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Isabella
&
Noah
Estrada

PHOTO BY
JEFFREY HULSE PHOTOGRAPHY

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AGENT
Professional that is legally
licensed to buy and sell
property for their clients.



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



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



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



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



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



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



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



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

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- Find road conditions before you head out. www.cotrip.org has current road information for Colorado Interstates and highways.
- Check out the local ski conditions before you hit the slopes at www.snow.com.
- See if your flight is departing on-time. Eagle County Regional Airport has its own website, www.flyvail.com.
- Get alerts about emergencies and other important community news by signing up to receive Eagle County Alerts at www.ecalert.org.
- Roads in Singletree are maintained by Eagle County. Please give snowplows plenty of space and keep the road right-of-way free of cars and trash cans. You can email them: road@eaglecounty.us.

Mark Your Calendar

Singletree's Wine Tasting is returning on Thursday, November 16, from 6 PM to 8 PM, at the Community Center. Pre-Payment is required to attend this event and it is limited to 75 people. [Email manager@singletreetoday.com](mailto:manager@singletreetoday.com) to sign up.

.....
Annual Holiday Party, Sunday, December 10, from 4 PM to 6 PM.
There will be holiday crafts, light snacks and drinks for all ages served.

SINGLETREE

Berry Creek Metro District and Singletree Property Owners' Association

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INSIDE Singletree

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

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PUBLISHERS NOTE

old, and his 4-year-old sister, Isabella. Their world revolves around Greek history, Harry Potter, trampolines, and flying unicorns, reminding us of the simple joys of life as seen through the eyes of youth. Sadly, life's tapestry is woven with both joy and sorrow, and we bid a heartfelt farewell to Ivy, a loyal companion who brought love and loyalty to the home of Holly and Kevin Kenney for 15 years. She is deeply missed.

We next transition to the open road as we follow the tracks of a group of 20 adventurers pedaling through the picturesque landscapes of Slovenia and Croatia. Their Backroads bicycle tour – a first for some and last for no one - is not just a journey of physical endurance, but a celebration of camaraderie amongst family and friends as well as a meaningful occasion to honor Brandon Merritt, who passed away at 22 from the debilitating effects of neurofibromatosis.

On Veterans Day, November 11, we have the opportunity to recognize

those veterans who have proudly served our country on Veterans Day. It is our honor to pay tribute to John Krueger, Battle Mountain High School graduate and distinguished Naval veteran, and Mike Ross, proud Army veteran carrying on the multi-generational military tradition in the Ross family. And from a different perspective, we honor our military through the unique world of genealogy, where Veronica Ross happens upon a Purple Heart in Leadville and reunites a precious piece of history with its rightful owner.

May this November be filled with warmth, reflection, and gratitude for the connections that make life truly extraordinary. Wishing you a Happy Thanksgiving filled with joy!

Warm regards,



Holly Proctor
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HELLO SINGLETREE RESIDENTS!

Welcome to the November issue of your neighborhood magazine, a collection of stories that touch the heart, inspire adventure, and honor the veterans who have proudly served our country.

In the spirit of innocence, we meet Noah Estrada, a bright-eyed 8-year-

NOVEMBER CONTRIBUTORS

Your personal Singletree publication is **BY YOU** and **FOR YOU**. It is not possible without **YOUR** stories and photos! Email holly.proctor@n2co.com to contribute to an upcoming issue of your neighborhood magazine.



JEFFERY HULSE
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TIM SWIFT
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**ISABELLA & NOAH
ESTRADA**
Kids' Corner



JOHN KRUEGER
Veterans Day Tribute



HOLLY & KEVIN KENNEY
Precious Pets



SHANNON & JAY KIZER
Travel Tales



VERONICA ROSS
Passions and Pursuits



DEBRA SWAIN
Athlete Spotlight



MIKE ROSS
Veterans Day Tribute

In partnership with Castle Peaks Senior Life, local painter Will Theoharides will donate 25% of the purchase price of all artwork sold to the Castle Peak's Bridge Fund, to raise awareness and funds to support seniors in the Vail Valley.

What is the *Bridge Fund*?

Castle Peak believes high quality senior care should be available to all older adults in need of long-term skilled nursing care, regardless of a person's financial capacity. On average, two thirds of the long-term care residents of Castle Peak outlive their financial resources and utilize Medicaid for payment, but Medicaid does not cover the entire cost of providing care in the region. The Bridge Fund helps bridge the gap for these residents, allowing them to continue to receive the care and services they need to age well in the valley. With community support, we can ensure these essential services continue to be available to everyone in need.

For additional information or to schedule a studio tour please call, email, or text.

914 907 8465

wpt@shelternart.com

In collaboration with the Vail Valley Art Guild, the artists of Singletree will be displaying and offering their art for sale and generously donating 25% of the sale proceeds to Castle Peak's Bridge Fund. Celebrate the season and a good cause with your friends and neighbors!

Join the artists of Singletree for a festive evening of art and wine!

Save the date

December 12, 2023

Singletree Community Center



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36" x 47"

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CURIPAWSITY

Hello Singletree! My name is Emily and I'm your dog's new best friend! Sometimes referred to as the "Treat Lady", I am a local dog trainer offering in-home dog training services to you and your pup! Ranging from puppy and adolescent training to fear and reactivity training (some of our dogs



have big emotions), I'm here to help your family experience the joys of dog guardianship.

Like many of us, I landed in Eagle County ready to enjoy as many powder days as possible and in between powder days, I discovered the magic that is summer in the mountains! I've called the Valley home since 2009 and I spend as much time outside as possible enjoying this beautiful playground where we live. One of my favorite ways to enjoy our collective backyard is with my dog, Dozo, by my side. If you have a dog, you may feel the same! My goal is to help you build your relationship with your dog so that we can all safely enjoy our lives here together. All dogs are good dogs, some just need a little support. I look forward to meeting you and your pups!

To learn more, please visit curipawsity.com or contact Emily at 970-343-2871.



VAIL VALLEY ORGANIZER

Hi! My name is Ramona Ryden. My business is Vail Valley Organizer and I would love to help you simplify your life with my unique organization skills. My parents always said I came out of the womb and organized my own nursery. I truly care about making your life easier and learning your story - needs, wants, and goals - which will lead to the best results for you. Being honest, connecting, and helping people is my passion when I'm not skiing, biking, strength training, swimming, listening to hard rock music, travelling, and being entertained with all that our beautiful valley has to offer. Being detailed means dedicating large amounts of care and consideration to the

task at hand; I will even read every word of a document that you don't want to read.

I was born in Greeley, Colorado, and spent many of my childhood weekends traversing Vail Mountain. I am fortunate enough to live and work in my happy place. I have a Management degree and International Business certificate from Portland State University, I am a certified paralegal, I have worked in IT, accounting/finance, HR, and even welcomed Denver Broncos Skybox fans as a lead hostess.

I had the pleasure of managing my Mom's estate after my Dad passed away. She was overwhelmed and full of grief. She needed someone whom she trusted to pay bills, complete tax preparation, handle personal property, and de-clutter spaces so she could downsize her world. I also found myself advocating on her behalf as she transitioned into senior living and interpreting her long-term care insurance. She had the best credit score of her life while I was managing her finances! I have the wherewithal and communication skills to maneuver through complex entities when it comes to organizing someone's life. I enjoyed our final years together and the work was so fulfilling that I chose to make organizing my career.

For additional information, please visit VailValleyOrganizer.com or contact Ramona at 970-390-9278 or VailValleyOrganizer@gmail.com.



JEFFREY HULSE PHOTOGRAPHY

"My name is Jeff Hulse and I am a family and portrait photographer in the Vail Valley. I specialize in a variety of lighting techniques that cater to my clients' needs. I believe there is no right or wrong way to shoot as a photographer. I believe that to find yourself as a photographer, one should master every discipline of photography, as I have done for

the past 18 years. I truly enjoy the science of light, innovating catch phases, and sharing my talent with people."

As an avid skier and cyclist, Jeff's love of the outdoors led him to Vail in 2002 from Rochester, NY. He took a position as a bellman at the Sonnenalp Hotel, where he had the good fortune to meet Todd Winslow Peirce, local professional landscape and conservation photographer. Jeff was inspired and guided by Todd's work, and soon took what he had learned to pursue his own career in photography. Today, Jeff specializes in portrait photography, including individuals, couples, families, and meaningful events.

To learn more, please visit jeffreyhulsephotography.com or contact Jeff at jeff@jeffreyhulsephotography.com or 970-343-0997.

What business do you know that would benefit from reaching their ideal clients in Singletree? If you have worked with a professional and reliable business that you would recommend to your Singletree neighbors, please email your referrals to holly.proctor@n2co.com. We would love to introduce your favorite businesses to other residents in your community!

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Noah

Isabella Estrada

PHOTOGRAPHY BY JEFFREY HULSE PHOTOGRAPHY



Noah and Isabella Estrada live on Singletree Road with their parents, Isabella and Daniel. Noah will be 8 years old on November 6 and is in the second grade at St. Clare. Isabella is 4 years old and she attends the Edwards Early Learning Center. We start with big brother before getting to know Isabella.

What is the best thing about 2nd grade? History! Because the Greeks thought there were many gods and their town was named something like Athena. It was made up by the gods and they made a Parthenon for Athena and there was no marble in the city so they went to a very far place to get marble. In total, all the marble they used was like 13,000 pieces. And we have little chunks of marble and we are building a Parthenon - like a little one with little cubes of marble. And I like P.E. and the Turtle Game.

What do you like to do when you are not in school? Um... make my friends come over. I have one friend who always comes over. He is in 3rd grade and his name is Joseph. He always comes over and we always go on the trampoline and we practice flips. We are trying to learn to do backflips but it's a little complicated. And we build a fort on that chair. We put a blanket over it and put a pillow here for the door. Then we get some money and put some stuffies in it and we pretend we sell them.

Do you ski? Yes. I ski very well. You know blue and green? I can go up to the single Diamond. I ski at Beaver Creek. I like



Jackrabbit Alley in the trees, I like Gunders and it's like this steep [with a show of steep with his hand].

Do you swim? Yes. I am on the swim team. I like rotary breathing. It's like freestyle. I am Level 5. [And here we have a demonstration for each level - 1 thru 5 - of freestyle swim strokes].

I hear you might be a Harry Potter fan. I know all the theme songs, like my friend and I watch mostly the movies. I read the first book. My favorite movies are # 4, #3, and #2. #4 because he's underwater and it's pretty cool and there's like a final battle and he goes against other wizards from different schools. And #2 because there is a chamber that



has been opened by another person and Harry battles a giant snake and it's so big, and he also has to follow a lot of spiders and there was a giant spider from here to here [as he runs from one side to the other of the living room].

What is your favorite vacation ever? Dallas. Because we get to go see our grandparents. And our uncle and aunt also live in Dallas and they are members of a club and we get to go there. There is a splash court and little pools and there is a diving board and I got to do a front flip off it!

If you could be an animal in the jungle, what would you be? A gorilla. I really like the silverbacks. I don't know. I just really like them.

What do you want to be when you grow up? A pilot. Because one time when we were going to Dallas, I went up to the front where the pilots are and I saw all these buttons and I thought it was so cool. And there is a handle and the pilot told me when you push it forward you go faster and when you pull it you go slower. He kind of tricked me and he told me the plane was automatic and I said "whoa" and he said he was kidding. The pilot gave me the microphone and I got to say "All aboard" and then "Hello everyone, my name is Noah".

Where would you like to fly as a pilot? I want to go to San Diego. There are really nice beaches. And I want to go to Florida because I have been there. We went to Grayton

ENTER ISABELLA WHO IS READY TO CHAT!

What is your favorite thing to do when you go to school? Be in the park. I like the swings.

What do you like to learn in class? Art. I like crafts. [And Mom pipes in: Painting. Drawing. Mixing colors.]

What is your favorite color? Pink.

What do you like to do when you are not at school? I like to see TV. I like to watch Charlie Brown. And Snoopy.

Do you like music? I like to dance.

Do you go to gymnastics? I like to be on the trampoline - learning how to do flips.

What is your favorite animal? A unicorn flies.

What is your favorite stuffie? A bear. It's named Rainbow.

What is your favorite dessert? Cake. Chocolate cake.

What is your favorite food? Lasagna.

What do you like to make in the kitchen? Salad. I put in some broccoli. And carrots. And cheese. And leaves (she means spinach)!

Do you have a favorite game? My favorite game is sit in a car and go fly.

And a few final words from Mom: Isabella is a dancer and she is very artistic. She is very athletic and she does flips on the trampoline and rides the bike.

Beach and the water was so clear. We saw lots of fish and I tried to catch one but they were so fast. And I want to check out different countries. Like Asia has kind of a cool name for me.'

What is your favorite song? *Where Is My Mind?* The Pixies sing it. And I am working on the piano. I take lessons. I learned how to play *Moonlight Sonata*, *Where is My Mind?*, and I know the first part of *Symphony 5*. On the very last day of piano, we did a recital on stage and I was so nervous. I played the *Sea Story*.

Anything else you would like to share? They take me out of my class because I am the smartest one. They take me to a special secret class to test me. In kindergarten, I was in 3rd grade level. In 1st grade, I was in 4th grade level. And now I am in 2nd grade, I am in 5th grade level. All of my class are still in the 2nd grade level.

What piece of advice would you give to adults, what would it be? If you put your mind to it, you can accomplish anything.



USS Independence Cruise Book Photo - 1991

HONORING HOMETOWN HERO, JOHN KRUEGER, ON VETERANS DAY

Battle Mountain High School graduate and distinguished Naval veteran John Krueger flew 33 combat missions in support of Operation Desert Storm

CONTRIBUTED BY JOHN KRUEGER, SINGLETREE RESIDENT
ARTICLE WRITTEN BY TIM SWIFT, SINGLETREE RESIDENT

Given the rather transient nature of our community and the number of part-time residents that all help to contribute to the varied character that is Singletree, it is not often that we get a chance to meet a resident who not only lives here full-time, but holds the distinction of being born and raised in the Valley. It was, therefore, a unique opportunity to interview Singletree resident, Battle Mountain High School graduate, and distinguished Naval veteran John Krueger.

John's interest in the Naval service actually began before he graduated from Battle Mountain, as he had received a congressional

appointment to the Naval Academy in Annapolis, MD following his older brother Berne's lead. Things got a bit sticky, however, as a result of his pre-admission physical exam being administratively misplaced.

But John being John, that little wrinkle did not deter him from fulfilling his commitment to serve. He began his post-high school education at the Naval Academy prep school, and from there he transferred to the University of Colorado in their Naval ROTC program. As great as CU was for John, he had always harbored a desire to attend Notre Dame, and he made that happen when he transferred there and took his ROTC scholarship

with him. He thrived at Notre Dame and graduated in 1987 with an engineering degree and a commission in the Navy with the rank of Ensign, and the promise of attending flight school in Pensacola, FL.

From South Bend, but before flight school, the Navy sent him to serve in the Pentagon in the Office of Navy Information. In August of 1987, his dream of attending flight school became a reality when he was finally sent to Pensacola, FL. It was there that the doctors discovered that the vision in his right eye was 20-25! Not terrible, but off just enough to disqualify him from becoming a pilot!

Although John had less than 20-20 vision in his right eye, which did disqualify him from Navy Pilot training, it did not disqualify him from Navy Flight Officer training. What's the difference, you might wonder? For that answer, I'll point to that classic 80's film, *Top Gun*. You, of course, remember Maverick and Goose. Well, Maverick was the Naval Aviator and sat in the front seat. Goose was the Naval Flight Officer and sat in the rear. The basic difference was that Maverick



Naval Flight Officer Warfare Designation Ceremony with Krueger family - June 1989



Cross Country Flight Training and meet up with Brother Berne at El Toro MCAS - 1988



John with Claire and Davis

qualified to fly the F-14, and Goose qualified to do everything in the F-14 short of actually taking over the stick and rudder. Got it? Ok, let's move on.

John excelled at flight school graduating 4th in his class of 30, but despite his distinguished record, he did not get his first choice of aircraft. Instead, the Navy said they needed him more as a flight officer on the E2C Hawkeye. What exactly is the E2C Hawkeye, you ask? Well, the Hawkeye is an incredibly sophisticated twin turbo-prop engine carrier-based aircraft that has the vital role of taking off first during any carrier operation and circling above the fray using its powerful technical payload to control the operations of the aircraft, the carrier, and the entire carrier task force. This was John's job and it was not a small task.

After graduating as a Naval Flight Officer in January 1990, he was assigned to the USS Midway, CV 41, and stationed in Japan. That was just before the start of the first Gulf War, Desert Storm. In the fall of 1990, his task force sailed to the North Arabian Sea. When the war began, so did John's wartime service. During that conflict, John was nominated for the Strike/Flight Air Medal and flew 33 total combat missions in support of Operation Desert Storm. His task force remained in the Arabian Sea for

the duration of that conflict. When the first Gulf War ended, the Midway carrier group headed south to participate with the Australian Navy in celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Battle of the Coral Sea. That epic WWII battle was a pivotal naval engagement that changed the balance of power in favor of the Allies in the South Pacific and dramatically contributed to shortening the war.

After his service on the USS Midway, John and the entire ship's company and air wing transferred to the USS Independence, CV 62.

Fortunately, the transfer occurred in Hawaii. It was with that carrier group that he headed back to the Gulf until 1992.

It was in 1992 that John returned to terra firma and became an Assistant Professor of Naval Science in the Naval ROTC unit at Prairie View A&M, a HBCU in Prairie View, Texas. In 1993, he became the Officer in Charge and Acting Department Chairman of the NROTC unit and along the way, earned a Masters in Education from the University of St. Thomas in Houston.

In 1994, John's Naval service came to an end, and he returned to the warm embrace of the Vail Valley where he continued his intellectual adventures earning an MBA from a University of Denver program based in Avon.

Today, John owns and operates J. Krueger and Company, a development and general contracting firm; he has developed properties in the Vail, Eagle Vail, Cordillera, Eagle, Homestead, and Singletree neighborhoods. His two children, Claire and Davis, are each continuing in different aspects of their father's footsteps. Clare graduated from the University of Notre Dame as a mechanical engineer in the Air Force ROTC program, and since September has been serving as an Air Force Engineer in England; Davis is at CU studying mechanical engineering and is a triathlete on the CU team.

So, John Krueger, thank you so much for your service to your nation as well as your community. You have every reason to be justly proud of both.



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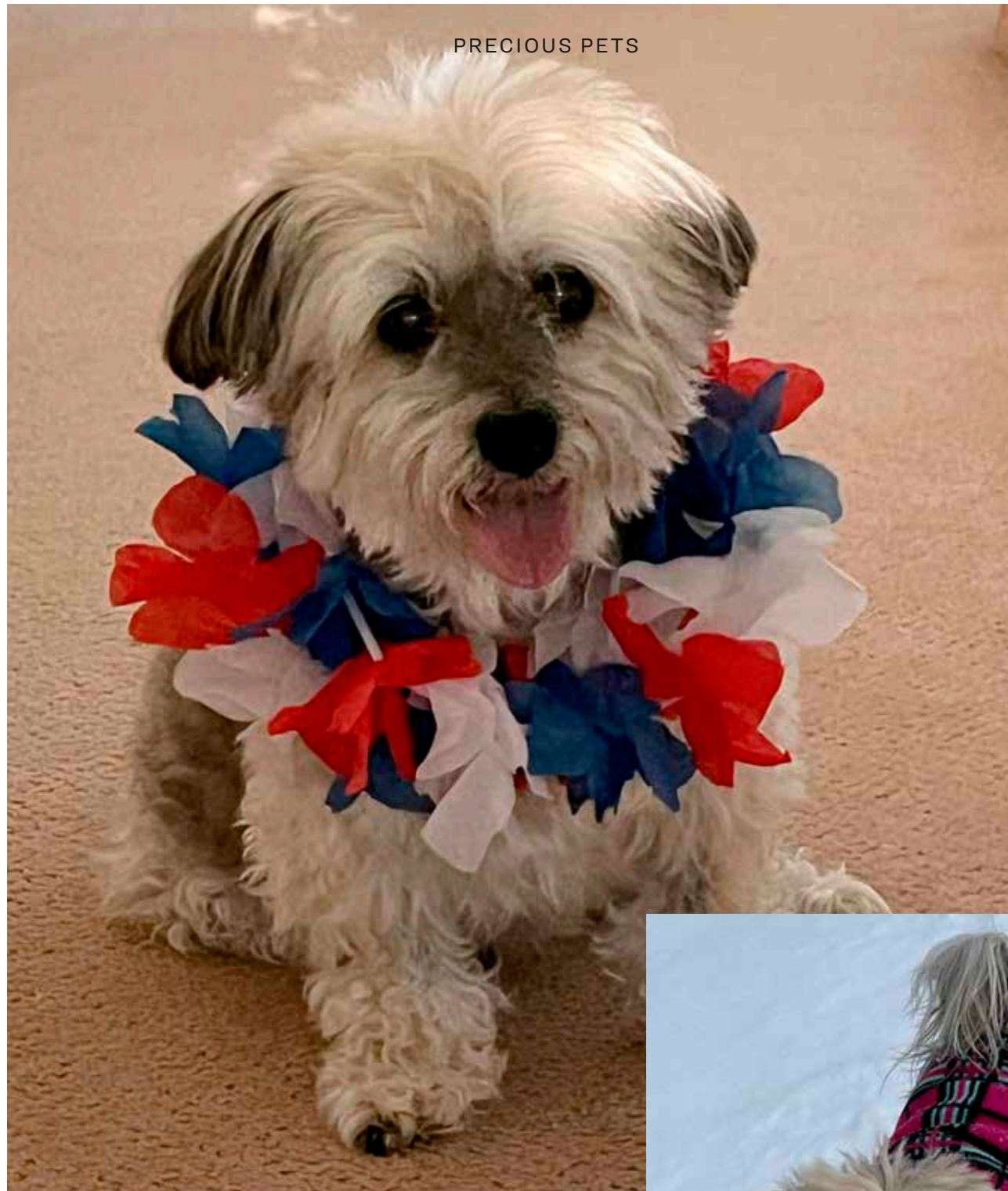
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FAREWELL TO A FURRY FRIEND: REMEMBERING IVY'S JOYFUL SPIRIT

CONTRIBUTED BY HOLLY AND KEVIN KENNEY, SINGLETREE RESIDENTS



This is Ivy, our precious little Havanese puppy who just turned 15 in May. Ivy always led a simple and peaceful life - no other pets, children, or chaos! Not to say she hasn't always been active and fun all these years.

Her favorite walk was at Freedom Park where she would run down the hill right into the "Big Dog" mix. Eventually, she would end up simply observing them play and run in and out of the water realizing that 16 pounds was no match for the big guys!

Ivy loved doing errands with Mommy, her head out the car window - ears and whiskers blowing in the breeze. She loved going to the bank and walking around Riverwalk in and out of the stores where she knew there was always a cookie in her future! Finally pooped, Ivy would retreat to our closet where it was dark and quiet for her nap.

At night, Ivy loved her massages from Daddy, lying on his chest, those beautiful dark eyes staring into his eyes. When wanting a treat from him, she would do what we called her "cookie dance" moving side to side from one leg to another. So cute! During the day she was always by Mommy's side.

But also in May, Ivy was diagnosed with Lymphoma. She faced this challenge bravely and stoically all summer long but on August 30, it got the best of her and we sent her to be with Jesus. We miss her terribly. God bless our little Ivy!

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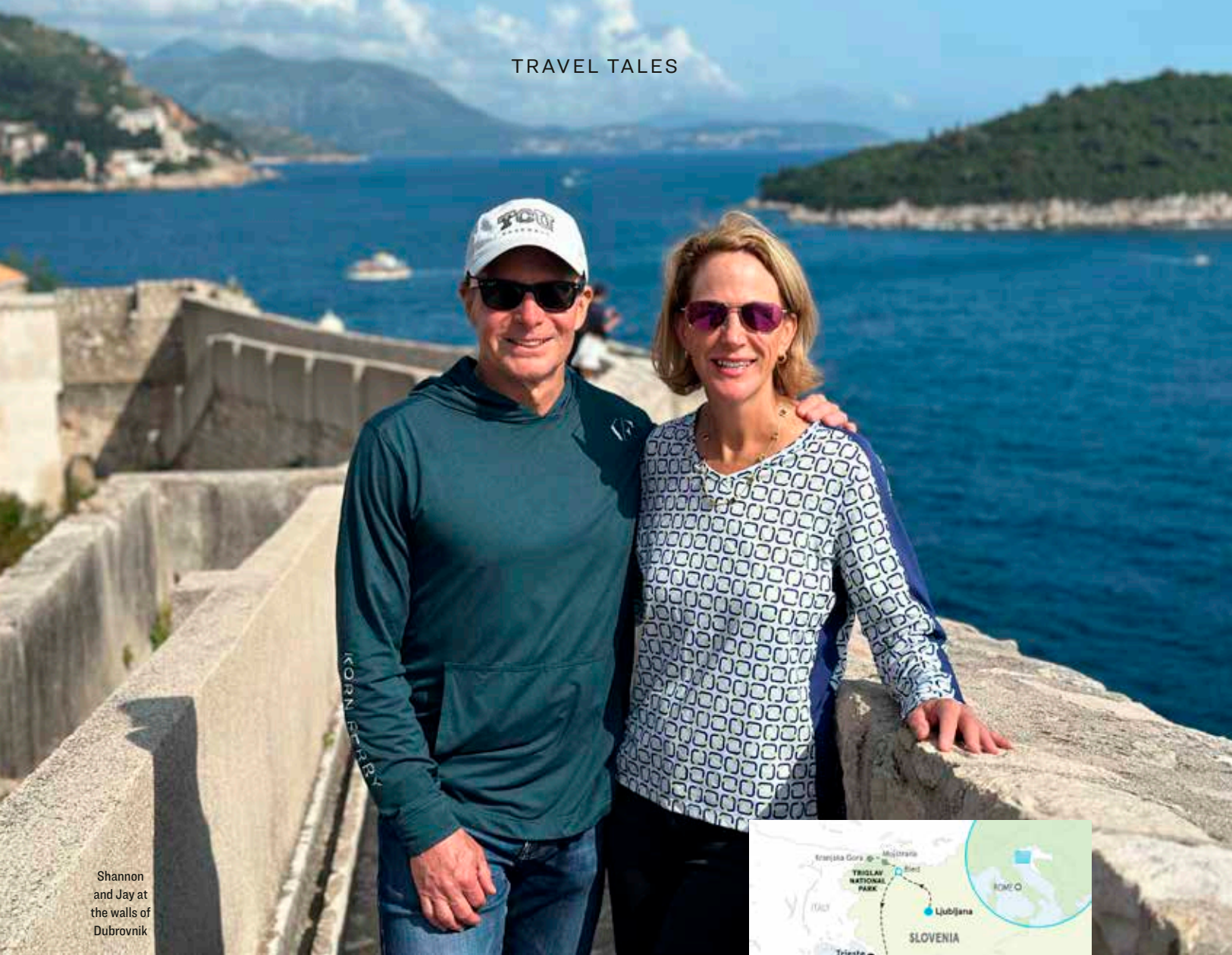
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Shannon and Jay at the walls of Dubrovnik

CASTLES, COASTLINES, AND COUNTRYSIDES: A CYCLING EXPEDITION THROUGH CROATIA AND SLOVENIA

Shannon and Jay Kizer, Debbie and Ralph Merritt, and Renee and Kerry Chelm join family and friends on a Backroads adventure

CONTRIBUTED BY SHANNON AND JAY KIZER, SINGLETREE RESIDENTS
ARTICLE WRITTEN BY TIM SWIFT, SINGLETREE RESIDENT



The Backroads route from Slovenia to Croatia



The view looking down at Dubrovnik



Renee and Kerry Chelm in Radovljica, Slovenia



A toast to a great day on the bikes in Radovljica



Lake Bled

The adventures that our Singletree neighbors experience seem to be as varied as our neighbors themselves.

Our latest group of intrepid travelers are three Singletree families: Shannon and Jay Kizer, Debbie and Ralph Merritt, and Renee and Kerry Chelm. The Kizers, Merritts, and Chlems joined 10 other folks, all friends and family, on a six-day bike adventure to Slovenia and Croatia with the well-known active adventure tour company, Backroads.

While they all went on the bike trip, the Kizers were not content to just spend six days in Slovenia and Croatia. They began their adventure in London with a visit with their son Jenner, his wife Lisa, and their one-year-old grandson, James. They spent a week with them before heading off to Croatia to explore the beauty and history of Dubrovnik, Split, the island of Hvar, and the spectacular Plitvice Lakes National Park. From there, they traveled to Ljubljana in Slovenia where they met up with the Merritts and the Chlems and the rest of their group to begin their biking journey, but they didn't bike without some local help.

Backroads provided three outstanding Croatian guides whose job it was to make sure

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that the routes were carefully explained each day, the luggage was transferred from hotel to hotel along the route as well as driving the “Sag Wagon” in case there were any problems with the bikes or the legs of the pedalers. And, speaking of bikes, four of the group opted for road bikes, and the other twelve chose e-bikes. Jay Kizer chose a road bike and Shannon rode an e-bike. Shannon was frank to admit that on the often challenging terrain of the trip, she was very happy with her choice of conveyance.

Day One began with a 30-minute shuttle bus trip from their hotel to their embarkation point, the town of Kranj in Slovenia. The route took them from Kranj through the foothills of the Julian Alps to the town of Bled on the shore of the glacial Lake Bled. Along their route, they visited the classic medieval town of Radovijica where they had lunch at a local restaurant.

One of the most comforting aspects of any Backroads tour is the route planning, and our adventurous bikers’ trip was no exception. The riders had a choice of three routes to take from Kranj to Bled, 16 miles, 29 miles, or 35 miles - with elevation gains of from 1,400’ to 2,600’ depending on the route each biker chose. Given those elevation gains, an e-bike looked like a pretty good choice!

Day Two was a bit more of a challenge. It was a loop that began and ended in Bled, but depending on the route chosen was either 24 miles (3,700’ elevation gain), 30 miles (3,700’), 44 miles (4,700’), or the Iron Man Pokjuka Route (no, really, that’s what it’s called), 55 miles (7,000’). The riders certainly earned their dinner that evening at the Bled Castle Restaurant, located in a medieval castle that is over a thousand years old! Let’s hear it again for e-bikes!

Days 3, 4, 5, and 6 were more of the same - multiple mileage routes with significant elevation changes depending on the route each person chose, but they were by no means the same when it came to the attractions, views, and hotels. From Bled, the route led the pedalers through the picture-perfect Radnova Valley and the mountaineering town of Mojstrana, and across the border into Croatia, where highlights included Croatia’s truffle capital, the striking landscape of central Istria, and views of Lim Fjord. Vineyards, history, culture, and terrain were all laid out at the feet (or wheels) of the group, and the group enjoyed savoring them all with the help of their wonderful guides.



1

1 / Celebrating a canoe adventure to the castle at Lake Bled 2 / Friends and family in the Backroads group 3 / Debbie and Ralph Merritt in Dvigrad, an abandoned town in Central Istria, Croatia 4 / Jay crossing the border from Slovenia into Croatia



2



3



4

The trip ended in the town of Meneghetti in Croatia where the travelers enjoyed a final night dinner at the Wine Hotel & Restaurant. But the end of the bike trip was not the end of Shannon and Jay’s travels. From Meneghetti, they were bussed to Trieste in Italy. From there, they hopped on a train and headed to Venice for a night where they celebrated their 37th wedding anniversary before jumping on a plane for a return trip to London and another visit with their grandson! While Shannon and Jay’s bike trip was their first, she promised that it would definitely not be their last.

Debbie and Ralph Merritt organized the trip for the group as they had been on many such trips prior to this one, but they added some special meaning to the Croatia trip. Debbie is the Executive Director of B The Difference, a not-for-profit organization that was founded in 2011 by Stephanie Johnson and Jessica Roberts to honor their brother, Brandon, who passed away at 22 from the debilitating effects of neurofibromatosis (“NF”). NF is a disease that attacks the nervous system by developing tumors on nerve endings.

One of the photos accompanying this article is the whole group wearing green jerseys sporting turtles emblazoned with a large “B”. This is the logo of B The Difference because turtles were Brandon’s favorite animal. It is truly a touching tribute to both Brandon and the organization that was founded in his memory and fundraises to support patients and their families dealing with NF. If you have an interest in learning more or supporting NF, please visit www.BtheDifference.org. Your donation will mean a lot.

5 / Wine tasting the last night at the Meneghetti Hotel and Winery in Croatia 6 / B the Difference jerseys donned by all 7 / Shannon and Jay celebrating their 37th Anniversary in Venice

“

Shannon and Jay’s bike trip was their first, she promised that it would definitely not be their last.”



5



6



7

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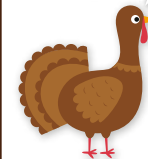
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A PURPLE HEART FINDS ITS WAY HOME

Veronica Ross embarks on an emotional journey to reunite a precious piece of history with the family of Sergeant Albert Caryl McBride, a native of Leadville

CONTRIBUTED BY VERONICA ROSS, SINGLETREE RESIDENT



Genealogy is like a scavenger hunt and a jigsaw puzzle all rolled into one.”

- DOLORES J. RUSH

I am writing to introduce myself and share a heartwarming story that unfolded in our beloved Eagle Valley. As a lifelong resident and third-generation Eagle Valley resident, my roots in this beautiful region run deep. My connection to this place goes back to the days when my grandparents first set foot in the valley, around 1936. To this day, my mother continues to call Gilman, Colorado her birthplace and resides in Red Cliff.

Professionally, I've dedicated several decades of my life to the Eagle County Paramedic Services, serving as their Finance Manager. While I'd love to divulge the exact duration of my service, I'll keep that under wraps to keep my age a secret.

Beyond my career, my most cherished and significant hobby is genealogy. Delving into family history has been a source of fascination and frustration alike. I've diligently researched and had my findings certified for several family lines, uncovering remarkable connections to historical figures include the illustrious Charlemagne. I'm also proud to share that my

genealogical pursuits successfully led to my husband and sons receiving certification as Sons of the American Revolution. The inherent challenge in genealogy is what fuels my passion for this endeavor.

Last summer a seemingly ordinary trip to Leadville with my mother turned into an extraordinary experience. We ventured there for lunch and a bit of treasure hunting among garage sales and thrift stores, all in pursuit of her beloved milk glass and Depression glass. Little did I know that fate had something extraordinary in store for me that day.

During our visit, we had the pleasure of meeting a lifelong Leadville resident who had amassed an impressive collection of memorabilia unique to the area. Among her treasures were photographs of Leadville residents from bygone eras, acquired through the purchase of entire estates which she then sold to collectors and enthusiasts. My interest was piqued, and I expressed a desire to locate the descendants of the individuals depicted in these family photos, cards, and belongings.

To my surprise, this gracious woman offered me an item of immense value that had been collecting dust in her garage for decades, ready to be disposed of. In my mind, this item was a true gem, one that any family would treasure. Instead of offering to purchase it, I made the unconventional proposal – I offered to “take” it, with the solemn promise that I would find the rightful family. To my astonishment, she entrusted me with this precious cargo and requested that I inform her once I had succeeded in reuniting it with its true owners.

While there was excitement beyond imagination for this passionate genealogist, what I received that day also placed an immense weight of responsibility and determination upon my shoulders. It was a Purple Heart Certificate, accompanied by a

photo, paperwork, and claim forms addressed to the hero's mother, Frances, who resided in Leadville. The certificate belonged to Sergeant Albert Caryl McBride, a native of Leadville, born in 1933. He proudly served in the United States Air Force, enlisting on November 22, 1965. As a Technical Sergeant, he served aboard the AC47-Gunship Spooky with the call sign “Ghost Rider” as a flight engineer.

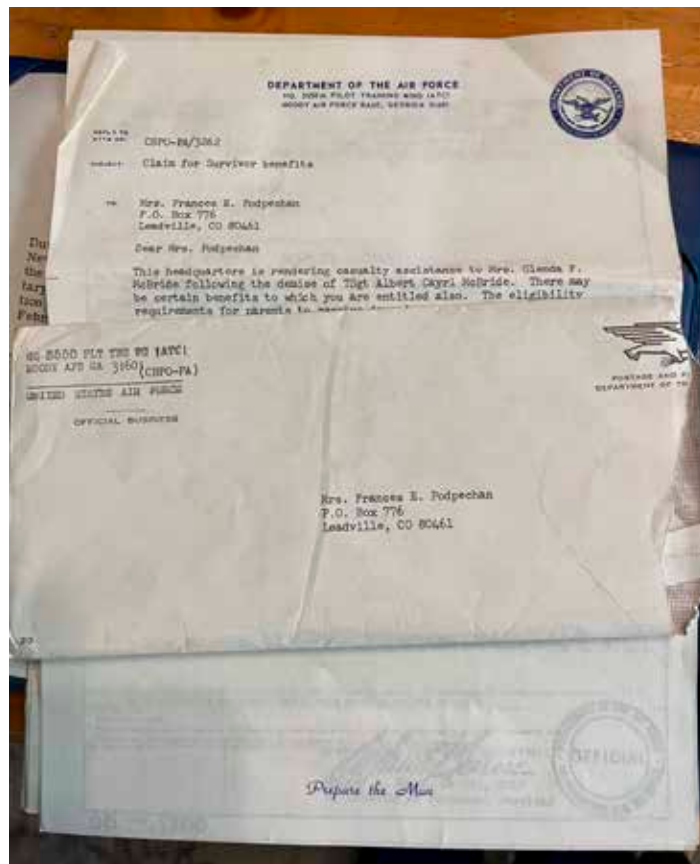
Sergeant McBride was married to Glenda Fay Venable, and they had three young sons when he was called to serve his first tour in Vietnam. He commenced his tour on August 4, 1969, stationed in Long Khanh, in the Southern Province of Vietnam, assigned to the 4th Special Ops SQDN, 14th Special Ops Wing, 7th AF. Tragically, on September 1, 1969, while on a night patrol, his gunship was dispatched from Bien Hoa Air Base to support friendly troops under enemy attack about 20 miles east of Bien Hoa. E

Engaging the enemy in the target area, their gunship was hit by enemy fire along the starboard side. While attempting to return to Bien Hoa Air Base, the plane crashed into a mountain, claiming the lives of all the crew members on board. This incident marked the last loss of an AC-47 USAF Spooky gunship in Southeast Asia during the war, leaving behind Sergeant McBride's beautiful bride and their three very young sons.

Upon unearthing these details during my initial investigation, I was unwaveringly committed to finding Sergeant McBride's family and returning his invaluable possession to them. My quest led me to discover that his wife, Glenda, had passed away in 1998 in Georgia, and the benefits claim forms in my possession indicated that Sergeant McBride had been stationed in Georgia where his wife was originally from. Remarkably, she hadn't moved since 1969. Further research



TSgt Albert C. McBride is shown in the lower left corner of the AC-47 “SPOOKY” gunship memorial plaque



revealed that one of his sons, James, had sadly passed away in 2019. The obituaries of both Glenda and James were my last leads. With no more clues at hand, I turned to the trusty White Pages, embarking on a mission to call every Kenneth and Michael McBride in the surrounding areas. Without a doubt, the recipients of my calls must have thought I was more than a little out of my mind calling complete strangers.

However, my persistence paid off. On Saturday, April 15, 2023, Kenneth McBride, one of Sergeant McBride's sons, returned my call. He expressed that he believed in the legitimacy of my quest because no one in the world could have known his father's identity given that his mother had remarried, and everyone they knew assumed that their stepfather was their biological father.

I am thrilled to share that on April 23, 2023, Mr. Kenneth McBride and his brother Michael received their father's Purple Heart. It was a deeply meaningful and emotional moment for all of us with both of us crying on the phone even though we were complete strangers. They had never seen the photograph contained within the certificate and were unaware of the heartbreaking fact that their grandmother, Frances, had never filed the claims for her Gold Star Benefits. This experience has been a true blessing, and I'm grateful for the opportunity to have played such a big part in reuniting a precious piece of history with the McBride family.



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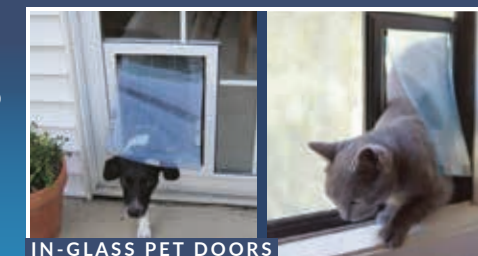
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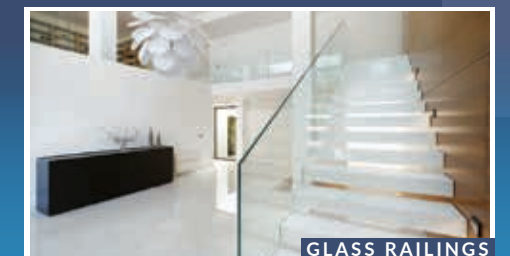
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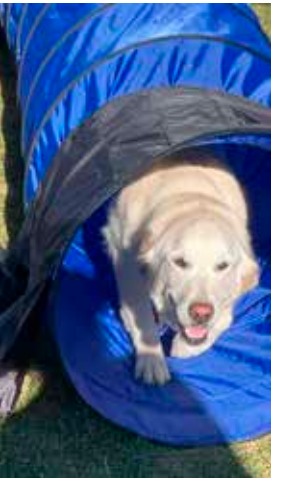


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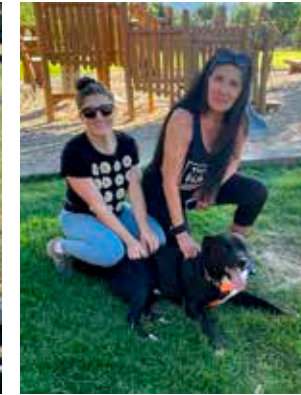
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A LONG JOURNEY TO THE TOP 10

Debra Swain overcomes injuries, surgeries, and self doubt to rank 9th in the United States in fencing

CONTRIBUTED BY DEBRA SWAIN, SINGLETREE RESIDENT



Vail Fencing Vets (L to R): Mark Barandy, John Wills, Don Watson, Deb Swain, Cooter Overcash

Nine years ago, I started fencing with the Vail Valley Fencing Club. I had no previous experience but decided to try something new. I was lucky to start at that time and here in Vail. Four excellent fencers were part of the club: John Wills (Master Fencing Instructor, died 2019), Mark Barandy (died 2020), Cooter Overcash (Assistant coach, moved to Austin in 2021), and Don Watson (head of the Vail Valley Fencing Club from its inception through today). Not only did I learn from these four men, but I also fenced middle school and high school fencers, three of whom have competed at the Junior Olympics.

In 2016, I was training 4-5 days a week and qualified for the Nationals in Salt Lake City. With the last Sunday in June as a day of rest before the drive to SLC, I went hiking with a friend up Gore Creek Trail to the grave sites, a hike I'd easily done 100 times before. On the way down, a slip on a rock and an extension of my left arm to protect my head resulted in a seriously broken wrist. I did ask Dr. Viola, my surgeon, if I could still fence at the tournament since I had only broken my left wrist. There were several skeptical looks on the faces of the surgery team.

It was 2018 when I finally made it to the Nationals. I finished 28th and learned a lot about what it might take to get into the top ten. Over the next three years, coaches continued to tell me that I needed to bend my legs more and attack. Unfortunately, my right leg hurt when I tried that. I tried physical therapy, more stretching, taping my leg, and got into yoga. None of that fixed the problem. After trying a cortisone shot and a knee brace for skiing, which didn't alleviate the issue, I opted for total knee replacement with Dr. Kim in March of 2021. I was hiking

within 12 weeks and began fencing again. The knee was solid, but mentally I didn't trust it.

Last ski season, I got in 50 days on the mountain and was moving faster and more aggressively during fencing. I committed to the North America's Cup in St. Louis at the end of April but then was plagued by self-doubt. However, plane and hotel reservations were already in place, along with the entry fee, so off I went.

My qualifying bouts left me in 14th place and I moved into the direct elimination facing a fencer ranked in 3rd place. I walked onto the fencing strip ready to accept an early defeat. Amazingly, I got the first point and continued to stay focused while this fencer's personal coach gave her tips from the sidelines. I was on my own. At the break, I received a hint from the #1 fencer in my bracket who was watching nearby. But I assumed that my opponent's coach had figured me out and would tell her exactly what to do to beat me. She came back and took the next

point, but I was ahead. I got two more clean points and a double and beat her 10-6. That moved me up to the top 8. I was eliminated 7-10 in the next match, but still podiumed in 8th place. I flew home and immediately registered for the Nationals in Phoenix in July of this year. (Thank goodness this is an indoor sport.)

I worked out with the club at Battle Mountain High School and in my driveway, which many neighbors observed. Don Watson continued to coach me and put up with my frustration. A relaxing two-day drive put me in Phoenix just before the 4th. My qualifying bouts left me in 8th place facing the #7 fencer – the same woman I had beat in St. Louis. She got ahead in the match and then the head of the Denver

Fencing Academy came by and gave me one solid piece of advice. I beat her again 10-6. My next match was against the woman who has ranked #1 for the past 12 years. She beat me and I look forward to fencing her again. I podiumed at the Nationals in 8th place and am now ranked 9th in the US. I am now training with the Vail Valley Fencing Club and the Denver Fencing Club and enjoying it more than ever.

Interested in fencing? Contact Coach Don Watson at 970-470-1420.



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One of the field sites (no mud yet and before the rain turned the camouflage nets in the background into 'shock therapy')



Mike at at Beaver Creek taking a break "from work" at his day job as the Forest Facilities Engineer for the White River National Forest

REFLECTIONS FROM A COLD WAR VETERAN: MIKE ROSS SHARES HIS ARMY DAYS FROM THE LATE 80S

Mike follows a longstanding family tradition of military service, proudly serves our country, and skis the Alps

CONTRIBUTED BY MIKE ROSS, SINGLETREE RESIDENT

In the summer of 1985 before my senior year of high school, I came in contact with the local Army recruiter, and interestingly enough, I was one of the few who didn't automatically say "no thanks" and decided to listen to what he had to say. When I heard the sales pitch of "this will pay for your college and also allow you to live almost anywhere you want, like Western Europe or wherever", I was immediately more than intrigued, especially with the thought of being able to ski the Alps.

Having fallen in love with the whole Telluride area years before with its ultra steeps surrounded by towering, jagged mountains. I was immediately interested in any possibility that would allow me to get to Europe where I could not only "see the world", but also ski those massive ski areas that made Telluride's 3,000 vertical feet and Vail's 5,000-plus skiable acres look rather "mom and pop" by comparison. Not that my local "mom and pop" area called Telluride was trivial, of course!

While the "military tradition" in my family went back many generations, it was a little unfortunate that my grandfather, a retired West Point Colonel was rather upset at the time at my having enlisted, which I guess I could understand. But that was certainly more than balanced out by my father who, at the time, was an Active Reserve Lieutenant Colonel in the Army, so big yay for Dad! Yes, I'm sure that there was also the possibility that other high-ranking family members like my great-grandfather who was a retired General and my great-great uncle Admiral Ernest King who was commander of the U.S. Pacific Fleet in World War II might have been turning in their graves, but oh the call of those mountains to be skied in Western Europe...

I went to Basic Training in August of 1986 which was indeed a great time to be in El Paso, Texas (not really!) to feel some heat that really was hot enough to fry an egg on the pavement, wow! But then after months of basic and specialized training, in January of 1987, I was on a flight to Frankfurt, Germany, only to arrive during one of the most severe cold snaps that Western Europe had seen in recent memory where it didn't get above zero for probably over a month.

My initial duty station was with the 4/43rd Air Defense Patriot missile battalion in Giessen, West Germany as an Operations and Intelligence Assistant. We were doing much of what was shown in the opening scene on the 1984 movie *War Games*, with the two guys in a dark missile silo working with secret codes - though for us it was inside of an operations van located on a secure site surrounded by razor wire. When I wrote that first letter home saying that I was in this smaller town called "Giessen", I got a reply letter from my mom saying that was the same town that they had been



The 'secret intelligence radio van' heading out for field ops (yes - that's a mighty .50 caliber gun ready to go)



Soviet Military Liaison Mission (SMLM) card required at all times

stationed in back in 1964 about a year after they got married, yet another "wow"!

So did the fact that in German the word Giessen means "to pour" have any significance? Unfortunately, yes it did. After the "spring thaw" happened, that meant heading out for field exercises in the surrounding forest - in the mud, oh my. At the time, the Patriot missile system was relatively new which meant that we needed to have lots of 'practice', which I later figured out involved working on our ability to get huge communication trucks unstuck, sometimes in the middle of the night. Looking back, I still think that it's kind of funny that not once during those times did I have any thoughts of "wow, what a great way to serve my country", ha-ha!

Luckily there were enough times that were almost truly "comical" that kept us going. One of those happened during a very intense, busy NATO 'tactical evaluation' where evaluators from numerous NATO nations were involved with



Mike in his 80's pose at St. Moritz Switzerland (yep - that's a monoski which was huge mostly in France—and it's still in his garage!)

our operations to give us what was basically a “fitness test” to check our readiness for a potential attack that was closer than the general public ever knew about. And yes, it was raining. Again.

While we ended up getting numerous accolades from member nations for our ability to efficiently provide effective and powerful air defense strategies against the “Soviet Threat” (which was still very alive and well in those days toward the end of the Cold War), the “comical” part was that with all the rain, every time someone keyed the microphone, all of us setting up the camouflage nets got shocked from the FM radio antenna over and over again! “Radio check”, bzzzzz. “Radio check”, bzzzzz. Had the annoying guy from the Verizon commercials been in our shoes, he probably wouldn't have been so passionate about the constant “can you hear me now?” question!

While the weeks working more than 100 hours as a “secret code guy” were too many to count, there were certainly also too many “chance of a lifetime” opportunities to count like getting a rogue three-day weekend and “sneaking” down to Switzerland for a couple of days to ski some really massive mountains. Or taking a week-long trip high in the Alps in Austria for some early-season skiing

in Sölden, with the first turns of the season on a high-mountain glacier in a foot of fresh with the Austrian women's ski team running gates right next to us. Nice! But then skiing turned into ‘business’, of sorts...

When some guys in the Giessen Military Community (MILCOM) found out that I was from Colorado, they pretty much “demanded” that I be on the Giessen Military ski team for the races to be held in Garmisch in southern Germany on the Austrian border. Nice again! Except that unlike our good Singletree “neighbor”, Mikaela, I had never raced even once. When all was said and done, the only thing I ended up being good at was actually taking out gates instead of skiing around them... hmmm. And ouch!

But not surprisingly, I was pretty good at the over-the-head powder day that we had on the Zügspitze where we decided to ski the day before the races - instead of going to practice in town (where the 1936 Olympics were held) because there was over 5 FEET of new powder to track out, so tracking we did! Even with all that fun and excitement, I was just proudly “on duty serving my country”, of course...

I mentioned that the “Soviet Threat” was very alive and well. I will never forget the afternoon when one of my friends from Tactical Operations came running into the radio room saying “man, you've GOT to come check this out!” So as I went into the “radar van”, I first had to have the “we never had this conversation” conversation, which kind of had me guessing what was going on.

There on the radar was a track that had me saying “wow, what IS that?” which got the answer “it's a Soviet MIG. We've been watching this guy coming over into our airspace on purpose for a while.” While that maybe doesn't sound like a big deal, they obviously were provoking us and had it continued for a little longer, action would have ensued (whether that was us our ‘our guys’ at Ramstein Air Force Base in Frankfurt being called up.

While lower-ranking “enlisted guys” generally had little authority to do much, we were able to detain any Soviet Liaison personnel if we saw them, which was also a “responsibility” which required us to keep our “SMLM” card with us at all times, even if only for reporting sightings.

While I never had the opportunity to see one of these in-person, I heard numerous stories that eventually circulated “through the ranks” of Soviet officers being detained which, like MIG sighting,



Ski passes from some great adventures



definitely kept things “real” in terms of the time we were living in.

Though my time in the service ended in August of 1989, just a handful of months before the Berlin Wall came down, that was certainly only the “beginning” of sorts for the Patriot Missile system. One morning in January of 1991, I was watching *Good Morning America*. I and was absolutely astounded when they were reporting from Israel and I saw the intro of the show stating, “Good Morning, we're live in Haifa, Israel, with the 4th of the 43rd Air Defense Patriot Missile Battallion...”. And immediately I said a huge “WHAT?!” and kept on watching as there, with all the other troops, was my former Staff Sargeant of the Intelligence and Operations department with whom I served for all those crazy years.

While we all know the story of how those guys managed to shoot down Saddam Hussein's scud missiles, it was even more awesome for me to know that I had been such a big part of the logistics and operations with such a great team back in the day. I'm so proud to have had the opportunity to serve this awesome country and even prouder to be an America. Happy Veterans Day to all those who served before me and are still serving today and God Bless the U.S.A.!



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- 780 June Creek Road | Single-family
4 bd | 5 ba | 3,287 sf | \$2,320,000
- 90 Lariat Road A | Duplex
3 bd | 3 ba | 2,165 sf | \$2,495,000
- 40 Prairie Circle | Single-family
4 bd | 4 ba | 3,229 sf | \$3,150,000
- 311 Foal | Duplex
4 bd | 3 ba | 3,445 sf | \$2,495,000
- 171 Stagecoach Road | Single-family
4 bd | 4 ba | 3,229 sf | \$2,550,000

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- 78 Mission Place | Townhome
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- 210 June Creek Road | Duplex
4 bd | 4 ba | 2,101 sf | \$1,895,000
- 120 Hereford Road E | Duplex
3 bd | 4 ba | 2,063 sf | \$1,750,000
- 1121 Berry Creek Road C-3 | Condo
2 bd | 2 ba | 1,233 sf | \$869,000
- 361 Longhorn Road | Single-family
3 bd | 3 ba | 3,868 sf | \$2,495,000
- 41 Shotgun Circle | Single-family
5 bd | 5 ba | 4,586 sf | \$4,995,000
- 73 Mission Place | Single-family
5 bd | 5 ba | 3,538 sf | \$2,595,000
- 931 Singletree Road 31 | Townhome
2 bd | 2 ba | 1,422 sf | \$889,000
- 8 Charolais Circle | Duplex
3 bd | 3 ba | 2,094 sf | \$1,450,000
- 751 Singletree Road 3 | Townhome
3 bd | 5 ba | 2,686 sf | \$1,515,000

Active

- 141 Chaparral Road | Single-family
4 bd | 5 ba | 3,898 sf | \$3,465,000
- 81 Lariat Road B | Duplex
4 bd | 3 ba | 2,005 sf | \$1,500,000
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5 bd | 5 ba | 3,863 sf | \$2,525,000
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Source: VMLS 8.15.23 - 9.15.23



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