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A

AGENT
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C

CONTINGENCY
A condition that must be met in order for a real estate contract to be finalized.

D

DOWN PAYMENT
The amount of money that a buyer must pay upfront as part of a real estate transaction.

I

ICE DAM
Ice formation on the roof edge caused by the thawing and re-freezing of snow on the overhang.

J

JOINT TENANCY
A legal term for when two or more people own equal shares of the same piece of property.



L

LISTING PRICE
A list price is the price of a home for sale set by the seller and listing agent.

W

WALK-THROUGH
The final inspection of a home by a buyer before finalizing a deal to purchase the home.



Y

YIELD
The interest or return earned by an investor stated as a percentage of the amount invested.

Z

ZONING
Designated areas to enforce architectural design regulations within the specific area.

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INSIDE
Singletree

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NOTE: When community events take place, photographers may be present to take photos for that event, and they may be used in the publication.



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Hello, Singletree Residents!



August is here, and while for many, this month means the lazy days of summer, here in the Vail Valley, we are anything but lazy. There is still plenty of hiking, fishing, cycling, golf, tennis, and pickleball — to name a few — to be enjoyed!

I am thrilled to introduce the Dienst family. After a brief stint in Vail in 1994, Ryan vowed to return to the Vail Valley at some point. Nearly 20 years later, Georgi and Ryan, together with three children and two giant, lovable English Cream Golden Retrievers, are happy to be living atop Singletree on Saddle Road.

Kathy Mikolasy arrived in the Vail Valley in 1996, bringing with her a love of horses, which ultimately led to the unique opportunity for her to combine the two great passions in her life: horses and helping others. Add to that her role as a ski coach for Special Olympics, and her commitment to helping emotionally or physically challenged kids has touched the lives of many in the Vail Valley. Jade Ohde, Jeff Douglas, and Sara Haeffner are avid athletes who enthusiastically compete as Barracudas, Back Bowlers, or cyclists on the Wolf Pack Team.

When it comes to impact, there are many families and individuals who, since 1962, have contributed to making Vail what it is today. Tom Boyd has filled a number of roles, today as the director of public relations and communications for the Vail Valley Foundation, to carry on the spirit and commitment of his parents, Susan and Steve (aka Louie), to promote and build our community. We are grateful for the Boyd family legacy in the Vail Valley.



Get out there and enjoy August! And when you enjoy a quiet moment, I hope you enjoy these articles and more in this issue of your neighborhood magazine.

Holly Proctor
Area Director
303-859-3369
holly.proctor@n2pub.com

AUGUST contributors

Your personal Singletree publication is **BY YOU** and **FOR YOU**, and it is not possible without **YOUR** stories and photos! **MEET YOUR NEIGHBORS. KIDS' CORNER. PRECIOUS PETS. TRAVEL TALES. WHO'S MAKING A DIFFERENCE. ATHLETE SPOTLIGHT. WHERE ARE THEY NOW? AND MORE.**

We are always seeking new articles to keep your magazine fresh and relevant every month. Please contribute your story or nominate a friend or neighbor to participate in an upcoming issue. Email holly.proctor@n2co.com to participate in your Singletree magazine!



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Singletree Trails



Ryan and
Georgi Dienst
Meet Your Neighbors



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ACES &
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Contributed by Jim Knez, Singletree Resident

GREAT WORK on Knob Hill!

Many thanks to our Singletree crew of volunteers for offering their time and energy to complete the project on the Knob Hill Trail in May. Your work provides the opportunity for all of us to experience and enjoy our neighborhood trails!



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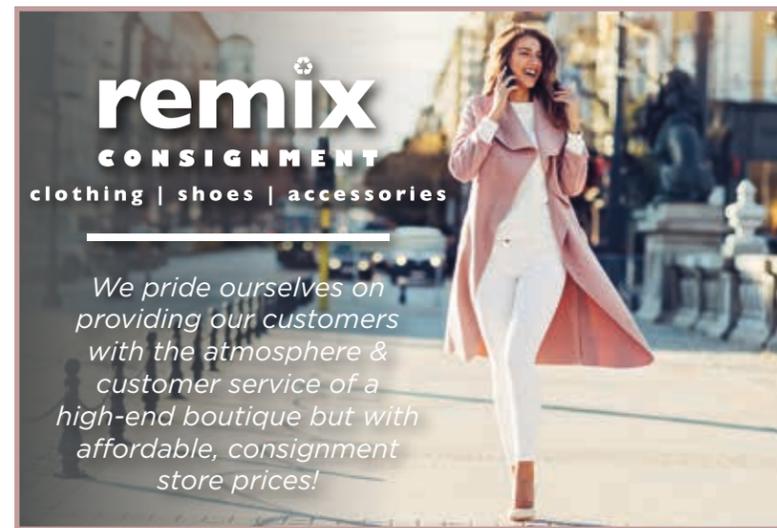


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DIENTST

RYAN, GEORGI, BECKER, ALEX AND MAC

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Ryan and Georgi Dienst decided to try moving to the Vail Valley from North Carolina for “one year” in June 2014 with their 3 kids, Becker, Alexandra (Alex) and Mac. Ryan had lived in Vail for a year in 1994 after graduating from college and as he drove East over Vail pass moving back to NC, he vowed to come back some day. Right about 20 years later, he was driving back West with his family of five plus one very excited golden retriever!



After spending many vacations in Vail, winter and summer, Ryan and Georgi felt called to raise their kids in the Vail Valley. Ryan was traveling for work so could do that from anywhere and their oldest child was going into 6th grade so they decided it was perfect timing. They put in their lottery application at Eagle County Charter Academy (ECCA) and decided if they got in, it was a sign for them to move. Well... they did and now their youngest son will be going into 8th grade at ECCA this fall.

Ryan grew up in Charlotte, NC and Georgi in Boone, NC. They both attended the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill for undergrad and Ryan also for business school. Leaving the state where they both grown up, gone to college and had their entire family was way out of their comfort zone but they both felt like the benefits outweighed the risks.

After leaving Vail in 1995, Ryan started a homebuilding company in Charlotte, NC, with his mom, which he was part of for 10 years. While working as a homebuilder, he realized he wanted to learn more about running a business so went back to UNC-Chapel Hill to earn his MBA. Post homebuilding, Ryan developed an interest in the medical industry and started an imaging company that focused on refurbishing, servicing and selling ultrasound equipment. He was in that industry for 12 years before entering the laboratory space and focusing on DNA and toxicology testing which evolved into Covid testing the last few years. Recently Ryan and his partner,

James Deighan, started a local charity called Highline Helps to help locals who have had an impact on the Vail Valley and are in a time of need. They are eager to give back and look forward to growing this outreach initiative. Ryan loves skiing, skinning, golfing and mountain biking in the valley.

Post college, Georgi took a summer to live in Jackson Hole, WY, then headed back to Charlotte, NC, where she and Ryan reconnected through mutual college friends and started dating. Georgi worked as a systems consultant based out of Charlotte. She traveled some with this job and enjoyed it for 4 years before becoming an investor relations director for a holding company out of Charlotte. She and Ryan got married in July 1999 and Georgi remained with this company until having their first child in 2002. She then chose to stay home with her growing family and did some part-time work as a real estate agent and also as a personal trainer. Georgi takes full advantage of the lifestyle here and loves to skin, mountain bike, ski and hike with her dogs.

Before kids, Georgi and Ryan spent their free time with family and friends and also traveling to the NC mountains on the weekends. In May 2002, Becker was born. In July 2004, they welcomed their daughter, Alexandra (Alex), into their family and then another son, Mac, in January 2009.

Becker took to sports and biking from an early age. He played soccer, basketball and baseball and started taking ski trips with them by age 3. He learned to ski in the NC mountains and on Vail family ski trips. Becker stuck with soccer and basketball but then began focusing on lacrosse. Becker fell in love with lacrosse and met most of his friends on the lacrosse

•••

field when the Dienst family moved to the Valley. Settling into the valley with the amazing opportunities and access, Becker's passion for skiing and mountain biking grew quickly. Becker went to ECCA from 6th-8th grade, attended Vail Mountain School for high school and now attends the University of Colorado at Boulder where he is in the Leeds business school and plays on the club lacrosse team. He just finished his freshman year and is home for the summer where he has started a business in Vail renting Quiet Kat eBikes. He hopes to get in a lot of mountain biking as well!

Alex took on the role as little sister and wanted to do everything big brother did. She played soccer, basketball and lacrosse as well as gymnastics classes as she loved hanging from monkey bars and tumbling around. She also learned to ski in the NC mountains and on their family ski trips out west. The family got to know the Vail and BC ski school drill very well. Alex started playing volleyball in 6th grade and now she focuses on volleyball, skiing and lacrosse. Alex has always loved skiing and enjoys mountain biking and hiking now as well. She loves any new challenge and adventure. Alex went to ECCA and now attends Battle Mountain High School where she is going to be a senior this fall and is beginning to look at colleges. She is working in Edwards at Meridian clothing store and Cafe 163 this summer.

In early 2009, when Becker was 6 years old and Alex was 4, they excitedly welcomed their baby brother, Mac, who quickly became a dress up doll and toy for his older brother and sister. Mac quickly became the family entertainment.



He was 5 years old when the family moved to the valley so he only remembers growing up in Colorado. He easily took to the lifestyle in the mountains and loves to ski and mountain bike and is always trying to learn some new trick! You can often times find Mac and his friends building ski jumps wherever they can find a good spot. Mac also plays golf, football, basketball and lacrosse. He is going to camp this summer and will be in 8th grade this fall.

The dogs - Boone (10) and Levi (3) - are both English Cream Golden Retrievers that are always up for a hike and a chance to get very dirty any chance they get. They both love to sit outside their house at the end of Saddle Drive and watch the neighbors and their dogs walk by. Come say hello anytime you are walking by - Boone will ask you to give him a rub and Levi may bring you a toy or a ball to throw.

When the Diensts first moved to Edwards, they lived in the Cordillera Valley Club, and after 6 years in CVC, they found a house in Singletree on a lot they loved. They were excited to put some work into the house and make it their own! Now they love living in Singletree and take advantage of the gym, Harvest, and access to all the mountain biking and hiking trails that are so close.

The entire family has made many dear friends here that have become like family. Plus all of the family and friends they were sad to leave in NC love coming out to visit so they feel blessed in both ways. Between all the wonderful people here and their passion for skiing, skinning, mountain biking, hiking, golfing and the kids' sports, the Vail valley has been a perfect fit for this NC family.

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Summer Celebration Host and Hostess: Tom and Melinda Gladitsch

Donned in purple, Singletree came out to celebrate the start of the new season in early June. Neighborhood friends and neighbors mixed and mingled while recognizing June as Alzheimer's and Brain Awareness month and making plans to participate in the **Walk to End Alzheimer's on September 24, 2022**. Thank you, Melinda and Tom, for a festive and enlightening evening!

Please join us on **August 10** at the **Riverwalk Theater** to learn more about the Alzheimer's Association. Happy Hour and a silent auction will begin at 5:00 p.m., followed by a presentation at 6:00 p.m. featuring research updates, local services, support and advocacy, and the upcoming Vail Valley Walk to End Alzheimer's.

If you are interested in learning more about the walk, please visit act.alz.org to donate or to register to walk.

Family Heirloom Photography
by **Lisa Barron Photography Inc.**



Co-hostess Tricia Swenson with guest Jeff Koch

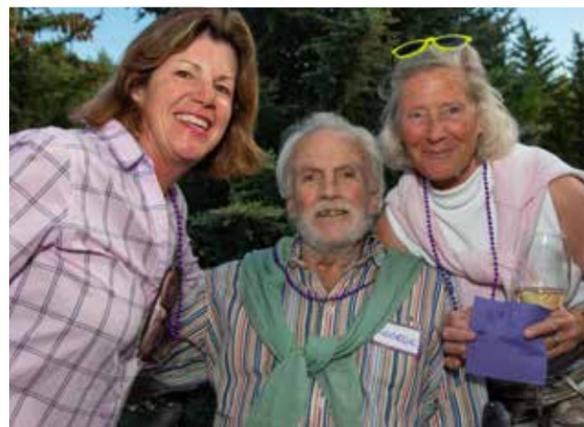


Our awesome bartenders: Carling Bennett and Liz Delaney



Specialty cocktails: the Forget-Me-Not and the Memory Maker





who's making a difference

Contributed by **Kathy Mikolasy**, Singletree Resident
Article Written by **Tim Swift**, Singletree Resident



Kathy Mikolasy **GIVES BACK WITH PASSION**

Kathy Mikolasy arrived in the Vail Valley in 1996, bringing with her a love of horses and six years of experience in helping school-aged children with special needs deal with the challenges they face. As a volunteer in an equine therapy program in North Carolina, she was able to combine the two great passions in her life — horses and helping others — to discover a path that would define her life.

She moved to Edwards and was able to create a local equine therapy program at what was then the Ranch at Berry Creek, the present location of Battle Mountain High School. That program was aptly called Cowboy Dreams. She lived in a trailer on the ranch during the program's two years existence. Although Cowboy Dreams had a rather short run, the success it had with helping special needs kids cope with life told Kathy that it needed to continue somewhere.

During her time with Cowboy Dreams, Kathy was making the trek to Crested Butte every March, where she volunteered in a ski clinic sponsored by the VA hospital in Grand Junction and the DAV. That clinic focused on teaching the skills needed to teach skiing to disabled veterans. She was at that clinic in 2000 and broke her leg in a ski accident. As a result of that accident,

she was unable to teach riding at the ranch. As a result of not being able to teach riding, she was a “non-revenue producing” employee, and, as a result of being non-revenue producing, she was kicked out of her trailer!

But, as the old expression goes, it's always darkest just before the dawn, and this point in Kathy's life illuminates this perfectly. Through a friend, Kara Heide, Kathy learned of a ranch that was owned by Gail and Carl Dietz in Eagle; as it turned out, they were looking for someone to run the ranch and teach riding as they were in the process of moving to Arizona part-time. Despite her being unable to walk, ride, or even drive at the time, she jumped at the opportunity and moved to the ranch. After all, a broken leg is temporary, but a love of horses and helping others is forever! The Dietzes were big supporters of Small Champions and encouraged Kathy's involvement. Their support included never charging Kathy a boarding fee for her “magic horses.”

That was in 1998, and once she got back on her feet (literally, in this case), she continued her work with horses. In 2005, she started working with Small

Champions, the local not-for-profit founded by Connie Miller and Kara Heide in 1996 that helps children with cognitive and developmental disabilities through winter and summer sports programs. Kathy was hired to develop an equine therapy program for the organization. But just to ensure that Kathy's logistical and employment challenges weren't over, the owner of the ranch in Eagle, where she was running the program for Small Champions, decided to sell the property in 2022, and the new owners told Kathy that she would have to take her three horses elsewhere. By this point, Kathy had moved to Singletree, so housing wasn't an issue, but she had nowhere to house her animals.

Fortunately, she found out about Calhoun Ranch in Lake Creek. They welcomed Kathy, her horses, and the Small Champions program she had created, and she was able to continue without missing a beat.

Kathy's commitment to helping challenged children is not limited to working with horses, however. She has also been volunteering with Special Olympics since 1996.

Special Olympics and Small Champions work closely with each other to provide a seamless transition for the kids who age out of Small Champions. When that day comes, Special Olympics is ready to welcome them with sports-oriented programs designed to continue their therapy. Special Olympics offers skiing, swimming, golf, bowling, horse therapy, and bocce training and competition to Eagle County's physically and developmentally challenged youth and adults alike, as the program has no upper age limit. Kathy volunteers for Special Olympics as a ski and equine therapy coach. When June arrives each year, Kathy continues to give back by heading east to Atlanta, where she serves as a counselor at Camp Sunshine, a camp for children with cancer. She does this to honor her parents, who both passed away from cancer.

Kathy Mikolasy has been able to combine her skills and her commitment to giving back and, as a result, has added another dimension to what makes our community and the Vail Valley so welcoming. No matter your limitations, either physical or emotional, you will be able to find a program and a mentor designed to help make your life full and rewarding.



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INTRODUCING NEW OWNERSHIP AT Alpine Laser Clinic



Hello! I am excited to announce I am the new owner of Alpine Laser Clinic. My name is Robin Dillon-Zupancic, and I grew up in the valley. My parents owned the gas station right off the interstate in Edwards, where the Wendy's is now. When we were there, it was called Eagle Valley Texaco and Jerry's Deli. My dad was an avid golfer at Singletree.

A little about me: I had the pleasure of working in dentistry for 15 years with Adair Dental (now Altitude Family Dental). I managed the office and assisted the dentist during my time there. My favorite part was working with the orthodontic kids. I then went on to sell insurance for Farmers then for Cornerstone Insurance and Financial Group. I am still at Cornerstone when I am not at Alpine Laser Clinic. I am married and have a 9-year-old son who goes to Brush Creek Elementary School. I enjoy making quilts and things to decorate my home. I have a small terrier cross and a rather plump kitten to keep the house busy.

I left dentistry in search of something that I could do for myself. I was able to purchase Alpine Laser Clinic at the end of April 2022. I have known Cindy Ramunno, the



previous owner, and her family since the early 2000s. It has been a seamless transition. The only thing that is different is I am here, and Cindy is not. It has been so much fun getting to know all the clients here!

Alpine Laser Clinic offers almost everything you would need to make you feel and look younger! Laser hair removal, injectables such as Botox and Kysse, non-invasive body contouring, VI Peel, hydro jelly masks, and teeth whitening. We also offer a selection of skin care products.

Alpine Laser Clinic has prided itself on lower prices, no packages, and no tipping. We want this to be a stress-free, get-what-you-need-done-and-go type climate. Our clients are here usually for 15 minutes or less.

My Alpine Laser Clinic journey so far has truly been a blessing. I am currently trying to decide what days and hours are best for clients and trying to find the best way to survey that. The clinic has typically been open two days a week, and I am trying to be open a little more than that to start.

The very best part of Alpine Laser Clinic is the fact all the clients are happy to be here. No one seems to like visiting the dentist or their insurance agent. It is a totally different feeling being here, and I am truly enjoying every minute.

My advice to readers: PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE use sunscreen anywhere you don't want wrinkles in the future and drink water! Our climate is so dry, we are all prone to lines above the lips and little broken blood vessels on our faces. Water and sunscreen can help combat our sometimes-harsh climate.

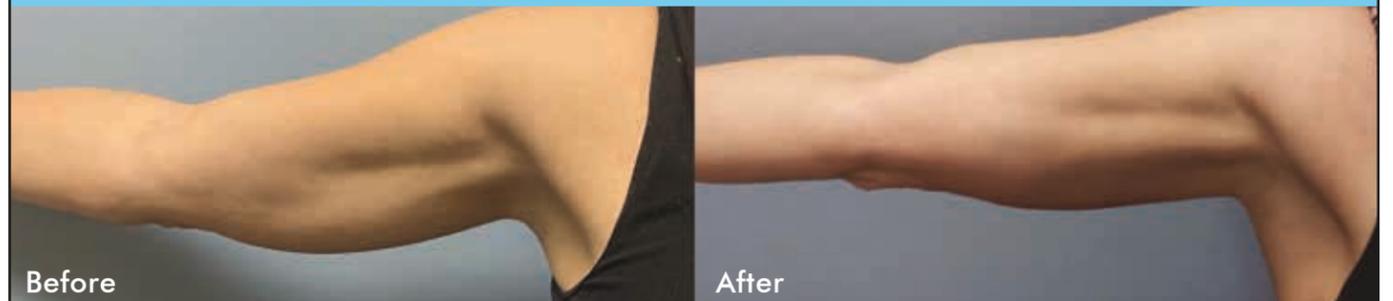
If you are a current client of Alpine Laser Clinic, know that all your perks stay the same. If you are curious about anything we offer, let's chat!

Happy summer!

Robin



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precious pets

meeting Mae...

aka Mae Mae, Maecifer, or MaeMonster

Contributed by Mae and Carrie Benway, Singletree Pet and Resident

On March 28, 2020, Carrie, Chapin, and Lillian Benway adopted Mae from Lucky Day Dog Rescue in Aspen. Mae was being fostered locally by Sue Stapleman-Terbush. Adopting a dog was not on Carrie's radar. "When both Chapin and Lillian returned from college to Edwards to begin remote learning, they began begging me to adopt a dog. Having started a new position as the executive director of Your Hope Center in January, I thought the

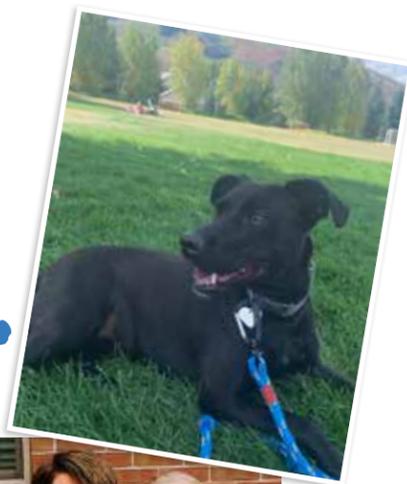
last thing I needed was an additional responsibility. Then, one night, I saw Sue's Facebook post featuring Mae. The next day, we went to Sue's house, met Mae, and officially adopted her within 24 hours!"

Having been terribly abused by her previous owner in Arkansas, it took Mae a few months to adjust to a loving home and being the center of attention. Now Mae is the most affectionate 39-pound guard dog there is!

Carrie shares that "Mae has been the silver lining of COVID-19 for our family. During stay-at-home orders in the spring of 2020, we joined my sister, Mary Cotton, and her family for daily walks. Since it was our only social interaction during that time, we never missed a day of walking, even during rain, sleet, and snow." Carrie has never returned to her daily gym habit (except for tennis!) and continues to walk Mae for 3 to 5 miles every day in Singletree. Getting out of the gym and outside has been great for her mental health and also serves as a way to see Singletree neighbors *and* for Mae to have her social interaction with other dogs in the neighborhood.

Adjusting to an empty house has been difficult for a COVID-19 puppy who thought normal life was the entire family engaged at home via Zoom for either school or work. While Mae has finally adjusted to being by herself during the day, there is nothing better than Mae hugs when we return home.

As a family who has never adopted a dog before, we highly recommend adopt, don't shop!



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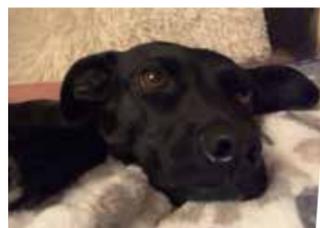
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Active	520 Rawhide Road A	Duplex	4	3	2438	Unfurnished	\$1,795,000	\$736.26	24			
Active	81 Palomino Road W	Duplex	4	5	2873	Unfurnished	\$1,795,000	\$624.78	10			
Active	45 Hereford Road	Single family	4	6	3966	Partially	\$2,675,000	\$674.48	27			
Active	192 Mustang Road B	Duplex	4	5	4143	Partially	\$2,750,000	\$663.77	38			
Active	30 Buckboard Road	Single family	5	7	3824	Partially	\$2,775,000	\$725.68	32			
Active	141 Corral Road B	Duplex	6	6	5457	Unfurnished	\$2,995,000	\$548.84	131			
Active	261 Mesquite Drive	Single family	6	7	8516	Unfurnished	\$5,600,000	\$657.59	42			
Under Contract	260 Buckboard Road B-1	Town Home	3	2	1333	Unfurnished	\$1,095,000	\$821.46	24			
Under Contract	260 Buckboard Road B-3	Condominium	3	2	1374	Unfurnished	\$1,150,000	\$836.97	15			
Under Contract	141 Chaparral Road	Single family	4	5	3688	Unfurnished	\$1,495,000	\$405.37	4			
Under Contract	11 Chute Circle	Single family	4	6	4683	Unfurnished	\$3,750,000	\$800.77	25			
Closed	800 June Creek	Single family	5	6	4312	Unfurnished	\$3,325,000	\$771.10	3	\$3,401,000	788.73	6/17/2022
Closed	141 Stagecoach Road	Single family	4	6	3161	Unfurnished	\$1,875,000	\$593.17	0	\$1,875,000	593.17	6/7/2022
Closed	120 Chaparral Road	Single family	5	4	4278	Unfurnished	\$1,995,000	\$466.34	6	\$2,000,000	467.51	5/31/2022

*Properties Active, Under Contract and Sold 5.17.22-6.20.22

TOM BOYD

CARRIES ON A FAMILY LEGACY IN THE VAIL VALLEY:

Creating And Preserving Our Mountain Lifestyle



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Most of us who have been in this valley for more than a year or two are well aware of the names of the people who made Vail happen in the early- to mid-'60s. Names like Seibert, Eaton, Frampton, Slifer, and Gramshammer have become synonymous with the early years of our valley and the contributions they made to put Vail on the map as one of the premier year-round vacation spots in the world.

But there is one name you may not know. A name that was present almost from day one and also made an indelible contribution to this valley. That name is Boyd.

In 1963, Steve Boyd, known as Louie, was a patroller at Aspen Highlands and was recruited to come to Vail and join our ski patrol. At the time, the village was a true fledgling. The streets were unpaved, the services were minimal, all housing was pretty much under construction, and guest facilities were spartan at best. The Red Lion was about it for food and drink, and the Lodge at Vail provided most of the visitor beds.

Steve brought with him, in addition to his patrolling skills, construction experience and a strong desire to be part of something new and exciting. He met his wife, Susan, in Denver, and soon afterward, the Boyds had three children: Steve Jr., Caitlin, and Tom. Louie passed away in 2018. Susan is known throughout the valley for her decades of work at the Vail Public Library, where she served as director for many years before retiring in the 2000s. She now lives in Eagle with her son Steve. Her daughter, Caitlin, lives in Edwards.

Their third child, Tom, lives in Singletree with his wife, Renee, and two children, Alex (8) and Tyler (10). Tom currently serves as the director of PR and communications for the Vail Valley Foundation, but the arc of his life embodies the growth of

the valley and represents the commitment of so many of our residents to give back to the community that has given so much to enrich our lives.

Tom was born in 1975. At the time, Vail Health was in a fairly primitive state and nowhere near the comprehensive, modern facility it is today. As a result, all three Boyd children were born at Rose Medical Center in Denver. Then it was back to Vail to continue building our community. Tom graduated from the Vail Mountain School in 1993 and went on to the University of Colorado to earn a degree in philosophy. After graduation, he went to work for *The Vail Trail* serving as a writer and editor, eventually serving as managing editor from 2003 to 2005.

Tom overlapped his time at *The Vail Trail* with freelance work for various ski magazines, as well as the *Rocky Mountain News* until its demise in 2009. In 2010 he picked up a pen for *The Denver Post*, focusing primarily on outdoor sports, but dabbling in other subjects as well. Journalism, however, wasn't his only interest. He brought his outdoor mountain roots as well as his writing skills to the world of international sports media.

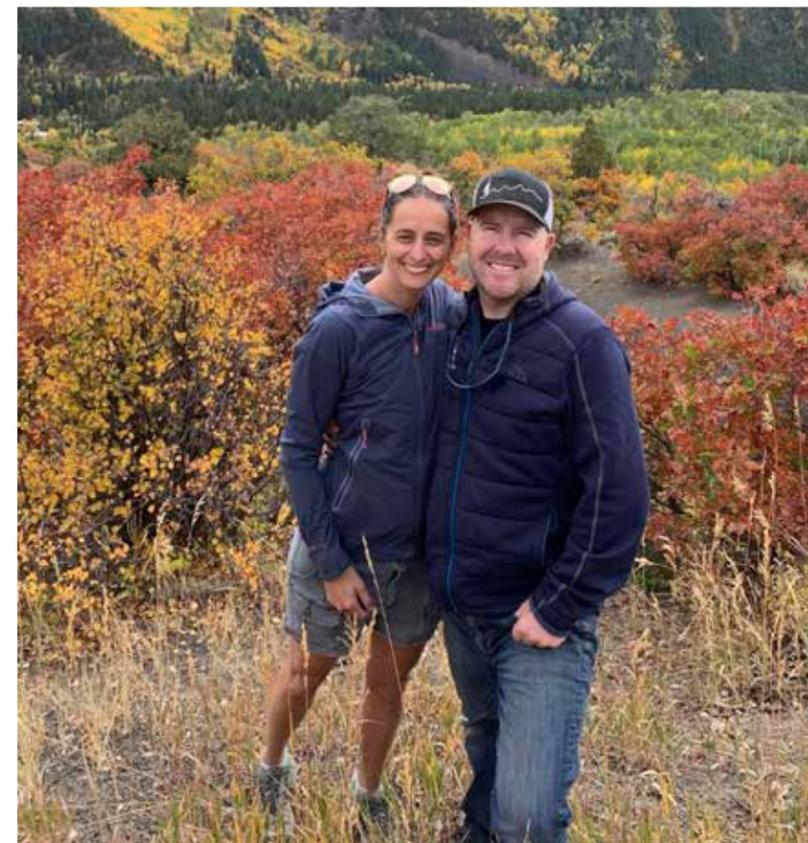
Tom began this phase of his life in 2006, serving as the venue media chief at the Biathlon venue at the Torino, Italy, Olympic Winter Games, followed by the 2010 Vancouver Olympic Winter Games, the 2012 Innsbruck Youth Olympic Games, and the 2014 Nanjing Youth Olympic Games in China. During this time, he also co-founded a solar nonprofit called Nokero, which provided solar power options to underserved communities



Steve and Susan Boyd in the early 1970s



Susan Boyd with Tom's sons, Tyler and Alex, and nephew Peter Boyd



Tom and Renee



At the Vail Valley Foundation GoPro Mountain Games



Tom, Renee, Alex, and Tyler Boyd

worldwide. Tom led a media campaign that brought the company significant accolades in the international press.

Tom's media experience brought him to the attention of the Vail Valley Foundation (VVF) and his days on the road to a welcome end. In 2015, the VVF hired him to handle media and public relations for the organization.

The VVF has a sparkling international reputation for the work they have done in enhancing the overall quality of life in Eagle County. The nonprofit organization has a focus on arts, athletics, and education. This includes operating the Gerald R. Ford Amphitheater (where Tom was director from 2019 to 2021) and the Vilar Performing Arts Center, hosting the Vail Dance Festival each year,

and hosting athletic events like the GoPro Mountain Games and Xfinity Birds of Prey Audi FIS Ski World Cup. The organization also has a tremendous positive impact on local youth and families through its education nonprofit, YouthPower365, which supports youth and families "every step of the way" from early childhood to college and career readiness.

Tom Boyd's career path has placed him at the very core of who we are as a community: active, adventurous, fun-loving, competitive, and especially committed to giving back to both preserve and enhance the lifestyle we so covet. Along with his work at the Vail Valley Foundation, he was recently named Mountain Recreation's Volunteer of the Year for leading the annual effort to build the community outdoor skating rink



Hiking in Singletree with puppy Grover



Tom at the outdoor ice rink

in Edwards. He also coaches youth hockey, is vice president of the board of directors for the Eagle River Watershed Council, and chairman of the board of directors for Community Builders.

Since 1964, the Boyd name has been interwoven into the fabric of the Vail Valley. Louie and Susan were here from the beginning and cultivated the Boyd family tradition of both promoting and building our community. Their family name clearly belongs among those who have steadfastly helped make this valley the wonderful home and destination it is today.



The Boyd family skiing in 2021



At the kayaking venue in Nanjing



Tom and sister Cait at the Edwards outdoor rink



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RECOGNIZING OUR SPECIAL OLYMPIANS:

Jade, Jeff, & Sara

Contributed by Jade and Andie Ohde; Jeff, Deb, and Drex Douglas; Sara, Karen, and Jim Haeffner; and Kathy Mikolasy
Article Written by Tim Swift, Singletree Resident



Jeff Douglas, Sara Haeffner and Jade Ohde

We all know about the history and good works done by the Special Olympics over the years, but to really appreciate what that organization has accomplished and stands for, you've got to bring things a lot closer to home. Fortunately, I had the opportunity to do just that when I sat down with three Special Olympians, their

parents, and one of the volunteer coaches recently at the Eagle River Presbyterian Church in Avon.

Sara Haeffner and her parents, Karen and Jim; Jeff Douglas and his parents, Deb and Drex; and Jade Ohde and her mom, Andie, all have years of association with Special Olympics, the parents as supporters and the kids as participants, although

calling them "kids" is not really accurate as Sara is 47, Jeff is 36, and Jade is 29.

These three Singletree families, as well as countless others throughout the valley, have benefited from the hard work of the dedicated team of volunteers that make up the staff of Special Olympics in Eagle County. One of those volunteer coaches, Kathy Mikolasy, whose wonderful story is told in another piece in this edition of *Stroll Singletree*, was also at our meeting.

We are familiar with the Paralympic Games that take place every four years in conjunction with the Olympic Summer and Winter Games, when the world's finest athletes with disabilities take center stage to compete for a spot on the Olympic podium, and we are regaled with media coverage about the challenges they had to overcome to reach that podium. But for every one of those stars, there are literally thousands of disabled athletes throughout the world that might not be as fast, strong, or agile as a Paralympic medalist, but they are every bit as hardworking and dedicated as the winners that grace our TV screens and newspapers.

Our three Special Olympians are not only dedicated and hardworking, but they are also multisport athletes who relish every competition and training session in which they participate. You can see it in their faces and hear it in their words when asked about the program and what it means to them. In the Vail Valley, our Special Olympians compete in four sports on teams that have names as unique as the teams themselves: The Wolf Pack Team competes on bicycles, recumbent bikes, or trikes, depending on the rider's needs; the Barracudas are the swim team; the Vail Valley Dream Team are the skiers; and the Back Bowlers are, well, the bowlers. Most of our local Special Olympians compete in more than one team so they can enjoy the program regardless of the season. In addition to those four named teams, the Special Olympics also offers bocce as a sport.

Each of our three Special Olympians has a favorite sport despite the fact that each of them participates in more than one. Jade Ohde prefers swimming because, as she said with a face-splitting grin, "I'm good at it!" and Sara said that she prefers to compete with the Back Bowlers and the Vail Valley Dream Team. Jeff Douglas leans toward skiing not only for the competition but because he is called upon to assist with setting up the course and facilities at Copper Mountain each winter when the State Special Olympic championships are held there. Armed with a radio and his ever-present rolls of duct tape, Jeff plays a pivotal role in making sure the course is both challenging and safe for the athletes. Today, Jeff is a true big





Our Special Olympians with their families: (L to R) Jeff, Deb and Drex Douglas, Karen, Sara and Jim Haeffner, and Jade and Andie Ohde

mountain skier capable of conquering the toughest terrain regardless of the conditions.

Jade has raced in many Colorado Special Olympics competitions, but a number of years ago, she participated in another role as well; she was a part of the torch parade ski-down at Copper Mountain. Normally that would have been a fun time for everyone, but that evening the weather was bitter cold and windy, and Jade allowed as how she had had more fun. She summed it up nicely when asked how it went for her. Her infectious grin reappeared, and she simply said, “Holy crap!” Well said, Jade.

Sara Haeffner started skiing at age 2 when she and her family lived in Birmingham, MI. Her father, Jim, an experienced ski instructor, taught her at a small local hill by first setting up just two gates. She mastered that, and Jim soon started adding gates until she was threading her way down the entire slope. She brought those skills and her passion for the sport with her when the family moved to Singletree 16 years ago.

All three of these Special Olympians have become accomplished skiers thanks to the dedicated group of volunteer coaches that have worked with them over the years. This skill, as well as their genuine passion, means they are truly a part of the fabric of this community. They can ski with their

friends and their families and participate in the very activity that defines the Vail Valley.

In addition to their year-round participation in Special Olympics, Sara, Jeff, and Jade all hold down jobs in the valley. Sara works at the Avon City Market, Jeff is at Home Depot, and Jade Works at Route 6, The Community Market, and helps care for Gertrude, who lives in Singletree and is in her 90s! All three of these extraordinary athletes are there for every shift, and they are always on time.

But I would be remiss if I didn’t mention what the Special Olympics does for the parents of these participants. They see it in their children’s eyes, hearts, and attitudes what the program means for their kids, and it gives the parents some valuable free time as well as the chance to share experiences with other parents of children facing developmental and emotional challenges.

I think it’s fitting that I close not with my words but with the words of Deb Douglas, Jeff’s mom. “We are beyond grateful for the organization, and especially our coaches and volunteers who commit week after week and year after year to train, put on events, and support the athletes. They go above and beyond to make everyone feel included and successful in their endeavors. A huge and deep thank you to all of the coaches and the organization.”



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