



INSIDE
Singletree

FEBRUARY 2017

A SOCIAL PUBLICATION FOR THE RESIDENTS OF SINGLETREE

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BLEESZ

Photography by Ron Hiner

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Average Price	\$847,380	\$1,060,400	25.1%
Average Price per Square Foot	\$319	\$320	0.3%
Average Days on Market	101	115	13.9%
Highest Price	\$1,700,000*	\$2,475,000	45.6%
Properties Sold	46	60	30.4%
% Sold Price to List Price	95.4%	94.8%	-0.6%

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publisher's note

HELLO SINGLETREE RESIDENTS!

I hope your 2017 is off to a great start!

It was a very busy holiday season for Singletree. In this issue, we relive our re-energizing pre-Thanksgiving evening of Yoga & Wine, a busy Saturday afternoon sewing project, and a festive wintery evening featuring the 10th Mountain Whiskey & Spirit Company. The fun continued as the community celebrated the holiday season with the first Annual Holiday Cookie Exchange and Cookie Competition at the Singletree Community Center. We kick off the New Year with a not-to-be-missed Night Out for Moms at the Walking Mountains Science Center.

Our February issue features Raymond and Faith Bleez; their 'autobiography' is a fascinating and delightful story. Also in this issue, I am thrilled to recognize five outstanding figure skaters in Singletree, expertly coached by residents Carolyn Kooiman and Tara Lane.

This issue offers an opportunity to learn about the great work Bright Future Foundation does throughout Eagle County and the role Lissa Tyler plays as Board Chair for this invaluable organization. You will also meet Woka, an adorable and precocious 'rock star' white lab puppy.

Please join me in welcoming our newest sponsors to *Inside Singletree*. Dr. Charlie Meynier and his team provide outstanding veterinary, boarding and emergency care for your beloved pets at Vail Valley Animal Hospital and ER. Singletree is home to many outstanding real estate professionals and we are thrilled to have sponsor support from Andie Ohde at LIV Sotheby's Realty, Lai White at Gateway Real Estate, and Lissa Tyler at Slifer, Smith & Frampton. And Dana Erickson with Thrivent Financial is ready to help you evaluate and assist you in your financial planning.

I hope you enjoy this issue of *Inside Singletree* and I look forward to sharing many great stories and events with you this coming year!



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February Contributors

Your support of your neighborhood newsletter will make a difference: please send your stories and photos, share your ideas for feature articles or join the fun at our community events. We continue to seek residents to join the *Inside Singletree* team: junior writers, resident writers, photographers, content directors, and volunteer event hosts and coordinators. Please let us know if you are interested in participating in your neighborhood newsletter at a higher level.

We welcome any and all involvement! Please email holly.proctor@n2pub.com with your pictures, stories, ideas, suggestions or to join the *Inside Singletree* team!



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Photographer



Ron Hiner
Photographer



Faith and Raymond Bleez
Meet Your Neighbors



Carolyn Kooiman
Athlete Spotlight



Tara Lane
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singletree welcomes **ROBERT GRAUER** *to the hood*



welcome to the neighborhood

This month, *Inside Singletree* launches a monthly feature to introduce new Singletree residents to the community. Please be sure to say hello to your new neighbor when you see him!

Robert Grauer was born and raised in Amriswil, Switzerland. After serving in the Swiss Air Force, he came to the States where he completed flight school and embarked on a 40-year career in aviation. With a resume that includes flight instruction and aircraft sales, Robert has been a pilot as the players in the industry have evolved over the years, and now flies American Airlines.

With home base in Charlotte, NC, Robert began visiting Colorado in about 1981 and spent a fair amount of time in Snowmass during the 1980s. About 25 years ago, he discovered the Vail Valley. He rented property in Vail for several years and along the way, came to meet Lynne and Peter Mackechnie (aka Peter Mack); since that time he developed many long lasting friendships in the Singletree neighborhood and determined it is a pretty cool place to live.

Robert has two children (aka young adults) in Charlotte: Max (24) and Alexa (22), as well as a two-year-old grandson, Braxton. When not in Charlotte or not in the air, he can be found skiing, biking, hiking... or anything that gets him outdoors!

Robert purchased a lot at 140 East June Creek Road with the assistance of his good friend, Andie Ohde, and is nearing the end of construction of a duplex. He will be celebrating retirement at the end of January and is looking forward to living in one-half of the duplex (and ultimately having a neighbor on the other side). Robert is excited for the next phase of life that will allow him to enjoy *Singletree living* full time... welcome to your new home, Robert!



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meet your neighbors

Photography by Ron Hiner

Writing one's autobiography is a daunting and formidable task as it has been asked of me to do so for this publication, which includes the biography of my wife, Faith April Blesz, who is a major element in this story.

A story is if I can take James Thurber as my guiding force and mention his celebrated book, "My Life and Hard Times" as a starting point. Thurber, America's foremost humorist and cartoonist, (1894-1961), a dog lover of the highest order, is a factor in my life who impacted me greatly as an artist. But first some preliminaries.

I was born in 1944, first son of Juliette & Antone Blesz, who were French Alsatian immigrants, immigrants who came with their respective au pairs in their early teen years (1920s) seeking opportunities in the New World. They met in NYC at the French Alsatian Club during the war years. My brother, Paul, was born in 1946, and by that time, the family had moved to a rural Massachusetts country estate in the Berkshire Mountains along the Appalachian Trail.

My father, called Tony, did not have an education, and my mother had obtained a high school degree. Education was a valued goal of my parents for my brother and me; hence we became students at a prep school in rural Connecticut as my father, with his wife as his assistant, accepted a position as the French Chef at the school. My enrollment with fellow students from Greenwich, Rye, Scarsdale, Darien and such was tumultuous, value challenging and impacting.

Due to the French teacher at this school, an introduction to James Thurber was made. Tony and Juliette decided to accept positions with James



Raymond & Faith Blesz



Thurber and his wife at their West Cornwall, Connecticut estate: Tony, the Chef & chauffeur and Juliette, Mrs. Thurber's secretary. Our family lived an idyllic life in rural Connecticut, with Thurber dogs, and a small ski area within view of our kitchen window, across from a cow pasture. One of my earliest jobs was that of a rope tow "lifty," besides milking cows and stacking hay.

In 1955 and in 1958, my parents took my brother and me to visit respective cousins, uncles, grandparents in France, the grandparents who were on their deathbeds. Sailing across the Atlantic to Cherbourg on the Queen Elizabeth, the Queen, the USS ship, United States (1958). The family was specifically visiting the petite village of Reichfeld along the route du vin in Alsace, the birthplace of my father and where the Blesz name goes back to the 1600s in church records.

The 1958 trip was monumental as my father included his elderly au pair & husband as well. Tony shipped across the Atlantic a large Chevrolet station wagon for six people & luggage. A life-altering trip, a hoot, my beginnings as a Francophile, childhood interest in history and geography, and my foundation in photog-

raphy as my parents purchased a Leica 111f (1958) which I still have & use on occasion.

I had been exposed to the West, specifically Colorado, very early in my life, and I wanted to be a Marlboro Cowboy. Due to Thurber's books, access to his library, his drawings, the NYC literary personalities who came to Thurber's dinner table, and some other influential educational mentors I had, I decided to pursue history & photography in college, and I chose Utah State University for its cultural diversity, its uniqueness, its skiing and its affordability.

Degree in history & my post graduate thesis program interrupted due to the Tet Offensive, Chicago demonstrations (1968), I spent time in the US Army. As an "elder" at that particular time, I had a hard time mentally dealing with thrusting fixed bayonets into protesting civilians in front of the Lincoln Memorial in DC, protestors who were protesting the Nam war.

Resuming civilian life in 1970 took me to Idaho Springs, my first teaching position where I taught upper-level social studies, intro-

...

•••

duced a photographic program, taught Outdoor Ed, initiated intramural soccer program, and assumed a ski instructor, area photographer's position at Loveland for 20 years while living in Georgetown, the Silver Queen of the West. Eventually, I became the official US Handicap Ski Team Photographer for the 1982 World Championships for the Disabled in Leysin, Swiss.

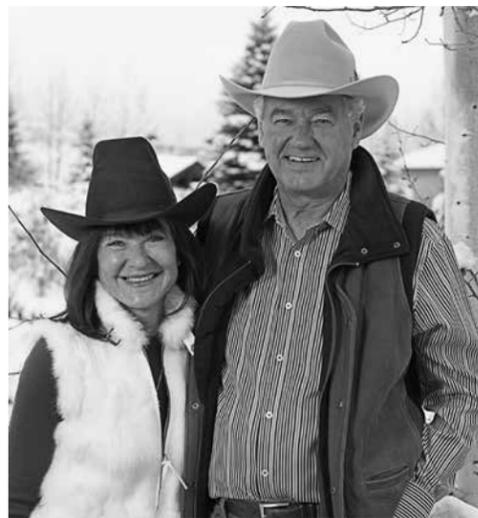
While in "Gtown," I purchased a historic 1887 downtown commercial building which I restored, opened a retail store as well as my photo gallery/studio and served as a "Selectman" for the town. I became known as the "town documentary photographer" as I had dealings with the State Historical Society.

In 1989/90, I moved to the Vail Valley & worked at the Ralph Lauren retail store in Vail. I accepted a position as the buyer/manager at the Shop at Cordillera for eight years. Faith and I started our romance & thoughts of the future as we had met in a French class at CMC. We married in September 1995, and a honeymoon in France occurred.

Faith ironically came from Connecticut as well. She attended & degreed at the University of Miami and went West to Denver for her first real job, that being an accountant doing work for a CPA. Moving to Vail in 1982, she worked part time as a waitress at the Red Lion and commenced a position at the Vail Racquet Club as the Controller for 18 years. In 1997, we built our home in Singletree. In 1999, we opened our retail store, Brush Creek Dry Goods, in the Riverwalk Complex in Edwards.

Brush Creek Dry Goods has been in business for 18 years. Our women's & men's clothing fit a niche here in the Vail Valley. Our advertising is best by word of mouth. Our clothing can be described as Friday nightwear, casual business, travel & mountain luxury attire. We have a loyal following of locals, second homeowners & tourists. We are proud of the service we provide to our clientele and have two outstanding staff members. Our vendors are those which can be found at the better women's/men's stores in Denver and Boulder. We offer uniqueness & quality.

My photography (film, digital) as a fine art has accompanied me since 1976. We enjoy reading, traveling & hosting small dinner conversational parties with friends as Faith is accomplished in the kitchen while I assist her. Daily exercise is Faith's routine while I tend to the yard, large garden, numerous



apple trees, my darkroom, and write short stories. Croquet during the summer & skiing in the winter are other activities.

Faith enjoys animals, our Hemmingway cat, Sammie, and may look into that arena upon retirement while I will continue my fine art photography. I am a co-founder of the Vail Valley Art Guild Photographer's group, and I display in Denver area galleries. Faith and I intend to remain in Singletree into the future. A quote from James Thurber perhaps may be appropriate: **The past is an old armchair in the attic, the present an ominous ticking sound, and the future is anybody's guess.** C'est la vie.



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

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anticipating the holidays with

Yoga & Wine

what's happening inside singletree

Temperatures were dropping and the holiday season was on its way... time to unwind with yoga and wine! An intimate group of Singletree residents enjoyed a warming and invigorating flow led by Yoga Director Chelsea Winters at DOGMA Athletica on a chilly night in November. From never-ers to yoga devotees, the class was enjoyed by yogis of all levels.

To top off the practice, our yogis enjoyed taste treats prepared by **Second Nature Gourmet** and wine selected for the evening by **Riverwalk Wine & Spirits**. Many thanks to **DOGMA Athletica** for hosting the evening and to **Chelsea Winters** for guiding us through an amazing class and leading us into the holiday season with a clear mind and renewed energy!

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kids' corner
Contributed by the Kids of Singletree

Singletree Kids Sew STOCKINGS OF JOY

For The Vail Valley Salvation Army

Singletree is thriving with children excited to sew for other children! In anticipation of the holiday season, nearly 30 kids from the neighborhood and surrounding communities joined together at **Harvest by Kelly Liken** to sew holiday stockings for donation to families and children who find themselves challenged by life circumstances. The restaurant was abuzz with activity as Marie Torry, founder of **Patterns of Joy Sewing: Life Skills Enrichment**, decorated the space for holiday fun with poinsettias, bows and cookies and then coordinated and supervised the project for the young sewers.

Marie provided instruction on constructing the stockings – both to gift and one to take home. The group included a few who had prior experience with sewing while many were brand new to the activity. Regardless of the level of experience, everyone was excited and eager to participate! Marie wisely planned for potential back-up at the sewing machines by providing materials for kids to make other projects, including holiday cards, to go with the stockings.

Once the stockings were sewn, they were stuffed with holiday treats and goodies. The stockings were then delivered to the Holiday Cabin at the Vail Valley Salvation Army, where gifts are graciously provided by community organizations for families that require assistance with Christmas gifts for their children. The special gift of stockings and cards hand-crafted by and for community kids simply provided an additional holiday blessing!

And what is a holiday event without Santa Claus? Much to the delight of the youngsters, Santa stopped by to join the holiday fun, find out who was naughty

and who was nice and check in on what stockings needed to be filled. A lucky few even had the opportunity to sit on Santa's lap to share with him their Christmas wishes!

Inside Singletree and **Patterns of Joy Sewing** would like to express their appreciation to **Harvest by Kelly Liken** and the **Sonnenalp Club** for their support of a fun and festive event. Many thanks to Jenn Sassi, Janet Hester, Sue Cox, Cherie Rollins, Nate Cook, Danielle Towle, Terry Copeland, Gail Flesher, Jennifer Razee, and Jill Alexander for their assistance in supervising the operation of the sewing machines. And finally, we would like to recognize the community sponsors who helped provide for the stocking goodies: KRM Consultants, Inc, Lisa and Doug Currey, Mason Torry Fine Art, Eagle Diner, and Pazzos.

The Mission of **Patterns of Joy Life Skills Enrichment** as a non-profit organization is to promote 'Kids Serving Kids,' learning sewing allows participants to develop social skills of leadership, compassion and self-esteem. For more information, contact Marie Torry at **Patternsofjoysewing@gmail.com**.





760

JUNE CREEK ROAD

Home For Michael And Terry Mutter For 20 Years

home of the month

Contributed by **Alida Zwaan and Michael and Terry Mutter**, Singletree Residents

We moved to the Vail Valley in 1995 from Michigan. Our girls were five and eight. I was very hesitant to move to the "Wild West." Michael, was ecstatic about his new opportunity and all the outdoors had to offer. It took me about two weeks to realize how lucky we were!!! We bought a home in Singletree and have loved living here and raising our girls in this fabulous neighborhood!

What do we love the most about our house?

The views, we almost don't need artwork! The views in every direction are amazing!! Our house has always been a very "welcome" place. We love how comfortable and inviting it is!!

What rooms did you decorate?

I am an interior designer, educated at MSU and a professional member of ASID and IIDA, so I put together our house myself.

What is your favorite room?

The kitchen and dining room. We love to entertain. Everyone always loves to hang out in the kitchen. In the summer, we flow out to the backyard which has amazing views of the 1st hole, pond and Arrowhead!

Since we have lived in Michigan, Massachusetts and Illinois, we have friends who love to visit!! Our girls will never let us move either!! They love to come home to this beautiful area of ours!!

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Swizzles, Twirls, Spins And Axels

athlete spotlight

Contributed by Carolyn Kooiman and Tara Lane, Singletree Residents

Meet Annika, Solveig, Caroline, Catherine and Rachel: young talented Singletree skaters who are dedicated to their figure skating. They are coached by veteran skaters Carolyn Kooiman and Tara Lane, both Singletree residents as well, who understand the challenges these athletes face. Not only do these girls dedicate time to practice three to four times per week, but they aptly balance skating with other athletic activities and, of course, their homework. We asked these aspiring skaters to share their love of figure skating – their experience, their joys and their challenges.



Annika

Name: Annika duPont

Age: 16

School and Grade: Vail Mountain School – 10th grade

How long have you participated in figure skating and how did you get involved? About four years after my younger sisters started doing it.

What is your favorite thing about skating? My favorite thing about skating is the bond that you share with all of the other skaters.

What is the most challenging aspect of skating for you? The most challenging aspect of skating is learning and trying new things and knowing that it won't go perfectly the first time.

Who do you idolize in this sport/activity? I idolize the girls in the Skating Club of Vail who are competing at a higher level than I am.

What other activities or sports do you participate in? I play soccer for VMS and I kickbox.

What competitive skating events have you participated in? I've competed in the Vail Invitational and the Fort Collins Classic.

What have you learned from participating in figure skating? I have learned that even though it is an individual sport that you will make so many great lifelong friends.

What is your favorite moment in figure skating? My favorite moment in figure skating is when we get to work on the holiday show because we all just have so much fun!

What are your skating ambitions? I want to land my axel by January.



Caroline & Catherine

Name: Caroline and Catherine

Provencher

Age: 7

School and Grade: Vail Mountain School – 2nd grade

How long have you participated in figure skating and how did you get involved? We began the Learn to Skate Program this fall after moving to Vail in August. We just started private lessons with Coach Carolyn in November.

What is your favorite thing about skating? We like doing swizzles on the ice.

What is the most challenging aspect of skating for you? The most challenging aspect of skating for us is trying not to fall.

Who do you idolize in this sport/activity? Our coach Carolyn.

What other activities or sports do you participate in? We participate in gymnastics, basketball, lacrosse, skiing and soccer. We like trying all kinds of sports.

What have you learned from participating in figure skating? We learned that even though we fall sometimes, we always try to get back up.

What is your favorite moment in figure skating? Our favorite moment on the ice is when we do twirls.

What are your skating ambitions? Our skating ambitions are to compete in competitions.

Can you offer a piece of advice for someone looking to get into skating? Don't be afraid to fall!

Is there anything else you would like to share with your friends and neighbors about your skating experience? Skating is very fun because it's fun to learn new things!



Rachel

Name: Rachel Snyder

Age: 12

School and Grade: Vail Mountain School – 7th grade

How long have you participated in figure skating and how did you get involved? I have been skating for around six years and the reason I got involved was because I went skating with my friend who was already a figure skater and I really enjoyed it. Soon after that, I got my own skates and a coach and here I am today, still doing it.

What is your favorite thing about skating? My favorite thing about skating is performing. I really like doing artistic programs and going to showcase competitions.

What is the most challenging aspect of skating for you? The most challenging part of skating for me are the moves because they are so specific and you have to get everything correct.

Who do you idolize in this sport/activity? I idolize all my past coaches that have taught me so much throughout my time as a skater.

What other activities or sports do you participate in? I also rock climb at the Vail Athletic Club during my spare times and I am now starting to compete with my skills.

What competitive skating events have you participated in? I have done inter-club competitions in California, Colorado and Michigan. I have also competed nationally and internationally for theatre on ice with my team Harmony Theatre Company from Hartland, MI. We represented Team USA in France in 2015 for Nations Cup.

What awards or honors have you won? I've won multiple gold, silver and bronze individual medals in my time as a skater. Competing in Theatre on Ice I have been a two-time national gold medalist with my team at the novice level.

What have you learned from participating in figure skating? I have learned to always work hard and that you need to push yourself if you want to get anything done.

What is your favorite moment in figure skating? My favorite moment is when you are performing and you finish the program without messing up and you know you've done the best you could've.

What are your skating ambitions? My skating ambitions are to get first or second in a solo artistic even at Showcase Nationals and also to pass the rest of my moves in the fields tests.

Can you offer a piece of advice for someone looking to get into skating? All I could say is that don't get frustrated if you can't land a jump or check out of a spin. There's always gonna be a time when that's gonna happen but you'll get it eventually. Trust me.



Solveig

Name: Solveig Moritz

Age: 9

School and Grade: Vail Mountain School - 3rd grade

How long have you participated in figure skating and how did you get involved? I started skating in the Learn-to-Skate at Dobson Arena program two years ago. I joined the Skate Club of Vail last year.

What is your favorite thing about skating? Spins and jumps

What is the most challenging aspect of skating for you? Performing a spiral

•••

•••

Who do you idolize in this sport/activity? My older sister, Annika

What other activities or sports do you participate in? Ski racing, soccer, piano and tap

What competitive skating events have you participated in? Aspen Invitational

What awards or honors have you won? fourth place in the Freeskate Beginner 6

What have you learned from participating in figure skating? That hard work pays off

What is your favorite moment in figure skating? I like doing the Holiday Ice Show and skating with my friends.

What are your skating ambitions? To have fun and get better

Can you offer a piece of advice for someone looking to get into skating? Yes, take some lessons so you don't hurt yourself.



Coach. Carolyn Skoczen Kooiman

Carolyn began her figure skating career at age five, then living in Canada, and went on to a very successful amateur competitive career for many years. In addition to individual competitions, at the young age of 10, the youngest figure skating dancer up to date, Carolyn competed at the National Novice



Front: Catherine and Caroline Proventure; Back: Rachel Snyder, Aanika DuPont and Solveig Moritz

Level in Ice Dancing in Calgary, Alberta, Canada. She has also successfully passed all of her Gold level Dance, Figures and Free Skate requirements under the Canadian Figure Skating Association.

Carolyn was selected by the Canadian Figure Skating Association for Senior International Competitions which included events in St. Gervais, France, Obertsdorf, Germany, The Hague, Netherlands and Skate Canada. In 1977, Carolyn was selected from Canadian Nationals in Calgary to compete and represent her country in Megeve, France where she won GOLD for the Junior World Championships. Following her amateur career at 17 years old, Carolyn qualified and toured with a Professional Ice Show called 'International Ice Capades' where she skated in the chorus line and had individual solos. The year of the ice show gave her a chance to travel around the USA.

Carolyn was drawn back into the skating community in 2012 at the Beaver Creek outdoor Ice Rink where she has enjoyed working with visiting families teaching all levels of figure skating from around the world.

Carolyn's entire skating career has been punctuated with a sincere love and passion for the rigors, beauty and integrity of the figure skating community.

It is her sincere and deliberate goal to extend that same love and passion to all levels of skaters. This is the time in the students' lives where they need to enjoy their efforts, to learn to the best of their ability, to grow strong -- not only as athletes but also to become confident, independent and successful people.

Carolyn is currently teaching private lessons in Vail, CO at the Dobson Skating Rink as well as teaching in Beaver Creek CO. For private lessons, please call or text Carolyn Kooiman at 303-669-7769 or email:ckooiman@comcast.net.



Coach. Tara Lane

Tara grew up in Chicago and began skating at age 7. Tara competed at the Regional level for four years and at the Sectional (Midwesterns) level three out of those four years in individual figure skating. Tara has earned her USFS Gold Medals in Figures, Free Skate, Moves in the Field, and Dance, in addition to two international dances. She also holds many ratings through the Professional Skaters Association (PSA) including a Master Rating on Moves in the Field and Hockey Levels 1, 2 and Power Skating. Tara is an ISI Gold Certified skating judge, and member of US Figure Skating (USFS), PSA, Ice Skating Institute (ISI) and USA Hockey Skating Organizations.

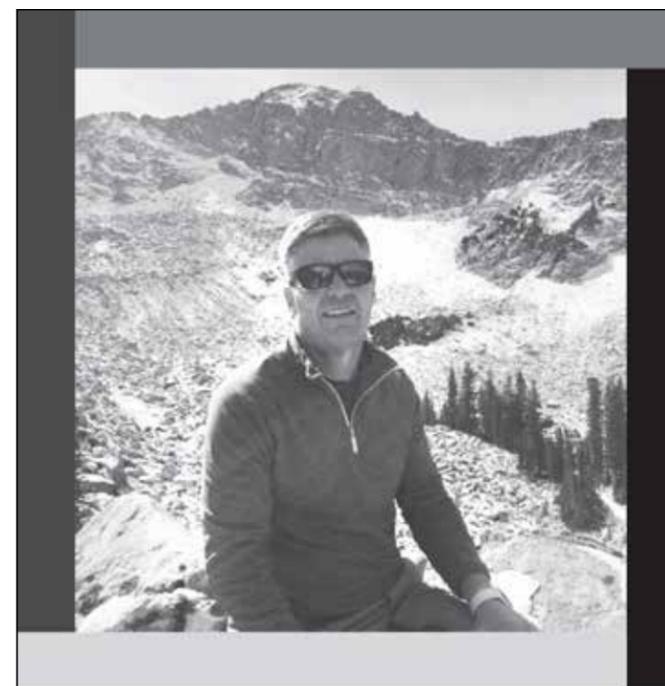
Tara is very successful with her figure skating students in basic skills, freestyle, moves in the field,

choreography, and power skating. In addition, Tara coaches power skating for hockey players and teams of all ages and levels. Tara has held many successful Power On Ice power skating clinics and camps here in the Vail Valley, coaches the MWWL training clinics, and has helped with national recognized power skating programs (Laura Stamm and Robbie Glantz) and works closely with Monty, Rocky and NHL Hall of Famer, Bryan Trottier to provide power skating instruction for summer hockey camp in Indianapolis, Indiana. Highlights of Tara's coaching career include:

- 2010 Thunderbirds Bantam AAA "Fastest Skater" 2nd place Champion
- 2005 AAA Nationals U-16 Skills Competition; "Fastest Skater" Champion
- 2001 Collegiate Novice Ladies National Champion
- Figure Skating student passing through the senior level tests for Freestyle and Moves in The Field
- Current student signed with the Air Force Academy to play hockey

Tara's goal as a coach is to help any skater be the best they can be, help them achieve their goals, and to realize their true potential both on and off the ice. It is her belief and understanding that all skaters learn differently, progress at their own pace, and she always recognizes that there is something positive in everything a skater does. She enjoys every opportunity to share her passion for skating with her skaters.

Tara relocated to the Vail Valley in August 2006. She also enjoys water skiing and snow skiing with her husband Matt, is a Motivational Speaker on a national level for MS LifeLines, and enjoys helping the Multiple Sclerosis Community.



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sausages and pates. As a chef owned and driven company, we let the food speak for our reputation.”

Catering has provided Marla a fun and creative way to share her talents and drive for locally and thoughtfully produced foods with locals and visitors alike in our beautiful Valley. “I love catering because every day is something different! I as a chef am never bored with customizing menus for clients all with a little different twist.”

Marla’s love of bringing all types of people together to break bread and enjoy is truly a talent that should not be missed, be it for an intimate private home dinner to weddings to business or corporate events. Whatever the occasion and wherever the venue, you can be assured that Second Nature Gourmet will deliver the highest quality foods and exceptional service for a most memorable experience. And remember... the next time you don’t feel like cooking, let Marla deliver a meal you will not forget right to your doorstep!

Second Nature Gourmet

sponsor spotlight



Ask Marla Leblow why she chose to start her catering business, **Second Nature Gourmet**, in Vail Valley and her answer is simple. She loves what she does and she saw a need for an organic and locally sourced company to provide the Valley with the freshest of catered and prepared foods. Having been recruited as a personal chef, Marla moved here in 2012 from Seattle, Washington. Soon ideas began to spark as to what this amazing Valley needed... she found her answer when she opened the doors for Second Nature Gourmet in November 2015.

Having worked over 15 years in the culinary industry, Marla decided catering was her calling. Today, Marla’s business, Second Nature Gourmet, stands behind its core values of scratch preparing the finest locally sourced and organic ingredients. Second Nature Gourmet is unique in the fact that it provides full-service catering as well as deliveries throughout the week to your home: prepared dinners, soups, salads and comfort foods that you can pop in the oven and enjoy. With Gluten Free and Paleo options available as well, there is something sure to please everyone. Weekly delivery menus change so as a customer you are never bored and you are always assured the freshest seasonal foods available.

Her commitment to sourcing Organic, GMO-free and Antibiotic free products lies at the top of her priorities. Marla explains, “We pride ourselves in making all of our products in-house that we possibly can, from our own stocks to

Since a young age, cooking has been like second nature to Marla. Born and raised in St. Croix in the USVI, Marla spent her early years enjoying the island lifestyle. Later in her childhood, her family relocated to Western North Carolina where she developed her love of the mountains. During high school, she followed in her older brother’s footsteps by working in local restaurants. After attending college at Appalachian State University where she studied photography, she decided to change her professional direction to pursue a culinary career.

While continuing to pay her dues working in kitchen jobs throughout college, Marla was encouraged by a mentor chef to attend culinary school which is where her love of cooking really began to flourish. She attended culinary school at Asheville Buncombe Tech in Asheville, North Carolina, where she focused on general savory foods. During her time in Asheville, she competed in culinary individual and team competitions that brought her to national levels, including the American Culinary Federation Student Team and Individual La Chaine de Routsisseur.



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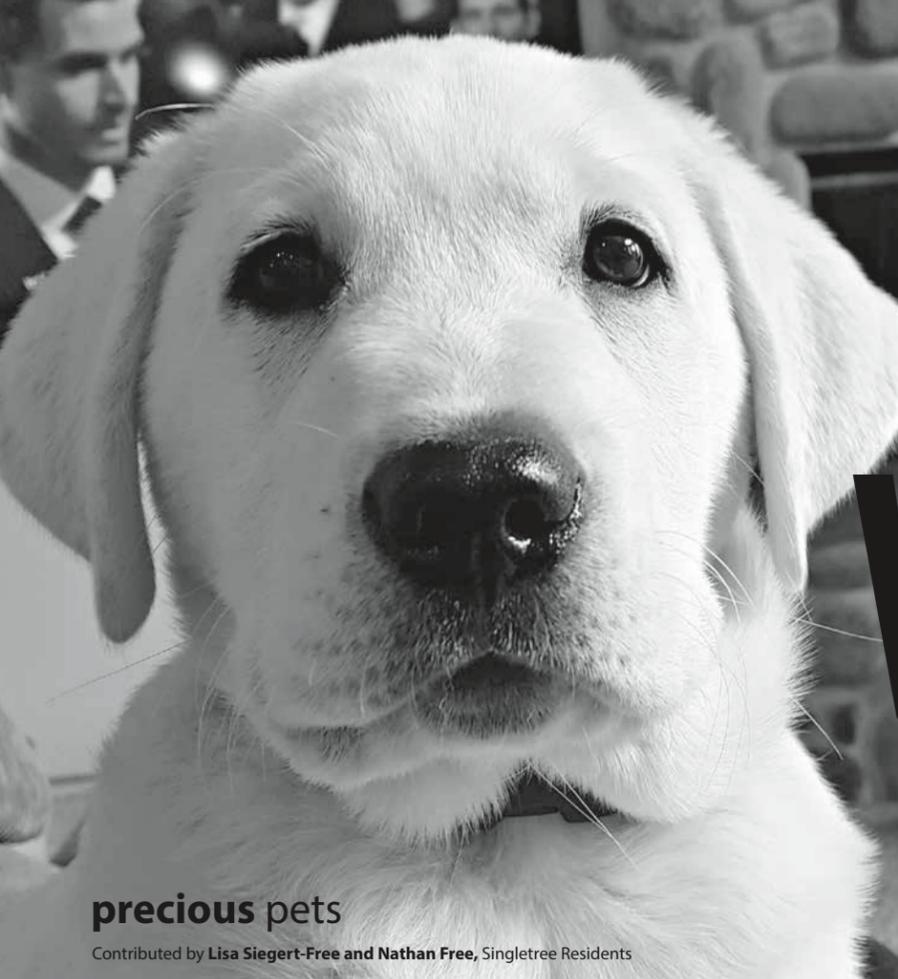
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precious pets

Contributed by Lisa Siegert-Free and Nathan Free, Singletree Residents



meet Woka

.....
The Rock Star
.....



dad will take him. :) He's thrilled that we have a dog park right in our home town of Edwards where he can play with all the other dogs, and he has especially enjoyed several camping trips this year with the Boy Scouts to Lake Charles, Moab, and Highline State Park in Fruita, Colorado.

Woka must truly be from the North Pole, he is so warm blooded that he'd rather sleep outside than in and he has recently discovered that snow is the coolest thing around. Jumping, rolling, frolicking, and running up hills, just to slide down...! Woka has a fantastic fun-filled life in Singletree - whatever the season!

Woka's "rock star" body guards -- aka "mom and dad" -- are Lisa Siegert-Free and Nathan Free of Palomino Road.



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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Woka, our white Labrador, was born on March 4, 2016, in Newton, Illinois. Little did we realize what we had gotten ourselves into with this adorable cute little white puppy that looked like a baby polar bear. For one thing, Woka is a very strong-willed little guy who thinks he's the one that runs things in our household. Secondly, we had never had a dog that didn't know what the word "no" meant. And thirdly, this guy likes to bark back.

People often ask us what Woka means. It is Inuit language, which means "brave warrior." We think he probably has some Eskimo blood in him! And he really is a brave warrior. One recent fall morning, we let him in the back yard and there stood a big black bear. Woka barked a little squeaky puppy bark, and boy did that bear go running!

Woka's journey with us started by traveling back to Colorado under our plane seat. (No way could he fit under that seat now!) Once he arrived in Colorado, Woka found out that he was in a new world where he would learn all kinds of new things. On one of his first road trips, mom and dad went to Santa Fe, NM, for an organized bike ride in May. Woka was quite the popular guy as we walked around the town square. The admirers became most affectionately known as the "Woka fan club," and everywhere we went, more and more members of the club showed up! We truly felt like body guards for a rock star!

Once he settled into a routine, Woka enjoys daily walks and hikes and, of course, would like to go much farther than his mom and

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And the winners are: Sarah Janssen, Jenn Sassi, Piper Sassi, Fisher Sassi, Stephanie Joseph, Jeep Meynier, Atlanta Meynier, Berkeley Meynier, Samantha Haakinson, Maggie Mae Rothenberg and Vivian May



Beginning Of A New Tradition: *First Annual Singletree* Holiday Cookie Exchange And Competition

Sugar. Peppermints. Chocolate. Peanut Butter... Reindeer. Snowmen. Snowflakes. Kisses.

Singletree residents demonstrated their culinary talent and their creativity at the First Annual Holiday Cookie Exchange and Competition. Dozens of plates of cookies, contributed by bakers of all ages, lined the tables for friends and neighbors to swap taste treats and recipes.

Following the Cookie Exchange, a panel of distinguished judges, including Kate Dekanich, Lily Whalen, Steven May, Leah Dvorkin and Bob Whalen, sampled and scored each entry for taste and presentation. The festivities were highlighted by Buddy the Elf, aka Mark Sassi, who not only did an excellent job as Master of Ceremonies but as a master photo-bomber as well.

Don't miss the fun next year!



sightings inside
singletree
Photography by Olga Barron Photography Inc.
Olga Barron Photography Inc.

TOP 10 Reasons To Plan Your Estate

Estate planning may not be at the top of your list to complete. The unfortunate reality is that unexpected and tragic incidents do occur, and you want to be prepared for those circumstances. The New Year is a great time to consider getting your estate plan in order; following are the Top 10 Reasons to take action to avoid making a bad situation worse:

1. Care for your immediate family. The most compelling reason by far! Depending on your marital status, you will wish to provide for your spouse and/or children, including assuring their proper education is covered. If you have children under 18, you and your spouse should nominate a guardian for your children in your will. If you are not married and do not have children, you will want to take care of your family or give to your desired charity instead of paying taxes.

- 2. Efficient transfer of assets to beneficiaries.** Options can include insurance paid directly, joint tenancy, living trusts, and other beneficiary designations as well as using simplified probate procedures.
- 3. Incapacity.** You can plan for a possible physical or mental incapacity by executing proper documents such as living wills as well as financial and medical powers of attorney.
- 4. Expense optimization.** With an estate plan in place, such planning can effectively help to reduce the transfer costs of assets to beneficiaries.
- 5. Choice of a personal representative or trustee.** Making it clear in your estate plan who will administer your estate will significantly reduce the burden and stress on your beneficiaries and survivors.
- 6. Reduced stress for your family.** Grieving over the loss of a loved one is difficult and having your estate in order helps to reduce stress on your family during a difficult time.
- 7. Opportunity to give back to a chosen charity or cause.** Your estate plan can provide for charitable causes and your estate may benefit from tax laws designed to encourage private giving.
- 8. Reduced taxes.** A well-crafted estate plan results in giving the most to your beneficiaries and the minimum amount to the government.
- 9. Ability to provide for others who need help.** If you have a disabled child, elderly parent, or grandchild whose education you want to assure, you are able to establish special trusts for family members who need support.
- 10. Assurance your business will continue smoothly.** If you are a business owner, you will be able to plan and provide for the succession and continuation for your business.

Amy Goscha provides estate planning and probate services. If you are interested in getting your estate planning in order or reviewing your existing estate plan, please contact her at amy@rkvlaw.com.

Reason #1 to talk to me about Estate Planning - Your Family!



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who's making a difference

Contributed by Lissa Tyler, BFF Board Chairperson and Singletree Resident

BRIGHT FUTURE FOUNDATION

Offers Opportunities To Make A Difference

Lissa Tyler and Sheri Mintz are evidence of what great teamwork can do for an organization. Both deeply committed to the Bright Future Foundation (“BFF”) and its role in the Vail Valley, they were eager to share the history of the organization, its programs and its needs.

As Executive Director for the past eight years, Sheri is well versed in the grassroots history of the organization. In 1983, a group of women met in the basement of the Vail Chapel in response to an ad in the newspaper alerting the community to an emerging social issue, that of domestic violence. At that meeting, the issue was discussed, the hat was passed to fund the first mailing and the Women’s Resource Center was born.

Fast forward nearly 34 years and the mission of Bright Future Foundation remains true to the early vision of the Women’s Resource Center, but with greater strength and resources to fuel its efforts. Today, Bright Future Foundation offers a range of services, from prevention to crisis intervention to recovery, for victims of domestic violence or sexual assault. In addition to a 24/7 hotline, Bright Future Foundation provides a safe house at an undisclosed location that can house up to five families who are fleeing from domestic violence. The facility is intended for short-term residency, up to a couple of months, but beyond that, BFF can assist in finding long-term housing solutions to help families ul-



imately become self-sufficient through its Rapid ReHousing program.

With respect to prevention, BFF offers a youth violence prevention program, called Empowerment, to work with middle school boys to dispel negative gender stereotypes. Additionally, the Buddy Mentor program has been operating almost as long as BFF. Similar in model to Big Brother/Big Sister across the country, the program offers highly supported volunteer mentors a unique opportunity to inspire and foster at risk youth through building consistent and trusting relationships. BFF requests a one-year commitment and in exchange, works carefully to create the right match to deliver a genuinely heartwarming, gratifying experience for all.

BFF is staffed by 10 full-time employees, including a fully licensed clinical psychologist with a specialty in trauma-focused care, a psychologist intern and a full-time attorney. Additionally, the staff includes a number of advocates who work with victims, offering moral support and connecting them with community resources so that eventually they become survivors. The greatest human resource within the organization is, of course, its volunteers who posted 19,000 hours of volun-

teer time last year. Serving the entire Vail Valley, BFF responds to an average of 355 hotline calls per year and last year, served 670 victims of domestic violence and sexual assault.



Lissa Tyler has been involved with BFF for about six years and has recently stepped into the role of Chairperson of the Board. Having spent more than 20 years with the Vail Valley Foundation, Lissa had been actively involved in social advocacy for her entire career. Not only did her past experience make her keenly aware of issues relative to education and schools, but more importantly, she explains, “my heart has always been in that direction.”

Lissa explains that the Board is committed to being smart with their budget and emphasizes that every dollar goes to work. She describes the BFF fundraising events as fun and at the same time, casual and low key. The Aces and Eagles Golf Tournament, including a women’s tennis event, marked its 17th year in September and continues to be a tremendous fundraiser for the organization. Arrowhead has graciously hosted the event the past five years and Lissa enthusiastically invites fellow Singletree residents to participate in Aces and Eagles next September!

Additionally, BFF has been the primary charity for the Beaver Creek Resort Company’s Wine Spectator event for quite some

time. Featuring an exquisite dinner and live auction with outstanding wines at Splendido, this annual event in August of each year is recognized as a lovely evening of fine cuisine and camaraderie for a worthy cause. Another fantastic event to put on your calendar! These events, as well as government funding and private donations, are the primary resources for operating the organization and all of its programs. Demonstrating tremendous impact in a rural area through its 24/7 hotline, safe house shelter, Rapid ReHousing program, on-staff psychologists and Buddy Mentor program, Lissa is proud to say that BFF has become an impressive model across the state.

If you are interested in getting involved with BFF, Sheri and Lissa encourage you to do so! Manning the hotline and becoming a Buddy Mentor are both great opportunities to combat domestic violence and sexual assault and to give back to your community. For additional information, please contact Holly Kasper-Blank, Program Sustainability Manager, at 970-949-7097.



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10TH MOUNTAIN WHISKEY ON A WINTERY NIGHT

what's happening inside singletree

Photography by **Olga Barron Photography Inc.**
 *Olga Barron Photography Inc.*

A lively and gregarious group of Singletree friends and neighbors gathered to share holiday cheer at the Beaver Creek home of George and Sally Austen in early December. The evening featured a whiskey tasting presented by the 10th Mountain Whiskey & Spirit Company, Vail's premier distillery, owned by Ryan Thompson and Christian Avignon both founders, skiers and whiskey lovers. Ryan hails from the flatlands of Texas and Christian, who has direct roots to the 10th Mountain Division, came to Vail from upstate New York with the encouragement of his grandfather (an original medic with the 10th) and is now a Singletree resident.

The tasting selection was expertly presented by Samantha Perkins from 10th Mountain Whiskey and included a choice of moonshine, whiskey, bourbon, vodka, a cordial and/or the Fireside Rye Cocktail, a house specialty that packs a punch. Riverwalk Wine & Spirits contributed a selection of wine and beer for those a bit timid when it comes to whiskey tasting. Many thanks to George and Sally for welcoming the Singletree community to their lovely home, the perfect mountain setting for the evening.

The holiday soiree proved to be in keeping with the true spirit of the 10th Mountain lifestyle. In the words of Ryan and Christian, "Generation after generation, men and women alike, all share this same passion, enjoying it for a day, a weekend, a lifetime, or somewhere in between. No matter how long it's embraced, the combination of friends, mountains, memories and spirits, bring people together like no other." That says it all!



Real Estate UPDATE

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RECENT SINGLETREE ACTIVITY

Status	Address	List Price	Sold Price	Sold Date	\$/sq.ft.	Sold \$/sq.ft.	Beds	Baths	sq.ft.	Furnished
Sold	440 June Creek Rd (SF)	\$1,995,000	\$1,790,000	11/18/16	N/A	\$282.96	5	7 (3 3 1)	6326	No
Sold	41 Morgan Dr (SF)	\$1,495,000	\$1,400,000	11/30/16	N/A	\$356.60	4	3 (2 1 0)	3926	No
Sold	1121 Berry Creek Rd #B1 (CD)	\$639,000	\$621,000	10/14/16	N/A	\$325.30	3	3 (2 0 1)	1909	No
UC	1383 Winslow Rd (DU)	\$1,295,000	N/A	N/A	\$376.23	N/A	4	5 (4 0 1)	3442	Full
UC	41 Prairie Cir (SF)	\$1,275,000	N/A	N/A	\$270.18	N/A	6	6 (3 2 1)	4719	No
UC	45 Hereford Rd (SF)	\$1,025,000	N/A	N/A	\$300.94	N/A	4	5 (2 2 1)	3406	No
Active	111 Rawhide Rd (SF)	\$999,000	N/A	N/A	\$285.18	N/A	4	4 (2 1 1)	3503	Partial
Active	141 Chaparral Rd (SF)	\$975,000	N/A	N/A	\$264.37	N/A	4	5 (3 1 1)	3688	No
Active	140 Rawhide Rd (DU)	\$669,000	N/A	N/A	\$364.00	N/A	3	3 (2 0 1)	1839	Partial

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