows. All photographers have creative differences in how they shoot—some like to capture motion blur, others want a photo as sharp as possible. Everything else, when I'm shooting a show, is mostly just a fun challenge to overcome.

What are your goals/aspirations with photography?
 I've been in love with photography for so long that I think I'd really love to make it a full-time career. I shoot in a lot of areas including music, brands, bars and restaurants, families, and events. To be able to share my vision for those projects with the world would be a really incredible feeling. Travel photography wrapped in with some of these elements would be the ideal outcome. I've always wanted to do something creative with my life that allows me the financial freedom and flexibility to travel the world.

CONTACT

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 @amberdiannphoto