

INSIDE *Singletree*

NOVEMBER 2019

A SOCIAL PUBLICATION FOR THE RESIDENTS OF SINGLETREE

*The
Giordano
Family*

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Leslie, "So what are you thankful for?"

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HELLO

Singletree residents!

This month, I am so excited to introduce you to Jay and Linda Giordano and their beautiful girls, Stella and Scarlett. Jay was born and raised in Spain, Linda grew up in Mexico, and would you believe? Their paths crossed in Arkansas! After criss-crossing the world a few more times, the couple chose Singletree to settle down and raise their family. They couldn't be happier than to be part of this wonderful community!

Speaking of travel, we learn about Hannah's journeys to places unknown. As a young golden retriever, she was spooked by a truck near the Golden Peak pickleball courts, slipped her collar and headed for the hills. Presumed gone forever, Anne Eckstrom and Lindsay Webbe were stunned and delighted when she returned home eleven months later.

Kristofer Thornton returns to his roots to share his path with us, beginning with his initial realization on stage at Battle Mountain High School where he discovered that he was ultimately destined for a theatrical career. Bobbie Ruh shares with us the sobering statistics with respect to mass shootings in the US over the past

7 years. She encourages us to overcome 'slaughter fatigue' and welcomes community support for Moms Demand Action, the largest gun violence prevention organization in the country.

On November 11, we are honored to pay tribute on Veterans Day to three resident veterans who served in the United States Armed Forces. We thank Gerry Dooher, Dick Dangler and Don Odom for their courage and commitment to our country and for sharing their experiences with our community.

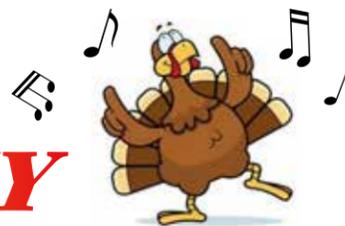
Wishing you the happiness of friendship, the joy of family, and the wonder of the holiday season. Have a memorable and Happy Thanksgiving!



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Please share your amazing interests, passions, and accomplishments with your friends and neighbors in the community.

To feature your family, kids, pets, athletic endeavors, volunteer activities, travel adventures or social activities in an upcoming issue, please email holly.proctor@n2pub.com to participate in an upcoming issue of *INSIDE Singletree*.



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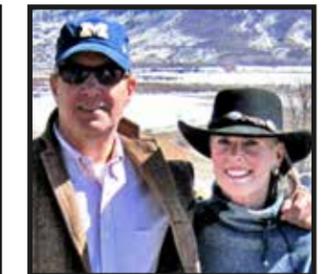
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Jay and Linda Giordano
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Sally Austen
Home of the Month



Kristofer Thornton
Celebrating the Arts

meet your neighbors

Photography by Olga Barron Photography Inc.



Jay, Linda, Stella and Scarlett GIORDANO

It all began the summer of 2004 when Jay and Linda met for the first time!

Linda was born in Texas, but raised across the border in Nuevo Leon, Mexico and had a happy childhood in a little town near Monterrey, Mexico. At age fifteen, her parents supported her decision to move to the US, and Linda attended Edinburg High School in Texas while traveling to Mexico periodically to visit her parents, siblings and friends. After graduating from high school, Linda went on to pursue her college degree at Arkansas State University, where she graduated with a Bachelor's Degree in International Business and started her MBA.

Even though Jay was born on the other side of the world in beautiful Barcelona, Catalunya, where he had a very active childhood in the city going to the beach, scuba diving, rock climbing and playing hockey, he always had a desire to move to the mountains where he could be a "farmer". He attended Liceo Scientifico Statale Italiano

di Barcellona (Barcelona's Italian School) and decided to skip college for a year to work and travel in the US. During his travel adventures, coincidentally he ended up visiting some friends in Arkansas in the same city where Linda was attending college, and eventually, the two met through a mutual friend.

During his time in the US and after traveling throughout different states, Jay had the opportunity to apply for an international student visa and attended Crichton College in Memphis, TN where he studied finance and focused on his film and photography studies with his sole intention to be near Linda. HOWEVER, much to Jay's surprise, Linda had already made plans to finish her last semester of college in a foreign country.

Linda moved to Spain during the fall of 2014 and finished her degree at Universitat Politècnica de València, while Jay stayed in Tennessee. Upon Linda's return to Arkansas the following year, and after three years of a long-distance relationship, they decided to tie the knot on 07/07/07 in Mexico, followed by a second wedding celebration in Barcelona, and after their weddings, they spent a month traveling in France, Italy, and Spain.

After living in Tennessee for one year, the Giordanos decided to move to Colorado in September 2008. Today, Linda and Jay both feel that relocating to Colorado was one of the best decisions they have made as a married couple; they chose Edwards as their hometown and have lived here ever since. During the first four years

in this valley and before they had children, they enjoyed the mountains, dirt biking, hiking, traveling, and making great new friends from all over the world who are like family to them now.

Fast-forwarding their story, Jay and Linda welcomed to the world their two beautiful daughters, Stella (8 years old) and Scarlett (4 years old), and in March 2018, they purchased their home in Singletree. The Giordanos couldn't be happier to be part of this amazing and beautiful neighborhood!

Stella is their oldest daughter and her favorite hobbies are skiing, running, swimming and piano, but most importantly she is an advocate of saving the elephants. Scarlett can be described as a free-willed happy kid who enjoys her swimming classes and gymnastics. Every weekend, Stella and Scarlett look forward to calling their grandparents in both Catalunya and Mexico via video call, and thanks to technology and despite the long-distance, they are able to build a special bond with them. They are absolutely thrilled when grandparents and relatives come to visit!

This summer, Stella decided to spend part of her school vacation to raise funds to help save the elephants. She came up with the idea of selling colorful jewelry at the local parks and was able to meet her fundraising goal with the help of her little sister. Stella proudly sent every single dollar she raised to an international non-profit organization called "Save the Elephants", whose purpose is centered on saving the elephants to prevent them from becoming extinct.

As a family, the Giordanos enjoy skiing, hiking, camping, riding their friendly horse, Tex, going to church and attending local community events. This summer they traveled to the Mediterranean Coast where they visited family and friends and spent most of their time at the beach. The Giordanos also love inviting people to their home where they can enjoy a relaxing evening connecting with friends and neighbors and watch the kids playing around their house. Their parties at home are culturally diverse and at times there are more than 15 nationalities represented among their guests.



During the last eleven years, Jay has worked tirelessly to create and develop several different ventures, including three diverse local and international businesses that he envisioned and launched over the years with his respective business partners. Today, he is the co-founder and CEO of Vail Valley Interpreters, an organization which provides medical interpretation in multiple languages to local clinics and hospitals in Summit, Eagle and Garfield counties. Additionally, he is a co-owner of Sarao Photography and the founder of the Vail Investment Group.

...

...

Linda is a Human Resources Professional who currently works at The Steadman Clinic and Steadman Philippon Research Institute in Vail as their HR Talent Acquisition Specialist; she also runs a billing company as a side business. Prior to joining The Steadman Clinic, Linda worked as the Human Resources Talent Acquisition Manager for the East West family of companies for five years, and prior to that, she started her career in Human Resources with the Gallegos Corporation where she worked for six years.

In the future, Jay and Linda's dream is to retire to the Mediterranean, just a few miles north of Barcelona, and to keep their home in Singletree so they can continue to enjoy the mountains. In summary, the Giordanos can be described as a culturally diverse family where three different languages (Spanish, Catalan and English) can be spoken in a single conversation, where they can be eating tacos one day and paella the next, and where they are proud of their background and culture, but have learned to respect the country that they decided to call home.



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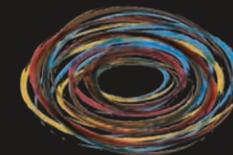


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precious pets

Contributed by **Hannah, Lindsay Webbe and Annie Ekstrom,** Singletree Pet and Residents



THE ADVENTURES OF Hannah IN THE CIRCLE OF LIFE

Hello! My name is Hannah. I moved to the Vail Valley after five years raising my families of pups at a Golden Retriever kennel in Boulder. I now have two adopted parents and two cats. While socializing with my friends at the new Golden Peak Pickleball facility, I got myself into some real trouble.

You see, everything in the real world was a new experience to me. So when a truck came by, I became confused, slipped out of my collar, and took off toward the middle of Vail. There I reversed my flight at the gondola and headed up the mountain toward Golden Peak. As I began to climb, I realized I had no idea where I was, had no frame of reference, and was not a very good mountain climber. Nevertheless I trudged on.

Meanwhile my pickleball friends had alerted Geno at Mountain Operations, Joe and Bob at Mountain Security, and Alyssa of Animal Control. They all shifted into high gear and were soon in hot pursuit. However, they underestimated my perseverance and flight instincts. I disappeared into the mountain wilderness and headed toward Chair 10. I ended up spending the night on the mountain, missing my pups and my new friends.

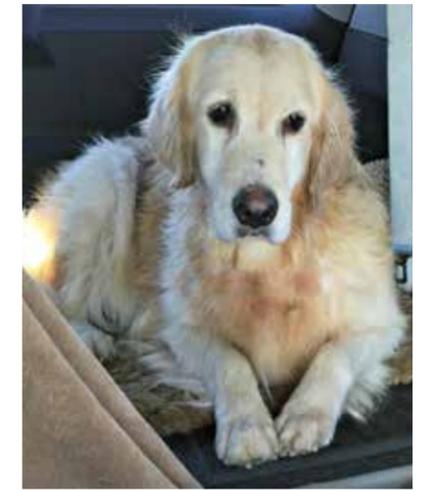
The next morning at about 9:00, I was spotted at the new roundabout near The Cascade Resort. Now comes the really amazing final chapter in this odyssey. By coincidence, Jerry, Nancy and Jonny Stevens sighted me in full flight. Ironically, Jerry is in charge of Vail Recreation Department's pickleball initiative. And it just so happens that Jonny, Jerry and Nancy's son, is a world-class cross country runner. Not to be outdone, I turned north, crossed I-70 with Jonny trailing me. By now, I was really pooped and headed up Chamonix and Buffehr Creek Roads. My second mountain ascent in two days. At this point, Miguel and Freddy Rodriguez recognized Jonny and joined in

the chase. By now I had had it; I crawled into a thicket of trees and collapsed. The rest is history.

My new support team called my parents who arrived on the scene: relieved, humbled, and happy. Our first stop was on Route 6 to the Fresh Tracks Pet Shoppe where I was fitted with a new harness. Then to Ron Gruber's vet clinic for a check-up and Rymadyl for my aching hips. I want to thank the good citizens and agencies of the Vail Valley for all their gallant efforts. Their help was way beyond the call of duty. Also a shout out to Pati Thiele, Doug Talbot, Juli Young, Becky and Mike Keiler, Terry and John Copeland, Mark and Sydney Pitmann, Bernice and John Davies and lastly Dick Patriacca. Dick must have put in five miles on the mountain hoping to corral me.

Postscript: The sport of pickleball was born in Seattle in the '80s. People are coming from all parts of the country to play on our courts. The name "Pickleball" was derived from the name of a family pet dog. That dog was alleged to be a Golden Retriever!

After that experience, you would think I would stay put, but it turns out that was not my only adventure... I will let Mom and Dad share the next one with you.



Last year, our beloved Hannah was stolen at the Vail 4th of July Parade. At least we believe that is the case, as she disappeared in an instant, having been spooked by the Air Force flyover at a low level. Despite a massive search effort by Vail Mountain employees, numerous reach-outs to friends, neighbors, and associates, coordination with police, fire, and humane authorities, she was never spotted again. Friends even slept out overnight in sleeping bags at potential siting spots on the mountain.

As time went on and we completed our grieving process, Hannah was replaced with a kennel mate, Frankie. Frankie proved to be fabulous, full of energy, love and companionship. We felt the circle of life had been completed. Not to be. As Annie and I returned from Florida where we spent the winter, we received a call from the Eagle County Humane Society. They informed us that one of their officers had picked up a dog that had been chipped and they knew by the information on the chip that it was Hannah. She had been found on top of a ridge, under a deck, in West Vail. She had no collar, she was underweight, and filled with burrs, brambles, and bugs. She was surrounded by garbage. We raced to the shelter, dumbfounded.

We sat on the floor as Hannah was ushered in. She paused for a moment and when she heard our voices, immediately came over and put her head on our laps and rolled her big eyes up to say hello. Based on her condition, the authorities surmised that she had been on the run for a month.

Coincidentally the day before, a friend had seen a Golden Retriever with no collar, heading West through the valley. As we have put the pieces together, we feel she was taken by someone coming through the valley and "held captive" through the winter. For whatever reason, she left the people who had taken her and also removed all her previous identification. We know that she was heading west on the ridge north of I-70 heading toward our home in Singletree.

We will leave it to you, but we do believe this is one of those incredible journeys of dogs going many miles to find their rightful home. So we can put Hannah in that special group of pets that display determination, perseverance, intelligence, and love. What a dog! What a kennel!

If anyone can add to Hannah's incredible journey, we would love to hear about it.

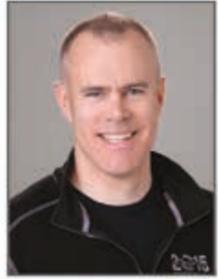
Post Script: Sadly when we reached out to Becky Hayes, the owner of Red Dog Kennel, we were informed that she had recently passed away. Perhaps she is now on her own journey in the circle of life!



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Fierce Competition and Giggles and Laughs

at the Second Annual Battle of the Blocks



The competition was fierce at the Second Annual Back to School: Battle of the Blocks in September in Chip Ramsay Park. Challengers from the neighborhood were teamed geographically to represent their respective 'blocks' in events ranging from Cone Hockey to the Egg 'n Spoon Relay as well as the Hula Hoop Relay and Giant Pong. The Bobcat team ultimately topped the Fox, Bear and Dear teams with congratulations going to Jeff, Ariana and Colt Burkley, Katie, Leo, Maggie and Hazel Rothenberg, John Slevin, Jameson Gregg and Beck Bordelon.

Many thanks to the Burkleys, the Rothenbergs and the Grems for their pre-game assistance and most of all, thank you to all the families who came out to participate! See you next year!





Elisse Kelley and her rock star crew clean a Singletree home to prepare for a neighborhood event



Elisse with her family, Aidan, Quinn, and Jada

As a 26-year local Vail Valley resident now residing in Singletree, Elisse Kelley transitioned from her accomplished career in the hospitality industry to become a local business owner with one goal: to provide you with expert cleaning services year-round. With little more than a big idea and a desire to be her own boss, Elisse struck out on her own to create a brand new business from the ground up. Sweeping Change has become one of the Vail Valley's premiere residential and commercial cleaning companies now serving a multitude of clients including several in Singletree and as well as helping to support the families of 30 local employees. Elisse says the creation, sustainability and growth of her business has been one of the most challenging and satisfying journeys of her life.

Many of the cleaners with Sweeping Change have been on staff since day one, and Elisse says their longevity and diverse knowledge, as well as the unique services they are able to offer their clients, has been invaluable to the company's growth. While the consistency in staff is one of the company's greatest assets, Elisse says adapting with great flexibility to the daily challenges that arise is also an important part of Sweeping Change's success. "As an independent business owner, the greatest skill I have had to learn is to continually thrive amidst constant change," said Elisse. "Managing schedules, supplies, vehicles and the diverse needs of our customers and staff keeps me on my toes all day, most every day. But I love it."

In addition to cleaning dozens of private homes and working with homeowners who rent their properties through VRBO, Airbnb and other vacation services, Sweeping Change serves well-known Valley businesses including Country Club of the Rockies, the Sonnenalp Club, Slifer, Smith and Frampton,

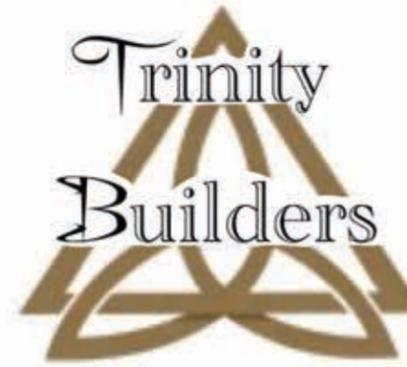
Sotheby's, Keller Williams, the Vail Valley Foundation, the Vail Board of Realtors, The Gerald Ford Amphitheater, Alpine Bank, Sun and Ski, and various pre-schools, restaurants and more.

Elisse runs teams on both day and night shifts. In addition to her full and part-time local staff, Elisse hires additional seasonal help from Mexico via the H2B Visa program and is working on acquiring permanent residency for several staff members. "Establishing residency is a long and expensive process, and one I didn't envision myself undertaking when I started Sweeping Change," says Elisse. "But it has been well worth it. Not only for the life-changing opportunity I can give to people, but also for the skills, ambition and loyalty they provide for our company."

Gary Gilman, President and Owner of SteamMaster, wholeheartedly recommends Elisse Kelley and Sweeping Change to all of his clients in need of residential or commercial cleaning services. "With Elisse's background and training in the hospitality and HR industry here in the valley, she has assembled an impressive team of well trained and supervised professionals to meet any of your cleaning needs." He goes on to say, "You can be assured Sweeping Change will offer the same high quality and professional standard that helped build SteamMaster into the 40-year business it is today."

Sweeping Change uses cleaning products that are safe for children, pets and the environment; and every member of our cleaning team is trained in the most efficient cleaning techniques for spotless results. Armed with their proprietary task management tools, every Sweeping Change employee is trained to meet your specific needs. Regular inspections ensure the cleaners that enter your home or business meet the exacting standards of Sweeping Change to offer only the highest quality of service.

Sweeping Change is fully licensed, bonded and insured and offers residential, rental property and commercial cleaning services across the Valley from East Vail to Gypsum. To learn more or to receive an estimate, contact Elisse at (970) 390-8353 or visit www.sweepingchangevail.com.



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Contributed by **Bobbie Ruh**, Singletree Resident

MOMS DEMAND ACTION FIGHTS "SLAUGHTER FATIGUE"

This fall (as of this writing), America has been reeling from the murder of 7 people by a drive-by shooter in Midland-Odessa Texas, just weeks after of 31 innocent people were shot to death in El Paso and Dayton. Once again, a blizzard of "thoughts and prayers" creates a great deal of sound and fury but signifies nothing. Once again, our government is missing in action when action is needed.

Our country is suffering from slaughter fatigue. Twenty years ago, we were horrified beyond belief when 12 students and a teacher were murdered at Columbine High School in Littleton. Seven years ago, 27 innocent children and staff were slaughtered at Sandy Hook and cries of "Enough" fell on deaf ears. Since the Sandy Hook shooting, there have been more than 2,000 mass shootings in which four or more people, were shot but not necessarily killed. Nearly 2,300 people have been killed and almost 8,400 have been wounded. Since 2013, there has been only one full calendar week — the week of January 5, 2014 — without a mass shooting.

On the day of the Columbine shooting, my youngest daughter was 17. We lived in Littleton and she knew many of the students who lived through that day of terror and one who did not.

Later that year, she joined a group of students at East High School in Denver who were members of *S.A.F.E. Colorado* (Sane Alternatives to the Firearms Epidemic). This group of students, together with chaperones, including Dottie Lamm (wife of former Governor Dick Lamm) and Tom Mauser (father of Daniel, a Columbine victim) traveled to Washington D.C. to encourage Congress to pass laws to restrict access to firearms.

These students met with Colorado Representatives Scott McInnis, Ben Nighthorse Campbell and other members of Congress. This meeting was acknowledged in the Congressional Record on July 14, 1999,

by Representative Udall, who stated, "I urge that all Members listen to what they have to say. I have visited numerous high schools in my district, and what I have learned is *that these young women and men know their schools better than anyone else in their communities* and certainly better than any of us here in the Congress. We can all learn from their experience and advice. *Additionally, these young men and women do not care about politics or posturing. Instead, they care about whether they are going to be safe in their schools.* ... Gun laws are not the only answer, but I think they are a crucial part of the equation. I hope the House will have the wisdom to listen to these students and pass sensible gun safety measures that our colleagues in the Senate have already endorsed. ... The vast majority of Coloradans and Americans support sensible gun safety laws and so should we."



Bobbie Ruh and Vail Valley Local Lead Cathy Vaughan-Grabowski

Despite such lovely rhetoric, my daughter came home disheartened and dispirited. She said, "Mom, their eyes glazed over when we gave our presentation. We worked so hard and we had all the facts and they wouldn't even engage with us. They treated us like babies." When this group of students graduated in 2000, they scattered to colleges through the country and *S.A.F.E. Colorado* soon disbanded.

Like my daughter, Americans have been stonewalled into inaction and despair. If the same number of deaths had been caused by an Ebola-type virus, a national public health emergency would have been immediately declared. After two decades of inaction, it's understandable that feelings of helplessness have made us numb. Like the frog in the hot water, we know what must be done, but have become so desensitized to the horror that action seems impossible. We note that there has been "another" mass shooting, we are thankful when the dead can be counted in single digits and we go about our business.

The students of Parkland who founded *March for Our Lives* are perhaps too young to succumb to such stupor. Change has always been a generational matter. What took place on March 24, 2018, was not just a march; it was a movement. And like the progress of glaciers, it may be painfully slow but it is persistently strong and can move mountains. It will not happen today; it has not happened since that painful day almost two decades ago when we first lost our innocent belief that we could protect our children from violence. But if our young people and the vast majority who support sensible gun laws do not despair, it *will* happen. In this era of soundbites and short attention spans, it's critical to remember Nelson Mandela's words, "It always seems impossible until it's done."

I promised my daughter as she went off to school that I would continue the fight for her and I have done so consistently over the years. Here in Eagle County, I joined *Moms Demand Action* to continue to work for public safety measures that can protect people from gun violence and to pass stronger gun laws and eliminate the loopholes that jeopardize the safety of our families.

Moms Demand Action is a part of *Everytown for Gun Safety*, the largest gun violence prevention organization in the country, with nearly 6 million supporters and more than 350,000 donors. It was founded the day after the Sandy Hook massacre. It is a grassroots movement working to encourage a culture of responsible gun ownership; the organization has established a chapter in every state of the country and Washington, D.C.

Our local chapter of *Moms Demand Action* supports the "Peace Plan for a Safer America", just released by *March for Our Lives*. Their goal is to reduce gun deaths by 50% by declaring a national emergency around gun violence. Among their strategies is raising the age for gun ownership to 21, establishing an annual gun licensing system and imposing a federal ban on weapons of war and high-capacity magazines.

I hope you will join with us and the students of Parkland. To learn more about *Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America* or to get involved on a local level, contact Cathy Vaughan-Grabowski at flickchick55@gmail.com.



Are you passionate about a special cause? Do you know someone who is committed to a particular non-profit or charity? Email holly.proctor@n2pub.com to recognize the people in your community who are making a difference.



Supporters at the Wear Orange event in Avon help bring awareness to gun violence across the country on the first weekend in June.



what's happening *inside singletree*

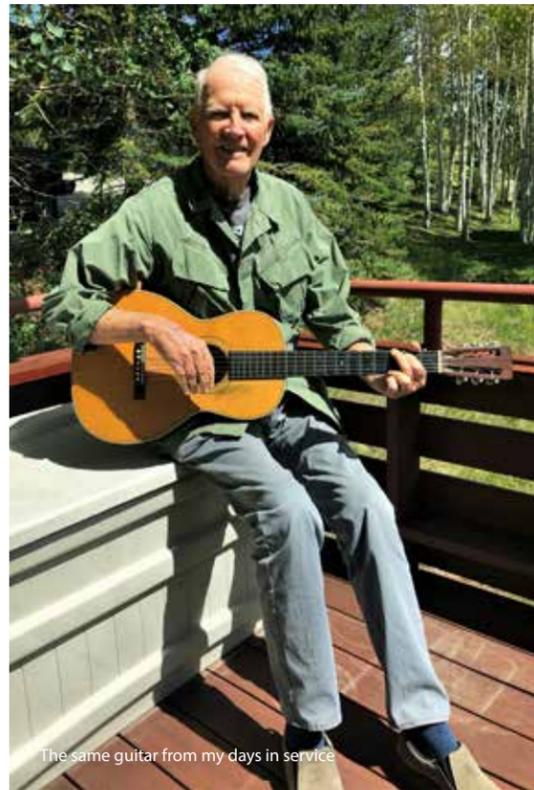
Rain, Wind or Shine... IT'S ALWAYS Ice Cream Weather!

Singletree residents donned their cool-weather gear and braved threatening skies, gale-force winds and moments of torrential rain to enjoy a delightful dish of ice cream with their friends and neighbors. A HUGE thank you goes out to the Singletree Property Owners' Association for hosting the end of summer ice cream social at the Singletree Pavilion...THANK YOU SPOA!!



HONORING OUR SINGLETREE VETERANS

On Veterans Day this November 11, the United States honors those who have served in the United States Armed Forces. **INSIDE Singletree** and the residents of Singletree pay tribute to Gerry Dooher, Dick Dangler, and Don Odom for their service to our country that grants us the safety and freedom in the lives we enjoy today.



The same guitar from my days in service



LT. GERALD DOOHER, MC, USNR, NAVAL SUPPORT ACTIVITY, SAIGON, VIETNAM WAR

I was a general medical officer on the YRBM18, a barge on the Mekong river in So. Vietnam in 1968-69. I had 2 corpsmen and a small sick bay. The YRBM (Yard Repair Berthing and Messing) moved up and down the river pulled by an LCM (Landing Craft Medium) as it had no engines.*

Sailors from two river patrol boat divisions and a Seal team were on board. There were 20 river patrol boats and they were maintained and repaired on the YRBM. Their primary mission was to prevent the Viet Cong from traveling on or crossing the river. On occasion the boats would go down narrow canals to attack known concentrations of VC in conjunction with helicopter gunships. The YRBM was about 165 feet long and 45 feet wide and was home to about 185 sailors. It was air-conditioned and the food was good Navy chow.

Minor injuries and sickness were treated on board and those with significant injuries were medevacked from the YRBM helicopter deck. Periodically, when the So. Vietnamese army secured a village formerly controlled by the VC, we went to the village and treated the inhabitants. This was part of the medical civic action program and we were occasionally accompanied by a civilian doctor. We replaced the YRBM 16 which was mined and sunk by a VC swimmer.

We had a good, lucky year. I was able to call home twice during the year to talk to my wife, Nancy; but, otherwise, communication was by mail.

*Messing is navy speak for eating – just so you don't get the wrong idea.

LT. RICHARD DANGLER, NAVY PACIFIC FLEET, NAVIGATOR USS NAVASOTA, KOREAN WAR

I grew up in a war zone as the Japanese invaded the Territory of Alaska in the 1940s. I recognized the need to protect our country. Consequently some wars are necessary, but I saw firsthand the damage that war can have on a country. Because of my upbringing, and living through an actual war, I realized that diplomacy is a far better means of conflict resolution than war.

I started my university studies in 1949 at Stanford where the annual tuition was only \$450. At that time, I recognized the possibility of war breaking out between North and South Korea, and because of the US proclivity for war, I was afraid we could be drawn into this conflict. To assure I would not be a military draftee, I joined the NROTC hoping that if there was a war, it would be over before my graduation.

That was not the case. So upon graduation, I ended up commissioned as an Ensign in the U.S. Navy. My two years of active duty gave me the satisfaction of serving my country, but it also highlighted the devastation that one nation could carry out on another. I started with atomic, biological and chemical warfare training. Following that training, I was assigned as an engineer on a submarine.

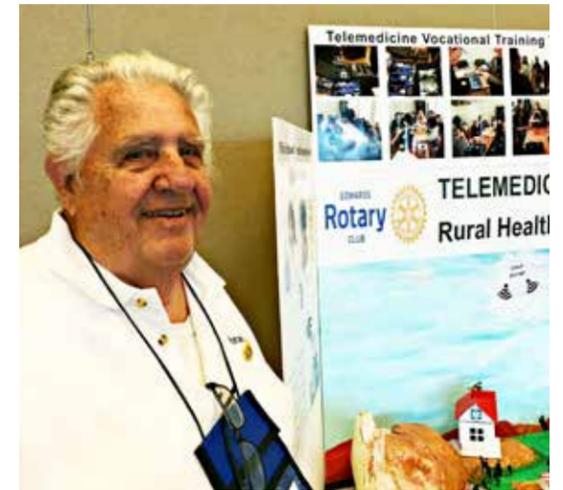
Shortly thereafter, I was reassigned as the Damage Control Officer aboard the USS Navasota, a super-fleet tanker. Except for the fact that every tanker torpedoed in WWII sank, I found duty quite pleasant. The sleeping quarters were spacious, we had plenty of water and we received all of the movies and mail for distribution to other ships in the fleet. First come, first served.

The USS Navasota ended up part of a classified mission, now unclassified, testing atomic weapons. This mission was to test the effects of using atomic and nuclear bombs carried out in the Marshall Islands. Our assignment was to track the nuclear fallout wherever the winds would take it.

In all, I participated in 14 atomic weapons tests. The most notable was a nuclear bomb 10 times greater than the bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. This hydrogen bomb was dropped over the Bikini Atoll. Our ship was only a few miles from the blast, and the events left a surprising aftermath on my faculties of sight, hearing and touch. We were provided very thick, extremely dark protective eyewear and held it in place with our hands.

When the explosion occurred, it was so bright that I could see the bones in my fingers even through the protection, and a few seconds later, after removing the eyewear, I viewed an extremely large black cloud form. It immediately rose into the typical mushroom cloud and turned quickly from black to white. There was a simultaneous rush of wind that almost threw me to the deck before it reversed and came back to fill the air void left by the explosion. The sight and feel of the wind are part of a memory I will never forget. But to this day, I cannot remember whether I heard any sound. It just proves that an individual can absorb only a limit of what is happening in horrific events.

For the next few months, we participated in smaller atomic bomb detonations, principally in the Eniwetok Atoll. These detonations became so routine that sometimes we would not even turn around to view it. At this point in time, I received a new ship-board assignment – I was reassigned from Engineering Officer to Navigator. This was an interesting sea-duty since it was before satellites provided GPS positioning.



I experienced how navigators in the old sailing vessel days would find their location by shooting the stars and sun with a sextant to calculate their longitude and latitude. Except for a few close calls, I handled the navigation of this tanker without running into another vessel or running aground.

Clearly, from what I saw in military service, I did not want to be part of any war that was not in direct protection of my country. Unfortunately, peace through diplomacy does not make money for the MIC, but it is a more civilized means to settle disputes. I happily provided military service at the request of my country but I question whether the Korean war was one the US needed to be involved in to keep its citizens safe.

With that in mind, having served my two years of obligatory service, I left the Navy, went on reserve duty, and returned to Stanford for a Masters degree and to pick up the end of the string that I would follow throughout life, a life that took me to 129 countries. During the following 50 years, I was able to participate with communities striving for development of a better life for themselves and their children.

I am proud to be a Vet and a pacifist. At the same time, I support those who have dedicated their professional life to the military as a stabilizing force in this world. For them and all Vets and their supportive families, we need to continually recognize their service to this nation.

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CAPTAIN DON ODOM, US AIR FORCE PILOT, TACTICAL AIR COMMAND, VIETNAM WAR

I hope my story will inspire a young man or woman in the Valley to think about military service. The Air Force was a great learning experience that not only taught me how to fly, but to lead my businesses later in life.

In 1965, I graduated from the University of Texas, Austin, with a BA degree and accepted a job with Continental Oil Co. in Lake Charles, LA. The bonus of Conoco was that my draft status was lowered to a 2A, because I was in a 'critical industry', i.e. jet fuel. Nine months later, I walked into the Lake Charles recruiting office and asked if I could become an Air Force pilot. No Google searches, no family discussions (unmarried at the time), and no guarantees I could pass all the tests that lay ahead.

The first was Officer Training School in San Antonio, TX, next one year of Pilot Training in Laredo, TX and finally, on to advanced training on C-130 Hercules at Sewart, TN for three months. Then on to my Tactical Wing Command at Langley, VA. By the way, I married in May 1967 during Pilot Training and enjoyed a week's honeymoon in Acapulco, not a common practice in that very competitive environment.

Then my life got really interesting; off to Japan in January 1968 'TDY' (Temporary Duty) for a short troop-carrying trip. That all

changed when the Tet Offensive exploded in South Vietnam, our mission changed overnight and we were sent to Vietnam. The two week TDY transformed to five months and a lot of exciting short runways and remote field flying, including two ammo airdrops while the Khe Sanh was under siege.

Once back at Langley, a normal life did not last all that long; in May 1969, my squadron was sent back to Southeast Asia PCS (permanent duty). I flew for fifteen months in and out of South Vietnam until August 1970. During my two tours, I logged 714 combat flying hours, was awarded the Air Medal with Four Oak Clusters and the Distinguished Flying Cross.

I discharged from the Regular Air Force as a C-130 Instructor Pilot with the rank of Captain from Dyess A.F. Base, Abilene, TX in August 1971. I served in the Air Force Reserve at Kelly A.F. Base, San Antonio until 1974.

If any young man or woman would like to discuss a military career or a shorter stint as I did, please contact me. If I could it, believe me you can do the same, and enjoy the service as much as I did and still do!

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Contributed by Kristofer Thornton,
Singletree Resident
Article Written by Belle Ebner,
Singletree Resident

PASSION, TALENT and RELENTLESS DRIVE

KRISTOFER THORNTON REACHES FOR THE STARS



Luminosity in Cedar Point - Photo Courtesy of Ron Skinner

The bright lights overwhelm the stage, and he stares into the eyes of a vast audience. Many people would begin to experience an audible thumping of the heart, a quickening of the breath, and a loss for words. But he thrives in this setting, in being on stage with the sole focus of an enamored audience set on him.

Kristofer Thornton first realized his passion for acting during junior year of high school after switching from Vail Christian to Battle Mountain High School. He flourishes in a land of “No’s”, and has diligently pursued a passion that is so often not realized because of how difficult a career it is. Yet he realizes the value in hearing “no” rather than hearing nothing; it is far more valuable to take a risk rather than forever wonder what could have happened. The most interesting role he has played was as Judas, a complicated and controversial

figure, in *Jesus Christ Superstar*. A villain yet a protagonist in the story; something so innately human. He realized that even in the most empathetic and caring people there sits a malicious voice, in some faint, and in others a pounding headache. Kristofer attributes much of his success to his ability to effectively connect with his characters, and thereby fully embody them on stage.

Kristofer has experienced a variety of roles, ranging from the Guard in *Aladdin* to King Arthur in *Camelot*. Earlier in his career, he performed shows every season at the Vail Performing Arts Academy. He competed in Speech



Photo Courtesy of Shian Jordan

and Debate to strengthen his skill in presenting in front of large audiences, and strengthened his high tenor in a barbershop quartet as well as at the All-State Choir. Yet he struggled for years to master the art of memorization, of not realizing many people’s worst nightmare: blankly staring into the eyes of an apathetic audience with no grasp on what to say or do.

Kristofer ultimately found strength in his voice, and worked tenaciously to find new techniques for memorization. During his senior year at Drake University, he received 33 callbacks at the Unified Professional Theatre Auditions in Memphis, TN and made it to 18 of them, all within the course of one day, while still maintaining the energy to amuse the casting directors of each company at the bar afterward. Kristofer then headlined in *Luminosity* at Cedar Point Amusement Park in Sandusky, Ohio, staged with 16 dancers, live musicians, and a half-dozen aerialists, while utilizing effects such as fireworks, light, video projection, and CO2 cannons. His favorite roles are those of romantic leads or the “boy next door” characters.

Kristofer credits much of his success to Suzanne Foster, his high-school acting coach who vivaciously encouraged him to pursue his passion. He



Happily Never After in Cedar Point - Photo Courtesy of Rebecca Nowak



Luminosity in Cedar Point - Photo Courtesy of Ron Skinner



Theatre 2020's The Cradle Will Rock - Photo Courtesy of John Robert Hoffman



Theatre 2020's The Cradle Will Rock - Photo Courtesy of John Robert Hoffman

had visited a sum total of zero colleges, but after the encouragement of Suzanne, knew exactly where he was going. After 4 years at Drake University, he came back to the valley to teach skiing, dance, tutor, assist as a stagehand, all while working at a software company as well. At times, he was balancing 6 jobs at once.

Yet a career in acting often requires going to such extreme lengths, throwing yourself into the profession while still having to survive and earn a paycheck. This year, Kristofer spent six months in New York appearing for 300 auditions, nearly 50 auditions per month while balancing an 8-hour shift at lululemon five days a week. Kristofer is undeniably dedicated to his passion, willing to go to extreme lengths in order to be successful.

Kristofer earned his B.F.A in Musical Theater from Drake University, as well as a minor in Computer Science, and is trained in opera, tap, jazz, and ballet. His dialects include Irish, British, and German, allowing him to be well suited for a multitude of roles in a variety of countries. Kristofer also specializes in stage combat - movement in acting such as sword fights, bow and arrows, or even something as simple as someone getting slapped.

He realized the importance of *safety* in stage combat when training with Union Stunt Performers from *The Dark Night*, who teach specific movements to extras. These stunt people were actually locked in a trailer for 36 hours during which time there was a free-for-all caught on camera; the violent engagement between actors was not staged, but entirely authentic. Rather than pay the union performers to train and act out a fighting scene, the union reps instead capitalized on this footage for the scene. Kristofer learned insider information simply from being exposed to the dramatic world of acting.

Kristofer has most recently returned to the acting world for the fall season at Cedar Point, playing the Mad Hatter and the Cheshire Cat in *Happily Never After*, a take on Grimm’s Fairy Tales. He ea-



...

gerly embraces the intense schedule that accompanies a career in acting. With his upcoming role, he will be balancing four to six shows a day, with meet and greets again between each performance. Kristofer is in the business of selling himself, an art which involves the whole being: voice, body, and emotion. He has landed countless roles and looks forward to continuing to build on his experience and grow to be even more of a success with the ultimate goal of joining the troupe at Walt Disney World... or maybe even Broadway!

To learn more about Kristofer's theatrical achievements, please visit <http://www.kristoferthornton.com>.



VPAA's Flower Power - Photo Courtesy of Rex Keep



Happily Never After in Cedar Point - Photo Courtesy of Rebecca Nowak



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Singletree Resident



Prevent burst pipes this winter (from Eagle River Water & Sanitation District):

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- Always set your thermostat to at least 55 degrees Fahrenheit, even when your home is unoccupied.
- Insulate vulnerable areas and install pipe insulating products on water lines.
- Close garage doors completely if the water meter or water supply lines are in the garage.
- Check unoccupied homes during and after a cold snap.

Eagle River Water & Sanitation District is responsible for the public water distribution system – the mains, storage tanks, and pumps. If a water main breaks, District staff will respond at all hours of the day and will notify properties in the affected area. To report a suspected water main break, call 970-476-7480 at any time of day.

For more information on preventing or thawing frozen pipes, or for help locating your water meter or master shutoff, go to www.erwsd.org or contact district customer service at 970-477-5451.

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HOLIDAY PARTY
Sunday, December 8
4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Don't miss these
neighborhood events at the
Singletree Community Center!

Be-Dazzled in Singletree...

A DIAMOND IN THE ROUGH at 860 CHAROLAIS CIRCLE



home of the month

Contributed by
**Allie Decent and
Sally Austen,**
Singletree residents



As the only home set on Charolais Pond, 860 Charolais Circle is a beguiling property with a squat exterior set away from the road, and a light and airy living interior with views to the east and south providing maximum sun exposure in season while allowing for entertainment on a cool sheltered patio on those hot summer nights. The previous owners of 860 Charolais had settled into this quiet hamlet in 2016 as their newlywed nest. The home fit all of their needs at first, but the anticipation of having a baby meant that moving became a necessity to maintain harmony in the household. Along come Melanie Bartlett and Brandon Hill, seeking their future home in Singletree, and here we learn how the property became compelling to them.

The sellers' real estate agent, Allie Decent, found a home to meet their needs in July, and once the family moved, the Singletree house sat empty of furniture and any personal touches. The beautiful little single-family home was completely remodeled in 2016, with an open floor plan for living, dining and kitchen. With a smaller luxury home, it is imperative for potential buyers to see the invisible delineations in form and function and they must be confident that all their furnishings will fit the space. When they come in and see that the home is actually empty, they are disappointed. "I'm not selling just a house, I'm selling an experience. That's why I made the recommendation to my seller to hire a stager," Allie explains.



But how to promote and stage this single level southwest style home with a modern interior? Sally Austen, a stager/stylist/designer at Sagebrush Designs, teamed up with Allie to create this experience. Sally is a long-time local who lives in Singletree, with museum design training from Yale and 30 years of custom interior design experience in Vail. "I have a good sense of market trends and how to move people through spaces so they are comfortable and memorable," Sally explains. "If furniture placement or selections makes them (the buyers) pause to reflect, to momentarily see themselves in *this* house, I have already made Allie's job easier."

Considering the first iteration of the home at 860 Charolais was a single level three bedroom home in a traditional Santa Fe style, staging would take some creativity. The interior had been previously redone in rich warm tones, so the furniture choice would have to create the same amount of seating and space but be lighter in style, yet not ultra-modern, to make the space seem as large and as inviting as possible.

Sally and the sellers ultimately decided on a sophisticated contemporary package that looked simple and airy, was relatively inexpensive, and left room to dream. Sally explains her process. "The house was already a perfect space for entertaining, with doors from the kitchen to the outdoors and views of all of your guests in the common space. By creating conversation areas with a modern grey sectional, textured tables, and upholstered small scale chairs, we invented a space where a future owner could form a vision of watching TV, entertaining friends and contemplating the sunset." The result? "We had multiple offers and we were under contract in 4 days," Allie beams.

Allie speaks highly of Sally's creativity and the way in which the plan maximized the perception of space, light, and views. Of course, it's not just about staging, it's also about price point, location, and market conditions. In this case, the home was competitively priced with realistic sellers and listed during the hottest selling time in Singletree.

The house itself is situated on a large lot, with the potential for expansion upwards to add a second floor to take advantage of the Beaver Creek views or lofted ceilings to add drama and height. Melanie and Brandon are planning on doing just that, as well as covering the outdoor patio to create additional entertainment space. With renovations planned to be completed by the fall of 2020, *INSIDE Singletree* eagerly anticipates sharing the updated home with its readers.

With most homes in our neighborhood showing their age after 30+ years of habitation, to stay competitive in this valley as one of the most coveted neighborhoods for local living means that we are going to see a lot of massive construction on existing structures. "These older homes have hit the stage where botox and fillers will no longer cut it," laughs Allie. "It's time for some serious plastic surgery. Singletree is ready for its close up."



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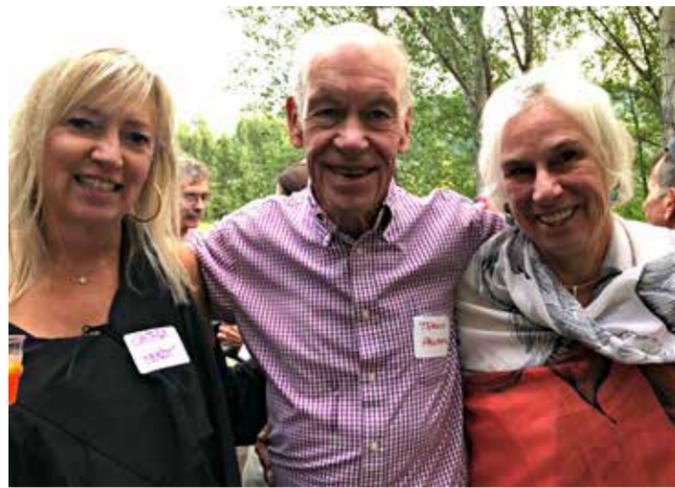


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Sliding into Fall... WITH CRAIG AND INGRID DAMPIER

With September upon us, Craig and Ingrid Dampier hosted their Singletree friends and neighbors for a soiree to celebrate summer and the arrival of fall. The evening began with a refreshing Aperol Spritz and followed with an array of appetizers and freshly grilled fare. Thank you, Ingrid and Craig, for your warm hospitality and a festive evening of neighborhood camaraderie!



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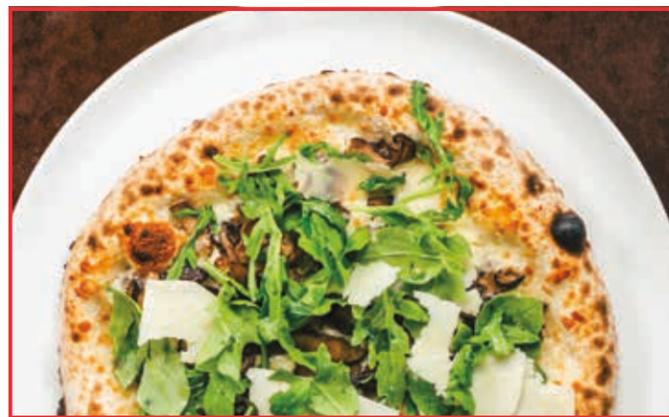
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Properties Sold and Under Contract in Singletree*

Status	Address	Property Type	List Price	Selling Price	\$/sq.ft.	Selling \$/sq.ft.	Beds	Baths	Sq.Ft.+/-	Furnished	Selling Date
UC	711 Singletree Rd #35	Townhouse	\$845,000	--	--	\$464	3	3 (3 0 0)	1,821	Full	--
UC	123 Buckboard Rd #A	Duplex	\$990,000	--	--	\$430	3	4 (2 1 1)	2,303	Partial	--
UC	190 Foal Cir	Single Family	\$1,298,000	--	--	\$414	4	4 (2 1 1)	3,139	Unfurnished	--
UC	211 Howard Dr	Single Family	\$1,400,000	--	--	\$346	5	5 (4 0 1)	4,042	Unfurnished	--
Sold	111 Buckboard Rd #B	Duplex	\$890,000	\$835,000	\$463	\$435	4	4 (3 0 1)	1,921	Unfurnished	9/11/19
Sold	41 Prairie Cir	Single Family	\$999,000	\$935,000	\$212	\$198	6	6 (3 2 1)	4,719	Unfurnished	8/29/19
Sold	1241 Winslow Rd	Duplex	\$950,000	\$950,000	\$421	\$421	3	4 (3 0 1)	2,255	Unfurnished	9/5/19
Sold	860 Charolais Cir	Single Family	\$1,050,000	\$1,025,000	\$500	\$488	3	3 (2 0 1)	2,102	Unfurnished	9/12/19
Sold	171 Stagecoach Rd	Single Family	\$1,250,000	\$1,185,000	\$387	\$367	4	4 (3 1 0)	3,229	Partial	9/11/19
Sold	1000 June Creek Rd	Single Family	\$1,549,000	\$1,500,000	\$358	\$347	3	3 (2 1 0)	4,323	Partial	8/29/19
Sold	130 Palomino Rd	Single Family	\$1,985,000	\$1,900,000	\$394	\$377	5	6 (5 0 1)	5,036	Unfurnished	9/11/19
Sold	160 Morgan Dr	Single Family	\$2,195,000	\$2,175,000	\$432	\$428	5	6 (4 1 1)	5,080	Unfurnished	9/5/19

*Data 8.14.19 - 9.15.19

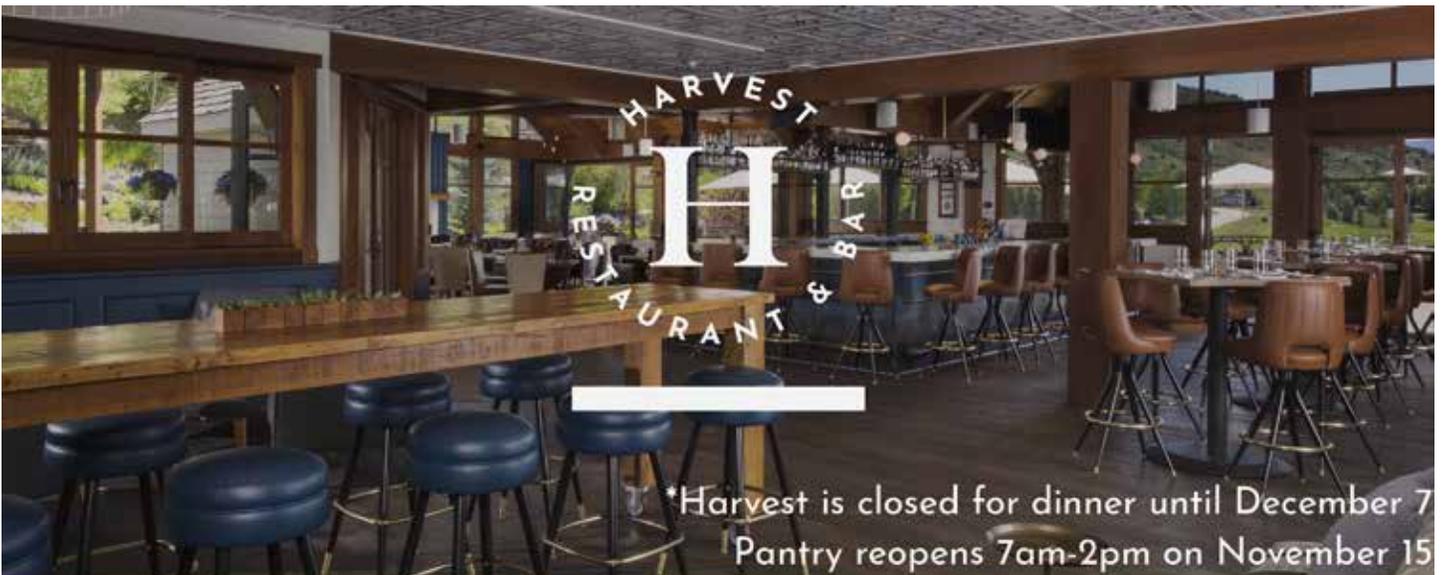
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Sunday Brunch Starting December 8, 2019!