

# INSIDE *Singletree*

JULY 2019

A SOCIAL PUBLICATION FOR THE RESIDENTS OF SINGLETREE

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Bonati  
Family*

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## Properties Sold and Under Contract in Singletree\*\*

Status	Address	Property Type	List Price	Selling Price	Selling Date	\$/sq.ft.	Selling \$/sq.ft.	Beds	Baths	Sq.Ft.	Furnished
UC	311 Hackamore Rd #A	Duplex	\$685,000	--	--	\$351	--	3	3 (2 0 1)	1,950	Unfurnished
UC	28 Charolais Cir	Duplex	\$795,000	--	--	\$388	--	3	3 (2 0 1)	2,051	Unfurnished
UC	1110 June Creek Rd #E	Duplex	\$850,000	--	--	\$351	--	4	3 (2 1 0)	2,420	Unfurnished
<b>UC</b>	<b>1160 Winslow Rd</b>	<b>Single Family</b>	<b>\$1,900,000</b>	--	--	<b>\$433</b>	--	<b>4</b>	<b>5 (4 0 1)</b>	<b>4,389</b>	<b>Partially</b>
Sold	931 Singletree Rd #24	Townhouse	\$585,000	\$585,000	4/23/19	\$411	\$411	2	2 (2 0 0)	1,422	Unfurnished
Sold	68 Charolais Cir	Duplex	\$744,000	\$715,000	5/8/19	\$375	\$360	3	3 (3 0 0)	1,984	Unfurnished
Sold	1610 Winslow Rd #A	Duplex	\$795,000	\$741,000	5/9/19	\$381	\$356	3	3 (0 2 1)	2,084	Unfurnished
Sold	51 Miller Pl	Single Family	\$1,249,000	\$1,050,000	5/1/19	\$300	\$252	4	4 (3 0 1)	4,163	Unfurnished
Sold	133 Charolais Cir	Single Family	\$1,699,000	\$1,585,000	5/1/19	\$346	\$323	5	5 (2 2 1)	4,905	Unfurnished

Bolded properties were listed or sold by Happy Power.  
Data 4.16 - 5.16\*\*

Featured properties may not be listed by the company/broker presenting this brochure.  
Source MLS | Supplied by Slifer Smith & Frampton Real Estate

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Singletree Resident



# HELLO Singletree residents!

publisher's note

Happy Independence Day! What a wonderful opportunity to celebrate our country, our independence and the community we call home!

I am excited to introduce you to the Bonati family! Willie and Lauren met right here at the Saloon after skiing the Minturn Mile during the 2008-2009 ski season. Their path has led them full circle from Vail to Miami, New York City and Boston, and now they are thrilled to return to their roots to raise their daughter, June, here in Singletree.

Timm and Joanna Kluender recently moved to Singletree as well with their son, Lucas, and daughter, Sophia. Travel is at the top of their list for passion, and here we get to know the young family from their activities and interests in the valley to their adventures throughout Europe.

'Tis the season for music! There is so much opportunity to enjoy many musical events and performances here in the Vail Valley; it's hard to fit them all into the schedule! Hailing from Kansas City originally as vacationers, Ronnie and Dierdre Baker ultimately made Singletree their permanent home in 2006 and instantly fell deeply in love with everything the neighborhood has to offer. Along the way, they discovered the joy of Bravo! Vail and encourage you to experience a performance this summer. They promise you won't be disappointed!

Also a lifelong lover of music, Gary Thornton shares with us his musical journey as a trumpet player, teacher, and performer. Since its third year in existence, Gary has remained highly en-

gaged with Vail Jazz and continues to find new ways to bring his love of jazz to the youth of the valley. Today, you will find Gary playing trumpet with the Alpine Wind Ensemble and the Cavalry Church Orchestra as well as at numerous ceremonial events.

This issue introduces us to Willi, "fur baby" – weighing in at 65 pounds at the age of 7 months – to Robert Grauer and Ursula Kemble, as well as snow-cone entrepreneur, Thomas Rollins. And Paul LaLena lets us in on a peek at his oasis of peace and quiet atop The Ridge at Las Vistas.

Ever wonder how the star act of the Fourth of July parade came to be? Gary Pessa shares his life with a lawn chair as one of the founding members of Vail's Precision Lawn Chair Demonstration Team. Don't miss them at this year's 4th of July parade in Vail!

Be sure to mark your calendar for the 2019 Vail Breast Cancer Awareness Group "Celebration of Life" luncheon, featuring Joan Lunden as the guest speaker, to be held on July 26 at the Vail Marriott. And Save the Date for *Grillin' and Chillin'* at Maximum Comfort Pool and Spa on August 15 - the perfect occasion to get out and celebrate summer with your Singletree friends and neighbors!



Wishing you all a safe and happy holiday and a glorious July!

*Holly Proctor*

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

# JULY contributors

Each and every Singletree resident has amazing interests, passions, and accomplishments to share with friends and neighbors. Your neighborhood publication is not possible without your active and enthusiastic participation; we welcome and appreciate your involvement in Inside Singletree!

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 **INSIDE Singletree**.



**Olga Barron**  
Photographer



**Debbie Robbins**  
Content Advisor



**Lauren and Willie Bonati**  
Meet Your Neighbors



**Ronnie and Deirdre Baker**  
Celebrating the Arts



**Alida Zwaan**  
Sponsor Spotlight



**Timm and Joanna Kluender**  
New to the Neighborhood



**Tricia Swenson**  
Who's Making A Difference



**Willi Grauer**  
Precious Pets



**Robert Grauer and Ursula Kemble**  
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**Gary Thornton**  
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Michelle does not hold to typical banking hours, and, instead, goes above and beyond to provide white glove service for her clients 24/7. She is especially committed to supporting the success of real estate agents by assuring a transaction that is a positive experience for both the borrower and the seller.

Michelle notes she has never has and never will delay a closing, a track record that is testament to her dedication to providing unparalleled assistance for her clients.

A Singletree resident for nearly 20 years, Michelle is an avid mountain enthusiast, participating in rock climbing, ice climbing, mountain biking and nearly every other mountain activity imaginable. Above all, Michelle's greatest joy is being a mother to Johanna, who is a 2019 graduate from Bates College in Maine with a degree in dance.

To reach Michelle, please contact her at 970-390-9095 or Michelle.Hayes@usbank.com.



## BARRE FORTE VAIL VALLEY

Local ladies Beth Robinson and Jessica Denton opened Barre Forte Vail Valley in Edwards last summer. They know fitness is important to the Colorado lifestyle, but it's not a one size or style fits all. That's why they don't operate as a typical barre studio. Jessica and Beth have created a welcoming studio vibe, where clients are encouraged to 'Meet Their Best' so they can

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## meet your neighbors

Photography by **Olga Barron Photography Inc.**



**The Bonati family may be new to Singletree, but their history is steeped in the Vail Valley. It all began in 2001, when Lauren's parents purchased a home in Beaver Creek. Although she was raised in Philadelphia, countless winter and summer vacations were spent in her parents' new home. Years of happy family memories led to a love of the mountain lifestyle, including skiing, snowboarding, hiking, and biking.**

After graduating from the University of Pennsylvania with a degree in Music Theory and Composition, Lauren decided to follow in her father's footsteps and pursue a degree in medicine. While applying to medical school, she moved to Vail and spent the year skiing and waitressing at the Red Lion! It was during this awesome snow season (2008-2009) that she met her would-be husband, Willie.

Willie was raised in Cody, Wyoming, where his love of the outdoors began. He learned to fly-fish, hunt, camp, ski, and hike in the wilderness of Yellowstone National Park and surrounding areas. His teenage years were spent in Ft. Collins, CO, where he later would graduate from Colorado State University with a

degree in economics. Shortly thereafter, he moved to the Vail Valley for his intense love of skiing and fly-fishing. It was during this time that Willie was invited by a mutual friend to join in Lauren's 25th birthday celebration, a group ski down the Minturn Mile to be followed by reveling at The Saloon! The two have been inseparable ever since.

Six months later, Lauren and Willie moved together to the tropics of Miami, FL. Lauren received her medical degree from the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine and Willie founded his own real estate investment company, Infinity Asset Ventures. Over the next 5 years, the couple was engaged (on the slopes of Beaver Creek) and married in Miami. They soon headed north to New York City, where Lauren completed her Dermatology residency at Mount Sinai Icahn School of Medicine. Willie joined a boutique real estate private equity fund as head of trading and was a sought-after speaker-educator for his niche expertise. Willie also started a digital marketing firm called WB Digital Marketing that optimizes online presence and lead generation for businesses.

During their time in the "big apple," their joyous and beautiful daughter, June Brooke Bonati, was born. With Junie on their hip (or sleeping in the stroller), the young family explored practically every corner of Central Park and took advantage of the splendid museums, foodie restaurants, and top-notch theatre the city has to offer. Three years later, the Bonati family moved north once



again, this time to Boston, for Lauren's final year of fellowship training in cosmetics, lasers, and Mohs surgery. New England was a respite from the hustle and bustle of New York City and the family enjoyed exploring the lakes, mountains, and shorelines of Massachusetts, Vermont, Maine, and New Hampshire.

After 10 years away, it was finally time to move back to Colorado. The Bonati's purchased their very first home in Singletree and began preparing for life in the mountains. Willie was able to transfer his work remotely and Lauren began working at Mountain Dermatology Specialists as a medical, cosmetic, and surgical dermatologist alongside Dr. Jean Urquhart. Lauren loves her patients' commitment to health and self-renewal, and truly enjoys meeting members of the community every day. Willie is proud to have finally achieved his dream of skiing, golfing, or fishing during the work week, a major perk of being his own boss!

June, now 4 years old, has had no trouble adjusting to mountain life. She loves her new pre-school and spent the past winter learning how to ski. She enthusiastically points out the beautiful summer flowers and copious wildlife on hiking trails nearby. She



is most typically found however, singing, dancing, and twirling in one of her numerous sparkly dresses. Luckily, Lauren's parents still spend several winter and summer months in their Beaver Creek home, and Willie's parents are in nearby Denver, so Junie can sing and dance for her most adoring fans. If you hear someone singing as you drive along Charolais circle, it's probably Lauren and June belting out a Disney chorus!

In the pre-parent era, Lauren and Willie were avid travelers. Some of their favorite trips include Turkey, London, Italy, Argentina, Thailand, Cambodia, and Laos. Although starting a family has slowed their international adventures, they look forward to future trips as a family where they can instill a love of travel, culture, and diversity in June. In the meantime, the family enjoys skiing, hiking, playing tennis, bike riding, and reading books together. As lovers of the performing arts, the Bonati's are thrilled to regularly partake in Vilar Center and Bravo Vail performances.

The Bonati's feel very fortunate to have made it back to their roots in the Vail Valley. It has always been a special place for the couple and will continue to be for years to come!





## celebrating the arts

Contributed by **Ronnie and Dierdre Baker**, Singletree residents

# Living the GOOD LIFE!

Ronnie and Dierdre Leave KC to Discover Bravo! Vail and Singletree

It is hard to imagine Ronnie Baker as a hyperactive child as he calmly shares the roots of his lifelong passion for music. Growing up in Kansas City, his parents worried about him as he ran through the neighborhood and the streets at the age of 5, an energy that his parents literally tried to leash with a harness and a clothesline. Ronnie's parents also believed that he "needed culture," so in a further attempt to control his unbridled energy, his Mother would play *Peter and the Wolf* on the console 78 record player in his grandparents' home. As he grew older, his love for music led Ronnie to save his allowance to take the bus downtown to see the Kansas City Philharmonic Symphony perform. Little did they know that those musical



Bravo! Vail photos courtesy of Zach Mahone

encounters in his formative years would lead him on a path of not only enjoying music of all kinds, but living a rich life in Singletree and a deep commitment to Bravo! Vail.

Ronnie and his wife, Dierdre, used to plan their vacations to the Vail Valley for one week every winter and one week in the summer. In 1993, they discovered Bravo! and from that point on, went about planning their summer trips around the concert calendar. Ronnie, an avid Kansas University basketball fan, had learned a valuable trick about securing event tickets: those hard-to-get seats, passed down from generation to generation, became surprisingly available with a nominal donation.

With this practical wisdom in mind, Ronnie shares his thoughts: "When we considered what Bravo! brings to the Vail Valley in terms of education, entertainment and culture, on a year-round basis, we determined this organization was worthwhile of our support. And by about 2002, we started spending significantly more time in Colorado – a month at time – attending more and more concerts and becoming increasingly familiar with Bravo!"

Ronnie enthusiastically explains, "Bravo! Vail provides an opportunity for children to enjoy music education." As he recalls his first experience with *Peter and the Wolf*, he continues, "If we can provide the same experience for children, I believe it is well worth its while. At the end of the day, when you look back at life, it has nothing to do with the zeroes behind your name. It's about what you have done. It's about making a difference; it doesn't have to be about 100 people, it could be one."



A member of the Chapen Ensemble.



A Bravo! Vail performance at the Vail Chapel.



A very young composers group.



Surprisingly, most people are not really aware of everything Bravo! Vail has to offer. After Ronnie and Dierdre made the permanent move to the Vail Valley in 2006, Ronnie volunteered as a host for the Town of Vail in an effort to meet people as well as to help people who were visiting the Valley. "I wanted to engage with our guests and to make them feel welcome and appreciated. I would ask them, 'Do you know about Bravo! Vail?' And they would have no clue about the small trek to the Betty Ford Gardens and the Amphitheater. So, I would tell them all the wonderful things about the organization; I would share with them what Bravo! accomplishes in terms of education for young people and the entire community. I encouraged our guests to look at **all** the wonderful things our valley offers."

As further evidence of his commitment to Bravo! Vail, Ronnie joined the Board in 2010. "It's important as a resident to support the things that make our valley great to ensure that these things continue," he says. "We can get involved, and we can make a difference." Ronnie is also quick to give credit where credit is due and attributes much of the success of the organization to its incredibly wonderful staff. "Many of the staff have been there for years; they love the organization, they love what they do, and they work tirelessly year round to organize and execute numerous events." Ronnie feels fortunate to have had the opportunity to get to know the founding director, John Giovando, and, today, holds Caitlin Murray, the current CEO, and Anne Marie McDermott, Bravo Artistic Director, in the highest regard.

The Bravo! Vail team recognizes the importance of serving the needs of the entire community – ages 6 to 106. "It is so heartwarming to see such a wide variety of music being presented," says Ronnie. In addition to the summer series featuring The Chamber

Orchestra Vienna- Berlin, The Dallas Symphony Orchestra, the Philadelphia Orchestra, and the New York Philharmonic at Ford Amphitheater, the highlights of the 2019 season include a movie night where The Dallas Symphony will perform the score of *Jurassic Park* while the movie is shown overhead. In addition to this, Bravo! is presenting a premier production of the opera *Tosca*. The performance will be led by Yannick Nezet-Sgguin. The opera is going to be performed twice, and it will be fantastic!" Ronnie promises, "It is impossible to go to a Bravo! event and not be impressed."

Ronnie and Dierdre are truly grateful to have the opportunity to be here in this incredible valley. "We pinch ourselves when we remember how we first came to ski on vacation." Having a shared ownership of a condo at Lion Square in the early days, the couple explored a number of Vail Valley neighborhoods and ultimately chose Singletree. Today, Ronnie and Dierdre's adoration for the neighborhood is pure. "Singletree is a wonderful neighborhood. It's a wonderful place to raise a family. There is nothing better than having friends here, going to Harvest, walking the neighborhood and hiking the trails with Sammi. It's really worked out well."

Further, he continues, "It would not be possible to be as involved as we are in Bravo! Vail without the enthusiasm of my wife, Dierdre." Dierdre enjoys all types of music like Ronnie. She has enjoyed her involvement in Bravo! immensely as well as her role as a co-chair of The Bravo Gala recently. Dierdre smiles from ear to ear when she talks about the opportunity she had to be a guest conductor for the New York Philharmonic a couple of years ago.

To come full circle, Ronnie recalls the 2017 performance of *Peter and the Wolf* at a free Bravo! Vail Family Music concert with great fondness. "Wow," he reflects. "That's how I started! Now I go to an event and I see the kids – from Gypsum to Vail – and it's unbelievable to think maybe we can offer them the same experience. We can make a difference."

For additional information about the Bravo! Vail Music Festival, please visit [www.bravovail.org](http://www.bravovail.org).



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**WHAT'S HAPPENING IN JULY...**

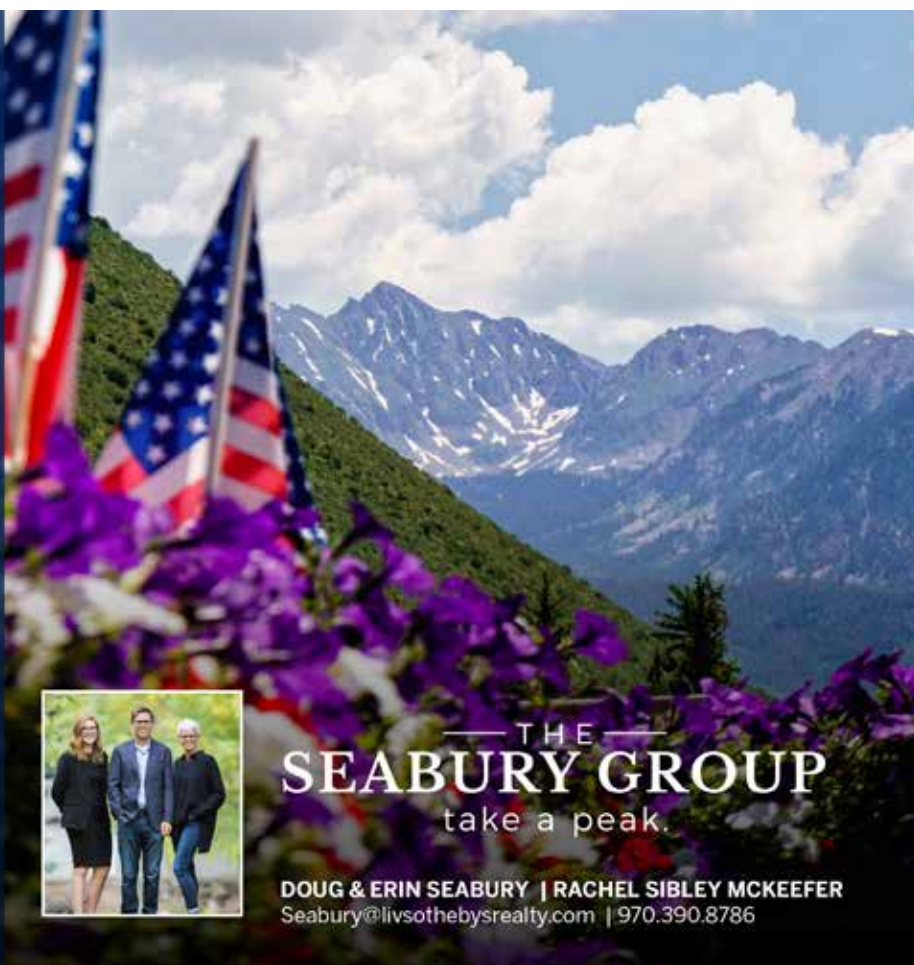
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Vail Village

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# Singletree Events Mark Your Calendars



July 18 – 6 PM to 8 PM  
Concert at the Community Center  
\* Turntable Revue Duo

September 8 – 2:30 PM to 4:30 PM  
Ice Cream Social  
Chip Ramsey Park

August 24 – 4 PM to 7 PM  
Summer Party with your Neighbors  
Conversation, dinner and drinks

October 27 – 4 PM to 6 PM  
Halloween Party at the Community Center  
Join us for a ghostly good time!



November 14 – 6:30 PM to 8:30 PM  
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December 8 – 4 PM to 6 PM  
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Alida's parents bought a second home in Vail in 1969, and that decision changed her life. Once Alida was introduced to skiing, she kept being drawn back to Vail with a couple of notable interruptions. The first was when she began her initial work in real estate in Austin, TX. The second was while working in Vail with Ursula Fricker, Helmut's wife, when an opportunity arose to go to Germany. Ursula, to her everlasting credit, encouraged Alida to go without hesitation. While in Germany, Alida taught in the American schools for the first year and spent a second year working with USO. One of her duties with USO was a tour guide taking Americans tourists resorts all over Germany, Austria, France and Switzerland.

Upon Alida's return from Germany, she decided to pursue her real estate career here in Vail. In 1978, there were very few women in real estate, but, one of the few, Elaine Holland, asked Alida to place her license with Holland & Associates. Alida later was requested by John Slevin to become a broker/REALTOR with Gore Range Properties Real Estate, and has been with that company and its successor, Berkshire Hathaway Home Services, for a total of 36 years.

Alida's love of skiing, enjoying the mountains and all the activities they have to offer fit nicely with her desire to help her clients find the right property, sometimes as a second home, but often as a primary residence. Of course, along the way, she was asked to help clients sell a home and those efforts have resulted in her being named consistently Annual Winner in Performance/



Chairman's Circle, which is awarded to the Top 2 percent of all sales associates nationwide.

Alida and her husband, George Gregory, have lived in Singletree since 1991 and have been active members of the Singletree Community. Alida has sold over 200 homes in Singletree.

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## new to the neighborhood

Contributed by **Timm and Joanna Kluender**, Singletree residents



## Timm, Joanna, Lucas and Sophia Kluender

This month introduces a new feature article for *INSIDE Singletree: New to the Neighborhood*. With more than 70 closings last year, there are many newcomers to welcome to the community. Here, we are thrilled to introduce the Kluender family: Timm, Joanna, Lucas (16), and Sophia (12). They live on Bronco Drive with their 1-year-old German Shorthair Pointer, Quill.

### Where were you born and raised?

**Timm:** Born in St. Louis. Raised in California – lived all over California from San Diego, Modesto, Santa Barbara, Yosemite and Lake Tahoe.

**Joanna:** My father was in the military, so we lived in many places (including three years in Germany) before settling in Orange County, CA, when I was 8 years old.

### What college or university did you attend?

**Timm:** UC Santa Barbara ... one of the toughest schools in the nation – lots of distractions!

**Joanna:** University of California Davis, Colorado Mountain College, Aspen University, Maryville University. I have a master's degree in Nursing, two BS degrees (exercise physiology and nursing), and one associate's degree (Nursing).

### How and where did you meet?

**Joanna:** We met during a summer job hauling tomatoes via big rigs in the central valley of California.

### Tell us about your professional life.

**Timm:** I taught skiing at Badger Pass in Yosemite and Sugar Bowl in Lake Tahoe before coming out to Vail to teach private lessons in the Village. In 2009, I joined Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Colorado Properties in Lionshead. I serve as Managing Broker for the Berkshire Hathaway team and achieved the distinction of Luxury Collection Specialist, a title reserved for full-time sales professionals who are well experienced in the marketing and acquisition of luxury homes.

**Joanna:** Nurse Practitioner, RN

### What inspired you to choose your current profession?

**Timm:** A desire to guide people and a need to do something different. Real estate is such a great profession – every transaction is different, and you are constantly learning and growing. The harder you work; the better you do.

**Joanna:** I love medicine, health, and complex disease states. Being able to combine the practice of medicine with the art of



nursing has been a very fulfilling career for me. I love what I do and feel lucky to be able to do it!

### Where did you live before moving to Singletree?

**Timm:** On the Eagle River in Willowstone (Gypsum)

### What inspired you to choose Singletree in particular?

**Timm:** Centrally located in Edwards close to work and kids' schools: Battle Mountain High School for Lucas and Stone Creek Charter Academy for Sophia. We love the south-facing orientation, views, golf-course community, and mix of locals and second home owners.

**Joanna:** We lived in Gypsum for over 15 years but found our lives were spent mostly mid-valley. We wanted to give our children more independence by moving closer to schools/activities/friends. This location allows them to get to where they need to go easily. **And** it's on the sunny side of the valley!

### What are your personal passions and activities?

**Timm:** They've changed a lot over the years, but currently I would say: trail running, skiing, mushroom hunting, gold prospecting, bird hunting and traveling.

**Joanna:** My passion is my family, my career, and life-long learning. I love hiking and snowshoeing with my dog, biking, drinking wine, and learning new things.

...

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**What are your kids' favorite activities?**

**Timm:** Lucas: Skiing, pole vault, YoungLife, video games and spending time with friends. Sophia: VPAA, dance, art and rock climbing.

**Joanna:** Lucas loves skiing, and is on Battle Mountain High School's track team (pole vault) and Nordic team. Sophia loves the arts and is a dancer with Vail Valley Academy of Dance, and involved with theater through the Vail Performing Arts Academy. Of course the kids love hanging out with friends (and family).

**Where do you like to go on vacation – with your kids and without your kids?**

**Timm:** We did the most amazing trip to Europe last summer – Greece, Italy, Netherlands and Iceland. We would go back to Greece in a heartbeat. Mykonos and Santorini were amazing. I also like doing nostalgia trips taking our kids to places we went to growing up, like Kit Carson Lodge on Silver Lake, CA, and Glacier National Park.

**Joanna:** We love living in the mountains and try to take full advantage of all the seasons. But when we want to get away, we go anywhere with a beach.

**What are your favorite family memories?**

**Timm:** Spending time at a cabin playing family games with no internet and no cell service. Spring break ski trip this year with Lucas to Crested Butte and Lake Tahoe – we got really lucky with winter snow conditions in California, and Kirkwood has amazing terrain. Cliff jumping in Santorini and dining al fresco below the Parthenon in Athens with fresh sea bass and bottle of Ouzo.

**Joanna:** Vacations to Europe and Hawaii, cutting down our Christmas trees (a tradition for the past 14 years), and spending holidays with extended family.

**How are you involved in the community?**

**Timm:** I served on the Board of Directors for VVSC when my kids were playing club soccer and helped BHHS achieve the Actively Green certification through Walking Mountains Science

Center, the first real estate company to do so.

**Joanna:** I am involved with county-wide health fairs and Vail health-sponsored activities like Pink Vail.

**What do you love most about living in Singletree?**

**Timm:** Our house on Bronco Drive – we spent two years looking for the right property. Trail running on Knob Hill and the Mesquite Trail.

**Joanna:** We love being in the center of the valley and having the open space and trails nearby.

**Family Favorites:**

**Restaurants:**

**Timm:** Sato, Zino, Juniper, Eat Drink, The Rose, Craftsman

**Joanna:** Craftsman, Sato, the Drunken Goat (formerly Eat! Drink!)

**Sports teams:**

**Timm:** Real Madrid, Liverpool and Manchester City

**Joanna:** Manchester City

**TV Show/Movie:**

**Timm:** English Premier League, Champions League, Sunday at the Masters. I binge-watched *Game of Thrones* and tried to catch up to see the final episode live but didn't quite make it! Best movie: *Blade Runner*.

**Joanna:** Austin Powers movies, *The Office*, *Top Gear*, *Sherlock Holmes*

**Music:**

**Timm:** Baroque on Pandora while I'm working. I ask Alexa for a variety when I'm not.

**Joanna:** All kinds (except country).



Please help us welcome our new Singletree residents to the community! Email [holly.proctor@n2pub.com](mailto:holly.proctor@n2pub.com), and help connect us to your new neighbors.

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Go forth and spend wisely, Leslie

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Prior Celebration of Life speaker Robin Roberts



2017 Celebration of Life luncheon with guest speaker Lee Woodruff



Prior Celebration of Life guest speaker Elizabeth Edwards

**who's making a difference**  
Contributed by **Tricia Swenson**, Singletree resident

**Vail Breast Cancer Awareness Group Celebrates 25 Years**

**Personal Reflections from Singletree Board Members**

VBCAG Board: Heidi Bricklin (Singletree resident), Tricia Swenson (Singletree resident); second row: Brenda Himelfarb (President), Dorothy Hamill: 1976 Olympic Gold Medal winner, and 2018 Celebration of Life speaker, Joyce Bradley; third row: Nikki Denton, Deb Douglas (Singletree resident), Lori Brown (Singletree resident); fourth row: Mark Bricklin (Singletree resident)

**It was 25 years ago when two women set out to do what they could to work against breast cancer. Brenda Himelfarb founded the Vail Breast Cancer Awareness Group (VBCAG) with Singletree resident Patti Weinstein, and at that time there weren't any local groups supporting those that were diagnosed with the disease.**

"Patti's mother-in-law had died from breast cancer, and my closest friend had been diagnosed. We chose not to align with a national organization, as we felt they took too much money out of the community, and we wanted all the money to stay in Eagle County," Brenda recalls. "None of our board members are paid, and we have no paid employees."

Many of those volunteer board members are Singletree residents, including Mark and Heidi Bricklin. Mark is Brenda's son, and he has lost many friends and family members to cancer. Brenda is actually a breast cancer survivor and ironically started the VBCAG before her diagnosis. "Our organization will not be the one to eradicate this cancer, but our little effort has done wonders for patients recently diagnosed with breast cancer," says Mark.

Some of those "little efforts" aren't so little. Over the past 25 years, the VBCAG has raised money to put toward the purchase of equipment for the Sonnenalp Breast Center. In addition to equipment like a PET scanner, a stereotactic table and a 3D tomography machine, the VBCAG focuses on the non-scientific side of cancer.

"We provide a Day to Play gift of \$500 to each person diagnosed with breast cancer in Eagle County, and they can use that money as they wish. We also give everyone diagnosed a Shine On Bag filled with a plush bathrobe and many other 'feel-good,' gifts such as lotions, soaps, bath salts and books," Brenda explains. Last year the VBCAG teamed up with Chef Weston, a private chef, to prepare Meals to Heal, which provides two weeks' worth of meals for those beginning chemotherapy.

Singletree resident and VBCAG board member Deb Douglas joined the board two years ago, and has had several friends and family members diagnosed with breast cancer as well. "We lost our daughter-in-law after a seven-year battle with breast cancer. The struggles that cancer presents are many, and what the VBCAG does has touched people so deeply. I know that it profoundly affected Kerri in such a positive way. It is wonderful to be able to support patients," Deb fondly remembers.

Lori Brown has been on the VBCAG board for six years, and the timing was perfect; she and her husband had just become empty-nesters, and after many years as a volunteer in the locals schools and being involved in multiple fundraisers, she was ready to take on the role of being a board member for a charitable cause. Lori's favorite part about being involved with the VBCAG is hearing the feedback from those the organization helps. "I love reading the thank-you notes that we receive. It melts my heart to hear how much they appreciate what we as an organization have done for them during a very difficult time in their life," Lori reflects. "Their thanks and appreciation gives so much meaning to what we're doing."

Tricia Swenson, also from Singletree, joined the VBCAG after her college roommate died of breast cancer in 2017. "You just feel so helpless when you lose someone, so this was my way of doing something to give back and help others with the disease," Tricia said.

Tricia had known about the organization for years and had attended their annual Celebration of Life luncheon several times. "I was always impressed with the wonderful speakers and the inspirational messages they shared," Tricia says looking back on those memorable events. Some of her favorite speakers from past events include Linda Ellerbee, Robin Roberts, Elizabeth Edwards, Joy Behar, Giuliana and Bill Rancic and last year's speaker, Dorothy Hamill.

The 2019 Celebration of Life Luncheon will take place July 26 at the Vail Marriott featuring award-winning journalist, author, women's health and wellness advocate and breast-cancer survivor Joan Lunden as the featured speaker. For tickets, please call 970-479-8595, or visit [www.vbcag.org](http://www.vbcag.org).

When asked what the next 25 or more years look like for the Vail Breast Cancer Awareness Group, Brenda proclaims, "Until there's a cure, there's a Vail Breast Cancer Awareness Group. That's what the future looks like!"



2019 Celebration of Life guest speaker Joan Lunden



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precious pets

Contributed by Willi and Robert Grauer and Ursula Kemble, Singletree pet and residents



# WILHELM TELL GRAUER...

*Living up to a Swiss Legend*

My name is Wilhelm Tell Grauer, and I am a Bernedoodle, known as Willi. I live on June Creek Road with my fur parents, Robert Grauer and Ursula Kemble. For those who don't know, Wilhelm Tell is the famous Swiss folk hero who shot the apple off his son's head with a crossbow on the order of a disgruntled count. Mom and Dad were both born in Switzerland and grew up around Bernese Mountain Dogs. They fell in love when they saw a picture of me with a Swiss cross of white and caramel fur worn proudly on my chest; I was irresistible! They decided in an instant that I was meant to be theirs and gave me the perfect name in honor of a Swiss legend.

I was born on October 22, 2018, in Pennsylvania. Mom had recently lost her cairn terrier, Birdie, and Dad was injured in an early-season ski accident. With Dad hurt, it was a good time for him to be able to devote time to training me. I arrived in Singletree in January, when I was 10 weeks old, after a very distressing flight in the cargo bin from Philadelphia to Eagle via Dallas. Even though Dad was a pilot for American Airlines, I really don't care for flying.

Dad said he knew which plane I was on while he was at the gas station at Costco. When Mom and Dad arrived at the airport and opened my crate, they looked at each other and said, "Whoa." I guess I was a little bigger than they expected! Rather than a little bundle of joy, I was already 16 pounds with huge paws. I think they were a little shocked. Now I am 7 months old and weigh 65 pounds – and growing!

Dad taught me how to sit and stay and heel, and to give a shake, and he tells me I am a good boy. Sometimes I just watch the dog training videos on YouTube by myself. Oh, and by the way ... I am smartest dog in the world because I am bi-lingual and can speak English **and** Swiss German, and I am used to being spoken to in both languages. I don't really understand the whole fetch thing. I am happy to just chew on a ball. I'll get it, if I can find it. When I get back, Dad has to catch me trying to get the ball back.

I get a little destructive when I am bored. When left alone for too long, I have found that shoes, including Mom's very favorite Italian booties, and books, particularly beautiful hardcover airplane books, can entertain me for hours. I have also developed a fetish for bras ... much to Mom's dismay. I do know when I am

in trouble. When Mom and Dad come home, after an afternoon of mischief, I will come out of the bathroom, say "hi," run around the corner and down the stairs. Then I peek around the corner to see if they are mad at me. One day I didn't even notice that I was trailing a roll of toilet paper the whole way!

Being part Swiss, I, of course, **love** the snow! I love to dig holes and bury myself in a snowbank and come out all frozen! I love going for walks with Dad and seeing my friends in the neighborhood, including Daisy and Moose. Singletree is a great place to grow up, and I am so happy to be here. Please say hello the next time you see me in the neighborhood!

**Your Bernedoodle, Willi**



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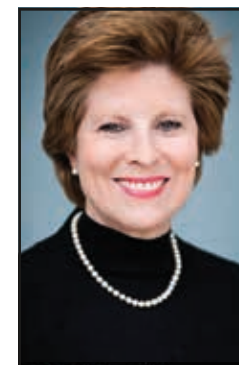


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## celebrating the arts

Contributed by **Gary Thornton**, Singletree resident  
Article written by **Allie Decent**, Singletree resident



THEN: Gary and son, Kristofer, on Memorial Day circa 2005



NOW: Gary performing for the Memorial Day Ceremony in May 2019

# GARY THORNTON:

## *Devoting His Life to Making Music and Connections*

Gary is as jovial as ever during our meeting, with a list of notes and an outline for his article, and a big smile as a greeting at The Arrowhead Club. “I’m not sure what you want to focus on, so I wrote out everything for you,” he laughs. Since retirement, Gary has kept very busy within the musical community of Vail, filling the role of production manager for Vail Jazz, performing with his trumpet at ceremonial occasions, and lending that talent to the Alpine Wind Ensemble.

“Well, I’ve been performing, or shall I say, playing, the trumpet since I was very young,” says Gary. In fact, he credits the trumpet with his very existence! “My father played the trumpet and led the band in the Navy. He escaped Normandy because while he was on his way onto the ship, a superior sent out an emergency message that Thornton couldn’t leave because he was needed to lead the band,” Gary recalls. His eyes alight with amusement as he retells his chosen origin story. “I guess you could say that without music, and without the trumpet, I wouldn’t be here, since I was born in ‘44!”

Singletree readers may recall Gary’s tales of his days in the Coast Guard and how his love of music thrived during his career. But he says it really took off when they moved here to the Vail Valley. “Patti and I became key supporters and volunteered at running venues for Vail Jazz the third year it started,” he recalls. “I became production manager and Patti became overall operations manager.” During their time in operations, Vail Jazz truly blossomed into what it is today, with a Gary-inspired direction focused on three signature education programs and six unique performance series.

Gary really wants to bring his love of jazz to the youth of the valley and valleys beyond. “Under the Vail Valley Foundation, I was recruited to do ‘First Notes,’ an after-school music program to teach trumpets and trombones. I teach trumpet out of my home and in the kids’ homes, still!” Jazz, he says, is an interactive form of musical expression that includes the audience, and that’s what makes it so special and so appealing to many young musicians.

Because he was known for his love of connecting as well as his love of music, Gary was approached by a representative of the Vilar Performing Arts Center who knew of his involvement in a wide range of musical endeavors. A woman named Christine Gary bequeathed money to be used in a non-specific way to educate youth in music. “I had no initial ideas,” laughs Gary, “but I discovered Rocky Ridge Music Center in Estes Park that has music camps all summer long.” He decided to create a scholarship program to get the talented children of this valley who otherwise couldn’t afford a week there to experience “a Juilliard of music in the Rocky Mountains,” says Gary.

For the past eight years, four to five students have been gifted full tuition for 12-day music camps. “This year we have three Eagle Valley students and two Battle Mountain students. We send freshmen and sophomores, because we want them to bring back their newly discovered skills to share with their peers and the valley long before they head off to college,” Gary chuckles.

He is working with the Vilar and Bravo to develop a continual source of funds for this program, since this is the last year of funding. “I’ve talked to everyone, I’m a connector in my free time,” he says. “I’ve made enough of an impression that I’m now on the Board of Directors for the Rocky Ridge Music Center, and we have a Benefit Gala at the Denver Opera House this summer titled ‘Intermezzo at the Ellie.’”

Though Gary is a self-proclaimed jazz enthusiast, he clearly loves all forms of musical expression, especially when it comes to family and country. Gary and Patti’s love of jazz and desire to bring it to the youth of the valley grew up with their son, Kristofer. “I kind of got away from playing until Kristofer attended ECCA, and I became assistant band director,” Gary remembers. “We played Taps together, as shown in this photograph, and we played what is called ‘Echo Taps,’ where we separate ourselves, and we go back and forth with the call,” he muses as his eyes get misty. “It’s very moving, performing in honor of the fallen,” he reflects.

He looks down and the silence fills the moment. He begins to speak again. “Last week at Ride of Remembrance, someone asked me how my son was doing, and remembered our Echo Taps. It’s been a few years since we’ve played together, and you can’t underestimate the impact you are making in these ceremonial events.” He sighs heavily. “Last year, a special forces officer died in a parachute accident, and his friends came and gave eulogies, and there I am standing, listening to all of these stories and memories, and then when it was my turn to play Taps, I had to really dig deep in order to play.”

Now in all the spare time he has, Gary plays for his own amusement and love of the music with a small group of other brass artists known as the Alpine Wind Ensemble. They have played the Fourth of July parade, Flag Days of Eagle, Alpine Club, Vail Tree Lighting, BM and VCC. They also play at the Christie Lodge and at the Castle Peak Senior Center. “I think we all really enjoy that particular venue,” says Gary. “We really know we are playing a hit when the seniors all start nodding and moving to the music!” They have also played at the Colorado Mountain College graduation. “I play in the Cavalry Church



Gary performs at the Ride in Remembrance with memorial photos



Gary warms up at the Vilar for the Colorado Mountain College graduation

Orchestra once a month, and we play as wind and brass at Jack’s Place; that’s very special,” says Gary.

If any reader is interested, Gary invites you to come and join the Alpine Wind Ensemble and bring your brass or wind instrument (or any instrument) to get back into the love of the music! They meet at the last door of the Trinity Church every Monday night at 7 p.m. “You’ll get to interact with wonderful people, not just watch them!” Gary concludes with a sincere invitation.



Music, theater, painting, sculpture, writing, dance ... what is your true love?! Email [holly.proctor@n2pub.com](mailto:holly.proctor@n2pub.com) to share your passion with your community.



## home of the month

Contributed by Paul LaLena, Singletree resident

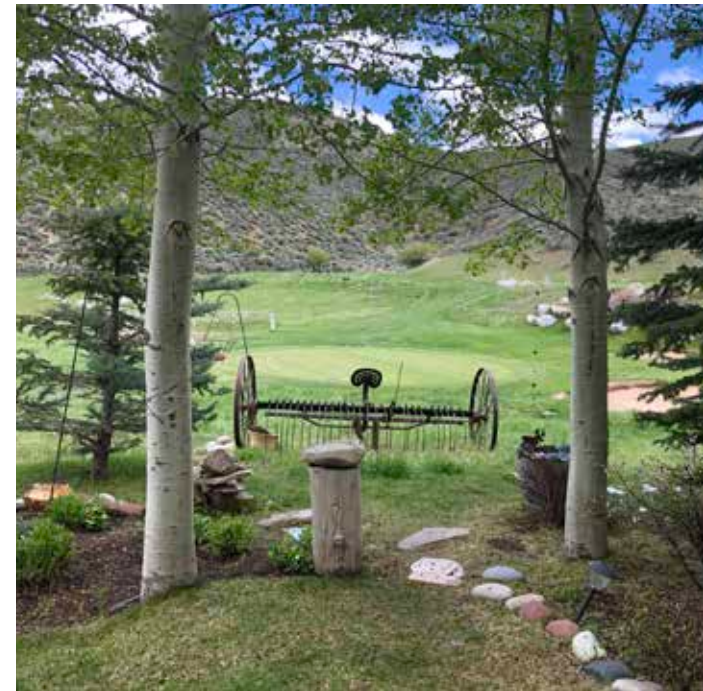
# An Oasis ATOP THE RIDGE AT LAS VISTAS

*Perched atop Las Vistas are eight homes which are called "The Ridge at Las Vistas." This special spot is truly a unique oasis for peace and serenity, and the perfect home for Paul and Carol LaLena.*

Paul recalls, "George (Gregory) and Alida (Zwaan) bought this pre-construction, and I bought it and closed on it in December 2007." Paul has been a resident of Singletree since 1990, and moved to The Ridge from his prior home on Hereford. "Someone made me an offer on my house on Hereford that I could not refuse. That house was way too big – 4,000 feet with six bedrooms and six and a half baths," he explains. At 2,600 square feet with three bedrooms and an entertainment room, this is an ideal fit.

Since it was pre-construction, only the framing was in place. "We chose everything but the in-floor heat, which George and Alida installed, otherwise, we chose the flooring, the slate, the tile, the carpeting, all the bathroom fixtures, light fixtures and ceiling fans. Everything. It was framed, and they said, 'Here you go!'"

When asked if he had a vision for the home, Paul is quick to give all the credit to his wife, Carol. "My wife does interior design for Dahl, and she runs the showroom there," Paul explains. "She made all the decisions. I made no decisions. I picked the tile in the second master suite, and she picked everything else. She is much better at it than me. I said, 'Here's the checkbook, Carol'. That's pretty much how it went." All of the finishes and fixtures were sourced locally, including the appliance package from Alpine Appliance, and the kitchen and bath fixtures, of course, from Dahl.



So many wonderful homes in Singletree! Let us know about a fabulous house to feature in your neighborhood magazine. Email [holly.proctor@n2pub.com](mailto:holly.proctor@n2pub.com) with an address, and we will take it from there!



While the views from the front of the house are what compelled Paul to buy the home, according to him, "The back is even better." Adjacent to the chipping green at the Sonnenalp Club, there is no highway noise in the backyard. "It is so quiet," Paul remarks. Once again, Paul attributes the beauty of the backyard to Carol's work. "She does all the flowers, she does it all," he beams.

A huge benefit to living at the Ridge is the presence of an independent Homeowners' Association. "We have an association, so I don't have to do anything. They do the lawn, they do the driveway; that is all included," Paul explains. As the third owner at the Ridge, Paul is proud to say, "I am the president of the Homeowners' Association, and I have been since day one."

The move to "downsize and simplify" has provided Paul the flexibility to spend more time during the winters in Florida and Mexico. He is honest in saying eventually he may downsize even more. But for now, Paul is committed to maintaining the house in impeccable condition. "Last year I redid the hardwood floors and the carpet. Every year, I do touch up paint – interior and exterior. I do the decks. Recently a guy told me that for 12 years old, the house is in the shape of a new home." He continues, "I am so emotionally attached to this house. We are probably here until I am ready to leave the valley, which may be never."

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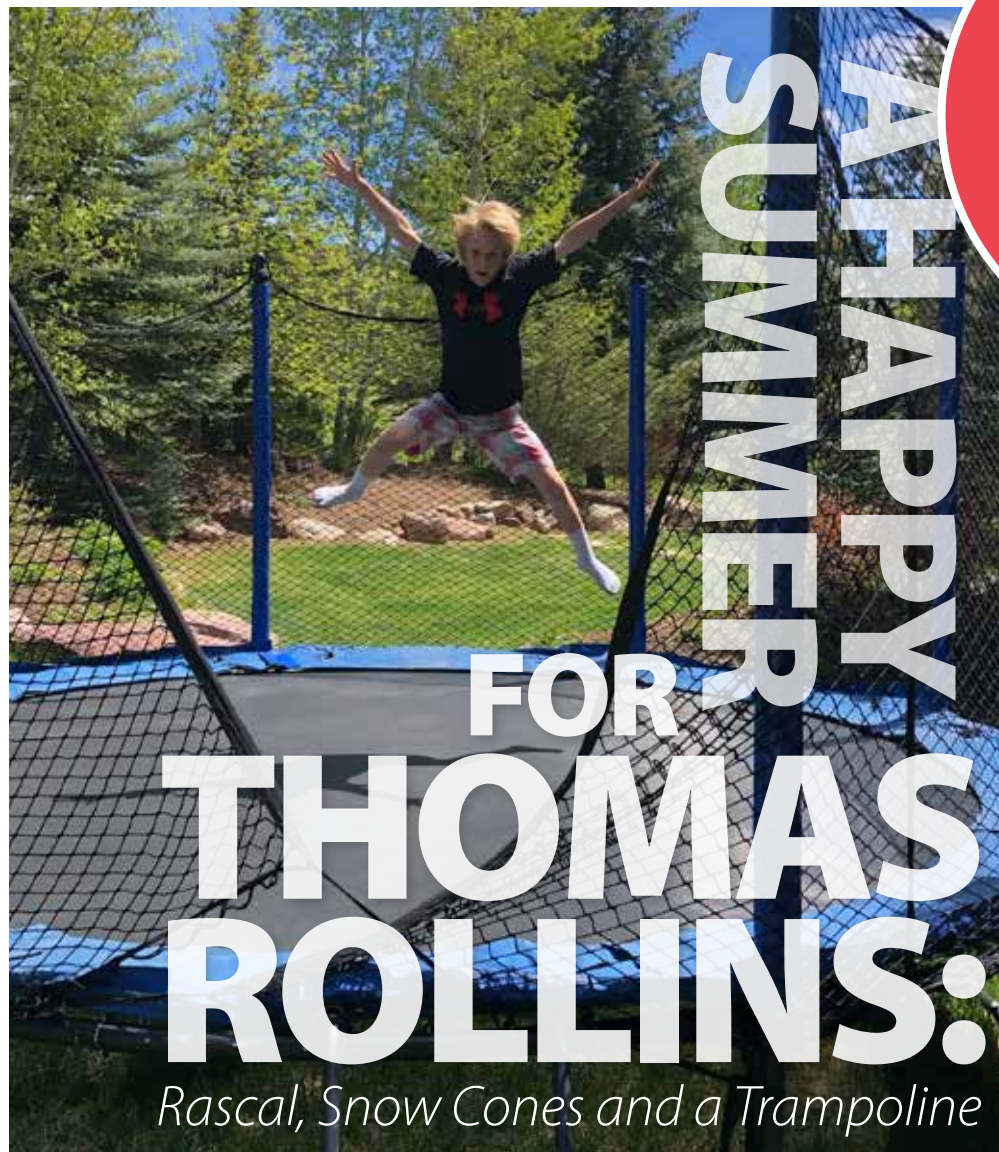
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**kids' corner**  
 Contributed by  
 Thomas Rollins,  
 Singletree resident

**My name is Thomas Rollins, and where I go to school is Eagle County Charter Academy, where I live is Singletree, and I am in second grade. I am 8. Hannah is my sister, and my brother is Bret. I have two pets: Rascal and Bandit. I have a cat and a dog. Rascal is the dog; he's a blue heeler. He is about 14 in people years and 130 in dog years. Bandit is black/half gray. My mom's name is Cherie, and my dad's name is Rob.**

**What did you do today?** I went to Field Day. Field Day is a lot of activities that our PE teacher does. One of them is tug of war. And racing. I got second place in racing. It was probably about 1 minute. The other team won tug of war. Oh! And water balloon fight... I mean toss. I saw other teams throwing it like that (demonstrating an aggressive overhead pitch), and Jack in my group threw it at her, and it went all over her.

**What's been the best part of second grade?** Probably like today.

**More fun than classes?** Yeah. A lot more fun.

**If you had to pick a favorite class, what would it be?**

Probably Unit Study. It's like science, and sometime you get to do STEM. Science, Technology, Engineering and Math. And that spells STEM. It's a combination of sciences.

**Did you do any projects that you thought were really cool?** Yeah!

Yesterday I did a project; we were studying maps. This is our unit for this time.



**How many hours a day are you going to sell snow cones?** Like two hours. Not every day. Just like one day and then like two days later, I am going to be selling them because I still need to get some more cups.

**What else are you going to do this summer?** Probably just hang out with my friends. Bounce on the trampoline. Stay inside and watch movies. I just like every single movie.

**Who are your best buddies?** Calvin, Mac, Logan, Beau and Spencer.

**Do you play any sports?** I do basketball. And soccer. And I don't do any other sports. I used to play basketball at the WECMRD center.

**Do you ski?** Uhhh yeah. Yeah kind of. Now I snowboard.

**Do you read any books, and do you have a favorite storybook character?** Yeah... I do. It doesn't have any characters, it's just has a story. It's called *Joan of Arc*. They're really expensive books; my dad got them from this really old librarian that isn't even alive anymore. I haven't read it yet, but I am going to start reading it.

**Who is your favorite superhero?** Hmm... That's kind of hard. Oh! Antman! Because he can shrink and grow.

**What's your favorite holiday?** My favorite holiday is probably Christmas.

**What's the best part of Christmas?** That I get presents, and I get to spend time with my family.

**Do you have family traditions?** Actually we kind of do – every year my brother gets me one of these shirts (indicating his CU T-shirt).

**Do you and your family go on vacation?** Yeah. We went to Mexico, Florida, and we are about to go to France.

**What were your favorite things about Florida?** I went to this lake infested by alligators. There was a bridge over it, and I just walked over it. I went to this island, and my parents and my sister were in the raft, so I decided to get out and swim, and then I got stung by a sea anemone. It really hurt. I went to the island, and I saw an iguana. It was super cool. It was probably about 3 feet.

**If you could be any animal, what would you be?** I would probably be a shark. Then I can't get hurt.

**What's your favorite thing about living in Singletree?** That my friends live there.

**What was your favorite unit this year?** Actually the STEM was.

**What was the best part about it?** Probably the engineering. And math.

**It sounds like you might want to be a scientist.** Yeah. I kinda do, and I might be getting a hover board because my mom is taking half of the money out of my bank account, and I only have to earn 10 or 20 dollars.

**What are you going to do to earn 10 or 20 bucks?** I don't even have to pay for this money. My mom is getting a snow-cone maker, and then I am going to sell snow cones at my house.

**How much do you sell a snow cone for?** Probably like one dollar. I am going to probably sell more and get like 100 or something.

**What are you going to do with the rest of the money?** Probably gonna put it in my bank account.



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**athlete  
spotlight**

Contributed by **Gary Pessa**,  
Singletree resident,  
and **Richard Carnes**, PLCDT member

**MY LIFE WITH**

**A LAWN CHAIR**

Born in 1984 during Vail's July 4 parade, a group of happy Valley locals created a hilarious act called "Vail's Precision Lawn Chair Demonstration Team" (PLCDT) in order to "meet babes and get free beer from restaurants and bars." (The team member actually quoted with that particular line will, for obvious reasons, forever remain anonymous.) The crowd went wild and – except for that one year no one is willing to talk about – we have never missed the annual parade throughout Vail Village and Lionshead.

The following years led to a Heath Candy Bar commercial filmed in Hollywood, Warren Miller Ski Movies, a reality TV show called "30 Seconds of Fame", a full page spread in People Magazine and multiple performances statewide for conventions and other special events like NBA halftime games and even a few times for NFL and MLB games including a Bronco halftime performance with the team performing on the 50 yard line surrounded by a couple hundred high school cheerleaders.

After faltering participation in the early '90s, our team was resurrected of sorts after being chosen to represent the State of Colorado during the 1993 Presidential Inauguration for Bill Clinton in Washington, D.C. At 9:00 a.m. on January 20, 1993, the PLCDT owned Pennsylvania Avenue. An eight-lane avenue lined with literally tens of thousands of spectators held back by hundreds of D.C.'s finest, and nary a soul on the street, except for 16 extremely proud Vail Valley men (and two gorgeous Banner

Babes) wearing Hawaiian shirts and effortlessly flipping lawn chairs with the precision of a drunken juggler. It was a moment worthy of the Star Spangled Banner.

The following years brought TV commercials with major ski resorts (yes, Vail Resorts) which led to TV interviews with the likes of Erma Bombeck and Bob Beattie, all leading to the pinnacle of TV fame – a Miller Lite 'Less Filling-Great Taste' ad filmed over four gloriously hellacious days on the bikini-filled beaches surrounding the Santa Monica Pier.

And then eight years later lightning struck a second time. For whatever reason, and trust me when I say many were searching for them, we were invited back to Washington, D.C. to do it all over again, and this time for George Bush's Inaugural Parade in 2001.

*Live on Good Morning America* with Tony Perkins, followed by a humorous discussion between Charlie Gibson and Diane Sawyer. Taped appearances with FOX and CBS went national, showing up also on the FOX NEWS channel, the WB network, CNN, MSNBC, TV8, C-Span, and even the superficial "Extra-Extra!" Seventeen radio shows spanning the globe from Eugene, Oregon to Boca Raton, Florida all the way to the BBC in London. In fact, three separate divisions within the BBC did three separate interviews; all transmitted live throughout Western Europe. Every time we were introduced as being from beautiful Vail, Colorado. All this



was followed by not one, but two, appearances in the Vail Valley Charitable Foundation's "Undressed Calendars," which is exactly what you think – locals doing what they do best, in the buff.

The wave of national publicity has taken years to mellow out, and even though our personal appearances are not as frequent anymore, we still consider the Vail 4th of July parade an annual rite of passage, for the crowds of course, but also for team members and now even our children. My son, Oliver, first appeared with the team in 2000. At 2 years old, he joined us on stage at a CDOT convention in Denver in front of 1,000 people. Oliver knew how to flip a smaller lawn chair just enough to be dangerous and literally stole the show. That began his training for what has become 19 more years of flipping lawn chairs, and for the past 10 years or so, he has been a full-fledged member performing alongside the team whenever the calls come in.

Many of the team's members have followed suit and this year for the 4th of July parade, you'll see many teenagers marching alongside their aging fathers celebrating the 35th anniversary of Lawn Chair history and hopefully, we'll be here for many more years to come!



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