

**A Diversion Dam plunge into Big Chico Creek.**  
PHOTO BY JASON CASSIDY

school's out, you have the river largely to yourself.

The traditional float starts across the county line at the Irvine Finch boat launch and lasts about two hours if you take a left at Pine Creek and disembark at Scotty's Boat Landing for some fried food and cold beverages.

Of course, there's plenty of next-level floating—i.e. flatwater and whitewater rafting and kayaking—to be found in and around Chico on the Sacramento River, Butte Creek, etc. Visit the Chico Paddleheads group at [chicopaddleheads.org](http://chicopaddleheads.org) for all the paddlin' info.

As with any outdoor adventures during hot weather, protect your skin with sunscreen and hats, bring plenty of water, check conditions ahead of time and pack applicable safety gear.

—Jason Cassidy



The Milky Way during Perseid meteor shower.  
PHOTO BY HARI NANDAKUMAR



The Flume Street Fair—at Eighth and Flume streets—now happens bimonthly. Catch the June markets on the 10th and 24th.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF CHICO ART STUDIO



# Stumble upon a street fair

Is it just the summer haze, or is that really a person selling jewelry made of pearl and bone near another reading tarot cards and offering tea infusions on the corner of Eighth and Flume streets?

There's something magical about street fairs and markets in Chico. Where else can you buy a basket of plump strawberries and eat them, one by one, smiling as the red juice stains your fingers while you wander through the closed off streets of downtown Chico and stumble upon a nighttime fire dance show?

At the Thursday Night Market, there's somebody playing music in the City Plaza as the sun goes down, and adults dressed as popular Sci Fi characters take pictures with teenagers.

Patrons browse gem stones that mirror the cosmos under the light of the full moon at the Lunar Market.

On a Divine Sunday, you can pick up a handcrafted ceramic mug with a colorful design reminiscent of the California super bloom and make eye contact with bizarre, myopic glass creatures.

And lately, new vintage markets have appeared seemingly overnight, like blooming cactus flowers. They are a welcome surprise, discovered as you make a late morning jaunt to pick up your favorite drink from a local coffee shop or wander out for an evening stroll.

Summer fairs are for getting in touch with the weird, the wonderful and the whimsical. They're for embracing the sticky and the sweet as you sweat in the summer heat and enjoy a special treat from a local shop while browsing art offerings. Of course, they're the best places to grab fresh produce, as well as discover the creatives in our community.

During your market travels, maybe you end up taking home a little trinket that speaks to you. Come winter, it reminds you of your summertime journey, and that the seasons will inevitably change. You'll dance in the street under the balmy summer moonlight once more.

—Ashiah Bird

SUMMER CONTINUED ON PAGE 19

KZFR 90.1 FM PRESENTS IN CHICO

*Bluegrass Night*

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Thursday  
June 22

Chico  
Women's  
Club

*Neuerland*

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