

INSIDE *Singletree*

OCTOBER 2016

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The Begg Family

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HELLO

SINGLETREE RESIDENTS!

publisher's note

Hello October! The frenzy of summer is over, the golden aspens have nearly lost their leaves, and we can take a few moments of downtime before beginning to anticipate the snow flying before the ski season is upon us!

I hope you will enjoy this month's issue of *Inside Singletree*. First we meet the Begg family, Mike, Angi and Avery, who knew they had found home in Singletree at a lemonade stand! Sydney Dietz shares her experience and her impressions from teaching in Tanzania this summer, and Michelle Hayes lets us in on her history as a tomboy and how she became the adventurer that she is today. Cynthia Kruse welcomes Cammie Jean as a future champion and we recognize Raymond Blesz for his photographic accomplishments.

We would like to welcome our newest business partners to *Inside Singletree*. **Second Nature Gourmet** offers a host of gourmet opportunities, including catering, personal chef and home delivery services; look for her and her culinary delights at our future events. **Stone Concepts** is your go-to source for granite, natural

stone and tile, and provides fabrication and installation services as well. When considering a new project, be sure to visit their showroom in Eagle. And **Sweeping Change** would love the opportunity to make your life easier by cleaning your home so you can spend your time enjoying other activities with friends and family!

On a sad note, it is with great sorrow that we offer our sincere condolences to John and Judy Genova for the loss of their beloved dog, Dallas. You were fortunate to meet Dallas in the August issue and since then, Dallas has passed suddenly and unexpectedly. Please hold John and Judy in your thoughts and prayers during this difficult time.

I look forward to meeting each of you at our upcoming neighborhood events!



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The kids are back to school and it's time to take a breath! October is the perfect time to see old friends and neighbors and meet new, sip a glass of deliciousness and enjoy delicacies prepared by Second Nature Gourmet! Please RSVP via e-mail to holly.proctor@n2pub.com. Space is limited and available on a first come, first serve basis. Join us and treat yourself to a soiree of fun and friends!

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Restaurant Review- Ticino

Home Style Italian Cuisine and Neighborhood Camaraderie
Wednesday, October 19, 2016
100 West Beaver Creek Boulevard, Avon
6:30 p.m.

Please join us for a delightful evening of home style Italian cuisine, featuring pizza, homemade pasta and gnocchi. With a modern flare, comfortable dining room and full bar, Ticino is dedicated to providing the best quality food and service. Owners Carlo and Sascha Frey, with Chef Abel Moran, create exquisite dishes using only the freshest ingredients. Meet and mingle with friends and neighbors new and old as we taste and review a range of menu offerings. Appetizers, entrée and dessert will be provided; guests will be responsible for the cost of beverages and gratuity. Please RSVP via e-mail to holly.proctor@n2pub.com. Space is limited and available on a first come, first serve basis. We look forward to seeing you there!



If you would like to be added to the n2 E-Mail List for future invitations and events, please e-mail holly.proctor@n2pub.com.

October Contributors



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Area Director



Olga Barron
Photographer



Ron Hiner
Photographer



Mike and Angi Begg
Meet Your Neighbors



Jeff Manley and John Martin
Sponsor Spotlight



Sydney Dietz
Young Achiever



Raymond Blesz
Celebrating the Arts in Singletree



Cammie Jean
Precious Pets



Cynthia Kruse
Precious Pets



Alida Zwaan
Home of the Month



Michelle Hayes
Athlete Spotlight



Amy Goscha
Family Matters



Happy Power
Real Estate Update

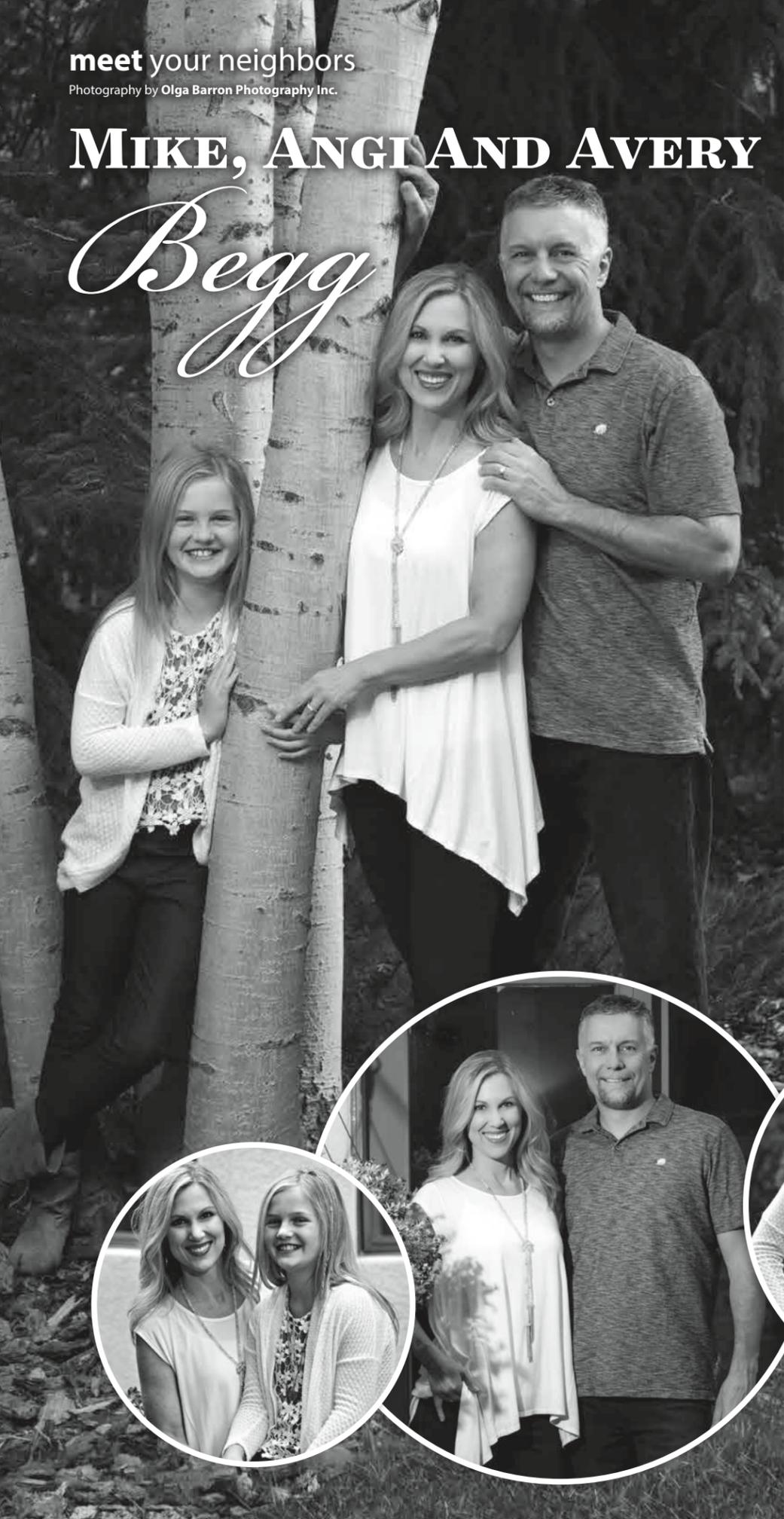
We are always looking for residents to find great stories, follow up on leads, and send us ideas. Let's celebrate the great things happening in our community! No contribution is too small. Please email holly.proctor@n2pub.com with your pictures, stories, requests or suggestions.

meet your neighbors

Photography by Olga Barron Photography Inc.

MIKE, ANGI AND AVERY

Begg



Mike, Angi and Avery Begg (9), feel as though they have been blessed to be able to call Singletree home.

After living on five acres just outside of Durango for many years, when the opportunity to move to the Vail Valley became a reality, they were very excited and unanimously made the decision to move. The only request Avery had was that we find a house in a neighborhood with other kids to play with. Singletree proved to be the perfect fit, proven by the fact that on the same day that Mike and Angi found the home they were dreaming of, just a few doors down were three little girls the exact age of Avery, having a lemonade stand. The rest as they say is history, these girls and their families have become great friends and the neighborhood gained another lemonade salesperson.

The Begg home on June Creek Road is surrounded by great neighbors, kids out the backdoor and mature landscaping, providing the family, including Ellie (the dog) and Dwight (the cat), exactly what they were looking for when they decided to make the move.

Dwight made himself known to all the neighbors as the master vole hunter, and Ellie never tires of playing fetch with whatever rock she can find. Oc-



asionally, you may see both out for a walk around the block, yes Dwight tags along often, and Ellie and the family love to take advantage of all the nearby trail hikes and easy access to the river.

The move from Durango over two years ago was one filled with excitement and anticipation. Mike, a Physician Assistant for the past 22 years, returned to the Valley to work in the clinic where he started his career many years ago. Mike left the Valley in the early 2000's, moving to Durango to continue his career as a PA. In 2014, the opportunity to return to the area was presented to Mike, and the chance to bring his family with him made it easy decision. Recently he has pursued a lifelong interest in personal growth and professional development, and has begun his own business helping others achieve their goals and growth in all aspects of life. This in conjunction with the opportunity to show his family how great this part of the state is, and how wonderful the people are who call the Vail Valley home, made the move back a success as far as Mike is concerned.

Just prior to the move north, Angi sold her hair salon in Durango after working as a stylist in the area for over 24 years. Although it was a difficult decision to leave her clients and friends

that had come to know and trust her over the years, she soon came to feel as though Edwards was home. She currently works at W salon in Edwards and her clientele is growing fast. She enjoys meeting all the great and interesting people that come in and out of the area on a seasonal basis, but she really loves to meet the "locals" that make up our incredible community.

When not at W, Angi loves to volunteer at Avery's school, work out at Pure Barre with all her great friends, and hike with Ellie and the rest of the family whenever possible.

Through her contacts at W Salon, she has been introduced to many wonderful people and opportunities to help give back to the community. Over the past two years, Angi has joined the incredible people associated with The Girl PowHer Fashion Show, The 2015 World Ski Championships, Project Funway, and many other events. These opportunities and the incredible people involved solidify that Edwards, Singletree and the Vail Valley are now home.

Avery attends June Creek Elementary, where she loves everything about school. Out of school, Avery is involved with swimming, reading, skiing, cooking, and whatever she and all her newfound best friends in Singletree

can create. Highlights of this summer included participating in The Kids Adventure Race, The Family Fun Mud Run, multiple Day Camps and a two-night Sleepover Camp with Walking Mountains. This on top of family camping trips, sleep-overs with friends, and visiting family made for the best summer ever.

Mike and Angi also have a son Mitch, who is in his second year at CU Denver, studying architecture and working full time at Home Depot. They have another daughter Amanda, in Durango, who is a horticulturist, studying the science associated with all types of plants, flowers and greenery. She has a soft spot for Rescue BLM Mustangs, and is very involved in finding good homes and training these horses.

Although the Beggs love living in the mountains, beach vacations are always unanimous when deciding where to go to get away. Kauai, Hawaii is the all-time favorite, at least so far, but no one in the family is ready to settle and all are committed to continuing to explore more options whenever possible. A close second to spending time on the beach or in the surf is visiting family in Loveland, Meeker, Phoenix and the hill country of Texas.

Between trips, the family loves to camp, hike, ski, fish, play board games at home, watch sports and movies and just be together on the back porch. At home, depending who has control of the remote, you may find anything from *Good Luck Charlie* to the Food Channel to ESPN on the television. The family are big fans of the Denver Broncos and the Colorado Avalanche, as well as college football.

The Beggs enjoy all the great, convenient restaurants that can be found in Edwards, and would put Gore Range Brewery at the top of their list, mostly because of the great salmon, mac & cheese, beer and sports on every TV within sight. When branching out a bit more, they enjoy Vin48 and the Blue Plate, and sushi from Yama in Vail.

It is nearly impossible for the Mike, Angi and Avery to come up with just one thing they love most about living in Singletree, as the list goes on forever and the party never ends. Without question, they all feel as if their prayers were answered the day they drove down June Creek Road, found the home of their dreams and celebrated with a cold cup of lemonade made by soon to be best friends.



 Olga Barron Photography Inc.



Get to know your neighbors better by having your family featured in the next available issue! Email me at holly.proctor@n2pub.com.

sponsor spotlight

Martin Manley Architects - Not Your Ordinary Architects

Martin Manley Architects is not your ordinary Vail Valley architectural firm. John Martin and Jeff Manley are not your standard architects. The prolific and varied design output from these two gifted architects is anything but ordinary. Their uniqueness springs from their unconventional partnership and business model paired with a deep passion for architectural creativity and connection to the mountain lifestyle.

John G. Martin, a licensed architect in the State of Colorado and an active AIA (American Institute of Architects) member first moved to Vail in 1988 upon graduation with a degree in architecture from the University of California, Berkeley. As so typical of many locals, he arrived with the intention of being a ski lift operator and a ski bum, but soon found the local architecture scene bursting with creativity and energy. He quickly joined a small local firm and built a portfolio of both residential and commercial designs while gaining knowledge and experience for the next 10 years.

As hand drafting gave way to the computer, John saw an opportunity to consolidate the various aspects of the architectural process to create a new business model of the future. John G. Martin, Architect, LLC



Jeff Manley and John Martin

was launched in 1998 and was successful by filling a niche for developer/builders that needed reasonable fees and simpler “builder set” documentation, but with the twist of smart, cutting edge mountain design. John embraced the three-dimensional architectural programs; thereby keeping ahead of the architecture technology that larger firms were ignoring. All the pieces were falling into place but John realized that he could use help, not just with the work load, but with technical peer review, design critique, and specialized construction knowledge. This is where Jeff Manley enters the story.

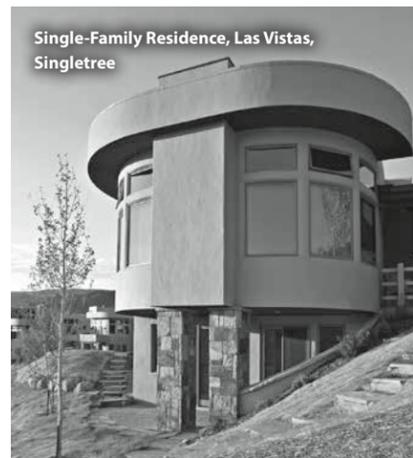
Jeffrey P. Manley A.I.A, had also been chasing his dream of working on high end residential projects by working since 1996 for a mid-sized Vail Valley architecture firm. Jeff had come to the Vail Valley for the lifestyle and stayed for the great and fulfilling architectural work. Previously, he had already cut his teeth on large commercial / industrial projects in Illinois after he had graduated from the architecture program at Southern Illinois University. John saw the potential in creating a business partnership in 2005 with Jeff. With similar passions for skiing, mountain biking, music, the mountains, and architecture, they became great friends. John saw that Jeff’s strengths were complementary to creating a well-rounded architectural firm with a wider circle of influence and professionalism.

Now a full-fledged partnership since 2005, Martin Manley Architects expanded on the original ideals and created a collaborative based firm. The firm specializes in distinctive, site-spe-

cific single family and duplex homes throughout Vail, Avon, Beaver Creek, Eagle, Aspen, Napa, and ... sometimes Belize. Their portfolio also includes multi-family, enclave, tenant finish restaurant and renovation projects of all sizes, budgets, and complexity. The focus is an emphasis on stylistic variety that compliments their client’s lifestyle, needs, and the mountain environment. The beauty of their projects is complimented by the collaboration of many professionals that work with John and Jeff to bring their projects to life on time and on budget.

The firm has been at the forefront of technology with the implementation of the latest BIM (Building Information Modeling) software programs to create three-dimensional computer models to aid in design visualization. The resulting designs are environmentally responsive, well planned, and efficient. Not only does this approach streamline the construction documentation process, it keeps the client intimately part of the design as the project evolves.

At the heart of Martin Manley Architects, is the partnership and friendship between John and Jeff. Their collective knowledge and experience is what offers a unique perspective into each client’s venture, resulting in striking and emblematic architecture. It is the core philosophy of Martin Manley Architects that the project is an outward projection of the client’s vision. John and Jeff have a passion for bringing that vision to light and doing so with the best of the modern tools, the experienced designer’s eye, and a keen sense of quality built-environments within the mountain setting that they love so much.



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precious pets

Contributed by Cynthia Kruse and Cammie Jean, Singletree Resident and Pet



“When the dog is ready, the owner will appear,” explains Cynthia. And so it was with the arrival of Cammie Jean. In February, Cynthia had helped rescue another Australian Shepherd, Cooper, only to find out a few days later that Cammie had been born on March 1. With Cooper now living with his other foster parent, Tim, Cammie’s arrival was meant to be.

Cammie is a very active, very confident puppy. Nearing 6 months of age, she reminds Cynthia of Miss Tillie with her sweet disposition; she loves everybody and everybody loves her. Cynthia has not raised a puppy in forty years, and she confesses honestly, “it’s very strenuous. It’s like having your first baby! I worry about what she is eating, what she is grabbing, if she is running away ... I worry about everything.”

Cammie Jean entered her first competition in July at the American Kennel Club (AKC) show at the Eagle County Fairgrounds, sponsored by the Roaring Fork Kennel Club. She took First Place in the Beginner Puppy Class in her group, the herding group. While stage Mom Cynthia watched anxiously from the sidelines, Miss Tillie’s breeder Ray Schafer showed her and was thrilled to report that “she showed like a pro!”

The next competition was her first ASCA show where she won in the 4 - 6 Month Puppy class. This award recognizes her as the top of her breed. In October, she will progress to the 6 - 9 Month

Puppy Class, at which time any points earned count toward championship status.

Cynthia explains that Cammie is competing in conformation, which is essentially, “a beauty contest. In order to prepare for competition,” she elaborates, “a dog must be solid on a leash, able to stand in the proper position, and to be handled by the judge without distress – for the dog or the judge.” Like Miss Tillie, Cammie Jean has the same inherent ability to assume the proper position naturally, referred to as a “free stack”, rather than having to be placed in position by a handler.

Cynthia continues to train Cammie on a regular basis, with assistance from local dog trainer, Mark Ruark. The most difficult challenge is walking on a leash, but she has conquered the commands “Down” and “Come”. Cammie has made her debut at Walking the Dog and is reported to get along well with other dogs, including her foster brother Cooper.

Cammie Jean is a sweet girl with championship promise. Cynthia is so pleased to have Cammie now in her life and looks forward to enjoying a long career of racking up the ribbons!



Do you have a pet and would like to share his/her story? Please email holly.proctor@n2pub.com to feature your precious pet in the next available issue! Dogs, cats, horses, fish and any other type of animals are welcome!

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RACKING UP THE *Ribbons!* CAMMIE JEAN HAS ARRIVED

And then there were three! With great anticipation, Cynthia Kruse is thrilled to welcome Cammie Jean into her home in Singletree as the third in a line of outstanding Australian Shepherds she has raised.

Cynthia first met Cammie’s breeders at the Australian Shepherd Club (ASCA) National Specialty show in 2013 when Miss Tillie took 1st place in the Veterans’ competition at age 13. (Inside Singletree – June 2016) Their Aussie, Sage, was a premier champion at that show and Cynthia expressed her interest in a future blue merle female puppy if Sage was ever to sire a litter. The wait was nearly three years. While Cynthia secretly hoped to have a new puppy while Miss Tillie was still alive, Cammie was born nearly one month to the day after Miss Tillie’s passing.

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Raymond Bleesz with "Abandoned Freezer & Fridges In The High Country".

celebrating the arts in singletree

Contributed by **Raymond Bleesz**, Singletree Resident

RAYMOND BLEESZ Wins in the Colorado Photographic Arts Center Members Show

Raymond A. Bleesz, a fine art photographer and resident of Singletree, has been selected to participate in the Colorado Photographic Arts Center 2016 Annual Members Exhibition with his black and white photograph entitled, "Abandoned Freezer & Fridges In The High Country". Having begun operations in 1963, CPAC is considered one of the oldest established fine art photographic galleries west of the Mississippi, and Raymond has had numerous photographs displayed at CPAC over the years. The photographer has been a member of CPAC since 1976 when he made the decision to pursue fine art photography and has been ever doing so ever since.

The photographic image Raymond submitted of the abandoned, starkly white appliances stacked up against a

dilapidated shed in the high country ranching area in Eagle County was an oddity, and yet there was symmetry in the white rectangular shapes against the gray/black boards of the shed & distant horizon.

The juror for the Colorado Members Exhibition was Tim Wride, Curator of Photography at the Norton Museum of Art in West Palm Beach, Florida. Mr. Wride viewed over 300 images submitted by 73 artists. Mr. Wride selected this image based on its strength, its idea, and its abnormality in the ordinary.

Technically, Raymond does not rely upon photo manipulation; rather he is interested in "reality". Fluent in color, as well as black and white, Raymond actually prefers black and white and states: "Color photography is easier



"Rain, Hail On The Old Homestead Piney Creek Ranch"

to comprehend and do, and is psychologically pleasing to the eye, however, black and white photography is harder to master, has a longer tradition, is harder to understand and is more graphic. A black and white photo needs to make a serious 'statement' to be effective."

Most recently, Raymond won 1st Place at the local Colorado Mountain College - Vail Valley Arts Guild Photographers (VVAGP) show at the CMC campus in early August, with his piece entitled, "Rain, Hail On The Old Homestead Piney Creek Ranch". Raymond is also a Co-Founder of the VVAGP group. Raymond's photos can be seen at the Art of the Vail Valley Gallery in Avon, as well as Brush Creek Dry Goods in the Riverwalk Complex in Edwards.



Do you know a Singletree resident who expresses themselves artistically? Painters, sculptors, photographers, jewelers... please share your creative side and your craft by sending an email to holly.proctor@n2pub.com.



sponsor spotlight



Happy Power - Matchmaker For You And Your Perfect Home

Contributed by **Happy Power**, Singletree Resident

Ask Happy Power about the real estate business and her enthusiasm comes shining through with great energy and sincerity. "I love the business!" she exclaims. And why? "It's great to meet people and it's great to help them find their house. What I really care about is finding the right fit. I love the matchmaking ... that just makes me so happy." And it is clear, she means it.

Happy moved to the Vail Valley, with her husband, JP, from Middletown, Ohio in 1995. They moved into the home in Singletree where they still live today. Prior to landing in Colorado, the couple lived in Kentucky, Virginia, California and Ohio. She sold real estate for a while in Ohio and then the great fortune to travel much of the world as the owner of a travel agency in Ohio for eight years. This global perspective and small business acumen have served her well in her real estate career here.

Slifer Smith & Frampton Real Estate

Happy spent her first four years in Vail working in several different jobs with Vail LIVE LOCAL. Resorts, Kitchen Collage,

Colorado Mountain Express, and Sally Hanlon's Travel Agency before deciding she wanted to return to real estate. She joined Slifer Smith & Frampton in 1999 and is now recognized as one of the top brokers in the Vail Valley. As a former Director on the Vail Board of Realtors, Happy is GRI and CRS certified and demonstrates an acute understanding of the local market.

"I like to make sure my clients are doing what is right for them," she continues, "sometimes I will talk people out of listing or selling if it is not the right thing for them to do." Happy's dedication to meeting her clients' needs is always at the forefront of her practice.

Happy can be seen most mornings hiking her constant companion, Chase, a yellow lab, on the trails in Singletree. She also enjoys skiing, golf, hiking, fishing and jeeping with JP. Happy and JP love sharing their deep appreciation for the area with visiting friends, as well as their children and grandchildren. Son Jonathan lives in Denver with his wife, Jody, and two sons, Thomas (12) and Brooks (10). A little further away,

their son Will and his wife, Kate, and Matt (16), Jack (13) and Mary (8) live in Dallas. Happy admits she would love to see more of all of them!

Beyond Colorado, Happy still harbors a deep passion for travel. Off-season is the perfect time for adventure: Australia a year ago, a Scandinavian cruise this past spring, and Scotland with her brothers in September. Having seen much of the world, she is now closing in on those destinations she has not yet experienced.

As a Singletree resident, she has focused her business in her backyard simply because she knows so many people in the community and her business has naturally grown in the neighborhood. Her office is in Vail and she has listings in sales in many different areas of the Valley. Whether you are looking to buy or sell, you can feel confident that Happy will bring her genuine eagerness and honesty to helping you make the decision that is best for you and your family.

You can contact Happy at 970-331-8196 or hpower@slifer.net.



restaurant review

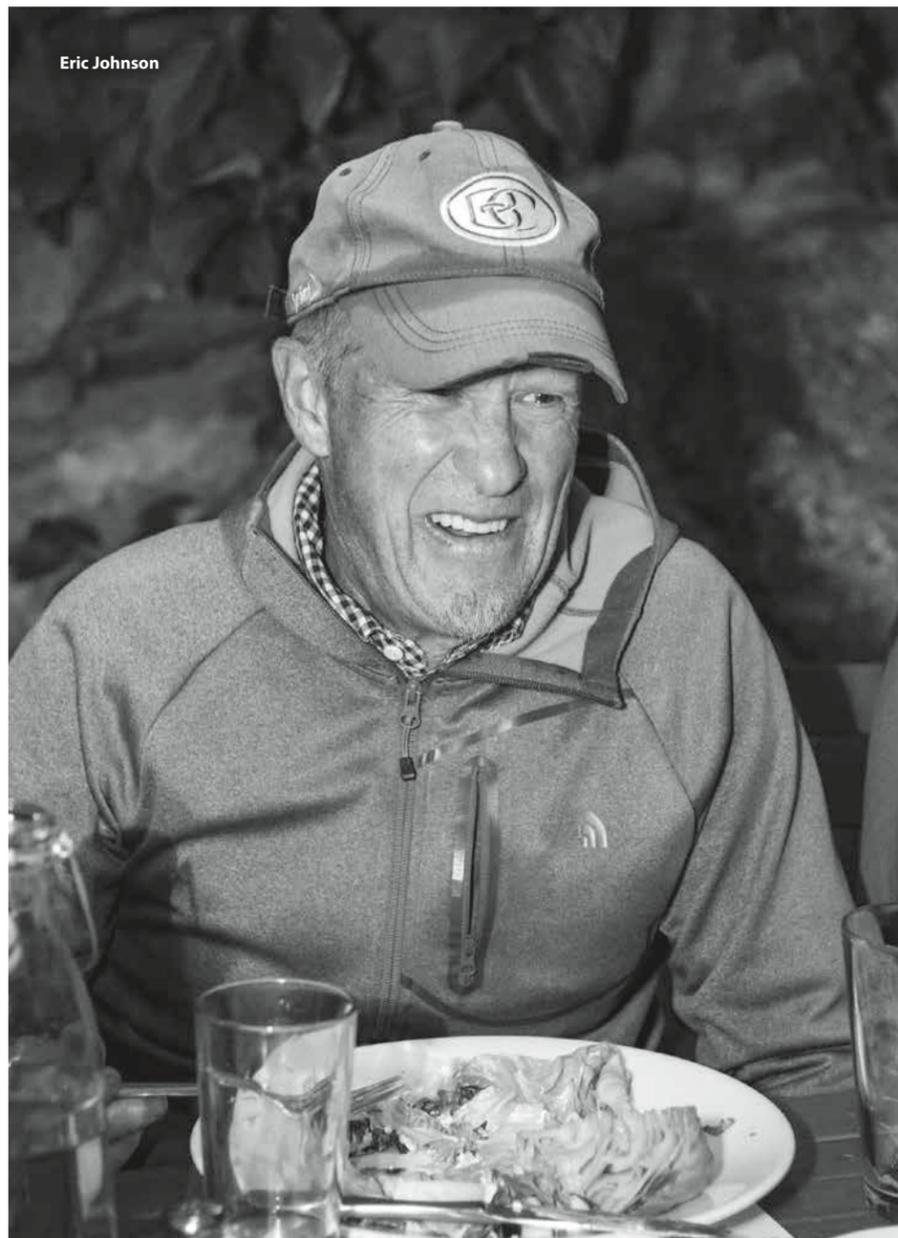
Perfect Night on the Gore Range Brewery Patio

A Night of Neighborhood Camaraderie at GORE RANGE Brewery

Photography by Olga Barron Inc.

On a late August evening with fall in the air, nineteen Singletree residents attended our inaugural Restaurant Review at the Gore Range Brewery. The Edwards restaurant is known for its casual atmosphere, handcrafted microbrews and tasty food. Many guests did not know exactly what to expect from the event, but arrived as enthusiastic participants and enjoyed an evening of lively conversation and laughter with friends and neighbors while sampling an array of Gore Range Brewery's specialty dishes.

The event was hosted on the spacious patio nestled behind the restaurant and surrounded by a rock wall and abundant flowers, making for a lovely private setting. Noel and Valerie Harris enjoyed the "beautiful deck, relaxed



Eric Johnson



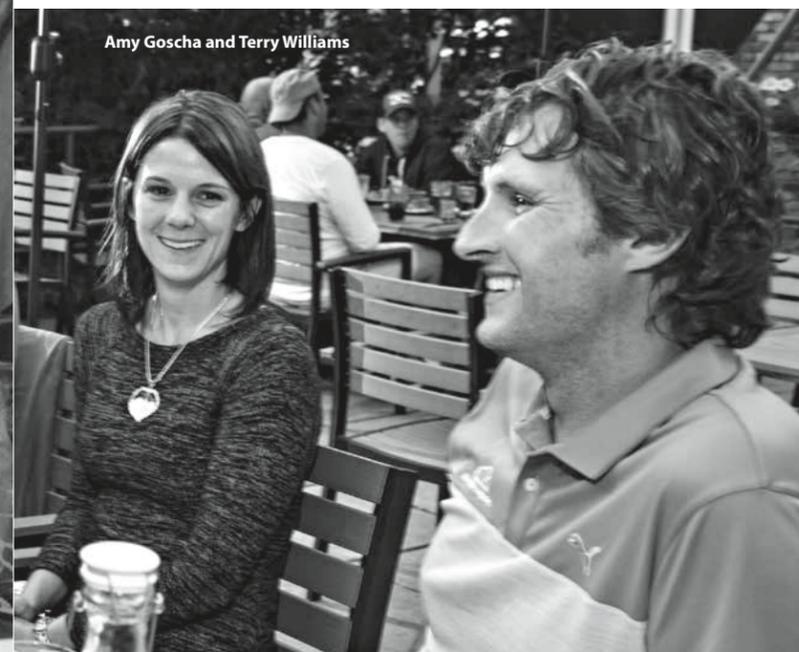
A Winning Entree: Grilled Salmon with Asparagus Risotto



Favorite Appetizer: Caramelized Onion Tart



The Finale: A Sinfully Rich Oreo Tart



Amy Goscha and Terry Williams



Buck and Kathryn Matthews

atmosphere and good beer". The atmosphere scored a 5 out of 5 across the board and one guest summed up the overall experience with the comment, "The patio is an amazing spot! Can't wait to come back!"

Appetizers were delivered to the table immediately, including hummus and avocado dip, an antipasto plate offering a selection of prosciutto, salami, fresh mozzarella and manchego cheese, and the group's favorite, the caramelized onion tart with honey, bleu cheese, arugula and walnuts on a puff pastry.

Michelle Hayes particularly liked the sweet flavor of the bread while another guest described it as "very delicious with the arugula". Diane Levin described the starter as "Wonderful! And very flavorful with a great flaky crust." Jean Mitchell named the onion tart as her "very favorite appetizer". The hummus, with praise for its presentation, received varying reviews, ranging from "very good with fresh flavor" to "a little bland and needing some zip".

The Gore Range Brewery offers classic American pub fare with a twist, including salads, soups, sandwiches, wood oven pizzas, entrees and side dishes. On this particular evening, our guests were offered a selection of the restaurant's signa-

...

... ture dishes, all of which were rated a 4 or 5 by the reviewers for both flavor and presentation.

The grilled salmon served with asparagus risotto certainly stood out among the dinner selections. Many guests remarked on the excellent preparation of the salmon; Michelle Hayes specifically noted the “great texture of the salmon” and commented it was “grilled perfectly”. She went on to describe the accompanying asparagus risotto as “delicious”, echoed by many who claimed the dish to be “outstanding”.

Gore Range Brewery is known for their hearty sandwiches, and both the pulled pork sandwich and the BBQ spice rubbed brisket dip served on a pretzel roll were well received, particularly with note for the crunchy French fries. The BBQ Spice Rubbed Brisket Dip was simply described as “so delicious!”

For lighter fare, guests were offered a choice of the house salad or the wedge salad with a choice of steak, salmon or chicken. Eric Johnson named the wedge salad with “tender

and succulent” salmon as his favorite dish, and another guest described the entrée salad as, “delicious, with the salmon cooked perfectly”.

Dessert options included an oreo tart and a berry trifle. Overwhelmingly, the Oreo tart, a fudgy chocolate mousse served on an oreo crust with a scoop of vanilla ice cream and drizzled with chocolate, was the winner! Jean Mitchell remarked “Wow! A perfect dessert to share” and referred to the dish as a “lover’s dessert”. While the Oreo tart was enjoyed as being “nice and rich” by Felicia, and “sinful” by Eric Johnson, the berry trifle offered an option as a lighter finale to the meal, with a suggestion that while delicious, maybe a few more berries would make it even better.

All 19 of our guests had been to the Gore Range Brewery in the past; and all 19 responded that they would return and would recommend the restaurant to a friend. And in keeping with the spirit of these events, every guest reported that they met someone that they did not already know in the

neighborhood. Amy Goscha and Terry Williams will be married in October, and as they move into their new home on Charolais Circle, they will have already met their new neighbors, Burt and Diane Levin! Lai White summed up the evening as a “nice visit with Singletree residents and making new friends”. Lawyers met neighboring lawyers, brokers met fellow brokers and bankers met former career bankers. Contact information was exchanged and friendships were forged.

We thank Gore Range Brewery for generously hosting our first Restaurant Review. Special thanks to Michelle Wood, for organizing the details of the event, our server, Carly, and the culinary staff for a wonderful evening! We hope to see more Singletree residents at our future restaurant reviews for another evening of fun and neighborhood camaraderie!

Disclaimer: The business reviewed in this article provided products and services free of charge in exchange for this review.

 *Alga Barron Photography Inc.*



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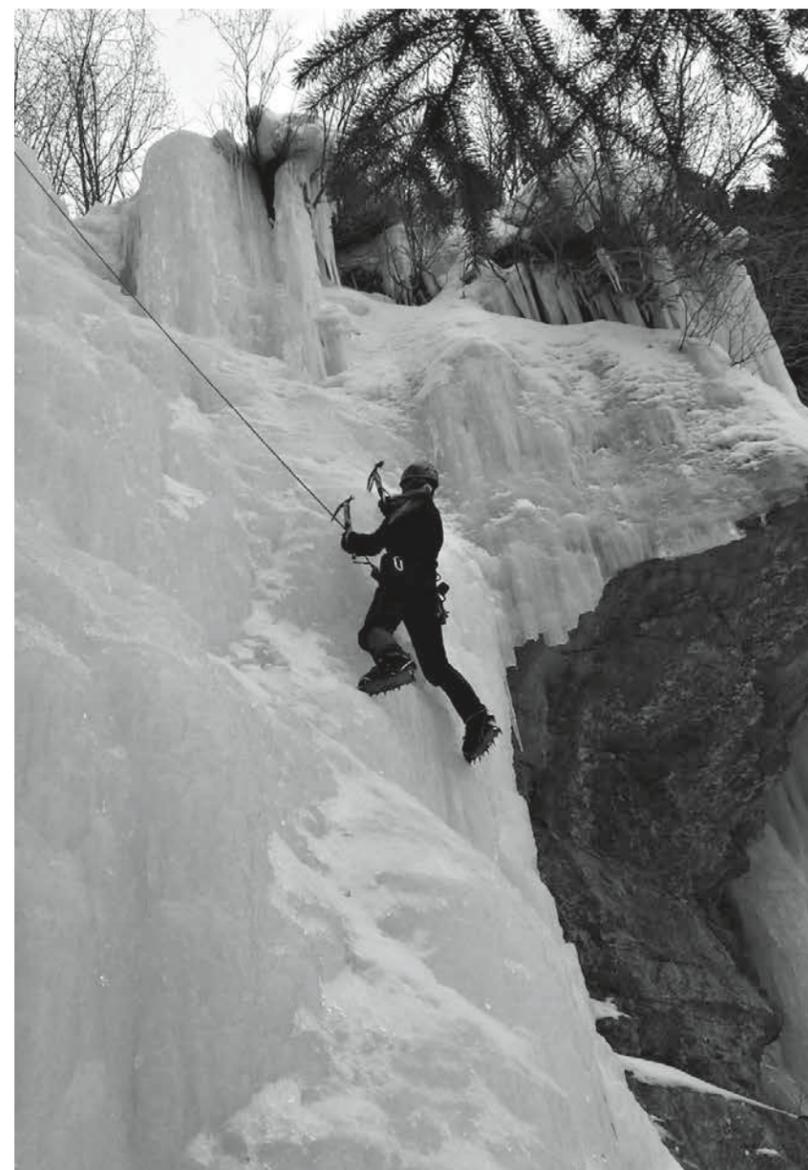
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athlete spotlight

Contributed by **Michelle Hayes**, Singletree Resident

Michelle Hayes: From Farmgirl & Tomboy to Athlete & Adventurer

Michelle Hayes attributes her adventuresome spirit and competitive nature to her birth position; as the fourth of seven children, Michelle had to make her way by proving her strength and independence. “By being in the middle of seven, you get lost, so you have to create your own identity,” she says.

Michelle grew up in southern Illinois. “My father was a farmer and dreamed of having a football team of all boys, and I was the fourth out of five daughters,” she explains, “he did not even show up at the hospital when I was born! So, in order to get his attention, I had to be a tomboy. ‘Who wants to go hunting?’ He would ask. I do! I do! I had to show him I was tough and rough.”

Michelle continues to share her childhood memories: “As a kid, I would go rabbit hunting with my dad. I was the pitcher on my 4-H softball team. I was the best tractor driver out of the seven children. I was responsible for 72 head of dairy cattle. My dad said I could do anything I want, as long as I milked the cows at 4 p.m. every day. I was his dairy maid until I left for college, and then he sold the herd because I was no longer there to help him.”

At Southern Illinois University, Michelle embarked on her career of competing in triathlons. To date, she has completed 78 competitions in locations ranging from Illinois, Kentucky and Tennessee to Israel, Denmark, Sweden and Estonia. Around that time, she decided she wanted to fly a plane so she took pilot training and learned to fly a fixed gear, single engine airplane to carry her from event to event.

Michelle moved to California after graduating from college and continued competing in triathlons across the country, including running marathons in Chicago and New York. A dedicated runner, cycling is really her mainstay activity that she loves the most. She laughs as she confesses, “I swim like a tugboat. I swam in a pond and never took lessons.” She loved living in La Jolla at a time when triathlons were really the rage in the early ‘80s. Keep in mind this was before the time wetsuits were sanctioned to be permitted in triathlons!

During a brief stint living in New York, Michelle was introduced to the thrill of ice climbing and rock climbing. Her destinations included the Gunks in New York and Tuckerman’s Ravine in New Hampshire. In Colorado, she climbs regularly in East Vail

on the Fang or the Pumphouse, as well as exploring Lincoln Falls near Breckenridge and Redstone near Aspen. When asked if she prefers ice or rock climbing, Michelle replies, “I like ice climbing better. Sometimes you see the waterfalls flowing under the ice. I love seeing all the formations of the ice. Something about the color of the ice, the crystals, move me more than the rock.”

Michelle first moved from CA to CO in 1987. Then after a short time in New York, she moved back in 1997 with her then 1-year-old daughter, Johanna. Upon arriving initially in the Vail Valley, Michelle first took a position as a personal trainer and aerobics instructor at Vail Cascades. In addition to her climbing, she really took to cycling in earnest and completed a number of rides including Ride the Rockies, the Triple Bypass, and the River Rides here locally. When she is juggling work and motherhood and everything else life throws her way, getting on the bike is what keeps Michelle grounded. Recently she has introduced her daughter, now 20, to the joys of riding and the pair is frequently seen pedaling between Edwards and Wolcott or Glenwood Springs when Johanna is home during the summer.

Trail running and snowshoeing round out Michelle’s portfolio of outside activities. She steps out her back door and heads straight up Arrowhead. She loves looking for feathers and has gathered a large collection of owl and hawk feathers. “I like the native American culture,” she expresses thoughtfully, “Nature connects me to everything. When I want to just get away and breathe, I just throw on my shoes and scamper up – not on the paths, just straight up.”

Michelle participates in the Vail Rec District events on a regular basis – the trail series in the summer and snowshoe shuffles in the winter – where she consistently places in her age group. She placed second in the trail run at the Go Pro Games this year. Her newest favorite event is the o2X games that is organized by Navy seals to raise money for less privileged children. The event entails scrambling up mountains hand over hand, trail running and bush whacking over all natural obstacles. Last year it was held in Winter Park and this year, Michelle will travel to Loon Mountain in New Hampshire to participate. The motto of the games is “To Rise Higher” and Michelle holds back the tears as she recalls her experience and the emotion behind the event and the cause.

Michelle’s weekly regime consists of weightlifting six days per week in addition to cardio tennis on Wednesday mornings. She says she gets ●●●

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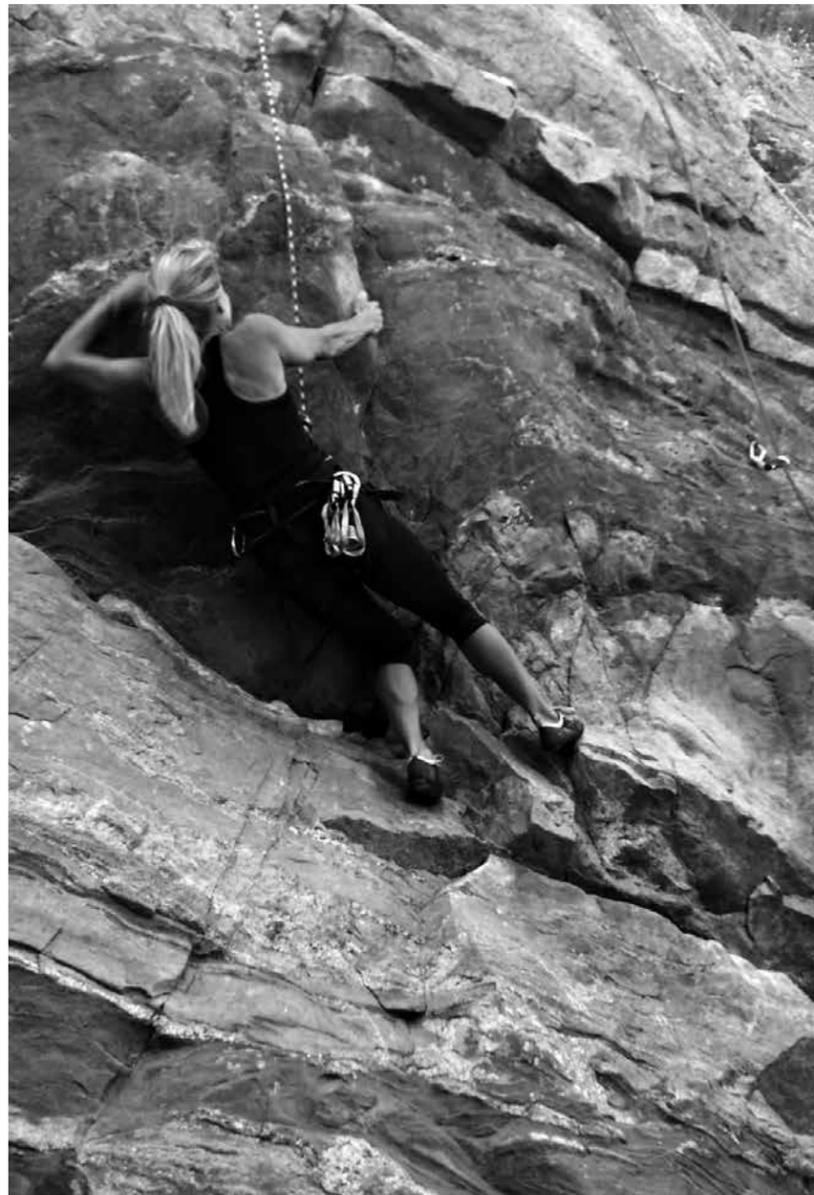
teased at the fitness center at Homestead because she is there every day, with workouts averaging a couple of hours each day. She speaks highly of the strengthening classes and says she almost feels selfish because she loves working out so much. "Whenever I am dragging, I remember how good it feels when I am finished; it inspires me to start," she shares candidly. This has become her mantra as she lives by the words, **"You can't finish unless you start."**

In addition to a full athletic schedule, Michelle has built a prosperous career in mortgage banking. After starting her career with the Klein Group Mortgage in 1997, she founded her own company, Hayes Mortgage Group in 1999. Michelle has developed a loyal clientele over the years and is now a Senior Loan Officer with Everbank. "I love love love my work," Michelle exudes enthusiastically, "people often start telling me their life stories. I guess it's just my friendly Southern Illinois way. They want to tell me everything. That's what I love about my business; it's the people."

But more important than any trail run or professional accomplishment, Michelle's greatest joy has been raising her daughter, Johanna. Michelle proudly shares Johanna's accomplishments as a young dancer, including her graduation from the Interlochen School of Arts in Travers City, Michigan, her year of dancing with a ballet company in San Francisco, a year in New York with Joffrey Ballet, and now her working toward a double major in Dance and Environmental Policy at Bates College in Maine. Michelle loves watching Johanna grow strong and cherishes every moment they can share at Bravo! Vail concerts, or on trails runs and bike rides together.

When asked how she developed such a great sense of courage, Michelle's response was simple. "How can you say no to something when there is nothing keeping you from doing it? I am always delighted to try something new!" From throwing hay bales to hanging from ledges, Michelle Hayes has proven she can accomplish anything she puts her mind to... emerging successfully from being nearly lost in the middle of seven.

Contact Michelle Hayes regarding your mortgage needs at Michelle.Hayes@EverBank.com or **970-390-9095**.



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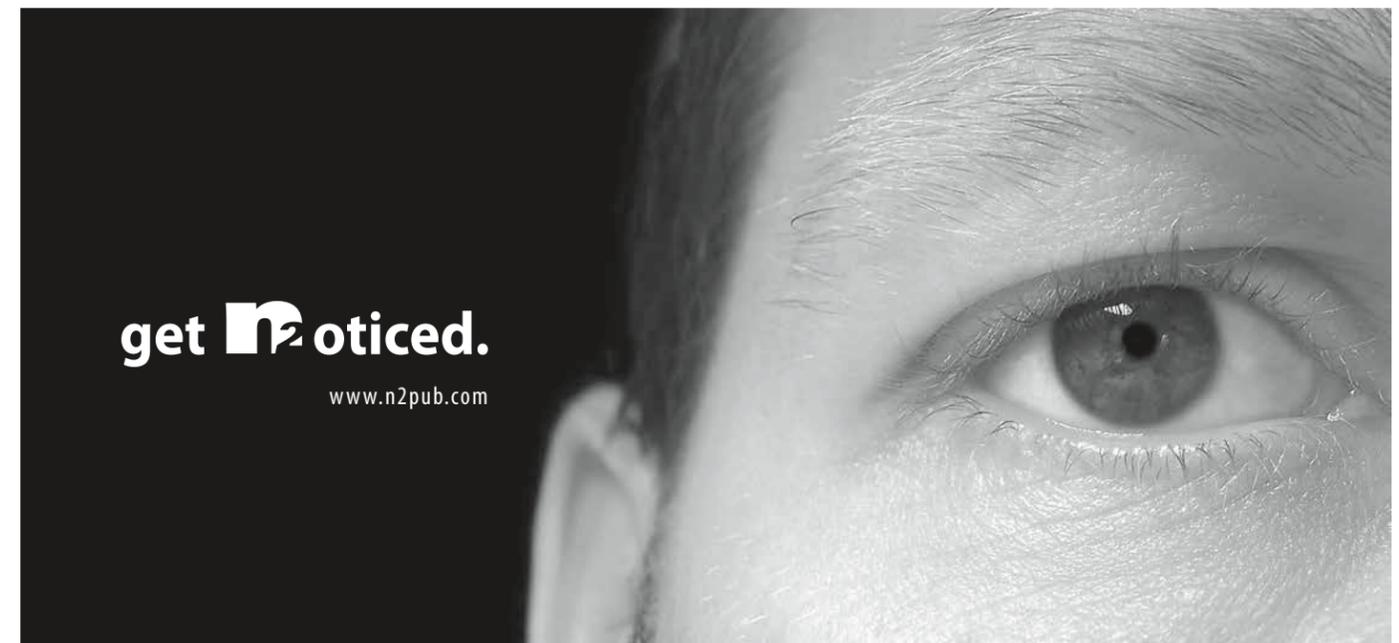
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50 home of the month

Contributed by **Alida Zwaan**, Singletree Resident

Honda Drive

Life At the Top Of Singletree

Shannon, John, Haley and Blake Armstrong enjoyed living in this wonderful Singletree home for over 20 years.

Dr. John Armstrong was a local doctor specializing in anesthesiology. Besides this specialty, John was always on call for all of the neighborhood. Whenever anyone had a medical issue, whether serious or not so serious, John was always there to help solve the problem. While raising her family, Shannon taught German with Ski Club Vail, worked at the Lionshead ticket office and volunteered non-stop throughout the Valley. In addition to these things, she was an excellent mother and homemaker.

Blake attended the Mountain School playing club hockey and soccer with the Vail Junior Hockey team.

Haley also attended the Mountain School and was an all American Junior Olympic Nordic ski racer.

The entire family participated in downhill skiing, biking, and hiking all of the wonderful trails in the Vail Valley.

This home captures all there is to love about living in the mountains! The Armstrongs enjoyed their deck and patio during the summer, watching as the warm Colorado sun set over the Valley below. Winter views are just as impressive throughout the home; the breakfast nook in particular offers spectacular vantages onto the frosted ski runs of Arrowhead and Beaver Creek. A spacious and comfortable floor plan, newly updated kitchen and master bath, and so much more, make this a quintessential family home in Singletree.

Would you like to have your home featured in an upcoming issue or would you like to nominate one of your neighbors? Then send an email to holly.proctor@n2pub.com.

family matters

Contributed by **Amy Goscha**, Business Sponsor

Legal Services **A LA CARTE**

As a family lawyer practicing in the Vail Valley, I have seen a great need for affordable legal representation in our community. Before relocating to the Vail Valley from Denver, I noticed that many mountain residents still traveled to Denver to hire a lawyer. A recent statistic from the Eagle County Courts shows the number of litigants coming to court without an attorney has risen to about 70% or more. The reality is that it is too expensive for most individuals to afford a lawyer to represent them in court in Eagle County.

I offer à la carte legal representation known as *unbundled legal services* to my clients. This model provides local residents with effective representation at an affordable rate; preventing members of our community from feeling the need to seek services in the Denver area.

What is *unbundled legal representation*?

The essence of this model of representation is to provide legal services to individuals on an as-needed basis, instead of paying a large upfront retainer for the lawyer to do everything in the case. The client chooses the services that he or she wishes for the lawyer to perform.

The unbundled model can be used in litigation cases, as well as other areas of the law. For example, I assist clients in litigation under this model by drafting motions and appearing with the client for a court hearing. I additionally draft most estate planning documents for a flat fee. The unbundled model provides clients with the ability to choose what services they need and to know what it will cost them.

The advantage of the unbundled representation model is that it brings an interim option for individuals to seek legal representation when it is needed to bridge the gap. As with any model, unbundled representation is not the single cure for individuals not being able to afford a lawyer for assistance and representation. The unbundled model of representation needs to be used correctly to avoid making a case more complicated than it needs to be.

I have spoken with the local judges on this topic at the Continental Divide Bar Association, as well as at the Family Law and Elder Law conferences attended by judges and lawyers from around the state of Colorado. We are receiving great feedback as an essential means to address the issue of a high percentage of litigants going to court without a lawyer.

The unbundled model of representation provides clients with the ability to seek the advice and counsel of an attorney prior to filing legal actions with the court. I am able help individuals navigate the court system better with the education that my unbundled services provides to them. I am able to help individuals settle all aspects of their case in mediation.

As an unbundled lawyer, I am able to draft the settlement documents for clients, and I make sure the essential areas are covered in the settlement agreement. Clients are able to reach a resolution and good outcome without spending all of their savings on seeking representation from a lawyer.

For more information on unbundled legal representation, contact Amy Goscha at amy@rkvlaw.com.



Would you like to share your insight, perspective, or expertise relative to a family-related topic? Please send an email to holly.proctor@n2pub.com to contribute to Family Matters.



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Sydney Dietz

Learns Life Lessons In Tanzania

Sydney Dietz spent three weeks in Tanzania this summer teaching in the village of Arusha under a program sponsored by the Global Youth Alliance. Here she shares the highlights of her experience.

What first interested you in going to Africa?

My English teacher in seventh grade told us about the Global Youth Alliance and one of my good friends in middle school participated in the program. At the time, I felt I was too young for it and I really wasn't interested in the opportunity. Although I was interested in eighth and ninth grades, Tanzania was not an option at the time and my Mom was not comfortable with the prospect of me going to Cambodia or Nicaragua. Finally, my sophomore year I convinced her to let me go and by then, Tanzania was an available option.

What was entailed in the application process?

I wrote an essay and then had an interview. There was a week of interviews at the Avon library, and about a week later, I got a phone call and was told I had been accepted! There were about 50 Vail Valley students accepted by the Global Youth Alliance, 12 of which went to Tanzania and others went to Nicaragua, Morocco, Nepal or Cambodia.

Why did you select Tanzania? The service work we were going to do was teaching and I want to be

a teacher. Also, my aunt is from Africa, adopted on Mom's side, and my Dad and his sister have travelled to Africa and loved it.

How long were you there? I left July 15 and returned August 3.

Where did you stay? We stayed at a guest house that was arranged by the woman who organizes the program. It was a house about 20 minutes from the center of Arusha and it was a mansion compared to everything else there. It was very comfortable, cozy and safe, gated, with a guard.

What grades was the school and what did you teach? The school was for classes from Baby (age 3) to Class 7 (age 15). I taught Kindergarten the first week, Class 4 the second week, and then spent a couple of days in Class 7.

Did the school provide the curriculum? Kindergarten is very strict so they told us what we needed to teach. In Class 4, it was the week before exam week and the teachers wanted us to help the kids review for exams. It was really scary because the teachers left us in the classroom and we had to stand up in front of about 20 kids, ages 9 and 10, and come up with ways

to get them engaged. It turned out to be really fun because we invented new games for them like 'Around the World' where the kids had to race each other to see who could answer the question first.

How would you describe your students? The students respect their teachers so much. The teachers are very strict. The kindergartners are much better behaved than the kindergartners in America. In Class 4, the students have been disciplined to learn the importance of their education. They understand that getting an education is such a treat and they are excited to be there. The kids in Class 7 are very serious. After completing the year, they have to apply to secondary school (which is like high school) and they have to be accepted. If they are not accepted into a government school, they have to pay to go to a private school.

Was your school a private school? Yes. The families had to pay for the students to be there, which is not possible for so many of the population. About half of the students are there on scholarship.

Did you see where any of these students live? We visited the homes of some of the students who were on scholarship. One home was smaller than the size of my bedroom, with a bed, a table, and not even a kitchen, just buckets. The woman who lives there is blind. She has two sons, ages 9 and 11. I have no idea how she does it but she is the most amazing woman I have ever met. She says her faith in God keeps her alive, and the only picture in the house is a picture of Jesus.

What language is spoken in Tanzania and did you learn to speak it? The official languages are Swahili and English. I learned "asante" which is "thank you" and when someone greets you and says "mambo", you reply "poa", otherwise it is disrespectful. When

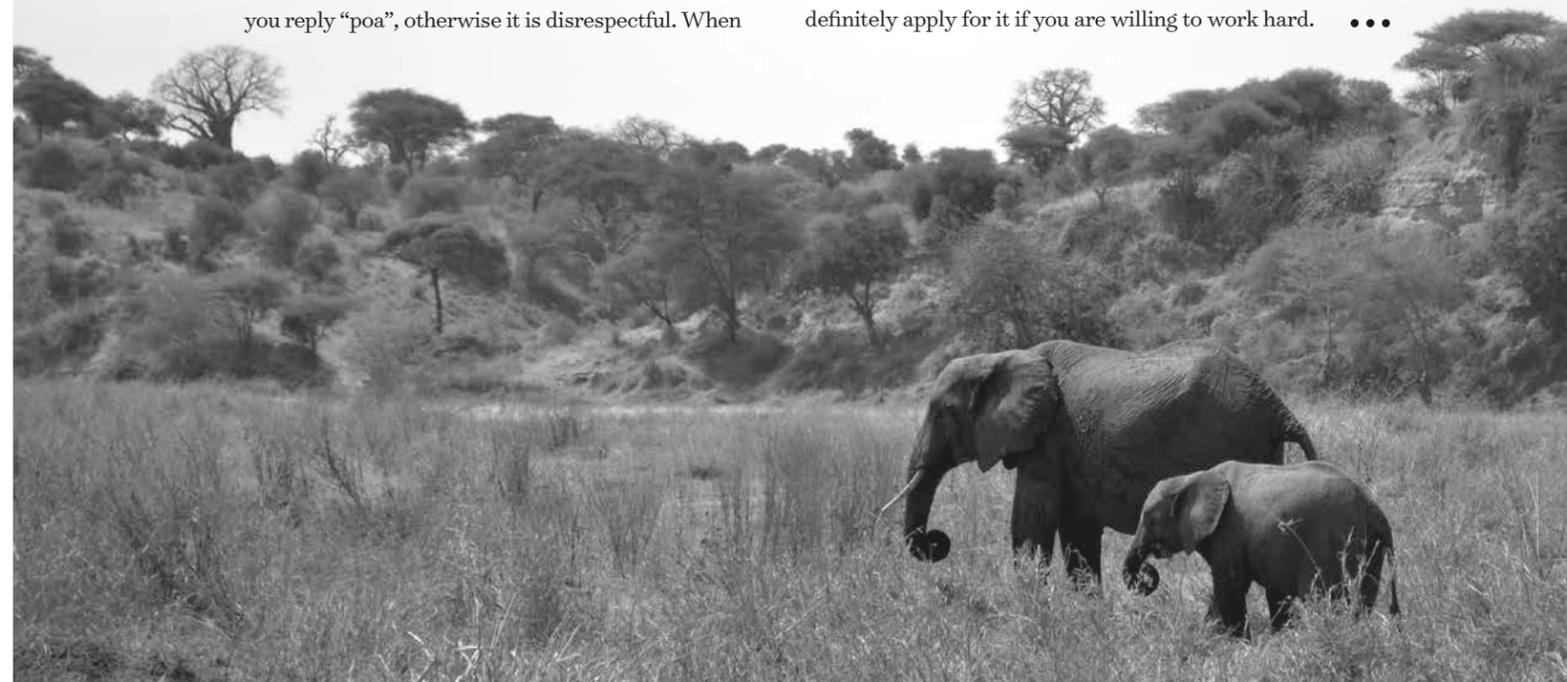
someone greets you, they ask how you are doing, they look you in the eye, shake your hand, and they are sincerely interested in your answer, unlike in America where people don't really listen to the response. The people there are much more genuinely engaged.

What other cultural differences did you notice? They don't really believe in time, meaning if school starts at 8:00 am, teachers would arrive at 8:15 a.m. and it was not unusual for kids to be late. But the kids were late because they were likely helping a neighbor or friend in need. At orientation, a Swahili teacher told us that if someone is late for class, you could not be mad because people should always help others. Here, you get in trouble if you are five minutes late, but there, it is more important to help others.

What experience had the greatest impact on you? I learned how selfless the people are there. We were driving to visit an African tribe and there was a man setting up fireworks for a small audience. He was dirty, his clothes had holes; it looked like it might have been the only shirt he owned. He was eating a piece of corn. The windows on the bus were open and he came running up to the bus offering us the corn, "Eat! Eat!" he said. Here we are, a bus of tired white people and he was offering us food. So selfless.

What else has stayed with you? Just how close we came with everyone there – with the students – everyone was crying when we left, even the driver who drove us to school every day was in tears. It was very emotional; I was so sad to leave all of the students. I miss them so much.

What advice would you give an eighth or ninth grader who is considering going to Tanzania with the Global Youth Alliance? I would say definitely apply for it if you are willing to work hard. ●●●



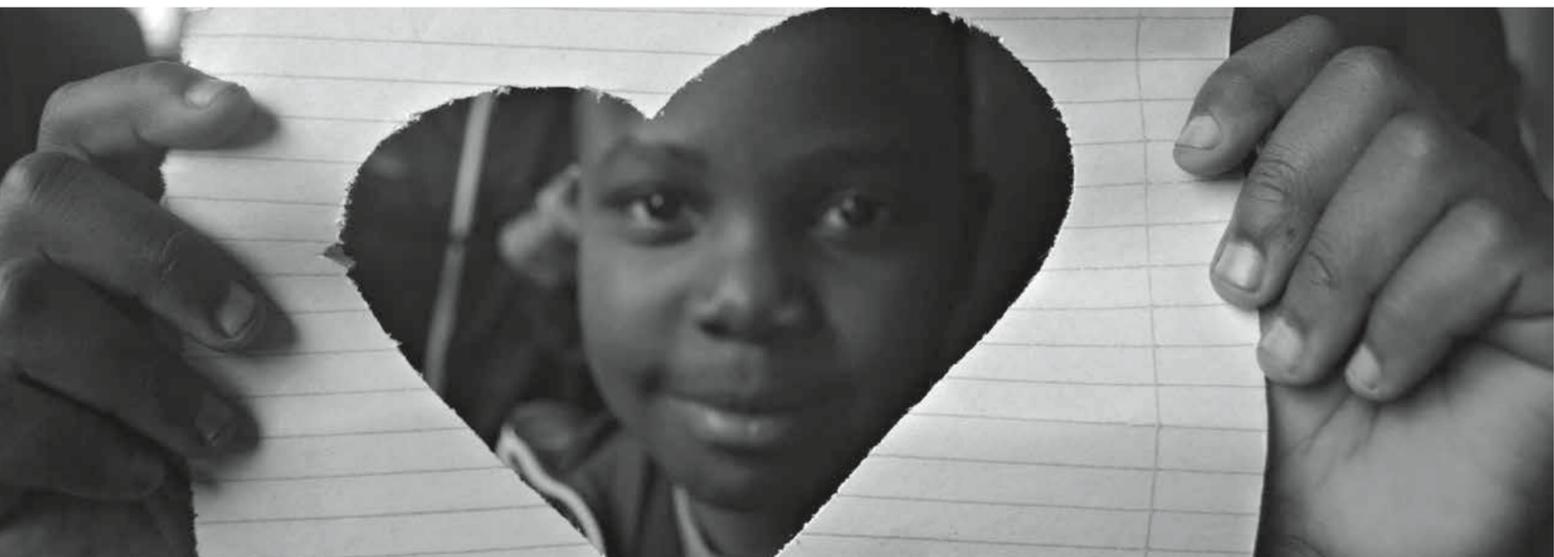
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Going into it, you need to know that you are there to help the kids. It is not just a safari the entire time; you have two hours each night of lesson planning and then you are at school all day. You have to give everything you have for the kids.

What is the biggest life lesson you learned from your experience in Arusha? I think to be more selfless myself. Even kids on scholarship, they have one uniform to wear every day and sometimes it is dirty or has holes in it, but they hold their chin high and walk into the classroom, ready to learn and to work hard, regardless of what is going on at home. The biggest lesson I learned is to value my education more.



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35 Buckboard Rd (SF)*	\$1,485,000	\$1,400,000	7/5/16	\$312.85	5	6 (3 2 1)	4475	No	257
181 Mesquite Dr #E (DU)	\$1,285,000	\$1,100,000	8/5/16	\$357.96	4	4 (3 1 0)	3073	Full	4
196 Charolais Cir #A (DU)*	\$965,000	\$900,000	8/3/16	\$296.93	4	4 (3 1 0)	3031	No	59
98 Charolais Cir #A (DU)	\$690,000	\$701,500	8/3/16	\$313.45	3	3 (2 0 1)	2238	Full	4
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