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INSIDE
Singletree

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AREA DIRECTOR Holly Proctor | 303-859-3369
holly.proctor@n2co.com

PHOTOGRAPHERS Olga Barron | 970-445-0750
olga@olgabarronphotography.com
Jeff Hulse | 970-343-0997
jeff@jeffreyhulse.com

AD STRATEGIST Rachel Ness | 612-730-9947
strollsingletree@theadjunkies.com

SOCIAL MEDIA MANAGER Emily Challis | 970-343-2871
emily.challis@n2co.com

CONTRIBUTORS AT LARGE The Residents of Singletree

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Hello Singletree Residents!

Just a year ago, Robyn Slane loaded up her Range Rover pioneer style and struck off from Maryland with kids and dogs in tow to live her dream life in the mountains. Having landed in Singletree, the family has found their forever home and now enjoy everything the valley has to offer, as well as occasional escapes to indulge their deep passion for kiteboarding!

Gracie Campbell embodies a profound commitment to community and compassion. Inspired by her passion for skiing and her innate desire to uplift, Gracie has championed more than one cause to assure that everyone,

regardless of age or challenges, can experience the joy, the beauty, and the power of being on the hill.

From tasting Veuve Clicquot in Reims to a sobering visit on the D-Day beaches in Normandy, from the majestic Mont St. Michel in Brittany to cycling through the vineyards of Bordeaux, Mike and Traci Wodlinger share their experience living ‘la vie de joie’ taking in the sights and sounds, culture, and cuisine, of France.

June is Pride Month. And while June 26, 2015, may not be significant to all, the *Obergefell v. Hodges* Supreme Court ruling dramatically changed the lives of same sex couples. Here, Mimi Short and Lauren Sigman, together with Kurt Bauer and Todd Biekkola, share their experience and perspective pre- and post- *Obergefell* as the LGBTQ+ community celebrates its freedom to marry this month.

When Maggie Tedesco left the corporate world, she eagerly accepted the opportunity to take on the role as the inaugural administrator of the Eagle Valley Historical Society, a perfect fit for her keen interest in history. Looking back, she fondly recalls her experiences and highly encourages active involvement in the museum and EVHS.

Welcome to June and summer and your latest issue of *Stroll Singletree!* Enjoy!

Warm regards,

Holly Proctor

Publisher and Area Director
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JUNE CONTRIBUTORS

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Without your support, this publication simply wouldn't exist; the continued growth and success of *Stroll Singletree* relies on ongoing contributions from people like you. So please accept this invitation to all of you – from junior writers to retirees and everyone in between – to contribute to and shape the future of *your* neighborhood magazine. Please email your ideas, stories and photos to **holly.proctor@n2co.com**. We look forward to hearing from you!



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Photographer



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Content Advisor



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Born in Glenwood Springs and raised in Eagle, Phillip Moreno began servicing appliances with Maytag 28 years ago. His roots run deep in the Valley as he recalls the days of skiing on Vail Mountain in his youth, while his parents ran a successful housekeeping business locally and his grandfather worked in the Gilman Mine. Eight years ago, Phillip set off to launch his own business, and today, he and his wife, Randie, own and operate PLM Appliance Repair. It is indeed a family affair as two of their sons, Dominic and Quinton, are also involved in the day-to-day business.

Phillip's extensive knowledge of appliance repair ranges from ovens, refrigerators, and washing machines, to grills, trash compactors, and press machines. Unlike many appliance repair businesses, PLM Appliance Repair is authorized to work on many specialty brands, including Bosch, Frigidaire, LG, Viking, Lynx, Thermador, U-Line, and many more. This level of certification allows Phillip direct access to the manufacturers for assistance in trouble shooting and finding solutions for unique repair issues. Without this access, it is impossible to receive support from these manufacturers.



In multiple rave reviews, Phillip is reported to be honest, professional, timely, efficient, competent, and dependable, to name a few. Bottom line: PLM Appliance Repair answers the phone, shows up as scheduled, and delivers solutions with a smile and superior customer service.

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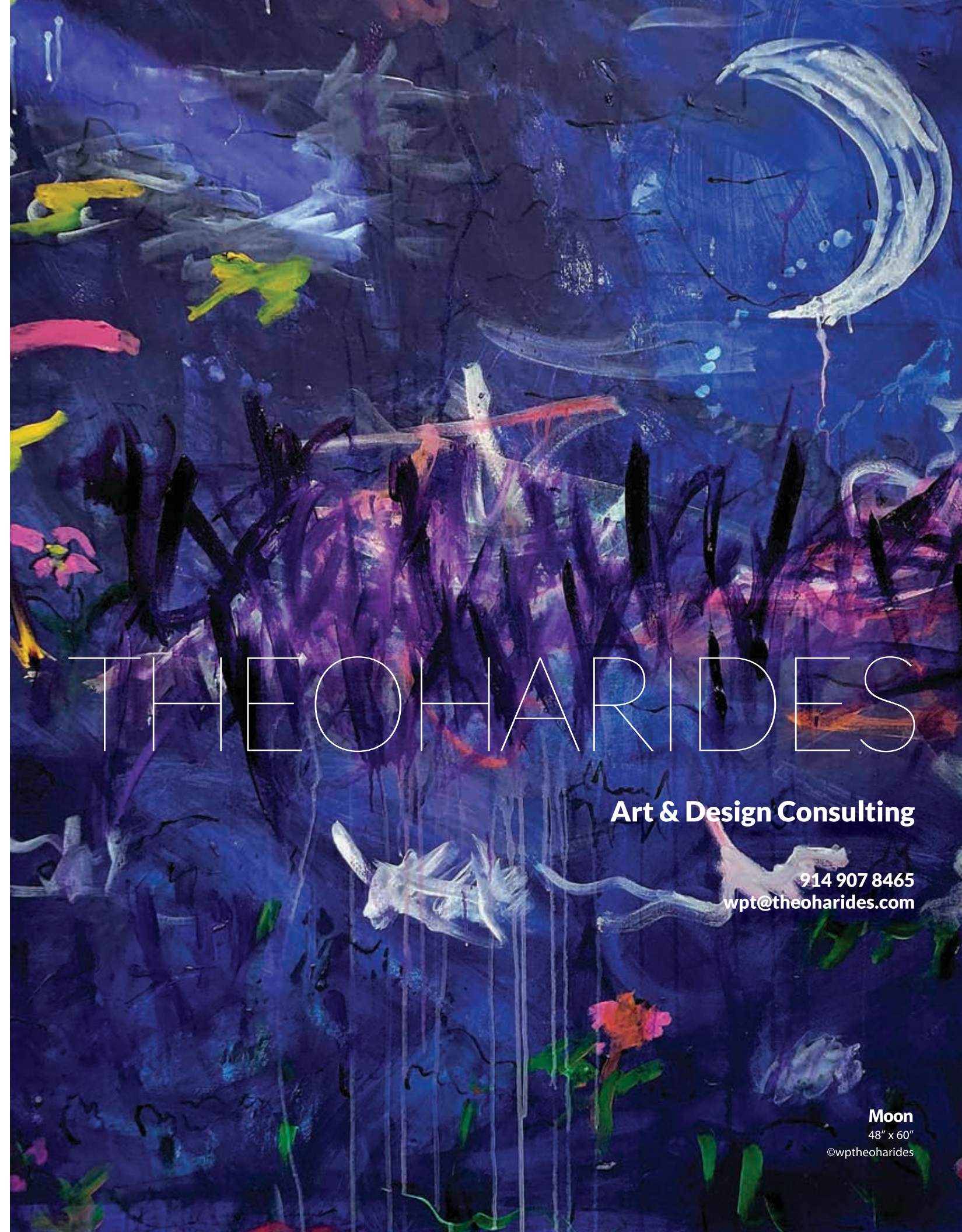
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ON A WINTERS DAY

Robyn, Quin, and Sam Slane Land in Their Forever Home in Singletree with Max, Hobbes, and Patters

PHOTOGRAPHY BY JEFFREY HULSE PHOTOGRAPHY

The Lynch-Slane Family moved to Vail in June 2023 - Robyn, Quin, and Sam, two dogs (Max is a 15-year-old doodle and Hobbes a 3-year-old schnoodle), and our 16-year-old one eared cat, Patters. With our U-Haul in tow, Quin and I left Annapolis, Maryland on a 5-day road trip to fulfill my dream of moving to Vail, Colorado. The Range Rover is different from a Conestoga wagon headed west but our trip across country was amazing.

My son Sam is twenty-one and a junior at Rensselaer Polytechnic with a double major in computer science and hardware design. I call him the brain of our family. Taking very much after his father and my late husband Charles, Sam was awarded an academic scholarship to RPI. Sam lives full time at his fraternity in Troy, New York and during the summer has internships and most recently ... in hybrid bioelectronics where they created logic inside a bacterial genetic system... right? Making a brain.



Sam has been skiing in Vail on our east coast breaks since he was three and was instrumental in our move to the Vail Valley. He commits to coming here in the summer and during his college breaks.

Quinlan (Quin) is eleven. We bought the house in Singletree and named it *On a Winters Day*. We held our breath until we got notice that Quin was accepted into the sixth grade at the Vail Mountain School. Quin has tried cross country, alpine racing, and currently rock climbing with the school. She mountain bikes and will ride horseback during the summer.

I adopted Quin at birth in California. Adoption has its challenges, but I would not trade her for the world. She is my buddy even though she was to be a boy! We ski together, hike, and surf. Most recently, she has started to share my passion for kite surfing. We adventure travel but primarily it is to surf and kiteboard. We have been kiting in Cabarete, Dominican Republic, Hatteras, NC, Las Ventana, Mexico, and our favorite kite place is The Grenadines. Quin would love to meet friends in the neighborhood who go mountain biking and skateboarding.

My journey to Vail started in 1982, when my college roommate told me she was leaving school to move to Colorado. We have been friends ever since and I have been skiing here for forty-some years. I am semi-retired. I work part time for Vail Resorts teaching skiing to young children. Out of all my jobs, teaching has been the most rewarding.

I graduated from Duquesne University and started a remarkably diverse career in finance. My father's work in heavy equipment took us overseas and I lived in Oxford, England and Stirling, Scotland so, I wanted to work in an embassy when I graduated. I moved to Washington DC and started with the United States Parachute Assoc. managing the insurance for skydivers through Lloyd's of London.

I remind my children no matter what degree you graduate with, life takes a funny course of jobs and connections to put you in an area where you never thought you would work. Take the chances.

I have a span of over 30 years in insurance and finance from Home Life Insurance in New York, client management services, trading,

and private equity for high wealth individuals in Harrisburg, PA to moving to Nassau, Bahamas for 5 years as the Assistant to the CEO of British American. I developed a background in offshore banking and risk management to running a bar in Abaco, Bahamas.

Living overseas gave me an enormous prescriptive on life, diversity of cultures, and what is important. My address was Shangri La, Paradise Island, but working a 50-plus hour week and on call for the CEO is no easy task. Plus, you need to adapt to living in a third world country and not knowing anyone. I went through Hurricane Andrew my second day in the Bahamas.

This makes connections and friends the key to my life. After my visa expired, I had made friends on the out islands of the Bahamas and spent two years in Abaco, Bahamas working at a floating bar called the Tiki hut.

I gave away all my New York clothes, and we built the bar with wood from the beaches and filled plastic canisters from the orange fields with compressed gas to make it float. I also worked writing business plans for the locals in their hopes of receiving financing for bars, marinas,



and restaurants. Check out Nippers on Guana Cay.

I had a good pair of Birkenstocks; my friend had a seaplane and would fly me to present their plans to the World Bank in Nassau. Sometimes I got paid in unusual currencies, fresh fish, work, or trading items for the restaurant. Too many hurricanes and my mother wondering if I was ever returning to start a family, I eventually moved back to the United States.

I met Charles on a blind date and eventually we moved to Ohio. Right before my wedding, a dear friend from the Bahamas (who now lives part time in Wolcott) referred me for a job. I put my wedding on hold and moved to Lyford Cay, Bahamas. I traveled as the assistant to Mark Holowesko of Templeton securities and the Holowesko Hedge fund and was Capital Liaison to the Cayman Islands. Two months later, five different countries and \$1 billion in startup funds, I went back home and got married.

My late husband and I had dual residences. Charles lived in the upper

west side of New York City. He was a real estate attorney and had spent 20 years as corporate counsel for Rite Aid before starting his own commercial development company. We married in 2021.

Before moving to Maryland, I stayed in Bryn Mawr, PA until Sam finished high school at The Haverford Boy's School. Our goal was to move to the family home in Annapolis, Maryland, as Quin loved the water and had quite a penchant for sailing, wake boarding and surfing. I named this home Into the Mystic. After Covid hit the real estate market in New York, Charles' development company was making the move into the Washington DC and Baltimore area.

Life took a cruel turn for our family right after we bought our Annapolis home and DC apartment. Charles was diagnosed with cancer and could not be moved. He passed away in 2021. Our family commuted from Annapolis to my stepdaughter Carrie's home and the University of PA Hospital so we could



My life has been extraordinary and raising my children alone is my greatest reward and challenge.

be with him. I also have three stepchildren with nine grandchildren.

After Charles and I married, we went back to Hopetown, Abaco, and designed and built our second home called *Robyn's Nest* from the ground up. We both believed in giving back where we can and were heavily involved in a foundation to send 5 to 10 Bahamians to college each year.

Charles taught me my passion. Real estate investing. I invested in and flipped New York apartments. I enjoy redesigning, knocking down walls, and hunting for décor and fixtures. I would end up selling and because of this passion, my poor children moved eight times from Ohio to Pennsylvania to New York to Maryland. I have committed to them we will never see a moving box or truck again and Vail is home.

Charles and I had Sam in 2003, a miracle for sure at the age of forty-two. Ten years later, I adopted Quinlan. It was my way of giving back for the gifts life has given me and tremendous opportunities. Today, Quin, Sam, and I have set up a foundation that helps families to pay for the adoption fees and/or afford IVF treatments.

My life has been extraordinary and raising my children alone is my greatest reward and challenge. As our family moves through the hurdles of grief, a new location, and trying to make connections, we absolutely can say we love our home in Singletree and intend to stay.



CELEBRATING THE CLASS OF 2024

FAVORITE MOMENTS,
ACHIEVEMENTS, AND
DREAMS FOR THE FUTURE
FROM OUR SINGLETREE
SENIORS

SARAH KATHERINE (S.K.) BAUMER



High School: Vail Mountain School
Family: Parents - Jason and Molly Baumer. Brother - Harrison Baumer is a sophomore at Vail Mountain School.
Most Memorable HS Experience: My most memorable high school experience is playing on the volleyball team for four years.
Greatest Accomplishment: Getting into college!
Post-Graduation Plans: This summer, I will be soaking up the last of my time in the Vail Valley for a while before I depart for Oxford, Mississippi, where I will study business at Ole Miss.
Aspirations: While in college, I plan to study abroad!
Favorite Part of Living in Singletree: My favorite parts about living in Singletree are the beautiful neighborhood and the convenient location.
Words of Advice for the Class of 2024: Have the best time always and be sure to meet as many people as possible!

SOPHIA KLUENDER

High School: Battle Mountain High School
Family: Joanna Kluender (mother), Timm Kluender (father), Lucas Kluender (brother), Quill Kluender (dog)
Most Memorable HS Experience: Getting the chance to perform on the Battle Mountain stage. Whether theater, choir, or some other activity, I love to be able to sing, dance, act, and mess around with my friends on stage. It allowed me to meet many kind and amazing people that I will always remember and hold dear to my heart.
Greatest Accomplishment: Getting into my top school after days of perfecting my portfolio!
Post-Graduation Plans: Spending the summer travelling with my family and friends before moving out to California to attend college at Laguna College or Art and Design.
Aspirations: Designing a set or a Broadway show or creating a how to go out on a major cartoon network.
Favorite Part of Living in Singletree: The cute pets that come and visit me at Wags and Whiskers.
Words of Advice for the Class of 2024: Do the difficult thing; be yourself.



PHILIPP SHCHETININ

High School: Vail Christian High School
Family: Parents: Mikhael and Natalia Kavanaugh. Sister: Lisa, her husband Evgeniy and their son Jakob. We have a black Labrador Luna and a cat Henry.
Most Memorable HS Experience: In my final year of study, I became president of the Vinyl Club and president of the Cybersecurity Club. I like music and everything related to computers. Also throughout my school years, I played basketball and tennis; we had many victories and successful competitions. But probably, the most important and memorable event was that I played for the first time in the school musical *Oliver!* in 2024. My character is Bill Sykes. This performance was a huge success and I am glad that I could be a part of it.
Greatest Accomplishment: 2nd Place in State of Colorado: Cyberpatriot
Post-Graduation Plans: My life since childhood has been connected with the Christian church; I take an active part in youth ministry, worship team. And this summer in July, we are planning to take a mission trip as a youth group to Czechoslovakia. And in August, I'm going to study at the University Ember- Riddle Aeronautical University, majoring in Cybersecurity.
Aspirations: My goal is to graduate from university and work in my profession in cybersecurity, providing information protection for important strategic and private objects.
Favorite Part of Living in Singletree: We live next to the June Creek Trail and it's probably the best place I know.
Words of Advice for the Class of 2024: Try more things out!



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| STATUS | ADDRESS | DAYS ON MARKET | SQ FT | LIST PRICE | SOLD PRICE |
|--------|-------------------------|----------------|-------|-------------|------------|
| SOLD | 81 Lariat Road B | 406 | 2,005 | \$1,500,000 | 1,420,000 |
| SOLD | 306 Hackamore Road A | 57 | 1,955 | \$1,399,000 | 1,255,000 |
| SOLD | 640 Charolais Circle | 0 | 4,209 | \$4,100,000 | 3,950,000 |
| Active | 10 Prairie Circle | 122 | 4,604 | \$3,299,000 | |
| Active | 31 Appaloosa | 62 | 3,382 | \$2,500,000 | |
| Active | 1123 Berrv Creek Road A | 38 | 3,273 | \$2,975,000 | |
| Active | 781 Lune Creek Road S | 36 | 2,507 | \$2,449,000 | |
| Active | 70 Hackamore Road | 10 | 2,423 | \$1,695,000 | |



Contact me if you would like an explanation as to why some homes sell quickly without much price reductions and others don't!

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The Tyler Team (L to R): Carroll Tyler, Rick Pirog, Lindsay Bruce, and John Tyler



The Tyler family on their deck in Singletree

John Tyler, Managing Broker at Slifer, Smith & Frampton's 281 Bridge Street office, exudes abundant energy and passionate enthusiasm for every aspect of his role as a real estate professional. Here he lets us in on the skills, lessons, and diverse experiences that shaped his journey to becoming a successful broker in the Vail Valley as well as the unique qualities he brings to his career and to you today.

What experiences in your past have been most impactful on your path to a career in real estate?

Luckily, my family moved to Vail when I was thirteen and I grew up in the Vail Valley here. I attended Vail Mountain School before pursuing a BA in English at Hamilton College back east. After graduation, I spent two years teaching English in Japan to corporate executives, then I explored Asia and the Pacific Rim for a final year before returning to the U.S. to find a real job. My interest in international business took me to Stanford University

for an intensive summer Japanese language course followed by two years of job searching and waiting tables until I finally landed an entry level sales position with a Japanese company heavily involved in the world of freight forwarding and custom brokerage.

Two years later I met my wife, Danie, and after getting married in Beaver Creek, I promptly transferred to Denver as Sales Manager of the Denver branch of the company. A year later, maxed out in the position, I discovered a new opportunity to start my own business in the high-tech world of polymer repair products and I joined the British company Belzona as an independent consultant. Thus began a fascinating dive into the world of chemicals, power plants, mining, hydroelectric production, wastewater, military bases, and everything you can imagine that runs civilization behind the scenes that we provided products to protect and maintain. I loved it! For nine years, I built my business with all kinds of customers and success. However, there were some dangerous situations and close calls.

What inspired your change in direction?

Frankly, I had a 2 year old and 4 year old and I wanted to make sure I was going to be around to be their dad. It was time to make a life change. So, I went skiing. I headed up to Vail to meet my mom for an epic powder day. For years, Carroll Tyler had been gently nudging me towards real estate. No pressure, but definitely reminding me the rewards. Getting to know her clients' families, I saw firsthand the success and people skills of a prominent broker like Carroll Tyler.

After our first run, we loaded Chair 17 only to find Jim Flaum, then President of Slifer Smith & Frampton, and Ric Souto, a prominent Branch Manager, on the

same chair. Jim turned to me and said, "When are you going to get into the real estate business?" I replied, "Well Jim, funny you should ask...".

That 7-minute conversation ultimately opened the door to a new chapter. About a month later, Jim called and offered me an assistant position to Carol Collins and Rick Pirog, who East West Partners had just awarded the listing for the Custom Homes on Village Walk in Beaver Creek. I jumped on it, and began my official entry into the real estate business.

When did you land in Singletree?

A week after I accepted the assistant position, my mom called to tell me about a cute duplex in Singletree that we should buy. Honestly, I did not know the neighborhood at the time and I had no idea how much we would love living here. We bought the little duplex on Rawhide Road with a funky layout, a wood burning fireplace and huge sunset views. It was perfect!

How did your career progress from that point?

I dedicated myself to getting my real estate license and working closely with Rick Pirog who is still my partner in real estate to this day twenty years later. We delved into all aspects of real estate with a special



A prize rainbow on the Eagle River

focus on the intricacies of building custom homes and the construction process that I loved. Rick and I built a strong partnership with a breadth of knowledge spanning from new construction to remodels to resales of any kind of property. That 10 years from 2004 to 2014 took us through a major economic downturn in real estate and during that period, Rick and I developed a very close partnership and I learned a tremendous amount about how to help our clients weather tough times and maintain the value of their real estate assets.

How did your team grow to include Carroll and most recently, Lindsay?

Entering 2021, Carroll's situation had changed and the time was right for Rick and I to create a broader partnership and join us all together as a team. That being said, the real key to the whole deal was bringing on Lindsay Bruce who had proven herself in an administrative role in Carroll's Bridge Street office. Not only did she grow up with parents in the real estate industry, Lindsay brought with her valuable skills from her experience in luxury hospitality, including her roles in pre-sales at the Art Hotel in Denver, and as corporate Sales Manager for Beaver Creek, working with the Ritz, the Four Seasons, and the Park Hyatt. Her move into real estate was a natural progression.



Family Easter - 2024



John and his wife, Dani, at Splendido

So the quartet-team was formed. How do you differentiate your team from other brokers?

It all boils down to professional competency. Having this history, this longevity, this stability, and these established relationships provides a tremendous amount of strength for us. We offer our expertise, our partnership, and our skill to Singletree. It's taking our breadth of background and culminating it into the essence of what we need to do to provide the best service possible to our clients.

I believe in upholding the highest standards of professionalism, treating my business with the same dedication as a top-tier surgeon or attorney. This means continuous education, polishing, focusing, and honing our craft, staying abreast of national and international trends, and approaching each transaction with meticulous attention to detail which leads to higher buyer and seller confidence. It doesn't matter if it's a first-time home buyer or a billionaire buying their eighth vacation home. Everybody needs to know what we know and they need us as advocates to help them make educated decisions and purchases.

They also need to understand the choreography of the transaction. Selling a home involves complex factors, much like planning for a holiday performance of the Nutcracker - starting in early fall - and anticipating a spectacular outcome with an encore of satisfied clients. It's about objectively evaluating a property's positives and potential flaws, educating the owner on merits and potential improvements, and ensuring that the value is effectively communicated. Our team navigates these intricate nuances of each transaction with finesse and expertise.

What additional value do you offer your clients?

In today's world, where tradespeople are in short supply, having strong relationships with contractors is essential. A broker with a reputable network can ensure that



The Tylers take to the Knob Hill Trail

necessary services are promptly delivered, contributing to smoother transactions. Our relationships extend to include other professionals crucial to the process, such as plumbers, interior designers, and attorneys. Confidence and preparedness are more critical than ever and we equip our clients with the knowledge and resources they need to succeed and to help them take care of their new homes.

Can you speak to your experience in Singletree?

Our extensive knowledge of the neighborhood and the broader valley allows us to provide invaluable insights into property values, market trends, and negotiation strategies. I have been in Singletree for 20 years and I know it intimately. I have raised my kids here, we belong to the Sonnenalp Club, I hike and mountain bike the trails, and I know where to find the best fishing and the hawks nesting. I know every street and every house. This is where my flow is and we plan to stay here until they cart us away.

How is 2024 looking for your team?

We have closed \$35 million in just the first quarter of this year. Our results are a testament to our unwavering dedication to professionalism, competency, and client service. When a client asks, 'What do *you* think?', it opens the door for us to showcase our knowledge and expertise. Understanding the dynamics of supply and demand is vital. Identifying opportunities, such as negotiating with sellers hesitant to adjust their prices, can lead to successful transactions. We pride ourselves on going above and beyond to create win-win situations for both buyers and sellers, providing invaluable insights, and ensuring that every client feels confident and informed throughout the process.

Will you please share with us your perspective on the recent class action lawsuit regarding real estate commissions?

The recent settlement in the Sitzer Burnett case signals a significant shift in the industry. The essence of the dispute was whether buyers were wrongly forced to pay high and



John and his faithful companion, Titus

non-negotiable commissions to real estate brokers. While the National Association of Realtors faced potential liability of \$1.7 billion, they settled for \$418 million, not as an admission of guilt or defeat by any means, but rather as a strategic decision to avoid an appeal, which would have required a \$1.5 billion bond, not a financially viable option for the Association.

Traditionally, commissions have always been negotiable, and usually split between listing and buyer's brokers. Under that practice, however, allegations of price-fixing and non-negotiable commissions led to legal scrutiny. Attorneys specializing in class-action lawsuits scoured communications for evidence of collusion, leading to heightened awareness and scrutiny within the industry.

The settlement imposes new disclosure requirements including upfront agency agreements outlining duties and compensation. Brokers will be required to articulate their professional standards and potential compensation



Snow fishing on the Eagle River

arrangements upfront, ensuring transparency and clarity from the outset.

I am positive about the outcome in that the settlement fosters honesty, clarity, and transparency, elevates industry standards, and reinforces the value of buyer-broker relationships, and enhances client satisfaction. As a side note, the agreement has not been settled by the courts as of this writing. If settled, while there will be significant change in communication and business practices, the core dynamic of the real estate industry remains unchanged. Brokers continue to play a vital role in facilitating home ownership and investment opportunities, adapting to new challenges while remaining steadfast in their commitment to clients.

To learn more or to contact John, please visit JohnTylerVail.com or email jtyler@slifer.net or call 970-904-0355.

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Gracie Campbell's legacy is devoted to making skiing and snowboarding accessible for all

CONTRIBUTED BY GRACIE CAMPBELL, SINGLETREE RESIDENT
ARTICLE WRITTEN BY TIM SWIFT, SINGLETREE RESIDENT



Christina Lautenberg and Todd Williams bestowing positivity and confidence

If you're looking for inspiration, leadership, creativity, determination, dedication, and just plain heart, you might start with Singletree's own Gracie Campbell. Since moving to Leadville with her two small children after graduating from the University of Denver in 1969, and a few years later moving into The Valley, Gracie has blazed a trail of dedication and service to challenged children and adults from the Front Range to the Western Slope that is truly unrivaled.

When she and her kids were living in Leadville, Gracie worked as an elementary school teacher. It was during her tenure there that she realized that offering the opportunity for all kids to thrive took more than a gym, a math class, and a cafeteria, regardless of the level of dedication the adults in that environment possessed. She recognized that success required more than just knowledge; it required acceptance, and Gracie was determined to help provide that acceptance. Not just for kids in the mainstream, but for all kids regardless of the obstacles they might face. Whether the challenge be developmental or physical, occurring from birth or as a result of some devastating accident or circumstance of life, everyone deserves the opportunity to overcome these challenges and be a part of all life has to offer.

In 1974, Gracie and her family made the trip down Battle Mountain and moved to the Valley in search of a bit more variety and opportunity. That search led to her eventual

hiring by the Golden Peak Children's Center manager, Nancy Nottingham, as a member of the Children's Ski School team.

After their move to the Valley, Gracie's son, Jeff, played football for Battle Mountain, and eventually went on to star as a player for the University of Colorado Buffaloes. While he was at CU, Jeff's roommate and fellow football star, Sal Aunese, was diagnosed with stomach cancer. Six months after that devastating diagnosis, Sal was dead. Sal's death had a profound effect on Jeff because of his passing, but also from the positive way Sal was treated by CU. The university never let Sal lose his self-esteem or his confidence. He was always considered a member of the football team regardless of how sick he was.

Jeff was inspired by this and knew that there must be, literally, thousands of kids facing the same kind of challenges, and one of the things he felt they needed in



Vail ski instructors helping to build self-esteem regardless of challenges



For the love of the kids - inspiring joy and happiness



Project Challenge expands to include burn victims

addition to chemo and surgery was the chance to feel good about themselves. Deep inside, Jeff knew that challenged kids needed more than just medicine, they needed the confidence to face the world with confidence. So, Jeff being Jeff, he called his mother and told her of his vision. He felt that skiing could give cancer patients that confidence, and he knew that Vail Associates had the resources needed to provide what was needed for such a program.

Gracie was managing the Golden Peak Children's Center when Jeff's call came, and she immediately bought into what he was proposing. She reached out to Denver Children's Hospital to propose a partnership. The hospital was initially skeptical, but eventually agreed to send a few kids up to Vail on a pilot basis, and the rest, as they say, is history.

Letters from the parents of the kids who participated in that first program were universally positive and encouraged Vail Associates to continue and even expand the program. In 1989, the program was founded and christened Project Challenge in memory of Sal Aunese. Vail Associates committed to funding a large portion of Project Challenge's budget and other private donors made up the difference.



Gracie in her early days with Guest Services

Project Challenge was an overnight success which, in turn, spurred Children's Hospital to ask that the program be expanded to include burn victims. Initially funds were not available to expand the program to the extent asked by Children's Hospital, but Gracie agreed to include burn patients on a substitute basis whenever a cancer patient felt too ill to participate. Eventually, the program was permanently expanded to include local burn patients as full-time participants which ultimately resulted in the creation of a one-week camp with nationwide outreach.

As a result of her son Jeff's drive and commitment, Gracie has created a public service facet for Vail that is unrivaled in the country. Her efforts have expanded to include people of all ages and all forms of disabilities from cancer to severe burns to paraplegia and heart issues. Anyone with any sort of challenge can put on a neck gaiter, ski or snowboard boots, and click in. All geared up and

Gracie convinces Mike Utley, formerly with the Detroit Lions, to embrace the freedom of skiing and its magnificent power of healing



standing in a lift line, they no longer feel different from the people around them who are fortunate enough to be free of such disabilities, nor are they treated differently. They all enjoy the same mountain top views and the sheer joy of barreling down Riva Ridge or Simba.

Gracie was the driving force in expanding Vail Associates' commitment to opening mountain sports to those with physical or emotional disabilities and that has not gone unnoticed. She has been recognized by people as diverse as Bill Jensen, the former President of Vail Resorts Mountain Division, and Ken Gart, the former president of Specialty Sports Venture (SSV). In an article in SSV's internal publication, *The Buzz*, Ken referred to Gracie as "The Little Person Who Roared". If you know her, you know what he meant.

Gracie also participated in the founding of Small Champions, a program that specifically deals with challenged kids from Eagle County. She was also a driving force behind the creation of the Vail Development Team (DEVO) which focuses on bringing skiing to local as well as Front Range kids and its spin-off, the Beaver Creek Development Team (BEAVO).

Her work to make skiing and snowboarding more accessible to all since 1989, is not the only thing that sets Gracie apart. She has also accomplished something that is unique in the history of the Vail Beaver Creek Ski and Snowboard School since its founding in 1964. She is the only person ever to be a Ski and Snowboard School manager who was never certified or taught a single ski or snowboard lesson in their entire career! In and of itself, that is a distinction of which she can be justly proud.

If Gracie's legacy is at all inspiring to you to ask what you can do to help, I have an answer for you. Just visit the Small Champions web site, www.smallchampions.org and click on the DONATE NOW button to help them continue the work that Gracie Campbell helped start over 34 years ago.

THE VAIL DEVELOPMENT TEAM'S FIRST TRACKS
1985-86

An idea from one instructor, passed on to one Supervisor laid the initial foundation for the **VAIL DEVELOPMENT TEAM**.

A consistent class of the same four children with the same instructor resulted in a faster increase in ability. Instructor Shelli Fullhart called them her **LITTLE DEVELOPMENT TEAM**. Shelli and Supervisor Rosie Moreno, with belief and conviction of success, put on the hill the first **DEVELOPMENT TEAM** with 2 instructors and 12 children ages 4-5 in 1986. Shelli nicknamed the little team "DEVO."

As DEVO grew, more dedicated ski school employees put their hearts, love and dedication into the hundreds of children who participate today, making DEVO Vail's most popular "Special Program" for Children.

34 years ago, the initial belief of just two people and the dedication of many others takes its place in the history of the Golden Peak Children's Ski and Snowboard School.

1985-present



The first class of DEVO in 1986



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The flag lowering at the American Cemetery



The Cliffs at Pointe du Hoc

Vive La France!

Mike and Traci Wodlinger Explore France: from Reims to Bordeaux

CONTRIBUTED BY MIKE AND TRACI WODLINGER, SINGLETREE RESIDENTS

As a preface to our story that follows from last fall, this opening paragraph will add some context. Back in 2006, Traci and I spent about two weeks in France on our belated honeymoon. Having studied the French language since middle school and having spent my sophomore year of college in Tours, France, I put together an itinerary that I felt my wife, Traci, as a first-time visitor to France, must experience. We started out in Paris, hitting most of the primary, iconic sights. Then, we rented a car and spent several days visiting the glorious chateaux along the Loire River. After that it was off to the old, walled city of Avignon to explore Provence, before finishing in Nice along the French Riviera on the



Traci at the Reims Cathedral



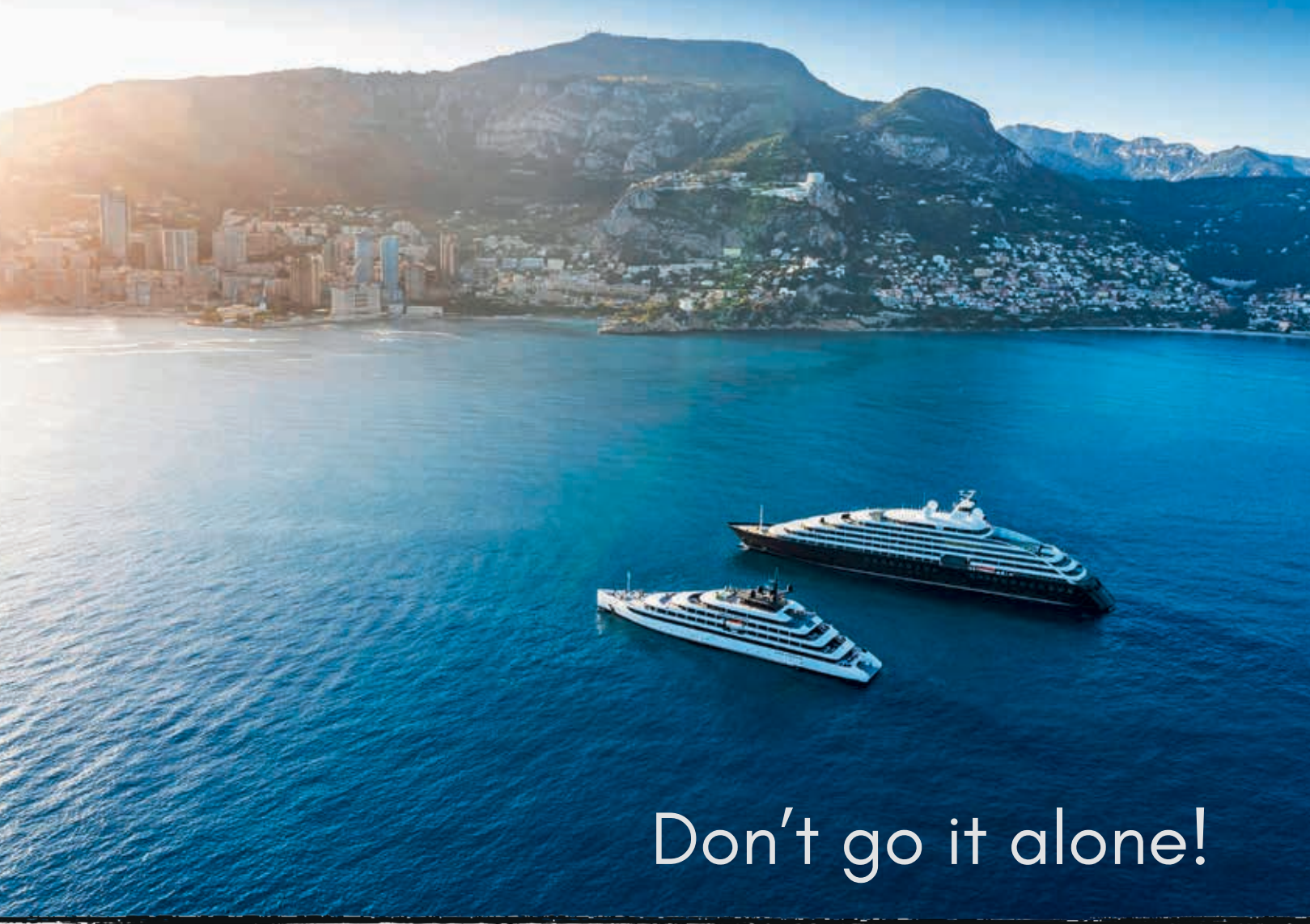
Mike enjoying a taste of Veuve Clicquot

Mediterranean Sea. The story of our most recent French adventure to new areas now follows. - *Mike*

Bonjour! After flying to Paris and immediately jumping into a rental car, our first destination was Reims, nestled in the heart of the Champagne region. Our hotel was just one block from the Notre-Dame de Reims Cathedral (a UNESCO World Heritage site) and one block from the Centre-Ville of Reims. We toured the Reims Cathedral as well as the prestigious champagne houses of Moët & Chandon and Veuve Clicquot. Our favorite was the Maison de Veuve Clicquot, and although we've had our share (okay, maybe more than our share) of Veuve Clicquot through the years, we never knew that Madame Clicquot is featured on the top of each cork.

And, who knew that every bottle of champagne (not just Veuve) starts with exactly six turns of the muselet - the wire cage that fits over the cork of a bottle. While the champagne houses were interesting and tasty, so was the local scene in the Centre-Ville of Reims where we shared laughs, stories, and brews with the locals.

From Reims, we drove west to the picturesque Normandy region, where we arrived in the historic city of Bayeux. Our accommodation there included staying at the Hôtel Tardif Noble Guest House, an historic monument dating to the 18th century and nestled in the former park of the botanist Mosson de Vaux. Here, amidst cobblestone



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Mike at the Hotel de Tardiff



Mont St. Michel



The St. Malo tidal range

streets and medieval architecture, we paid homage to history's heroes at the D-Day beaches. Standing on the sands of Utah Beach, Omaha Beach, Pointe du Hoc, Gold Beach, Juno Beach, and Sword Beach, the weight of history was heavy. It was a profoundly moving experience, a solemn reminder of the sacrifices made for freedom. Attending the lowering of the American flag at the American Cemetery as Taps played, we felt immense gratitude for the bravery and sacrifices of those who fought for liberty.

Continuing our expedition, we ventured further west to the rugged coastline of Brittany, where the old, fortified city of St. Malo awaited (think *All the Light We Cannot See*, the novel). Our hotel, right on the beach, was only about a mile from the walled city, and we walked there each evening for dinner, drinks, and to explore within the walls (including walking the perimeter along the top of the walls). Depending

on the tide, we walked along the street or on the beach. The tidal range in this area is among the greatest in the world; the distance between low and high tides can be the equivalent of a four-story building. A highlight of our time in Brittany was our visit to the iconic Mont St. Michel, a medieval (8th Century) masterpiece rising majestically from the sea. As we climbed its ancient cobblestone paths and admired the panoramic views, we also ran into (almost literally) a friend from Avon; it truly is a small world.

Our final destination beckoned us southward to the sun-drenched vineyards of Bordeaux, where we embarked on



The walled city of St. Malo



Biking in the vineyards



Our Backroads route map

a few little-known factoids that were always entertaining. Pedaling through vineyards during harvest time and quaint villages, we savored the sights, sounds, and aromas of Bordeaux's terroir. Each day brought new discoveries, from sampling velvety reds in Saint-Émilion to cruising along the Garonne River at sunset. Our evenings were filled with social dinners featuring regional delicacies such as confit de canard, escargots, and decadent cheese platters paired with Bordeaux's finest vintages. This was our first Backroads adventure, and it won't be our last; in fact, we booked two more when we returned home (including one with great new friends we biked and laughed with for a week).

Au revoir, France, until we meet again. - Mike & Traci

an eight-day biking and river cruise (a Backroads adventure) through the region's renowned wine country. Our days began with a "route rap" from our trip leaders, which included an overview of the day, history of the area, and

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Spreading Happiness: One Board at a Time

Pamela Davis brings her life experience and deep passion for beautiful food to The Grazing Fox



Pamela is a 4th generation Vail Valley small business success story. Her family homesteaded in Cordillera in the early 1900's and her grandfather went on to discover Vail Mountain and build the ski resort we know today. Hard work is in her blood and her passion to share Vail with others runs deep.

With over 23 years in hospitality and numerous partnerships in Vail restaurants, Pamela founded The Grazing Fox in 2016. She knew that luxury picnic experiences would soon follow. Five years later, Picnic Vail was born. Her world-class provisions and personalized customer service has led her to be featured in Forbes, Food & Wine, the Wall Street Journal... and more - including *Stroll Singletree!*

How have your Vail Valley roots impacted your journey?

I moved to the valley in 1999. Some people think that I must be wealthy because my grandfather discovered and founded Vail but it couldn't be further from the truth. He never struck it rich and always lived frugally. I have made my own way in the valley and am grateful for the opportunity to live, start multiple businesses, and raise a family here.

When did you know you wanted to be in food and hospitality?

My first job in the valley was the assistant-to-the-assistant to Beth Howard when she ran Beaver Creek dining, and this is where I learned a little about restaurants. After a year, I was asked to be the assistant manager at Red Tail Camp during the '99 World Championships. Needless to say, I was thrown into it. I loved it and was hooked.

What experiences led you to embark on the grazing world to open The Grazing Fox?

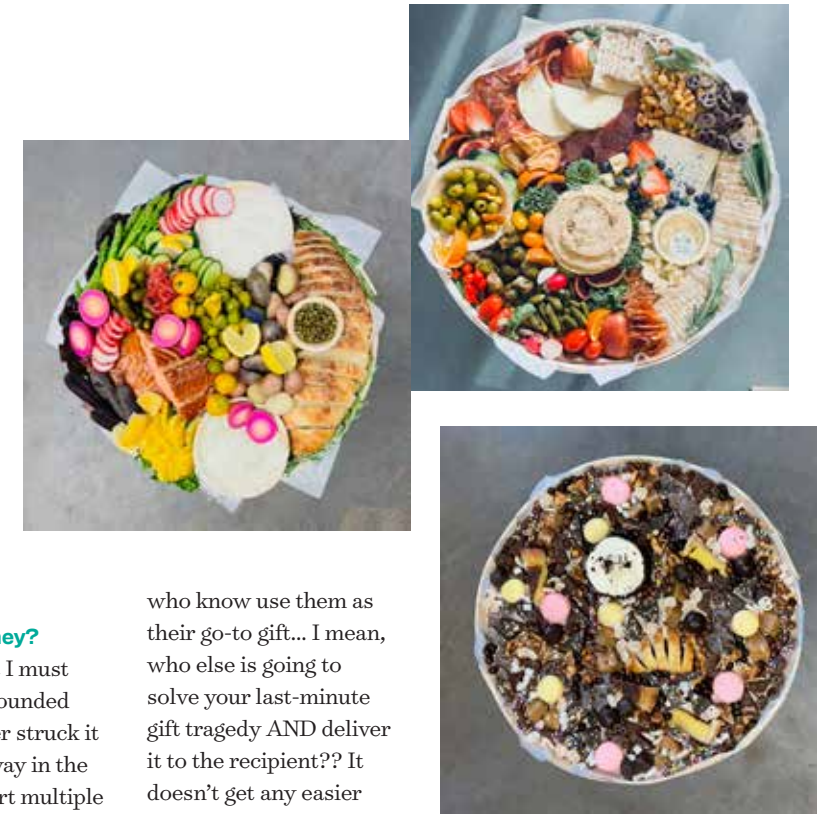
At our house, "grazing" was what we did. We held an annual wine and cheese party for nearly 100 people every year, and our house was full for Sunday BBQ's, happy hours, etc. There was always a creatively arranged board for everyone to snack on and our guests loved it. Finally, in 2016, a friend pushed me to start creating these boards for a living. I knew that people in other parts of the world ate like we did but I was not sure if it would catch on with Americans. The beauty of the Vail Valley is that we host people from all over the world, so it caught on relatively quickly. And thanks to social media during Covid, the U.S. jumped on board.

What are your most popular menus?

Our biggest seller is the Grazing Board which includes dips, olives, fresh and pickled veggies, fresh and dried fruit, cheese, charcuterie, crackers, nuts and something sweet. Our dessert boards are also very popular. Each board is truly a work of art.

Aside from your grazing boards, what other specialty items do you offer?

We specialize in guest amenities and recoveries for corporate and small businesses whether that is a board or custom gift boxes. Not many people know that we do gift boxes but those



who know use them as their go-to gift... I mean, who else is going to solve your last-minute gift tragedy AND deliver it to the recipient?? It doesn't get any easier than that!

What is the most rewarding part of owning The Grazing Fox?

We get to make people happy every single day. We never know what we will get when we deliver to a client, but it is always a "wow" reaction. Sometimes they are in tears because they received a beautiful, unexpected gift or they hug us because we filled a need during a hardship, or sometimes we get big smiles and lots of thank you's. The best is when a client takes the time from their Vail vacation to call or email us about how much they loved our food. We truly have the happiest clients and it makes our job so easy and fulfilling.

What do you find the most challenging aspect of operating a small business in the valley?

I would say it is the fluctuation of business due to shoulder and busy seasons. It is hard to forecast because every day/week/year looks different and much of my business depends on tourism. If we don't have enough snow at any point during the ski season, our caliber of clients just cancel their vacations.

How do you balance raising a family and running a business?

I don't believe in balance because I truly don't think that work and family are ever really balanced. But I do have a few rules I stick to that define success for me. For example, never setting an alarm in the morning, always being home for dinner, and dropping off/picking up my son from school 90% of the time.

To learn more, or to place an order, please visit thegrazingfox.com or email hello@thegrazingfox.com or contact Pamela at 970-279-1342.



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A Peak into History with Maggie Tedesco

Exploring the Eagle County Historical Society and its treasure trove of artifacts and stories from ranches and railroads to mines and cemeteries

CONTRIBUTED BY MAGGIE TEDESCO, SINGLETREE RESIDENT



Avon kids with a railroad exhibit



Kids with the map and artifacts

artifacts, as well as many colorful stories of the County's rich history and ancestry.

Shortly after having been laid off

from my corporate job, which I brought with me when my husband and I moved here from Washington, D.C., I answered a "help wanted" ad the ECHS had placed in the Vail Daily, looking for a part-time administrator. I've always found history fascinating and liked the prospect of getting more involved in the community. Every road trip throughout Colorado invariably leads to sights of old dilapidated barns, remains of what were once active homesteads, ranches, and abandoned mines, which always invoke wonder in me as to



The cemetery actors



Ranching and agriculture at the Museum

how the people who settled this land lived and worked. To my surprise and delight, I was hired and became the first-ever paid employee of the ECHS.

Up to that point, the ECHS had been formed and governed by an all-volunteer, diligent staff, including the Society's President, Kathy Heicher, who happens to be an award-winning author of numerous articles and several local history books. With a highly involved and hands-on Board of Directors, the ECHS works to preserve the county's history and presents numerous outreach programs to share their special knowledge with Eagle County's communities.

One of my first duties, and a particularly memorable day, was spent with Kathy when she presented a history program to forty or so second-graders at the Vail Library. She had brought along a large fabric map to show familiar landmarks to the students, and a chest full of interesting items they could touch and feel, including many Ute-made tools, such as pottery shards, replica arrowheads, and a "water bottle"

made from a tanned buffalo's bladder (which

elicited a few squeals from the children!) And even when the students sat quietly, intently listening to Kathy's presentation, I couldn't help but feel a palpable buzz in the room from the children's energy and enthusiasm.

Another unforgettable experience was a tour conducted by the ECHS at the Greenwood Cemetery in Red Cliff. For these cemetery tours, volunteer local actors convincingly portray a person buried there, sharing stories of how the person lived and died. The performances were both educational and entertaining, however, the stories really brought to light the hardships endured by folks living during that time. From the



The Nottingham plot at Red Cliff cemetery

ever-present fear of fires destroying their wood-built homes and businesses (heated by fire), to waiting for a doctor who might have to travel for days over harsh terrain to reach and tend to the sick. Just getting a minor infection, easily cured today, could have been life-threatening at that time.

This experience brought a definite human perspective to unknown, long-forgotten, overgrown headstones. ECHS thoroughly researched each of the chosen plots and created authentic scripts for the actors to deliver. Some of the graves do have recognizable names, as a few ancestors of the local Nottingham family, for example, are buried there, as well as County Sheriff Frank Farnum, and Lydia Tague, who was the first female Judge in Colorado.

It was during that cemetery tour when I learned what “Eagle Flight Days” are all about. Perhaps like me, you may have heard of the festival held annually in Eagle during June, and just assumed it had something to do with the airport. No, not at all! At one time, the town of Red Cliff was part of Summit County until the government mapped and patented the town as belonging to Eagle County in 1883, and Red Cliff became the first county seat of Eagle County. However, as the population of Red Cliff dwindled, and the Town of Eagle grew, Red Cliff maintains the county seat designation was “stolen” in 1921, when the county records were loaded onto a train in the dark of night and sent to Eagle. And the Town of Eagle has celebrated the “flight” of the county seat ever since! The truth was it took over 20 years and four public elections and lawsuits to move the seat permanently and legally.

Getting back to the museum, while folks have wished to donate items over the years, not all gifts can be readily accepted. It falls upon the staff and Board to research, catalog, and clearly define the donation’s ties to Eagle County prior to the items going on display. The unique artifacts there are carefully verified, and each display contains a write-up of the item’s backstory. In this manner, the artifacts give a cohesive picture, chronicling the County’s past, including its earliest Ute inhabitants, mining operations and agriculture, and archives even include the early development of our ski resorts.

I urge you to take a little time to get off the highway to visit the museum, which is housed in an unheated barn and open daily, 10 a.m. – 3 p.m., from late May through mid-September. You’ll find a friendly, knowledgeable docent there to tell you more about the displays, and just a small donation will gain you admission.



Lots of ranching in Eagle County history



Barb at the piano



Maggie at the Museum



Kids taking in history

Speaking of donations, it’s interesting to note that all the incredible, challenging work done by the Eagle County Historical Society is funded solely by donations, memberships, special events, such as the cemetery tours, book sales and a few small grants. ECHS is a 501C3 organization, and as such, membership fees and donations are 100% tax-deductible. ECHS also maintains their affiliation with Colorado Gives, a well-known charitable organization with strict ongoing membership requirements.

While I’m no longer employed by the Society, I do maintain my membership and try to attend as many of their fun and educational programs as possible, which, in addition to those already mentioned, include local history hikes, book signings, lectures, and an occasional “casino night” fundraiser. You can find much more information about the ECHS and upcoming events by visiting their website: eaglecountyhistoricalsociety.com, and by contacting them via email at: ECHS@eaglecountyhistoricalsociety.com.

For an even more enjoyable and rewarding experience, consider volunteering your time to help at one of their sponsored events, become a museum docent, or assist with ongoing maintenance of the museum and its artifacts. Our present is very much a product of our past and, as such, will always play a role in shaping our future. We are truly fortunate to have the Eagle County Historical Society working to preserve and promote our special “Valley.”



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LOVE WINS: REFLECTING ON THE IMPACT OF OBERGEFELL V. HODGES

Mimi Short and her wife, Lauren Sigman, and Todd Biekkola, and his husband, Kurt Bauer, share their perspectives on the 2015 ruling that changed the lives of same-sex couples

CONTRIBUTED BY MIMI SHORT, LAUREN SIGMAN, TODD BIEKKOLA,
AND KURT BAUER, SINGLETREE RESIDENTS
ARTICLE WRITTEN BY TIM SWIFT, SINGLETREE RESIDENT

The case can easily be made that history is a gradual evolution of events occurring over time, but the case can also be made that there are certainly specific dates throughout history that changed everything. True, these dates were always preceded by struggle, discovery, conflict, and commitment. That said, they are all remembered for their dates, not the years or eons that led up to each event.

- The signing of the Magna Carta by King John on June 15, 1215;
- Columbus landing on a Caribbean island in October 12, 1492;
- The British surrender at Yorktown on October 19, 1781;
- The repeal of Prohibition on December 5, 1933;
- The first successful detonation of an atomic device on July 16th 1945;
- The first launch of a human into space on April 12, 1973;
- The Row v. Wade decision on January 22, 1973; and
- The Obergefell v. Hodges ruling by the Supreme Court on June 26, 2015,

These dates were all incredibly significant in world history, and, depending on your particular point of view, literally changed civilization overnight for better or worse. While every one of these events were notable in their own right, I'm betting that all of you have at least heard of the first seven.

The eighth, however important it be in the social evolution of our country, is less known by its name than its result... removing the prohibition of same sex marriage throughout the country. It is that result and the June celebration of Pride month that led me to meet with two Singletree couples that are old enough to have lived through the many significant changes in the country that have brought the LGBTQ+ community to the acceptance and freedoms that they enjoy today.

Mimi Short, and her wife Lauren Sigman, and Todd Biekkola, and his husband Kurt Bauer, all live in Singletree and, although their backgrounds are different, they have all flourished despite having to endure the prejudices that all too often confronted gay people.



Mimi grew up in California in a family consisting of two gay mothers, each of whom brought two daughters to the relationship. Sadly, Mimi's mom and her stepmom were forced to stay closeted for fear of losing their jobs. But in 2008, the voters in California passed Proposition 8 legalizing same sex marriage and Mimi's mom and stepmom were finally able to marry after a 36 year engagement. Between 2008 and the final resolution by state court in 2013, the issue was under almost constant legislative and legal threat in California.

Mimi is a civil engineer and Lauren is a Certified Financial Planner with an MBA from Harvard who, for the years leading up to the *Obergefell* decision, has been engaged in fighting to secure the financial rights enjoyed by heterosexual couples for same sex couples. Prior to *Obergefell*, on the federal level, same sex couples could not file a joint tax return, share social security benefits, have the same rights to property in the case of divorce that heterosexual couples do, or enjoy military benefits. Lauren estimates that there are over 1,000 laws, regulations, or benefits that, prior to *Obergefell*, did not apply to same sex couples.

The *Obergefell* decision was such a huge part of Mimi and Lauren's lives that on the day





of its announcement, they went to Tiffany's at the Park Meadows mall to purchase their engagement rings and were married later in 2015!

Todd and Kurt have been together for 14 years and finally eloped to Alaska in 2021. They elected to celebrate in Alaska as Kurt had spent many happy years there and they had the opportunity to perform the ceremony at a friend's amazing cabin outside of Hope, Alaska, which was officiated by long-term Alaskans. They also chose this route in part because they felt it was easiest to elope rather than celebrate publicly because they were afraid some of their relatives might not come to their wedding because of their personal disapproval of same sex relationships.

Coincidentally, both Todd and Kurt grew up in small towns in Wisconsin and, due to the prejudices that are often found in small rural towns, were forced to remain closeted until 15 years ago when they met in Colorado. Kurt, also a civil engineer, has been working on health-related issues as they pertain to same sex partners. Without legal marriage, should one partner fall sick or get injured, the other partner has no right to make any health-

related decisions for the other unless there was a fully executed power of attorney in place prior to the affliction or the accident.

Todd, an accomplished architect, while he said that outright discrimination has rarely been evident in recent years, he still detects non-verbal, albeit disdain for same sex couples from time to time. Both Todd and Kurt are involved with the Human Rights Campaign (HRC), the primary LGBTQ+ lobbying group currently active in the US and indicated that there is still a great deal of work to be done.

It may surprise you that Pride Month has been a part of fabric of the LGBTQ+ movement since 1969. It began because of the NYPD raids on the Stonewall Inn, a gay bar in New York in June of that year. At the time, merely being gay was a crime. The riots that ensued after the police raids gave rise to the gay liberation movement and soon spread internationally.

Mountain Pride hosts its annual Pride in the Park celebration at Nottingham Park June 1. Pride in the Park is a community event that connects individuals with a variety of activities, organizations, and resources available in the Valley. To learn more about Pride Month events in Eagle County, just go to their website: www.mountainpride.org. And remember - love is love.

Between Happy's 28 years as a Singletree resident and Lisa's local knowledge of Edwards going back 20 years, we are your "in-house" experts. Whether you are curious about what adds the most value to your home in this area or you are considering selling your Singletree home this year and looking to purchase in the neighborhood or anywhere in the Valley, please call us. We would love to help!

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10 Prairie Circle | Single Family
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31 Appaloosa | Single Family
4 bd | 4 ba | 3,382 sf | \$2,500,000

751 Singletree Road 1 | Townhome
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70 Hackamore Road | Duplex
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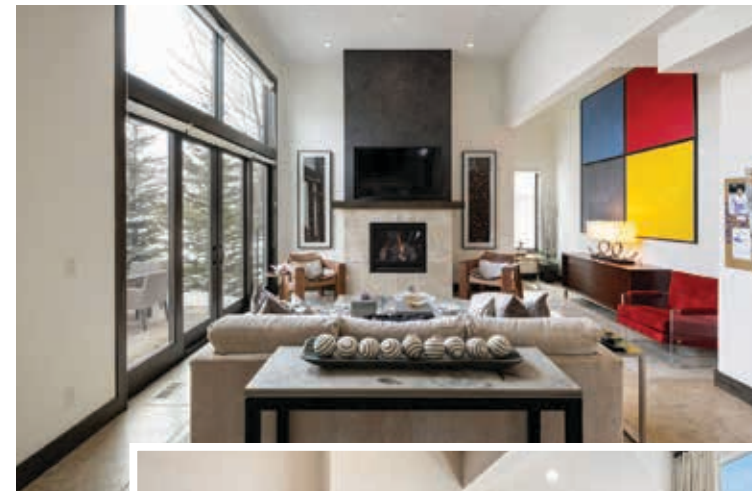
306 Hackamore Road A | Duplex
3 bd | 4 ba | 1,955 sf | \$1,255,000

81 Lariat Road B | Duplex
4 bd | 3 ba | 2,005 sf | \$1,420,000

640 Charolais Circle | Single Family
5 bd | 5 ba | 4,209 sf | \$3,950,000

Source: VMLS 3.15.24 - 4.15.24

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